



## STANDING ROOM ONLY

« The Otto Lotto featuring **The Payola Reserve**, The Seldon Plan, These United States, Private Eleanor and Vandaveer at the Ottobar located at 2549 N. Howard St. in Baltimore. Show starts at 10 p.m. Tickets are free. For more information, call 410-662-0069.

## LISTENING POSTS

**After Work Happy Hour with the Musicologist**  
Club 347, 347 N. Calvert St., Baltimore; 5 p.m.; Free; 443-415-2949

✓ **John Einhaus**  
An Die Musik Live, 409 N. Charles St., Baltimore; 8 p.m.; \$8 to \$12; 410-385-2638

**Live Jazz Fridays**  
Taste, 510 E. Belvedere Ave., Baltimore; 9:15 p.m.; Free; 443-278-9001

**Ten: A Tribute to Pearl Jam**  
Rams Head Tavern Live, 20 Market Place, Baltimore; 8 p.m.; \$10; 410-244-8854

**Smalltown, Below Sixth, Ends Fray and Ainsley**  
Recher Theatre, 512 York Road, Towson; 8 p.m.; \$7 to \$10; 410-337-7178

**Rivers End, Founded on Betrayal, Bex, The Betty Sue Aside and the Gonzo Circus**  
The Sidebar, 218 E. Lexington Ave., Baltimore; 8 p.m.; Free; 410-659-4130

**Empty Gratitude, Had-donfield, Second Self and Caught Falling**  
Fletcher's, 701 S. Bond St., Baltimore; 7 p.m.; \$7; 410-558-1889

## ARTS IN BRIEF

### HOLIDAY VARIETY SHOW AND CABARET

#### Local talent performs in end-of-year showcase

The Audrey Herman Spotlighters Theatre presents its second annual Holiday Variety Show and Cabaret.

The night will open with local singers Adele Russell, Madonna Refugia, Paul Ballard, Timoth Copney and Michael Tan. The Baltimore Improv Group will then perform high-energy improv comedy.

Light fare will be served and guests will get a chance to check out the upcoming shows for the remainder of the season.

The theater is located at 817 Saint Paul St., Baltimore. Show starts at 8 p.m. and tickets are \$15. For more information, call 410-752-1225 or visit [www.spotlighters.org](http://www.spotlighters.org). — Emily Campbell

## DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT

### RECREATION

**Friday Night Roller Skating** — 6:30 p.m.  
Lakeland Recreation Center, 2921 Stranden Road, Baltimore; \$2; 410-396-7900

### FOR SENIORS

**New Year's Party for Seniors at Martin's West** — 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Martin's West, 6817 Dogwood Road, Baltimore; \$35; 410-396-7900

### BOOK TALK

**Babies Love Books** — 10:30 a.m.  
Edgewood Library, 629 Edgewood Road, Edgewood; Free; 410-612-1600



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## SOUNDS » TRANS-SIBERIAN ORCHESTRA

# It's not over till TSO sings

Trans-Siberian Orchestra ends holiday season with a bang

By Nancy Dunham  
Special to The Examiner

Joy to the world — TSO is on tour.

For the uninitiated, the Trans-Siberian Orchestra is a rock opera of gargantuan proportions. The production, by 60 of the best musicians and singers in contemporary music, is a turbo-charged mix of classical and rock-fused arrangements, accompanied by lasers, a stage hyper-charged with hydraulics, multicolored lights and pyrotechnics. Bottom line — this is not your parents' holiday concert.

"It's a tsunami of sound," said TSO founder and leader Paul O'Neill.

When O'Neill formed TSO in 1996, he and partners Robert Kinkel and Jon Oliva sought to blend classical, rock, Broadway, R&B and other genres in rock operas that featured a



Trans-Siberian Orchestra performs tonight at 1st Mariner Arena. — Courtesy photo

host of the best contemporary singers and musicians. Music veteran O'Neill,

who has managed a host of top-flight bands including Aerosmith and AC/DC, "took everything I enjoyed in bands like Pink Floyd and Queen and put it together in one show."

How successful is the formula? Two million ticket sales in two months, according to the Associated Press. Not bad for a rock opera that features such classics as "O Come All Ye Faithful," to "The Young Nutcracker," a takeoff on Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker Suite."

"According to the TicketsNow Entertainment Index, families are attending more holiday events together," said Kenneth Dotson, Chief Marketing Officer for TicketsNow. "The Radio City Christmas Spectacular and Trans-Siberian Orchestra are perfect opportunities for families to create a holiday memory that will last a lifetime."

Such corporate kudos aside, O'Neill insists TSO is about the music and enjoyment. That's why he takes a page from Walt Disney's book and keeps ticket and memorabilia prices low (\$15, versus the standard \$25-plus for a program) and never sells are-

### IF YOU GO

Trans-Siberian Orchestra  
» **Venue:** 1st Mariner Arena  
» **Time:** 8 p.m. tonight  
» **Tickets:** \$36, \$46; [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com); 410-547-SEAT

na nosebleed seats. "It freaks my accountants out," said O'Neill.

But whatever. As corny as it sounds, O'Neill formed TSO to get away from the corporate influences

*The production ... is a turbo-charged mix of classical and rock-fused arrangements, accompanied by lasers, a stage hyper-charged with hydraulics, multi-colored lights and pyrotechnics.*

that dilute the art.

"I always wanted music to punch harder and cut deeper. Thanks to Andrew Lloyd Webber (creator of 'Phantom') the rock opera gives music a third dimension," said O'Neill. "Making music has become like making widgets. It's not supposed to be like that."

## DATE. CHAMPAGNE. FLOWERS.

### RESERVATIONS?!!!

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