

Saint Michael Trio wows history museum audience

BY HUGH MCMILLAN

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The Saint Michael Trio from California's Silicon Valley played to a sold-out gathering Nov. 21 at the Harbor History Museum. The trio's leader, pianist Russell Hancock, was supported by Daniel Cher on violin and Vicky Wang on cello. The trio received standing ovations from an enthusiastically captivated audience.



"We thoroughly enjoyed performing in Gig Harbor and were deeply affected by the warmth and generosity of the audience," said Hancock, grew up in the Puget Sound. "We leave wanting to come back, and it is perfectly clear that Gig Harbor is a very special community."

"Our performance at the Harbor History Museum was great fun because we did a complete roundup of the history of Western music," he said. "We began with some of the earliest writing for piano trio, Beethoven, and ended with rock 'n' roll, Jerry Lee Lewis. In between we pretty much covered the waterfront: impressionist, romantic, jazz, rhythm & blues, Hollywood, even Argentinian tangos."

"We're all three classically trained musicians but we thoroughly enjoy mixing classical with contemporary and doing it in the same concert."

Hancock mused that many are interested to know that the musicians balance their concert careers with jobs in Silicon Valley's tech sector. Violinist Cher is a medical doctor leading clinical trials for medical device companies. Cellist Wang is a software architect. Hancock is CEO of a public benefit corporation providing planning and policy analysis for the Silicon Valley region; he also teaches at Stanford University.

"All three of us just felt like music would be more meaningful and rewarding if it wasn't the ONLY thing in our lives," Hancock added.

And Friday's audience would be in total agreement.

The Saints were the first of what will be regular monthly concerts at the Harbor History Museum. Future concerts will be on the third Thursday in HHM's lobby, or outdoors, weather permitting, the Midway School, and in the temporary gallery where the Saint Michael Trio performed.

Local artist Russ Salton and Friends will perform Dec. 18.

For details, contact HHM's Michelle Paulus, marketing and events manager at [253-858-6722](tel:253-858-6722).