

## The Rawson Duo

by Bernard Super

Hear beautiful, lush classical music in an intimate setting, with great acoustics, played by two phenomenally talented professional musicians, and feast on a gourmet buffet catered by a professionally trained chef—all at the very modest price of \$20 a ticket. Not in Vienna, Paris, London, New York, or even Seattle—but in the farmlands of Chimacum! What a lovely way to while away an afternoon.

My wife and I have been enjoying concerts in the home of violinist Alan Rawson and pianist (and trained chef) Sandy Rawson for a couple of years now. The concerts are always sold out. Each concert is organized around a theme. The last three were entitled “Tales of the Vienna Woods,” “Mad Dogs and Englishmen,” and “Ma Vlast (Czech for ‘My Homeland’). Each consists of gems that Alan culls from a vast pool of compositions by familiar and unfamiliar composers he researches on the Internet and in libraries worldwide. The selections, all works for violin and piano, are often virtuosic quality but accessible, with one piece usually being somewhat more challenging. The emphasis is on romantic era and early twentieth century compositions.



Sandy Rawson.

Submitted photos

Since the Rawson Duo often selects and plays works that are, even to them, unfamiliar, they undertake a challenging workload of preparation and practice for each performance. Alan prefaces each piece with a brief background talk on the composition, the composer and his or her milieu. And each time Sandy, in addition to her piano playing, prepares a spectacular buffet composed of traditional recipes related to the place of origin of the music. This also provides an opportunity for the guests to mingle and chat with Alan and Sandy.

Alan, who was concertmaster for the Fargo-Moorhead Symphony for 20 years and taught upper strings at Minnesota State University Moorhead, also has founded and runs The Olympic Youth Strings (OYStrs), a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting string orchestral and



Alan Rawson

chamber music on the Olympic Peninsula through private teaching, chamber music coaching, and string orchestra projects for students of all ages.

The next Rawson Duo event is Rawson Duo and Friends: music of the soul for piano and strings. Alan and Sandy will be joined by outstanding Northwest musicians, Peggy Spencer, viola, and Zon Eastes, cello, for a piano quartet concert featuring two romantic masterpieces, Johannes Brahms' impassioned *Quartet in C minor, Op. 60* and Antonin Dvorak's epic *Quartet in E flat major, Op. 87*. Performances will be at the Rawson home in Chimacum on **Friday and Sunday, February 20 and 22** at 2:00 p.m., and at the Bainbridge Island Senior Community Center, 370 BJune Dr. SE, on **Saturday, February 21**, at 7:30 pm. Admission is by advanced paid reservation, \$20 with limited seating at all three events.

For reservations and to get on the Rawson Duo mailing list, e-mail [rawson@waypoint.com](mailto:rawson@waypoint.com) or call 360-379-3449. Their website is [www.mnstate.edu/rawson/oysters](http://www.mnstate.edu/rawson/oysters).

## Northwind Arts Correction

The correct date for the reception for the Cory and Catska Ench exhibit described in the January issue of the *Voice* will be **Saturday, February 7**, from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Northwind Arts Center, 2409 Jefferson Street in Port Townsend.

No workshops are scheduled at the Center until **Wednesday, March 18**. Check the website at [northwindarts.org](http://northwindarts.org) for dates, fees and requirements.

## Theatrical Fund Raising Event

On **Friday, February 13**, Northwind Arts Alliance will present a staged reading of the play *A Picasso* by Jeffrey Hatcher, 8:00 p.m., at the Northwind Arts Center, 2409 Jefferson Street in Port Townsend. Tickets are \$10 per person. Seating is limited, so go early!

It is 1941 in Nazi occupied Paris. Pablo Picasso is interrogated by an attractive female Gestapo agent who forces him to choose one of his artworks to turn over to the Nazis for a mysterious reason. The interview becomes a power struggle over Fascism, art and finally, a sexual cat and mouse game. The two person play features veteran actors, Richard Clairmont and Denise Fleener. It is narrated by Harry Dudley and directed by Ian Keith.