

COVER STORY

ROCO celebrates Asia in season-opening concert

Community report

From Friday through Sunday, the River Oaks Chamber Orchestra (ROCO) begins its 2013-14 season with a concert titled "ROCO Celebrates Asia" featuring compositions and composers strongly influenced by various Asian cultures.

The three-concert event begins at the Asia Society Texas Center where it will perform for the first time ever in the Faye Sarofim Grand Hall. On Saturday, ROCO plays at its home venue, The Church of St. John the Devine. The weekend rounds out with ROCO returning to Conroe to perform at the Crighton Theatre on Sunday evening.

The Montgomery County

RIVER OAKS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA AT CRIGHTON

- **Date:** Sunday
- **Time:** 7:30 p.m.
- **Location:** Crighton Theatre, 234 North Main St., Conroe, TX 77301
- **Phone for tickets:** 936-441-7469
- Admission is \$28 for adults, \$18 for students, available at www.crightontheatre.org or call 936-441-7469.

Presented by the Montgomery County Performing Arts Society

Performing Arts Society presents the Sunday evening show at 7:30 p.m. at the historic theatre at 234 N. Main St. in downtown Conroe.

"The incredible amount of variety in classical music always astounds me," says

See ROCO, Page 4



Rosalie O'Connor Photography

Mei-Ann Chen will return to Houston once again to lead ROCO as guest conductor in its first full orchestra concert of the season themed "Around the World in ROCO Ways."



Courtesy photo

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ROCO

Continued from Page 3

Founder, Artistic Director and Principal Oboist Alecia Lawyer. "In September, we explore Asian cultures from surprising musical angles yet, as with all things ROCO, our focus is on relationships and connections."

Mei-Ann Chen will return to Houston once again to lead ROCO as guest conductor in its first full orchestra concert of the season themed "Around the World in ROCO Ways."

Chen will be joined by tenor Zach Averyt and ROCO horn soloist Danielle Kuhlmann performing the Britten Sere-nade. The evening will also include Folks Songs for Orchestra, arranged especially for ROCO by composer Huang Ro as well as a world premiere/commis-

UPCOMING MCPAS EVENTS

■ **Monday** - "Rapunzel" - presented by the Missoula Children's Theatre. Children are encouraged to audition on Monday at 4:30 p.m. at the Crighton Theatre. Then after a week of rehearsals, the student performers will present "Rapunzel" Oct. 5 at 7 p.m. at the Crighton Theatre.

■ **Oct. 17** - "Shoot for the Stars" - A fundraising Sporting Clay and Ladies Pistol Shoot event at the Conroe Shooting Center Gun Emporium, 11400 FM 2854, Conroe at 8 a.m.

■ **Oct. 19** - John Conlee - During the past two decades, John Conlee, an American country music artisits, has achieved a level of success that he has sustained by simply being himself and making records that the listening public can relate to. At 8 p.m. at the Crighton Theatre. Call 936-441-7469 for tickets.

sion called Teen Murti, written by Indian-American composer Reena Esmail. Rounding out each

evening's performance will be the Bartok Suite No. 2 for Small Orchestra.

Chen is currently in her third year as Music Director of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra. Born in Taiwan but a resident of the U.S., she is also the Music Director of the Chicago Sinfonietta.

During this time, the impact of her energy, enthusiasm and high level of music-making has been felt by both of these orchestras, their audiences and entire communities, as well. The League of American Orchestras recognized this fact by choosing her for the prestigious Helen M. Thompson Award at their 2012 national conference in Dallas.

Zach Averyt is a Texas-born tenor who made his operatic debut in 2001 as Kaspar in Amahl and the Night Visitors and is currently in his second season

with Ars Lyrica Houston.

Other artists to be featured include Bela Bartok in "Suite No. 2 for Small Orchestra," Huang Ruo, in "Folksongs for Orchestra," a ROCO arrangement, Benjamin Britten in "Sere-nade" and Reena Esmail in the world premiere of "Teen Marti."

Danielle Kuhlmann also performs on horn.

ROCO is a professional chamber orchestra of 40 all-star musicians, distinguished by creative collaborations of guest conductors and ROCO soloists who come together from all over the world to present engaging performances of classical and original compositions. Founded in 2005 by oboist Alecia Lawyer, ROCO is the most fun you can have with serious music. Visit www.rocohouston.org for more about to organization.



Courtesy photo

Children's auditions for "Rapunzel" being produced by the Missoula Children's Theatre are Monday at 4:30 p.m. at the Crighton Theatre in Conroe.

The Montgomery County Performing Arts Society is committed to presenting professional quality performing arts in Montgomery County. The organization was formed in

1979 to establish, maintain and encourage the performing arts in Montgomery County. Visit www.mcpas.org for more.



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Presents

River Oaks Chamber Orchestra

Sunday
September 29, 2013
at 7:30 p.m.

Crighton Theatre
Individual ticket price \$28
Student price \$18

