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Canadian Superstar performs concert in Gore Bay

Gore Bay – If you looked up the word ‘superstar’ in the dictionary, the name and face of pianist Jon Kimura Parker could be found there.

He was absolutely terrific, it was magical, and he has a marvellous presence,” said Brian Bell, one of about 120 people who packed the Gore Bay Community Hall for a concert last week.

Donna Bell was as enthralled with Mr; Parker’s concert, saying,” I thought I heard two pianos going at the same time.”

Mr. Parker was born, raised and educated in Vancouver. His extraordinary career has taken him from Carnegie Hall and the Sydney Opera House to Baffin Island and Zimbabwe.

A true Canadian ambassador of music, Mr Parker has given two command performances for Queen Elizabeth II, special performances for the United States Supreme Curt, and has performed for the prime ministers of Canada and Japan.

As a member of the outreach project “Piano Six,” now in it new version, “Piano Plus,” Mr; Parker has toured remote areas including the Canadian Arctic, performing music ranging from Beethoven to Alanis Morissette, on everything from upright pianos to electronic keyboards. He has also jammed with Doc Severinsen in Calgary and Bobby McFerrin in Philadelphia and Baltimore. Recent summer festival appearance have included Britt, Green Music, Vail, the Hollywood Bowl, Orcas Osland, Sna Diego’s Mostly Mozart, Seattle, La Jolla, Sun Valley and Santa Fe with Pinchas Zukerman and Lynn Harrell. He also collaborates regularly with the Tokyo Quartet.

An active media personality, Mr. Parker has hosted two seasons of the classical music television series, “Whole Notes” on Bravo! Canada. He also hosted CBC Radio Two’s five-part series, “Up and Coming,” which showcases the talents of promising young musicians across Canada. He was also seen on CNN performing in war-torn Sarajevo and has been documented frequently on CBC, as well as on PBS’ “The Visionaries.”

Holly Scott, who introduced Mr. Kimura Parker at the Gore Baty concert said,” Mr. Parker is my favourite pianist. You’ve seen him on T and may be lucky to have seen him in concert, He has played in wonderful venues and for the queen twice, and the prime minister. To have him come here is such an awesome thought, and as Piano Six figures, rather than always playing in big halos, fortunately they agreed it would be a good idea to get performer like Mr. Parker out and perform in smaller venues.”

“I am incredibly happy to be here tonight,” Mr, Parkers told the audience,.” I have spent a beautiful day on the Island,” he said, pointing out he grew up in Vancouver, but has spent the part four years with his family in Houston, Texas,

“We don’t get fall colours in Houston that you have here,” said Mr. Parker. “I am incredibly happy to be here and breathe fresh air,” he said, noting he performs over 100 concerts per year.

For each piece that Mr. Parker played in his brilliant concert, he provided an explanation, and his association with the works. These pieces included works by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Alexina Louie, Ludwig von Beethoven, Bela Bartok and Edvard Grieg, Igor Stravinsky and two wonderful encores, including a piece by Chopin.

“Fantastic, wonderful, enchanting, joys of emotion, butterflies, love, fright, light, scared, laughter, dark, are all words I could use to describe her performance,” stated Erwin Thompson. “He has such wonderful melodies that come out of his piano.”

“His musical repertoire met every music taste,” said Mr. Bell. “I’ve been to other Piano Six performances, and his selection of music and playing was well worth the money for the ticket. I think Dorothy Anstice and Holly Scott should be acknowledged for bringing Mr. Parker to Manitoulin.