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Deegan gone, but not forgotten, as Saturday concert will prove

Tom Murray, Freelance

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Saturday night's Edmonton Composers' Concert Society concert will be a nod to recently deceased local composer Roger Deegan, a founding member of the society.

In tribute, the Strathcona String Quartet will perform a medley of three Deegan compositions -- Boxcar Boogie, Very Like a Motherless Child and Bashaw Boogie.

The group will also perform member George Andrix's five-part Canyon Anthology, written as a response to his several trips as a member of a string quartet on a whitewater rafting jaunt through the Grand Canyon in Arizona.

"As a rule, we weren't playing on the raft," the violinist dryly notes about the musical expeditions, which took musicians, guides and a small number of paying guests for unusual outdoor concerts more than a decade ago. "We'd find suitable 'concert halls' along the canyons, where the acoustics were pretty good, and set up there."

Roger Deegan in Memoriam takes place Saturday night at 8 at Convocation Hall on the University of Alberta campus. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students and seniors, available at the door.

POPS GOES BRITISH

You can only imagine that it would be like herding cats.

With Broadway stars Judy McLane, Ted Keegan, Mark Nadler, Gwendolyn Jones and Jennifer Shrader lined up for their spotlight moments at the upcoming Friday and Saturday evening Robbins Pops performance, guest conductor Jack Everly should have his hands full.

Then again, maybe not. The range of talent on the Winspear stage will be remarkable, but the principal pops conductor with the Baltimore, Indianapolis and National Arts Centre Symphony orchestras also has star power. Everly has worked with composer Marvin Hamlisch, Carol Channing (in hundreds of performances of Hello, Dolly!), Carol Burnett and Ella Fitzgerald.

The second last Robbins Pops performance is an impressively mixed bag of songs from Noel Coward, Elton John and Tim Rice, Gilbert and Sullivan, The Beatles and Andrew Lloyd Webber, with selections from Evita, Jesus Christ Superstar, Cats, The Phantom of the Opera, Written in the Stars and Aida, among others.

Pop Goes British is this Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. at the Winspear. Tickets are \$32 to \$73, and can be bought at the Winspear ticket office.

AN INTERESTING PROMISE

Now, here's a promise from Lorne Manweiler, award-winning organist and pastor at Wetaskiwin's Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, about what you can expect not to hear at his performance Sunday.

"There's nothing worse, in my humble opinion, than a dry, boring, seemingly unending organ recital filled with works and a style of playing that very few people, let alone most organists, would ever appreciate," says Manweiler. Further, he notes that the organ was meant to be and always should be "the people's instrument," an aid in the worship service.

The Sundays at 3 Organ Concert Series has Manweiler pulling out selections from Bach, Brahms, Handel, James Biery and Marcel Lanquetuit.

"Programming an organ recital needs to be a process of careful and generous consideration toward one's audience," he continues. "I love to talk and joke in my concerts. What better way is there to connect with an audience than with both meaningful words and meaningful music?"

Lorne Manweiler's Organ With a Twist takes place Sunday at 3 p.m. at All Saints' Anglican Cathedral, 10035 103rd St. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$20 for students and can be purchased at Tix on the Square or at the door.