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Culture Vulture: Lockhart's electrifying performance

By **Brandon Griggs**
The Salt Lake Tribune

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Opinion

It's been said that Keith Lockhart, music director of the Utah Symphony, makes hearts flutter with his boyishly handsome looks. Now the Boston Pops conductor will find out whether he sparks a similar effect with his music.



Brandon Griggs

Lockhart has taken part in a university study that hooks people up to electrodes to monitor emotional responses to music. The study took place during a concert Saturday at Boston's Symphony Hall, where instead of a tuxedo Lockhart wore an electronically-equipped Lycra top that senses heart rate and other physiological responses.

Lockhart conducted three pieces - including the overture to Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro." Five orchestra musicians also sported similarly wired jackets, while audience members wore sensors on their arms and fingers to tell scientists what levels of emotional intensity they were feeling.

(Or not feeling. ZZZZZZZZ-snort . . . huh? Is it over?)

"We are trying to get a fingerprint of the emotional landscape of the music as it is transmitted from the conductor's baton to the musicians' fingers to the hearts and minds of the audience," professor Daniel Levitin of Montreal's McGill University told the *Boston Globe*.

Results of the study aren't available yet. But Lockhart told the *Globe* he is not interested in using the data to rate his own performance.

"I prefer the old-fashioned way of doing that - hearing a sharp intake of breath from the audience, the simultaneous sigh of 2,000 people, seeing them jump to their feet and yell. 'Bravo!' " he



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- April 21 - that openly gay U.S. congressman Barney Frank is speaking on campus to the Utah Stonewall Democrats?

I'm glad to see that whoever schedules these things has a sense of humor. But let's go one step further: Wouldn't it be fun to get both men together on one stage for a little debate? Isn't the open exchange of ideas what a university is all about? Failing that, how about putting the two in a ring for some wrasslin'?

Contact Brandon Griggs at griggs@sltrib.com or 801-257-8689. Send comments to livingeditor@sltrib.com.

... said.
In other words, how you feel after reading this column.

Larry, meet Barney: Has anyone else noticed that Larry H. "After All, You Know This Homophobe" Miller is scheduled to deliver his controversial keynote address at the University of Utah on the same day



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