

Arts

Carillon Brass leave 'full houses' humming

Burt Sidel



As a devoted supporter of underdogs, I love to hear the viola featured in a classical work. Likewise, I am a great champion of the tuba. Consequently, the Carillon Brass, principal players in the Dayton Philharmonic, are great favorites of mine. Any group with a tuba at the center has got to be great.

The holiday season is never complete without these five talented artists holding forth at the Loft Theatre. Proudly sponsored by Lee and Betsy Whitney's family trust, they spread their clarion joy to a double bill of full houses.

Beaming Lee, decked out in red and green and saddle oxfords, intro-

duced the ninth year of this event. The players, trumpeters Charles Pagnard and Alan Siebert, trombonist Timothy Anderson, French horn Robert Johnson and the superstar, tubist Timothy Northcut, are great musicians. At recitals such as this, the artists play more notes than they do at many symphony concerts – and do they love it!

The music was a joyous mixture of Christmas and classical. With wry wit, Charlie Pagnard introduced the numbers and cautioned his fellow players not to dance but concentrate on their mouthpieces.

The concert started with a tuba solo! Soon all were joining in and the sound was intoxicating. Clear, resonant and full of joy, the traditional holiday songs, often in jazzy arrangements, were perfect for the approaching festivities.

Bach made a pair of stellar appearances. The arrangements from organ works for brass quintet

were marvelous. Charlie explained that Bach wrote little music for brass – he insisted it was because John Sebastian had not met the Carillon Brass.

Well, the pair of full houses at the Loft did meet the Carillon Brass and left smiling, humming and filled with joy, coffee and doughnut holes. Concerning underdogs, my devotion does not extend to the Cincinnati Reds – they are just dogs!

Dayton Ballet's *Nutcracker*

Speaking of "don't miss" events, Dayton Ballet's annual "Nutcracker" is superb. I was able to attend a rehearsal and watched Karen Russo put her very junior charges through their paces.

The beloved ballet changes each year adding charming touches. If Tchaikovsky were alive today, he would have written *The Nutcracker* for Dayton Ballet! You can see it at the Schuster. Eight performanc-

es from December 11-20. You will love it.

Dayton Contemporary Dance Company

Dayton Contemporary Dance Company makes movement into a universal language. Steeped in the rich tradition of interpretive dancing, they have been, for many years, Dayton's most visible export.

Their programs are brimming with energy, artistry and innovation. I have said that they could dance to someone reading the New York telephone directory.

Last weekend, there was plenty to dance to. For several years, DCDC has combined with five churches, their choirs and their prodigious energies. Under music director Deron Bell, the huge choir belts out gospel songs becoming the perfect partner for the dancers.

An added attraction was the See **Brass** on page 12

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