

## C major change

Published Saturday November 6th, 2010

### Toronto-based pianist Frank Horvat brings his Green Keys Tour through New Brunswick this week to promote his second album and eco-awareness.

**S3** STORY BY MIKE LANDRY

It wasn't an epiphany that transformed Frank Horvat into a green warrior. It was just one little thing after another. Soon enough the Toronto-based pianist just couldn't take it anymore.

 ENLARGE PHOTO



Courtesy Strategic Storytellers

Toronto-based pianist Frank Horvat makes four stop in New Brunswick this week as part of his Green Keys tour. He plays Sackville's United Church, Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.; Moncton's Salle Neil-Michaud, Thursday at 7:30 p.m.; Fredericton's Charlotte Street Arts Centre, Friday at 7:30 p.m.; and Saint John's Arts Centre, Saturday, Nov. 13, at 7:30 p.m. All shows are free.

"You know how it is - we're constantly bombarded by the facts, science, studies and news reports about the effects of climate change. I was just so frustrated as a musician. What could I do to bring about awareness?" Horvat says by phone from his Toronto studio.

"After a while I said, 'That's it. I feel so awful emotionally, always feeling sorry for myself, because I couldn't do anything. The only thing I know in life is my music, so I'm going to use my music as a means to bring about this type of change.'"

The result was two-fold. First Horvat composed his second record, *A Little Dark Music*. It features four songs inspired by social and environmental themes, with the centerpiece being *Earth Hour* - a 60-minute continuous rumination "inspired by and experienced in the dark."

And since March, when Horvat premiered *Earth Hour* during the darkness of Earth Hour, when people turned off their lights across the globe to fight climate change, he has been touring the album on The Green Keys Tour. It's a free cross-Canada tour and eco-showcase, where Horvat plays, along with other songs, *Earth Hour* in darkness.

Horvat brings the tour to New Brunswick, with four stops across the province this week. He knows not everyone who attends the concerts might not be environmentalists, but his message is buoyed by the strength of his music that has left reviewers shaking their heads in wonder.

"What I've quickly realized is (the music) goes much deeper than the message. For many people, it's a very spiritual thing. A lot of times people use it for meditation, moments of clarity and thinking about their past. I didn't intend for it to be all those things, and that's the beauty of music."

Noted for his energetic piano, the contemplative tracks on *A Little Dark Music* stand apart from the boogie jangle of his first release. Instead, Horvat has put his energy toward making his eco-effort a success. Proceeds from the album got toward the World Wildlife Foundation.

"I'm one of these people where if I'm motivated by something then I just do it. I really wanted to think about darkness. How does darkness make me feel? I put everything in my heart and soul into thinking that way. I didn't even think about that it wasn't going to be as virtuosic as before."

The Green Keys Tour is meant to spread not just his music but eco-awareness across Canada. At first he wasn't sure how receptive some audiences would be.

"I was sort of shocked, because being a typical Toronto-centric person, you think there's certain pockets of the country where people don't care. But it's really cool - there are green people everywhere.

"There are people out there who are very, very passionate. If we take the lead from those people, then it's just going to spread. If it's not in five years then in 10 we're going to be demanding this as society. If anything, (the tour) has just made me optimistic about our future."

Mike Landry is arts and culture editor at the Telegraph-Journal. He can be reached at [landry.michael@telegraphjournal.com](mailto:landry.michael@telegraphjournal.com).

Please **Log In** or **Register FREE**

You are currently not logged into this site. Please [log in](#) or [register](#) for a **FREE ONE Account**.

Logged in visitors may comment on articles, enter contests, manage home delivery holds and much