

# Austin American-Statesman

## Austin Symphony Orchestra

Duck! Those Karamazovs flew this way.

BY ROBERT FAIRES

It's been a year of formidable musical challenges for the Austin Symphony Orchestra: Beethoven's *Ninth*, Brahms' *Fourth*, Christopher Theofanidis' *Field of Infinite Forms*, playing with Yo-Yo Ma. But ASO may have saved the biggest for the last two nights: playing with the Flying Karamazov Brothers. I mean, how can one be expected to play serious music with these zanies constantly throwing gags (and occasionally mallets) at one?

The Ks, a primo juggling and vaudeville team for 35 years, have lately turned to abusing orchestras with a concert that includes J.S. Bach's *Two-Part Invention #4* performed on marimba by two Karamazovs juggling three mallets each (as Johann originally intended it, they claim); an homage to Japanese *taiko* drumming played on meticulously tuned cardboard boxes; Mozart's *First Bassoon Concerto* played on the euphonium; and Rossini's *William Tell* transformed into a hip-hop comic ballet. If you've yet to witness a corps of classical musicians crack up or just want to close out the year in convulsions of laughter, this concert is highly recommended.