

Record Searchlight

Monday, November 4, 1991

Redding, CA

Music offers new horizons

Ancient Future, a trend-setting virtuoso ensemble, will perform at 8 p.m. Saturday at the Old City Hall Arts Center in downtown Redding.

In a magical synthesis of harmonies, melodies, rhythms and instruments of ancient times, group members fuse modern approaches and instruments into the spellbinding sounds they call "world fusion music."

What results is original synthesis of Indian, African, Indonesian and Latin American rhythms, European harmonies, Eastern and Western melodies and contemporary improvisations.

Chinese harpist Hui Zhao of Mount Shasta, the newest member of the group, will also be spotlighted on the qu-jen, an instrument created during the Ching Dynasty.

Ancient Future's fourth record, "Dreamchaser," debuted as number two on the JAZZIZ National Airplay Chart and received a 10 out of 10 rating in CD Review.

Tickets are \$8 for general admission and \$7 for Shasta County Arts Council members. For details, call 241-7320.

THE InterMountain News

Burney, California

NOVEMBER 6, 1991

Jazz group Ancient Future

The Jazz group Ancient Future will be presenting a concert at 8 p.m. at the Old City Hall arts Center in Redding Nov. 9.

The concert is sponsored by the Shasta County Arts Council and brings Redding patrons a "timeless world experience."

Ancient Future has been characterized by critics as "mesmerizing ... a virtuoso ensemble able to create shining visions ... one of world music's finest expressions .. playing with technical brilliance, fire and grace ... and stunning showmanship," according to Arts Council Executive Director Lisa Whipp.

Whipp goes on, "This trend-setting group will ... (bring) in a magical synthesis of harmonies, melodies, rhythms and instruments of ancient and faraway times, they fuse modern approaches and instruments into the spellbinding sounds they call 'world fusion music.'"

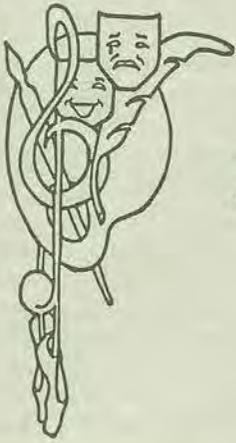
The group will be combining Indian, African, Indonesian and Latin American rhythms, European harmonies, Eastern and Western melodies and contemporary improvisations.

Featured in the program will be the group's newest member, the Chinese harpist, Hui Zhao, who is a master of an ancient instrument created during the Chin Dynasty.

Ancient Future's members, besides being superb musicians in their own right, Whipp said, combine award-winning professional experience, international study and impressive scholarly backgrounds to create their uniquely international, yet contemporary, sound.

They will be playing cuts from their fourth album, "Dreamchaser."

Tickets are \$8 general admission, \$7 for SCAC members. For information call 241-7320.



Shasta County Arts Council NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

1991

WHITE OAK DANCE PROJECT PERFORMS IN REDDING

That the name Mikhail Baryshnikov is well-recognized around the world is a simple fact. What is not so well-known — yet — is the name of his new company, White Oak Dance Project, which shows signs of becoming a phenomenon in its own right.

And when White Oak Dance Project performs in Redding on November 4, the audience will see Baryshnikov, that's true — but they will see him as part of a group that is a new legend in the making.

It began in the summer of 1990 when, as Nancy Dalva, in *Dance Magazine*, put it, "people in the dance world casually and cryptically started talking about 'white oak,' as if you were supposed to know what it was."

It started as an idea of the perfect group — "a company from heaven," continues Dalva in last January's article, "the one you make up while you're watching certain dancers in certain companies on certain nights... and you say to yourself, I wish I could see *x* dance with *y* in *z*."

Of course, "company" is not the proper word, as everyone in the project is quick to state. "It's nobody's company," Baryshnikov has said, "it's a group."

Semantics aside, whatever it is, it is unlike any other dance group on earth. Housed on a 7,500-acre wildlife preserve in the lush pine-lands of northern Florida and Georgia, the group came together for five weeks last summer to give life to the dream, to create something that had not been before.

In the quiet secluded atmosphere of Howard Gilman's White Oak Plantation, Baryshnikov and nine of America's finest dancers worked on a program of four pieces choreographed by the young phenomenon, Mark Morris, in preparation for an 18-city tour.



Mikhail Baryshnikov and Kate Johnson,
White Oak Dance Project

Baryshnikov, although he and Morris conceived the idea, is adamant that White Oak is not *his* project. "It's very much the life of the people who are really committed to this," he continued in the same article.

"Although our careers were very successful individually, we all know how rare it is to find a situation when you have a lot of time to yourself, to your thoughts, to work with a choreographer you admire — and at the same time not to belong to one big company... This project is absolutely not compromised. This project is a pleasure, and the way a lot of people would like to work," he added.

Has it paid off? Rave reviews in major newspapers say yes, it has. "What (the audience) got... was the sight of the finest dancer of this and perhaps any other time, in the full flush of

artistic maturity... moving through this program with an order of beauty, intelligence and personal force that has ever set him apart from others..." Alan Kriegsman, *The Washington Post*, August 1, 1991.

And so it has gone, with the troupe receiving accolades for moving performances of some of the most brilliant, compelling and original choreography existing in modern dance.

On this, their first West coast tour, the group's repertory will include a newly-commissioned work by Lar Lubovitch as well as works by Martha Clarke, Meredith Monk, the late Martha Graham and Morris.

Baryshnikov has special permission to stage Graham's "El Penitente" and it is included in this tour. In fact, he just danced the part in what the *New York Times*, on October 10, called "one of the best performances of his life."

That this troupe is appearing in Redding — sandwiched between performances in San Diego and Berkeley — is one of life's little miracles, and Redding will play host to a group that many large cities will not see — at least on this tour.

Dancers of the project are Mia Babalis, Rob Besserer, Nancy Colahan, Robyn Gardenhire, John Gardner. Kate Johnson, Marianne Moore, Donald Mouton, Carol Parker, Dirk Platzek, Rebecca Rigert, Lane Sayles, Vernon Scott and Mr. Baryshnikov.

Will most people come to see Baryshnikov? Possibly. But they will leave having seen far more — for this is a group of mature dancers in their prime, each with a distinct artistic personality.

This is, indeed, a rare occasion to see a new troupe that is destined to have far-reaching influence in the field of modern dance — a troupe that is on its way to becoming as well-known, possibly, as its co-founder.

ANCIENT FUTURE: BEST OF ALL WORLDS



To their fans, Ancient Future is the best musical group on earth. To their critics, they are "mesmerizing... a virtuoso ensemble, able to create shining visions... one of world music's finest expressions... playing with technical brilliance, fire and grace ... and stunning showmanship."

If you are among the uninitiated, you have a chance to remedy that situation when SCAC presents this trend-setting group at 8 p.m. on November 9 at the Old City Hall Arts Center in Redding.

Whether introduced to their music in person or by recording, from the first note, the listener is held spellbound by the magical synthesis of harmonies, melodies, rhythms and instruments of ancient and faraway times, fused with modern instruments and approaches, in a spine-tingling rendition of "world fusion music."

The term was coined by the group to explain their intent to blend musical ideas of many different cultures in original works that featured both ancient and contemporary ideas and instruments in a timeless world experience.



SCAC OFFICE CLOSED
on Mondays & Fridays
during December

What they have created is a strikingly original synthesis of Indian, African, Indonesian and Latin American rhythms, European harmonies, Eastern and Western melodies and contemporary improvisations. Far from being complex, the music is extremely accessible, spirited and bright.

Their Redding audience has a special treat in store, for the group will feature its newest member, the Chinese harpist Hui Zhao (featured in this newsletter two issues ago.)

By sharing her mastery of the ancient *gu-jen*, an instrument created during the Ching Dynasty, she will be adding a touch of the oriental to the group's already wide-reaching repertory.

Ancient Future's members, besides being superb musicians in their own right, combine award-winning professional experience, international study and impressive scholarly backgrounds to create their uniquely international yet contemporary sound.

The group has enchanted audiences throughout the United States, giving headline performances at New York's Carnegie Recital Hall, the Great America Music Hall in San Francisco, and Eugene's Hult Center for the Performing Arts.

Their fourth record, *Dreamchaser*, debuted as number two on the JAZZIZ National Airplay Chart and received a 10 out of 10 rating in CD Review, proving that the music of Ancient Future is equally at home in the worlds of jazz, folk, classical or world music.

Tickets are \$8 general, \$7 for SCAC members. For information, call 241-7320.

A VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS WITH JOHN DOAN



Nostalgia seems to be a given quality of the Yuletide season, and to have a performer readily available to serve up a delightful peek at Christmas past is a rare treat indeed.

"A Victorian Christmas—An Evening with John Doan" is a presentation that does exactly what its name implies by allowing the audience to experience the joy and charm of a musical Christmas of bygone days.

On December 21, north state residents will have a chance to share this magical production, when Doan performs at 8 p.m. in the Shasta College Theatre under the sponsorship of the Shasta College Fine Arts Division and Jefferson Public Radio/KSOR.

Doan, a harp-guitarist of note, is also a composer, a most engaging performer and a col-

(continued on page 2)

*A Special Holiday
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to all who have
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