

# A+E notes

## Critic Andrew Sarris dies

Influential film critic Andrew Sarris, who helped introduce a generation of American moviegoers to Europe's new wave of directors in the 1960s and '70s, has died at age 83.

Sarris died at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital in Manhattan after complications from a stomach virus, his wife, film critic Molly Haskell, said Wednesday.

Sarris was best known for his work with the Village Voice and New York Observer.

With contemporaries like Pauline Kael, with whom he famously feuded in print about a number of films, he helped Americans view filmmaking as more than popular entertainment. He championed directors Federico Fellini and Ingmar Bergman, works by older American helms like Howard Hawks and John Ford and newcomers Alfred Hitchcock, Robert Altman and Martin Scorsese.

His works greatly heightened awareness of the role of the film director, and a 1962 essay "Notes on the Auteur Theory," brought the term "auteur" into the American vernacular. His 1968 book, "The American Cinema: Directors and Directions 1929-1968," is widely credited with raising the bar for American film criticism.

— *TheWrap*

## 20th anniversary season for Orion

A world-premiere commission by Chicago jazz musician Miguel de la Cerna and key repertory from the past two decades will highlight the Orion Ensemble's 20th anniversary season in 2012-13. The Chicago chamber group will present its four concert programs at its customary venues in downtown Chicago, Evanston and Geneva.

Here is the schedule:

Oct. 10-21: Along with Bartok's "Contrasts" and Schumann's Piano Quartet in E flat, the ensemble will reprise Chicago composer Sebastian Huydts' Clarinet Quintet, which it commissioned for its 10th anniversary in 2002.

Nov. 25-Dec. 5: Violinist Stephen Boe and violist Roger Chase guest with the group in works by Weber and Verdi; also music of Wagner transcribed for solo piano by Liszt.

March 10-17: Soprano Patrice Michaels joins the ensemble for a Women's History Month program that includes vocal music by Mozart, Schubert, Vaughan Williams and Shostakovich, plus Shostakovich's Piano Trio No. 2 in E minor.

May 5-12: An as-yet untitled new instrumental work by de la Cerna will anchor a program of Arturo Marquez and Manuel Ponce, along with Brahms' Piano Quartet in G minor, Opus 25.

Members of the Orion are Kathryn Pirtle, clarinet; Florentina Ramniceanu, violin; Jennifer Marlas, viola; Judy Stone, cello; and Diana Schmuck, piano.

For further information, call 630-628-9591 or visit [orionensemble.org](http://orionensemble.org).

— *John von Rhein*

## Philharmonic hires director

The Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra has named the young Austrian conductor David Danzmayr as its next music director, beginning with the orchestra's 35th season in 2012-13. The first new chief conductor of the IPO in more than 25 years, the 32-year-old Danzmayr will succeed Carmon DeLeone, who retired at the end of the 2010-2011 season and now serves as conductor laureate.

Danzmayr, a former assistant conductor of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra whose work has

been based mainly in Europe, was chosen from a field of more than 160 applicants. The IPO search committee narrowed the choices to seven finalists, each of whom led a subscription program in 2011 and 2012. Danzmayr directed an all-Mendelssohn concert in January that made him the clear favorite of the musicians and audience members.

In 2011, he was one of four finalists in the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's First International Sir Georg Solti Conducting Competition. Last month, he was a prize winner in the International Malko Conducting Competition in Copenhagen.

The Salzburg native has guest conducted such orchestras as the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Mozarteum Orchestra and Basel Symphony Orchestra. Earlier this month he was appointed music director of the ProMusica Chamber Orchestra in Columbus, Ohio, beginning in 2013-2014. His first concert in his new IPO post will be in November 2012.

— *Jv.R.*

## Joffrey Ballet adding 3 dancers

Three new dancers are joining the Joffrey Ballet next month: Japanese-born Yoshihisa Arai, a former Royal Ballet performer more recently with the Tulsa Ballet; French-born Guillaume Basso, formerly with the Houston Ballet's second company; and Cara Marie Gary, from Belton, S.C., who danced with American Ballet Theatre's second troupe and the Orlando Ballet.

All current dancers are returning next season as well, upping the company's roster to 45.

— *Sid Smith*

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