

Friends

Fall 2004

What's New this Fall?

New FCFA benefit in an informal setting

The Friends of the Center for the Arts has added a new and unique benefit: The FCFA Discussion Series. This exciting series of talks will be held in conjunction with performances and will be hosted by FCFA members in their homes. This is an opportunity exclusively for members of FCFA. The first event, which will take place in the home of **Robert and Ida Portland**, will occur on Oct. 23 at 7 p.m. in association with the performance of *Celebrating the Blues*, Dr. John and His Band. Jim Carroll, director of jazz studies at Mason, will lead the discussion. Refreshments will be served. Watch your mail

for an invitation and keep in mind that space is limited. Attendees will also be able to submit questions in advance to the speaker by e-mail at fafa@gmu.edu. Future events in

fully stocked refreshment bar in the *Friends*-only area of the Concert Hall. Refreshments will be available at intermission and now, as an added benefit, 45 minutes prior to the performance. Coffee and tea will remain complimentary, but you may

Two ways to meet and greet fellow *Friends* members.

this series will focus on Theater of the First Amendment's *Open the Door, Virginia!* in the winter, and the dance group STREB's performance of *Streb Action* in the spring. These are occasions you don't want to miss, so plan to be there for the first discussion on Oct. 23.

A new look for the friends-only coffee bar

Also this fall, you will discover that FCFA members can take advantage of a new

purchase sodas and water at discounted prices. All other items normally found at the other refreshment bars will be available to purchase. Please remember to bring your membership card with you to take advantage of this opportunity.

Now you can look forward to meeting and greeting your fellow members both before the concert and during intermission! We look forward to seeing you there.

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A Big Thank You for FCFA Members

What better way to start off the new fall season at the Center for the Arts than with music, champagne and friendship.

On Oct. 9, a gala champagne reception promises to be a big kick-off first event

of the season for FCFA. This elegant reception, to be held on Grand Tier III, follows the performance of the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields. The reception is planned as a celebration for FCFA members and their

generous support of the Center for the Arts.

"We wanted to do something tangible to show our appreciation for the continued support FCFA members give to the Center for the

see Celebration, page 2

A Message from the President

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our returning members for their continued support. I also want to welcome all of our new members. We are in a tremendous period of growth, and we are happy to have you join us in providing support to the Center. I invite all of you to explore the opportunities

available to you through the Center as well as the other programs offered by the College of Visual and

Performing Arts. I also encourage you to consider our volunteer activities. If you are interested, contact **Megan Thornton** (mtbornto@gmu.edu) or stop by the information table in the Center lobby.

As you will read in more detail in this newsletter, we are pleased to announce enhancements to our intermission coffee program, including a pre-performance coffee service. However, this year we will be asking for your *Friends* membership card, so please remember to bring it with you. We are also starting a new discussion series, to be held in members' homes, each with a focus on

an upcoming performance. Since these evening events will be limited in size, be sure to respond quickly when you receive an invitation.

Additionally, *Friends* events before and after performances are certain to be popular, and you will need to mark your calendars and plan to make those reservations promptly as well.

I hope to have the opportunity to speak with you at the *Friends* coffee area. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about FCFA (fcfa@gmu.edu).

Tom Ezell, president



Tom Ezell

Celebration, from page 1 Arts,” said **Ida Portland**, vice president for Programs and a member of the planning committee, along with committee members **Alice Heyer** and **Pat Carroll**. “It is important for

people to become involved and support the performing arts in our local area, and that is what our members are doing,” added Carroll.

The theme of the evening is “A Touch of England” in honor of the reknown

orchestra. “I don’t want to divulge the menu,” said Carroll, “but you can anticipate that superb food and cham-

pagne will be offered throughout the reception.” The Academy of St. Martin in the Fields is credited with being the most recorded chamber orchestra in the world. The Academy was founded at London’s Church of St. Martin in the Fields by Sir Neville Martin in 1959. Its repertoire ranges from baroque to classical. The Academy is also a multiple Grammy award-winning ensemble. Pianist Christopher O’Riley joins the ensemble for an evening of Mozart, Shostakovich, Liszt, and Tchaikovsky. O’Riley also is known for his NPR radio show, “From the Top,” where he introduces young audiences to classical music.



The Academy of St. Martin in the Fields

An Evening of Balé Folclorico da Bahia Brazilian Rhapsody

Join us for a special evening with a South American flair! FCFA invites you to a 6 p.m. reception on Grand Tier II on Saturday, Nov. 6, before the Balé Folclorico da Bahia performance. This is a great way to start the evening. Then, at 7:15 p.m., just a few steps away on Grand Tier III, learn about this amazing ensemble at the pre-performance discussion led by Mason dance faculty member **Jim Lepore**. At 8 p.m. enjoy the outstanding choreography of Balé Folclorico da Bahia.



Balé Folclorico da Bahia

Boys Choir of Harlem: A Family-Friendly December Holiday Event

Traditionally, FCFA holds a December event to celebrate the holidays. This year it will feature the Boys Choir of Harlem.

Founded in 1968, the choir grew from just 20 to 250 members, and has garnered international acclaim and awards as it has performed its eclectic repertoire - from classical to spirituals and jazz. The company now has its own academy, offering a vigorous education along with outstanding musical instruction.]

The FCFA event is family-friendly—so bring the kids, too, on Friday, December 10. The concert begins at 8 p.m. and will be followed by this post-performance reception.



Boys Choir of Harlem

Pre-Performance Discussions Continue this Year

Have you discovered the pre-performance discussions yet? This is a wonderful opportunity for you to learn about a performance you will be enjoying later in the evening.

Before performances, Grand Tier III becomes the site for interesting and informative discussions about the upcoming performances and artists. Discussions are open to all ticketholders, starting 45 minutes prior to performance time. Scholars and artists share their knowledge of music, dance and theater in an informal atmosphere where audience members have a chance to ask questions. These discussions add texture and flavor to the concerts, making the evening an even more enjoyable experience. “The pre-performance discussion is one of the best things about going to a performance at the Center,” said one *Friends* member. “I always learn more about the performance and artists.”

Please join us there. Just show your performance ticket to the attendant before you take the elevator or walk up the steps to Grand Tier III. Pre-performance discussions, which have been at the Center for the Arts for more than a decade, are enjoyed by many patrons each season.

2004-2005 FCFA Officers

- ◆ Tom Ezell, president
- ◆ Ida Portland, vice president for programs
- ◆ Jane Tombes, vice president for membership
- ◆ Jerry Salter, vice president for communications
- ◆ Eileen Duggan, secretary/treasurer
- ◆ Susanne Zumbro, meet and greet committee



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For more information, please call 703-993-4188 or visit www.gmu.edu/cfa

October – November Calendar of Events

Oct. 2 (Sat), 8 p.m.
Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra: *A Tribute to Tito Puente*

Oct. 3 (Sun), 7 p.m.
Keyboard Conversations® with Jeffrey Siegel: *Splendor from Silence: Beethoven, Smetana and Fauré*

Oct. 9 (Sat), 8 p.m.
Academy of St. Martin in the Fields with Christopher O'Riley, pianist

Oct. 15 (Fri), 8 p.m. Virginia Opera: *Turandot*

Oct. 17 (Sun), 2 p.m. Virginia Opera: *Turandot*

Oct. 22 (Fri), 8 p.m. St. Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra

Oct. 24 (Sun) 7 p.m. Dr. John and His Band: *Celebrating the Blues*

Oct. 25 (Mon) 8 p.m. About Productions: *By the Hand of the Father*

Oct. 31 (Sun) 4 p.m. Ivo Pogorelich, piano soloist

Nov. 3 (Wed) 8 p.m. Jump Rhythm Jazz Project

Nov. 6 (Sat) 8 p.m. Balé Folclórico da Bahia

Nov. 13 (Sat) 8 p.m. Dresden Philharmonic

Nov. 14 (Sun) 7 p.m.
Keyboard Conversations® with Jeffrey Siegel: *The Passion and Poetry of Chopin*

Nov. 19 (Fri) 8 p.m. Virginia Opera: *The Merry Widow*

Nov. 21 (Sun) 2 p.m. Virginia Opera: *The Merry Widow*

Dec. 3 (Fri) 8 p.m.
Chanticleer, *A Chanticleer Christmas*

Dec. 10 (Fri) The Boys Choir of Harlem

Dec. 11 (Sat) 8 p.m.
Canadian Brass

Congratulations to the new FCFA board members who were elected to three-year terms which began July 1, 2004:

- ♦ A.J. Driscoll
- ♦ Charlie Lawson
- ♦ Ed Weiner

FCFA newsletter committee

- John Nash
- Jane Tombes
- Connie Diamant
- Bob Armstrong

