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Music in the Mountains presents

Special to Prospector

Music in the Mountains (MIM), the largest and longest continuously running classical music organization in the Sierra Foothills, will present an outdoor concert featuring Cirque de la Symphonie. This world-renowned troop of aerialists, acrobats, contortionists and jugglers will perform to the music of Dvorak, Bizet, Tchaikovsky and others as played by the MIM Festival Orchestra.

▶ know & go

- Who:** Music in the Mountains presents
- What:** Cirque de la Symphonie
- When:** Gates open at 6 p.m. for picnickers, concert starts at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 25
- Where:** Nevada County Fairgrounds, 11228 McCourtney Road, Grass Valley
- Tickets:** Available online at www.MusicInTheMountains.org or call the box office (530) 265-6124

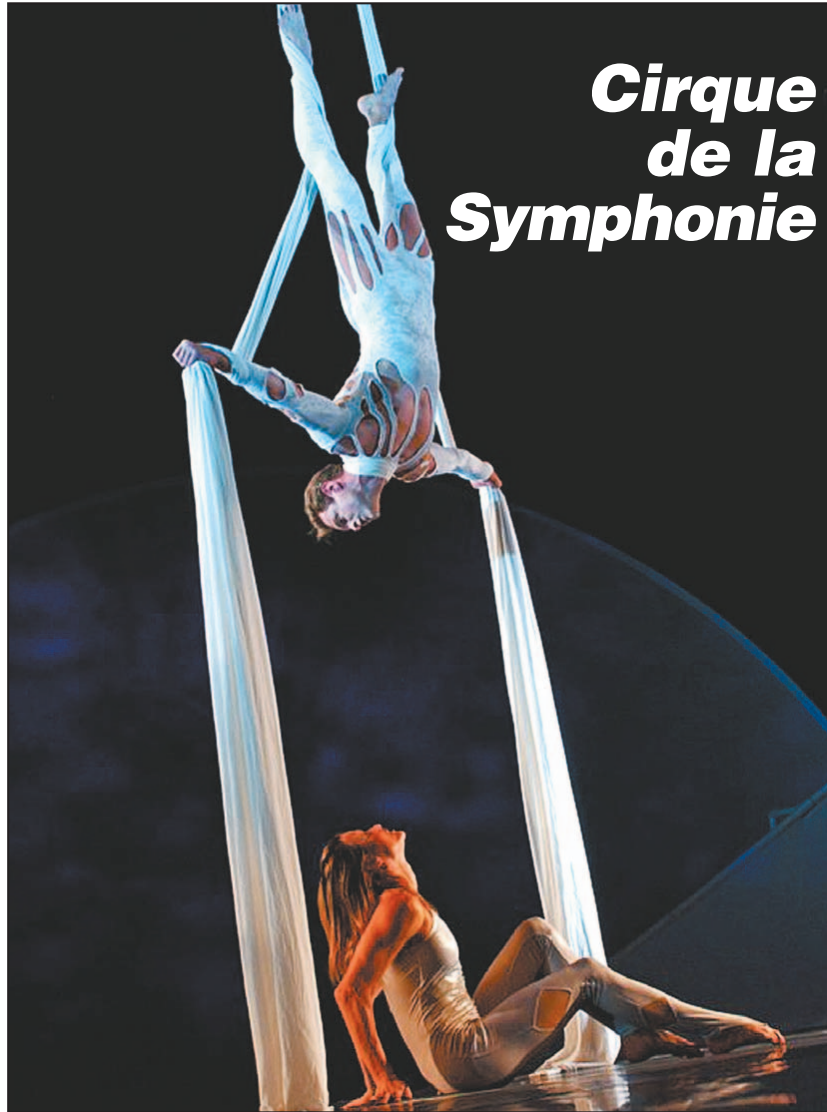
Cirque de la Symphonie brings the magic of cirque to the orchestra performance. It is an exciting adaptation of artistic performances widely seen in theaters and arenas everywhere. The visiting artists are veterans of exceptional cirque programs throughout the world and include world record holders and international gold medal winners.

Their performances are uniquely adapted to share the stage with symphonies, and each artist's performance is professionally choreographed to classical



Submitted photo

Vladimir Tsarkov poses with the rings.



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Alexander Streltsov and Christine Van Loo perform together.

masterpieces and popular contemporary music in collaboration with the maestro, MIM's artistic director, Gregory Vajda.

The visiting Cirque de la Symphonie artists have extensive credentials. Christine Van Loo is a seven-time consecutive national champion, female Olympic athlete of the year and athlete of the decade in acrobatic gymnastics. She performed in the 2002 Winter Olympics as well as at

the Grammy and American Music Awards shows and has been inducted into the International Gymnastics Hall of Fame.

The other performers, all originally from Russia, have similarly impressive backgrounds with experience in organizations, including the Moscow Circus, Circus Circus and Festival Mondial Du Cirque De L'Avenir in Paris.

Cirque de la Symphonie

MIM's standard outdoor tented stage, rest assured that this show will not be business as usual.

"We have leased a special tent for this concert," said Brown. "Our tent is 15 years old, and it's time to retire it. So we're bringing in an extremely sturdy structure to support the weight of our two aerialists."

"I love to mix art forms like this, to create an extraordinarily rich experience," said Vajda. "When I performed with Cirque de la Symphonie and the Seattle Symphony last season, we sold out five houses."

"The audience will love it when they see these performers flying around my head," he said. "And Cirque even involves me in a special magic act."

For those who don't want to pack their own supper, there will be treats available for purchase, including Way Yum Sushi, fresh organic crepes from Calla Lily Crepes, smoothies and juices from Honu Island Smoothies, barbecue fare and homemade ice cream by Lazy Dog Confections.

There will also be circus art face painting for the children. Special premium seating has been established for this unique concert.

"There has never been anything like this in our area and I think the audience will be astounded," Vajda said.

"We will also have an up-and-coming young prodigy in the performance," said Terry Brown, MIM vice president and event producer. "Kai Newstead comes to us from the Mendocino Center for Circus Acts. He began performing at age five and already has an impressive resume in spite of the fact that he's young enough to get in free to the concert."

And lest you be concerned about an aerial performance on



Submitted photo

Elena Tsarkova performs a ribbon dance.