Arts & Entertain

Videos & Photos

Obituaries

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Ben Folds and Philadelphia Orchestra teaming up for show



Ben Folds will appear with the Philadelphia Orchestra.

Not only will music fans get an interesting mix of pop, rock and classical-sounding songs, but the ticket prices are not exorbitant — as they are at most shows these days.

For those not familiar with Folds, imagine a younger, hipper Billy Joel or Randy Newman — a piano player extraordinaire with a knack for writing great melodies.

He started out with a trio (the Ben Folds Five), decided to go solo and then rejoined the group in 2012 for the album "The Sound of the Life of the Mind."

You see, besides Folds' comic songs and his onstage antics (think early Elton John), he also writes some

beautiful slow songs, like "Kylie From Connecticut," "Cologne" and "Still."

The original orchestration on his albums should be brought to the forefront with the mighty Philadelphia Orchestra backing him up.

Fans also should get to hear "Concerto for Piano and Orchestra" in the middle of the show.

Show time: 8 p.m. Tickets: \$15 to \$49.50. Information: 800-745-3000.

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It seems as if every summer, one concert is announced that should stand out as the best show of the year.

By MARTY FRANZEN Correspondent

This time around, it's the Ben Folds/Philadelphia Orchestra collaboration scheduled for Tuesday at the Mann Center for the Performing Arts at 52nd Street and Parkside Avenue in Philadelphia.