



Since 1977



Volume 30--Number 12• December 12, 2006

Serving Portland, Surrounding Areas, and Seattle

Music On Tap

BandStand

Classifieds

Archives

Links

Distribution

Advertise

About Us

Staff

Contact

Michael Allen Harrison  
Grand Maestro

by: K.R. Laurent



Michael Allen Harrison & former Miss America Katie Harmon

He's Grand Maestro and just the Portland, Oregon boy next door; he attended Portland Emanuel, Shaver Grade School, Fremont Jr. High, Parkrose High School and Portland State University. Who knew that taking piano lessons from a neighbor at 6-and-a-half years old would launch a wondrous career? That's what happened to Michael Allen Harrison.

Harrison was preparing for a life-long musical journey, playing bass in the Jr. high orchestra, singing in the high school choir and swing choir, performing in the high school musicals and rocking out with the boys from Franklin high school on a Farfisa organ.

When he entered Portland State University, Harrison elected to study piano performance and composition. One of his instructors and mentors was Tomas Svoboda. Svoboda, a composer who has over 200 works to his credit, including six symphonies, two cantatas, two piano concertos and a violin concerto, would spend Wednesday evenings with Harrison and fellow student Eric Funk, dissecting compositions.

