

The Journal

Resident composer back at Grand for final stage of project



von der Nahmer

NEW ULM — The Grand's resident composer is back in town and in the final stages of writing for his project on German-American heritage.

Peter Michael von der Nahmer returned around July 25 and has been busy. He is working with local residents to compose a performance piece

that tells stories of New Ulm and its German heritage.

“I think we are all finalizing,” von der Nahmer said. *“I hope that in two or three weeks we are done because then we start with the rehearsal process.”*

The final product will be revealed Aug. 26 at the State Street Theater, von der Nahmer said.

The project began with two concepts called *“Growing Wise”* and *“Growing Young.”* For *“Growing Young”* von der Nahmer spoke with seniors around New Ulm to gather stories, particularly of their early years.

“Growing Wise” is a collection of stories from teenagers. The composer has been working with teenagers so they can write their own stories, though he had difficulties recruiting earlier this summer.

The performance will be a larger story interspersed with smaller stories throughout using music to help the narrative, von der Nahmer said.

Curious theatergoers can get a taste of what the project will look and sound like Sunday Aug. 6 at 2 p.m. *“Musical Tales Concerto”* will tell a story about von der Nahmer that was written by his friend Marianna Mott Newirth.

The show with music and concept composed by von der Nahmer will be part of the The Grand Center for Arts and Culture’s First Sunday Concerts.

“This concert on August 6 is basically a tryout to see in general how the audience reacts to these kinds of different things,” von der Nahmer said. *“Because it is neither a musical theater piece nor is it just a normal concert nor is it just a narration, it is really connecting everything.”*

The residency is paid for by a 2016 McKnight visiting composer grant with the American Composers Forum.

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