Peter Yates and Friends concert expands musical horizons

Blaze Benham, Staff Writer | Posted: Monday, November 13, 2017 4:38 pm

For those who enjoy a bit of musical variety, last Wednesday’s concert featuring Peter Yates and friends, delivered it in spades.

The musical performance began at 8 p.m., Nov. 8, in the Music Recital Hall.

“The music was selected with an ear to what would be known versus unknown to the audience,” Professor Peter Yates said.

Stravinsky said, ‘People don’t know what they like, they like what they know.’

“I’m more interested in taking the audience to places that are less familiar.”

“Another aspect was collaborating with certain players who I wanted to collaborate with,” Yates said.

The concert also included Piano Sonata No. 6 by Yuri Ischenko.

Including it in the concert required some careful planning.

“Every year, I write a cycle of songs in this kind of combination with a singer, a guitar and other instruments, so this is the latest version of that.

So, the short answer is that it’s a combination of people who I wanted to include and feature, many of whom I’ve worked with before, and then some attention to this question of the shape of the known and the unknown.”

The concert benefits CPP students by providing the opportunity to be exposed to a variety of music pieces.

“One thing I love about this kind of concert is how musically eclectic it is.

When you play music from another time and place, it can transport you there.

The piece I performed on, Astor Piazzolla’s “Nightclub 1960,” evokes a particular period in the history of music.
Argentinian tango when there was a great deal of international exchange of ideas and musical styles.”

“I really enjoy working with these kinds of pieces and people as players, and with this kind of audience where you’re in a way, challenging them a little bit.

So, all these people are kind of like idealists who are doing this because they love to do it, and because they’re aware of a long, long tradition.

So, even as they play the modern stuff, they also know music from hundreds of years ago, and the chain of musicians throughout history.

We kind of identify with this fellow guild members of musical people. That’s about it.”