

Shuler Theater Performing Arts Series opens with piano virtuoso Teresa Walters in Raton

By Tim Keller - For the Comet | Posted: Wednesday, October 1, 2014 9:21 am

RATON— Acclaimed classical pianist Teresa Walters' website offers its content in a choice of eight languages— French, Italian, Spanish, German, Portuguese, Romanian, Chinese, and English. Her talent keeps her on the move throughout the world. Thursday night, she brings it to Raton for the opening show of the annual Performing Arts Series presented at the Shuler Theater by Raton Arts & Humanities Council.

Walters's recent concert venues have included Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center in New York, Wigmore Hall in London, the Salle Cortot in Paris, and Moscow's Great Hall. Arriving during the Shuler Theater's centennial year, she may join the long list of world-touring performers who have been inspired to find such a gem of a theater in such an unexpected location.

Her performances of Liszt, Rachmaninoff, Tchaikovsky, Beethoven, Schumann, and George Gershwin have inspired the world's music critics. The New York Times said, "A musician ready, willing, and able, Teresa Walters tackled a program of large-scaled, big-boned pieces, and she sailed through them with an easy fluency that made each one sound like child's play."

The London Times called her "an enormous talent." The Jerusalem Post critic wrote, "Her playing was marvelous, as close to perfect as I hope to hear." The Washington Post reported, "Teresa Walters is a splendid musician whose marvelous technical prowess and rich expressive resources create music of intimate introspection, orchestral grandeur, and the most minute inflections of color."

After a Walters concert, a Tokyo critic observed, "The audience left with a feeling of ecstasy, so spiritually powerful was her performance."

Walters grew up on a farm in the American Midwest. At age four, she simultaneously began studying piano and a map of the world. Since earning a doctorate from Peabody Conservatory and a year of study in Paris, she and her husband have lived in New York City. They enjoy getting away to their lake cottage where Walters indulges her love of wildlife and bird watching. Her two cats apparently don't interfere.



Piano virtuoso Teresa Walters

Piano virtuoso Teresa Walters will perform music by Franz Liszt and others in a Thursday night concert that kicks off Raton Arts & Humanities Council's annual Performing Arts Series at the Shuler Theater.

Her favorite cause is animal welfare.

Her touring schedule, however, suggests that she's not home much. She makes her living on the road, performing concerts for audiences around the world.

Thursday night's performance at the Shuler Theater begins at 7 p.m. Reserved seat tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 seniors, and \$10 students, available at the door or in advance from Raton Arts & Humanities Council at Old Pass Gallery, 145 S. First St., (575) 445-2052. Six-show season tickets are available at \$80 for adults, \$65 seniors, \$40 students, or \$200 for a family of two adults and two students, with additional students \$20 each.

The Performing Arts Series continues with the Glenn Miller Orchestra October 26, singer/songwriter/pianist Tony DeSare November 19, ventriloquist Todd Oliver & Friends February 4, a cappella group Six Appeal April 24, and a Carpenters tribute May 12. An additional show, with all tickets \$20 and not included in the season tickets, is Yesterday: A Tribute to the Beatles, Live from Las Vegas, Nevada, January 17.