

Cabrillo set for the debut of the top-flight new Yamaha CFX

By WALLACE BAINE

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For John Orlando, the perfect musical experience is an equation with three factors — the hall, the musician and the instrument. That means Saturday's concert of the Distinguished Artists Concert & Lecture Series may turn out to be a perfect concert.

The hall is the beautiful new Crocker Theater on the Cabrillo College campus. The musician is world-acclaimed Russian-born pianist Yevgeny Sudbin, dubbed by the Daily Telegraph in London as "potentially one of the greatest pianists of the 21st century."

And the instrument? Well, there is where the real excitement is.

Saturday's concert marks the debut of a new nine-foot concert grand piano, the much buzzed-about Yamaha CFX, which Orlando calls "the Rolls Royce of pianos." The

IF YOU GO

YEVGENY SUDBIN

TO BENEFIT: The Juanita Orlando Memorial Piano Fund

WHEN: Saturday, 8 p.m.

WHERE: Crocker Theater, on the campus of Cabrillo College, Aptos

COST: \$18 to \$75, available at www.ticketguys.com or at 656-9507.

DETAILS: www.distinguishedartists.org.

CFX, which retails for about \$150,000, was only released in 2010, and represents the culmination of a 19-year design project by more than 40 designers and technicians. The new piano is only one of three currently in the United States, and the only one west of the Mississippi.

The piano will be named after Orlando's mother, the

late Juanita Orlando, a longtime supporter of the arts who died last summer at the age of 98. The concert is, in fact, a fundraiser for the Juanita Orlando Memorial Piano Fund.

John Orlando went shopping for a new piano with his eye on other makers, but to his surprise, the Yamaha CFX seduced him by its startling clarity and responsiveness. "From the moment I sat down to it, I was just amazed at how it responded," he said. "It responds to every kind of touch imaginable. The longevity of the tone, the palette of color, it does it all."

Officially, the new piano is property of the Aptos Community Foundation, but Orlando said that where it will be housed is still uncertain. Tickets for Saturday's concert range from \$18 to \$75. Details: www.distinguishedartists.org.