

## MUSIC



Matthew Fried

The symphony will revisit a piece by composer Christopher Theofanidis.

## California Symphony celebrates triumphs

The California Symphony is heading into a new chapter of its history, with dynamic music director Donato Cabrera, who joined the symphony a couple seasons back, and an organizational regrouping that promises to put the orchestra on a solid footing.

Happily, the orchestra is also taking cognizance of its past — in particular the estimable Young American Composer-in-Residence program, began and nurtured by founder Barry Jekowsky. That program has provided key early support for a host of composers who've gone on to prominence, and it's nice to see that history celebrated.

This weekend's program revisits "Peace, Love, Light YOU ME ONE," written for the orchestra by Christopher Theofanidis during his tenure in 1994-96. Also on the program is music by Mozart (with pianist Maria Radutu as soloist) and Beethoven.

— *Joshua Kosman*

**California Symphony:** 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 22. \$42-572. Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. (925) 280-2490. [www.californiasymphony.org](http://www.californiasymphony.org)

## CIRCUS



Hélène Leveau / À Sens Unique

Hélène Leveau (top) and Aviva Rose-Williams in "Hedgehog's Dilemma."

## French collective inspired by Freud

For their second show, which has a work in progress showing this weekend as part of Kinetic Arts Center's artist-in-residence program, the French circus troupe À Sens Unique was inspired by the tour of its first show, "Léger démenté." And by Freud.

Working and traveling together for five or six years was such an "intense experience," says collective member Aviva Rose-Williams, that the group thought of Freud's notion of the "Hedgehog's Dilemma," which gives the new show its title. "The idea is that no matter how close (humans) get," she says, "there are little pins in between, in the way."

Rose-Williams and fellow performer Hélène Leveau explore that notion through Icarian games, in which one performer lies on the floor, with hands and feet in the air as a base for the other's flips and tumbles.

— *Lily Janiak*

**"Hedgehog's Dilemma":** 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 21; 5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 22. \$15-\$20. Kinetic Arts Center, 785 Seventh St., Oakland. (510) 444-4800. <http://hedgehogsdilemma.bpt.me>

## THEATER



Ray Renail / Pear Theatre

Evan Kokkila Schumacher and Mary Price Moore in "Uncanny Valley."

## Piece programmed to raise consciousness

Mountain View's Pear Theatre, formerly known as Pear Avenue Theatre, has done a fabulous job this season programming contemporary plays and classics that relate directly to the concerns of Silicon Valley, tackling immigration, philanthropy and, on a more serious note, the zombie apocalypse.

With its latest, "Uncanny Valley," the 15-year-old company addresses the issue of consciousness — specifically, whether Claire (Mary Price Moore), a neuroscientist, can make the robot Julian (Evan Kokkila Schumacher) conscious as well as able to talk and behave as a human.

Thomas Gibbons' play, under the direction of Caroline Clark, gets its name from a technical term for, as Claire says, humans' "instinctive, inexpressible sensation of eeriness" the closer a machine gets to impersonating a person.

In the play, Claire also generates her own eeriness: "It turns out poets and artists aren't the definers of humanity," she says. "The techies are."

— *Lily Janiak*

**"Uncanny Valley":** 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Jan. 19-21; 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 22. Through Feb. 12. \$10-\$35. Pear Theatre, 1110 La Avenida St., Mountain View. (650) 254-1148. [www.thepear.org](http://www.thepear.org)

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## CALENDAR

**After Dark** The Exploratorium's weekly adults-only after-hours event features a presentation on Argon as well as screenings of silent films accompanied by live musicians. 6-10 p.m. Thurs. 7:30 p.m. film screening. \$10-\$15. The Exploratorium, Pkwy 15, S.F. (415) 528-4444. [www.exploratorium.edu](http://www.exploratorium.edu).

**Avanti Award Anniversary Celebration** A dinner performance featuring select winners from the past decade, including Elizabeth Hertzberg, Kenneth Renshaw, Juan David Mejia and Preston Powis. 5:30 p.m. Fri. \$150-\$400 (table).

Community Center, 180 Camino Alto Blvd., Mill Valley. (415) 990-3834. [www.avantiaward.com](http://www.avantiaward.com).

**Birds on the Parallones** Russ Bradley discusses the work of the Point Blue Conservation Science. 6:30 p.m. Thurs. \$5. Northbrae Community Church, 941 the Alameda, Berkeley. (510) 843-2222. [golden.gateaudubon.org](http://golden.gateaudubon.org).

**Edwardian Ball** A unique touring event paying tribute to graphic novelist Edward Gorey featuring live music, theater, fashion, circus, fine art, riveting stage shows, literature, ballroom dancing, DJs, and character play. 8 p.m. Fri. and Sat. \$85-\$250. Regency Center, 1300 Van Ness, S.F. (877)

987-6487. <http://edwardianball.com>.

**Genesis 4 Tournament** Video gamers compete as well as side games available to attendees. \$30 1-day pass. \$50 3-day pass. Thurs. through Sat. See website for schedule. City National Civic, 135 West San Carlos St., San Jose. [smash.gg/tournament/genesis-4/details](http://smash.gg/tournament/genesis-4/details).

**Good Food Awards Marketplace** Top producers from across the U.S. offer beer, cider, charcuterie, cheese, chocolate, coffee, confections and more. 8 a.m. Sun. \$5-\$20. Fort Mason Festival Pavilion, S.F. (415) 447-3268. [www.goodfoodawards.org](http://www.goodfoodawards.org).

**Garrison Keillor** The "A Prairie Home Companion" host shares stories and anecdotes from his Midwest upbringing. 7:30 p.m. Sat. \$45 and up. Weill Hall, Green Music Center, Sonoma State University, 1801 East Cotati Ave., Rohnert Park. (865) 955-6040. [gmc.sonoma.edu](http://gmc.sonoma.edu).

**Mushrooms, Fungi and Lichen** Naturalist Michael Marchiano presents myths, legends and lore about the notorious Destroying Angel, and deadly Death Cap and other colorful and oddly shaped mushrooms, fungi and lichen growing on Mount Diablo during rainy winter months. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sun. \$10 per vehicle. Summit

Museum, Mount Diablo State Park. [www.mdia.org](http://www.mdia.org).

**SF Sketchfest** San Francisco's comedy festival presents various unique performances at venues throughout S.F. Through Jan. 29. See web for schedule. [www.sfsketchfest.com](http://www.sfsketchfest.com).

**Sketchfest NightLife** The academy's adults-only after-hours event features Trace Beaulieu and Frank Conniff from "Mystery Science Theater 3000." 8-10 p.m. Thurs. \$10-\$12. Academy of Sciences, 55 Music Concourse Drive, Golden Gate Park, S.F. (415) 379-8000. [www.calacademy.org](http://www.calacademy.org).

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