

# PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE-REVIEW

## Dec. 9: Scenes from the Arts-burgh

By The Tribune-Review

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

*Offerings from Pittsburgh's cultural arts and entertainment events:*

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### LORETTA LYNN

Attending a Loretta Lynn concert feels like sitting in the country matriarch's living room and becoming a part of a family reunion. Plus, you get a live musical performance that seems to be just for you.

The Coal Miner's Daughter came to the Pepsi-Cola Roadhouse on Friday night and gave quite an entertaining performance. The legendary singer and songwriter, who still is going strong at 73, wore a glittery, sequined, lilac-colored gown while singing many of her most memorable hits, including "You Ain't Woman Enough to Take My Man," "Don't Come Home A-Drinkin' (With Lovin' on Your Mind)," "Blue Kentucky Girl" and her signature tune, "Coal Miner's Daughter." Lynn often sits on a chair during her concerts, but not this time. Despite having had back problems and several surgeries, she stood and walked around the stage during much of her performance.

One of the best aspects of Lynn's concerts is that they are a family affair. The show included performances by her entertaining twin daughters, Patsy and Peggy. Lynn's dynamic granddaughter, Tayla, sang her tribute to her "me-ma" called "Coal Dust."

Lynn's Southern wit made the audience laugh throughout the evening, but the funniest part of the concert came from her onstage dialogue with her often-troublemaker son, Ernie, who is part of the band. She and Ernie, who is Tayla's father, teased each other throughout the night, and the look on Lynn's face as her son blurted out his comments was precious.

-- Kellie B. Gormly

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### RIVER CITY BRASS BAND

Brass band and Christmas concerts go together like eggnog and fruitcake -- but, beware, the mixture can get stale.

The River City Brass Band manages to avoid that in its Christmas concerts with a new composition by Carnegie Mellon University's Nancy Galbraith and some good work from the cornet section.

Galbraith's work, "Luminosity," is the last of a collection of commissions from

the band to celebrate the city's 250th anniversary. She says it is a play on the words "luminous city," and she wanted to depict how the city sparkles because of its people.

She succeeds in creating a dazzling piece with clever melodic lines that are challenging but never hard to listen to.

On Friday at Carson Middle School in McCandless, the cornet players switched to trumpets for a bright "Festival Fanfare for Christmas" and then did "Carol of the Bells," a medley they do without other accompaniment.

The musically flexible Drew Fennell also led three other bandsmen in a rockapella version of "Silver Bells," with nifty mouth percussion by Carson McTeer.

Those pieces gave the concert life the rather traditional complement doesn't much offer.

It will be repeated at 8 p.m. today at Upper St. Clair High School, 1825 McLaughlin Run Road, Upper St. Clair; 8 p.m. Thursday, Gateway High School, 3000 Gateway Campus Blvd., Monroeville; and 3 p.m. Sunday, Pasquerilla Performing Arts Center, 450 Schoolhouse Road, Johnstown. Admission varies.

Details: 412-434-7222.

-- *Bob Karlovits*

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## 'A MUSICAL CHRISTMAS CAROL'

In performances of "A Christmas Carol," some Scrooges so easily and quickly repent their ways that you wonder why more than one spirit's visit is necessary.

So it's a pleasure to watch Tom Atkins' gruff and distant Ebenezer taking his time to convert in this year's Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera production of "A Musical Christmas Carol."

Atkins succeeded the company's longtime Scrooge, Edmund Lyndeck, who decided it was time to retire. However veterans from past editions, including Tim Hartman, Terry Wickline, Jeff Howell and Paul Domencic, return to this annual Christmas classic.

After Atkins' Scrooge does see the light, he produces a delightfully spirited recap of his journey to redemption.

Even after 17 years, this production remains a solidly entertaining, tune-filled and celebratory holiday entertainment.

"A Musical Christmas Carol" continues through Dec. 21 at 7:30 p.m. Fridays; noon, 4 and 8 p.m. Saturdays and 2 and 6 p.m. Sundays at the Byham Theater, Sixth Street at Fort Duquesne Boulevard, Downtown. Admission is \$26.50 to \$44.50; half price for ages 3 to 14.