

Orchestra wows crowd with lights, sounds

By Josh Bollinger
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Smoke filled the hallways of the Bryce Jordan Center on Friday night in the minutes after the Trans-Siberian Orchestra finished playing for a full house.

The smoke was from all of the fireworks that had gone off during the Trans-Siberian Orchestra concert's finale — not to mention the rainbow of lasers and flames shooting from the stage.

"You not only see the lights, but you feel the heat from the fire," Ryan Beaber (sophomore-architecture) said. "It was pretty intense the whole way through."

Though the ensemble's music is good on CD, he said it's much more exciting to listen to the

orchestra live. For him, the concert didn't seem three hours long.

Official Trans-Siberian Orchestra members made up most of the rock outfit of the ensemble, including multiple guitars, a bass guitar, drums, two keyboards, a violinist and vocalists.

The Pennsylvania String Ensemble filled in as the background orchestra for Friday's performance. The show featured metal-injected performances of songs such as "Carol of the Bells," "Joy to the World" and "O Come All Ye Faithful."

Jennifer Dietrich (senior-animal science) said this combination helps the band span a wide listening audience.

"It brings all kinds of generations together," she said.

Colin Cope (senior-wildlife and fisheries science) said it was interesting the way they mixed two genres — classical and metal music — that nobody would think could be combined.

"When you hear an orchestra, you think more of a melody, but it's very lively music," Cope said.

Julie Stemple, an English major at Bloomsburg University, said she forgot she was in a crowded auditorium — it looked like the musicians were having a great time running back and forth on stage while performing, with a couple of them even venturing into the crowd.

The performers also stood on mini-stages suspended by cables above the crowd. Some of the stages went as high at the BJC

ceiling before coming back down. And they didn't hold back from headbanging just because they were high in the air.

That was Lucas Bridgens' (senior-nursing) favorite part of the show. He said the way the mini-stages and all the stage props moved around made the show that much more "incredible."

"You have to be really talented to both perform and to be as good instrumentally as they are," he said.

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To see more photos from Trans-Siberian Orchestra's performance: psucollegian.com



A lead guitarist from the Trans-Siberian Orchestra performs Friday.

Bandorama celebrates school spirit

By Courtney Warner
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

The same hype and talent Penn State fans experience during the Blue Band's Beaver Stadium performances came to Friday's Bandorama at the Eisenhower Auditorium.

The audience — comprised of relatives, faculty, friends and students of all ages — sat in darkness lit by only the string of lights that shined on the stage.

The audience was in for a "Happy Valley treat," said emcee Dean DeVore, a volunteer announcer for Penn State games.

The Penn State Symphonic Band began the night with four pieces. Soloists were applauded by the audience and by the tapping feet of their fellow performers.

Following the Symphonic Band's performance, drum major Ian Kenney led the Blue Band down the aisles of the venue onto the stage, chanting "Let's go State."

The Blue Band Silks, feature twirler Matt Freeman and Touch of Blue followed the performers.

Parents screamed and waved at their children in the Blue Band as they passed.

The audience stood as the Blue Band began with the pre-game set including the "Star Spangled Banner." Northwestern's fight song and the alma mater, conducted by Kenney. The first set was the Youngstown State game's show, conducted by O. Richard Bundy, director of the band.

Narratives preceded each show. For the Youngstown State performance, audiences were told they'd see the band go "where no band had gone before." During the set, Freeman twirled to the theme song from "The Jetsons." Other performances included Touch of Blue's performances to "One O'Clock Jump," "Livin' on a Prayer," and "Who Are You," and the Silk's "Luck Be a Lady," "Attitude Dance," and "The Peanut Vendor."

The band's "Happy

"Who Loween" special received "rock ons" from a head-banging audience dancing in their seats.

Audience members also previewed the Northwestern Cuban-themed half time show. Freeman dressed up in a yellow zoot suit and twirled to "Cuban Pete." The performance resembled Jim Carrey's act in "The Mask."

Pat Shoffner, 54, of State College, said she works concession during Penn State football games to see her daughter Stephanie Shoffner (senior-music education) play the melophone at half time. Shoffner said she liked that the concert gave the audience a chance to see everything at once — especially the "Jersey Boys" show because she is a "Jersey girl." With her daughter graduating in the spring, Shoffner said she wants to tell her daughter she's "proud of her accomplishments" and that "she will always be her shining star."

Andrew Wigman (sophomore-archeological science) attended the concert because his room-



Two members of the Penn State Touch of Blue majorettes perform during the Blue Band's rendition of "Livin' on a Prayer" at Bandorama Friday.

mate plays in the band.

"I already thought we were great just by the football performances," Wigman said. "But this performance adds so much more because of sound and closeness the band is from the audience."

Wigman said his favorite part was the Big 11 Medley. The medley showed off the flags of schools in the Big Ten conference.

Conference alumni were asked to stand when their alma mater's flag appeared. The night ended with "The Nittany Lion," with the audience singing along.

To view a photo gallery of the Bandorama concert performances: psucollegian.com

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U Ed. STA 11-1F