

# The Morning Call, Allentown, PA

## The Week in Review:

February 14, 2009

### PIANAFIDDLE

It's one thing to listen to great musical improvisation on a recording, but when experienced live it rises to an entirely different level. The improvisational piano/violin duo Pianafiddle, in an Allentown Community Concert Association event last weekend at Parkland High School, were nothing less than astounding. Starting with a familiar tune, which could be anything from jazz to bluegrass to classical, violinist Adam Degraff and pianist Lynn Wright took off on an improvisational journey whose destination, at times, seemed to surprise even themselves.

With material such as "Tennessee Waltz," "Amazing Grace," and "Jerusalem Ridge," they left no improvisational stone unturned, be it harmonic, melodic or rhythmic. As if by magic, snippets of Bach appeared in "The In Crowd," and the theme from the first movement of Tchaikovsky's violin concerto became a wild set of jazz variations.

The duo's musical communication seemed telepathic, so well did they connect with each other. And with a relaxed stage presence and some homespun joking, they connected equally as well with the audience. "Beethoven's Orange Blossom" was an unlikely hybrid of Beethoven's "Für Elise" and the "Orange Blossom Special," arguably the best known fiddle tune of the 20th century. Performed at break-neck speed, it was positively pyrotechnic.

Steve Siegel

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