

Charlotte Symphony

BIG TOP IN THE BELK

They can't call it the "greatest show on Earth." That moniker is taken. But critics still find plenty of superlatives to describe *Cirque de la Symphonie*, the death-defying performance that comes to the Charlotte Symphony this month. "Breathtaking," "dynamic," "illuminating," "amazing," "crowd-pleasing" and – here's a good one – "weirdly compelling," are among the stand-out adjectives that grace reviews from Seattle to Duluth.

Concert and circus rolled into one, *Cirque de la Symphonie* closes the Symphony Pops series on April 30 and May 1 with what promises to be the most inventive, spectacular production of the season. Albert-George Schram conducts.

The Symphony shares the stage with cirque artists from around the world, including aerial flyers, acrobats, contortionists, dancers, jugglers, balancers, and strongmen. These artists are among the best in the business: world-record holders and gold-medal winners. Much to the relief of the Belk Theater stagehands and staff,

there are no elephants or lion-tamers, but there is plenty of excitement – all performed to exhilarating orchestral music.

"It's hard to say which act in *Cirque de la Symphonie* was the most astonishing," wrote the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*. "White-clad contortionist Elena Tsarkova twisting herself into unimaginable shapes and performing gymnastics that would stun Olympic winner Nastia Liukin atop a pair of stools while the orchestra played the Waltz from Aram Khatchaturian's *Masquerade*.... Mime-juggler Vladimir Tsarkov tossing rings to Antonin Dvorak's Slavonic Dance No. 8 Aerialist Aloysia Gavre soaring on a sky-hung hoop to the orgiastic strains of the "Bacchanale" from Camille Saint-Saens' opera *Samson and Delilah*.... Or aerial artist Alexander Streltsov soaring out on silk wings over the first few rows of the audience while the orchestra played the Waltz from Peter Tchaikovsky's ballet *Sleeping Beauty*."

So don't miss this enchanting combination of music and magic. And may all your days, be *Cirque de la Symphonie* days!



ELENA TSARKOVA



ALOYSIA GAVRE



VLADIMIR TSARKOV

Ticket Info

Cirque de la Symphonie

April 30 & May 1 • 8 pm

Belk Theater

704-972-2000 • www.charlottesymphony.org