

FALL 2010

# Friends

THE NEWSLETTER OF

Friends OF THE  
Center  
FOR THE  
Arts

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## AMERICAN FESTIVAL POPS ORCHESTRA



Tony Maiello

The American Festival Pops Orchestra (AFPO), led by Anthony Maiello, Artistic Director and Conductor, is looking forward to the opening of its second season after completing a highly successful and critically acclaimed inaugural in 2009/2010. When asked to characterize the AFPO, Maiello

said, "The AFPO celebrates our country's rich and diverse cultural heritage through the popular tunes we all know and love. From Broadway to Hollywood, from homespun to chorus line, this is America's music played by some of Washington's most talented artists." The new season's first performance will take place at George Mason University's Center for the Arts in Fairfax, Virginia on October 9, 2010 with a thrilling orchestral salute to a celebrated musical genre that is a cherished part of American pop culture. "AFPO SALUTES" will include selections from favorite Broadway, film, and television themes/medleys, each introduced with entertaining anecdotal discussion. Among the composers featured

on this program are John Williams, Morton Gould, and John Philip Sousa. "We will be performing a composition written by Morton Gould called *American Salute*, based on the familiar song *When Johnny Comes Marching Home*, which is sure to be recognized by everyone," Maiello noted enthusiastically. The season's second performance takes place on March 26, 2011 at the new Hylton Performing Arts Center on Mason's Prince William campus. Program highlights for this concert will be announced on the venue's website,

[hyltoncenter.org](http://hyltoncenter.org), closer to the performance date.

The American Festival Pops Orchestra comprises professional musicians from the Mid-Atlantic region, as well as George Mason University School of Music faculty and select

students. The orchestra also hopes to attract Music alumni to perform as guest soloists and/or as members of the orchestra. Maiello is currently in the process of developing an Advisory Board, consisting of leaders from the local community who will provide input and suggestions for fundraising, promotion, and the creation of a future vision for the AFPO.

Maestro Maiello is creating a trademark for the AFPO, or "signature" as he calls it, that will be something with which the AFPO will continually be associated. He plans to open each performance with the *Star Spangled Banner*, using an arrangement by colleague and friend, Jack Stamp, a professor of Music at Indiana University in Pennsylvania. Each concert will close with a medley of well-known marches representing all branches of the five armed services, followed by *America the Beautiful*, sung by the audience. Another unique "signature" of the AFPO will be the use of herald trumpets for the opener and closer of each concert. The herald trumpets will be positioned within the audience. Maiello noted, "To my knowledge, the AFPO is the only Pops orchestra in the United States to include a permanent herald trumpet feature with every performance." With a smile on his lips, he adds, "When you attend our concerts, you become part of the performance."



American Festival Pops Orchestra

### SUBSCRIBER BENEFITS REMINDER

As a subscriber, you qualify to receive a 10% discount on tickets to any additional *Great Performances at Mason* events that you purchase.

Flexible ticket exchanges are a subscriber-only privilege. It's easy to do and you may exchange as often as necessary. There is no fee for exchanging tickets. Please note that all exchanges must be completed by the day before the date on the ticket that is being exchanged.

Though your tickets need to be returned to the Ticket Office, you are welcome to call the Subscriber Helpline at (703) 993-ARTS, and discuss your exchange with the Ticket Office staff. The Ticket Office is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Also, Center for the Arts subscribers may apply the value of a subscription ticket toward the purchase of full-price tickets at the Hylton Performing Arts Center on Mason's Prince William campus.

In its inaugural 2010/2011 season, the Hylton Performing Arts Center will present 13 performances as part of its *Hylton Presents* series. Six of these performances will also be presented at the Center for the Arts on the Fairfax campus.

## FCFA Board welcomes two new members and says farewell to two long-time members



C.J. Oborn

C.J. Oborn and her husband of 40 years, Rick, moved to Fairfax in 1984 when his Air Force career sent him to the Pentagon. A native North Carolinian, C.J. earned a BA in mathematics from UNC Greensboro and later taught math in Nebraska. After moving to Alabama, C.J. became a self-employed Mary Kay beauty consultant and sales director. She loves traveling, reading, and her wonderful granddaughter. C.J. has long enjoyed the Great Performance Series as well as the people she has met at Friends events and looks forward to meeting and making more new friends.



Kay Gilbert

Kay Gilbert loves Broadway plays, concerts of all types, and with her retired Army husband, John, has attended Great Performances for several years. They joined the Friends in January 2009. Kay graduated from Wilson College in Pennsylvania with a degree in history, which she taught for three years, and later served as a docent at Sully Plantation and on the Board of the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. As an Army wife, Kay moved frequently, but once John retired she became a real estate broker in northern Virginia,

retiring herself six years ago after 25 years in the industry and now enjoys gardening, antiques, reading, and traveling.



Mariann Baker

While welcoming our two new Board members, we also are saying farewell to **Mariann Baker**, who along with her husband Frank, is moving to St. Louis in September to be near family who all live in the Midwest. Mariann was elected to the Board in 2006, served on several FCFA committees, co-chaired two special events, and hosted three Friends dinners and discussions in her home. She has found her association with Mason and the Center for the Arts a wonderful experience. Mariann and Frank will be greatly missed by all their FCFA friends.



Frank Presta

We are also sorry to report that **Frank Presta** has left the Board after serving not only recently, but also on the Board of Directors in the earliest years of the Friends organization. His long-term commitment to the arts, and specifically to the volunteer work of the FCFA Board, will be sorely missed. He and his wife, Mary, will continue to support the Friends and we look forward to seeing Frank and Mary at Great Performances.

## DID YOU KNOW?

George Mason University was selected as a host for the Commonwealth's Confucius Institute through a competitive process. The public is invited to visit the Institute to do research, prepare for an upcoming trip to China, find needed Chinese resources, or simply have a conversation in Chinese. For more information call 703-993-4231.

## A Message from Pat Carroll President of the Friends of the Center for the Arts



Pat Carroll

As the newly elected President of the Friends of the Center for the Arts (FCFA), at George Mason University I would like to welcome all of our Friends, subscribers, and patrons to the 2010/2011 *Great Performances at Mason Season*. There are a variety of wonderful performances to excite us all.

FCFA had a record year under the leadership of our past President, Ida Portland. FCFA membership reached a record 701 households during the 2009/2010 season. With the new season, we have more opportunities for our members to participate such as supporting the member events and volunteering for the Friends Information Table in the Concert Hall lobby and the Friends Coffee Area during performances. There will be "Artists in Conversation" activities that will need hosts to provide a home location and help plan the event. FCFA also provides Pre-Performance Discussion on Grand Tier III of the Center prior to all performances as well as program notes when the performing group does not provide them.

ARTS by George will occur on September 25<sup>th</sup> with Joel Grey as the Concert Hall performer this year. Also, the new de Laski addition to the Performing Arts Building will be open and available for many of the student performances.

The Mason Inn opened on the campus in July 2010, and this makes another venue available for pre and post performance gatherings. Dinners or after performance snacks and drinks will also be available. There will be a shuttle available for those who choose to have pre-performance activity and prefer to leave their car in the hotel parking lot.

The College of Visual and Performing Arts, the Center for the Arts and the Friends of the Center for the Arts all have great activities and events planned for the coming year and we hope to see all of our current members and many new members as well as subscribers from the community and from the Mason family.

*Pat has served on the FCFA Board for eight years. He is a member of the Arts at Mason Board and is past president of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Board of Directors at George Mason University.*

## Artists in Conversation

Last April, more than 60 Friends of the Center for the Arts had the privilege of attending an extraordinary musical program. It paired legendary tenor Charles Williams, who made his Metropolitan Opera debut in the role of Sportin' Life in George and Ira Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*, with George Mason University School of Music senior Wayne Jennings. At the time, Wayne was performing in the cast of Washington National Opera's production of this classic American opera.

The evening's program, part of the Friends' *Artists in Conversation* series, included rousing performances of the Gershwin classics 'I've Got Plenty of Nothing' and 'It Ain't Necessarily So.' Jean Kellogg, Executive Director of the new Hylton Performing Arts Center, moderated an informal chat with Mr. Williams, during which he entertained the audience with tales of his Metropolitan Opera experiences and of his teaching and singing career.

Mr. Williams then held a fascinating mini-master class with Wayne, working with the younger artist to bring out the full range of his considerable singing and acting talents. Finally, the audience was given the opportunity to socialize with both tenors over dessert and coffee. It was truly a once-in-a-lifetime event.

"Artists in Conversation" is a special program offered as an exclusive benefit to members of George Mason University's Friends of the Center for the Arts. Scheduled a few days prior to or on the day of select performances, each features a guest artist and unique insights into an upcoming performance.

This October, FCFA members can look forward to an invitation for an intriguing evening celebrating London's musical hit, "The Merchants of Bollywood." The hit show, a highlight of the Center for the Arts' 2010/2011 schedule, offers a whirl of color, music and dance. Our Friends event promises to be equally dazzling.

In November *laissez les bon temps rouler* (let the good times roll) by getting together with Friends in conjunction with the Center's presentation of the New Orleans Nights program, which pays tribute to America's jazz capital and the legendary jazzmen of the Delta region.

These lively afternoon or evening interludes are a great opportunity to get together with old friends or make new ones. Watch for an invitation to the season's first event in early October. Invitations are sent **by email** with the date, time, and location of the event, either at the Center for the Arts or at the home of a Friend of the Center for the Arts.

If you'd prefer to receive a postcard instead of an email invitation, or if you are a current member and have not received recent invitations, email [dpacz@gmu.edu](mailto:dpacz@gmu.edu) or call 703-993-4188. Please keep in mind that electronic invites save precious dollars for the Center's programs and activities!

## Etiquette at the Theatre

As the new season approaches, we thought this would be a good time to discuss some tips on theatre etiquette for those of you who might be bringing guests or children who are unfamiliar with live performances. You probably have other suggestions, so do let us know what you would like us to include in future articles:

1. Please arrive at least ten minutes early so you won't have to wait for a break in the show to be seated. Have you considered attending the free Pre-Performance Discussion open to everyone and held on Grand Tier III 45 minutes before all *Great Performances*?
2. Food and drink should be reserved for intermission or before the performance. Remember to unwrap cough drops and candies in advance of the show if you think you might need them.
3. Unlike the movies, actors and performers can hear what is going on in the audience, so refrain from talking or humming along, and please do not intentionally kick the seat in front of you.
4. We are all aware that cell phones and other electronic devices should be turned off during a performance. This means no texting and/or viewing e-mail as both are distracting to those sitting nearby.
5. Last, but not least, please remember that perfumes and other scents may be overwhelming for those patrons around you.

We hope this introduction to theatre etiquette is helpful and will increase everyone's enjoyment of a wonderful *Great Performances at Mason* season!



(from left to right) Charles Williams, Wayne Jennings, Jean Kellogg



(from left to right) Burt and Doris Weisman, Charles Williams, Wayne Jennings

# Friends OF THE Center FOR THE Arts

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## GREAT PERFORMANCES AT MASON

September | October | November | December

Sunday, Sept. 19	7 p.m.	<b>Jeffrey Siegel, <i>Three Great "Bs"--Bach, Beethoven, and Barber</i></b>
Saturday, Sept. 25	8 p.m.	<b>Joel Grey</b>
Saturday, Oct. 2	8 p.m.	<b>MOMIX <i>Botanica</i></b>
Sunday, Oct. 3	4 p.m.	<b>MOMIX <i>Botanica</i></b>
Saturday, Oct. 9	8 p.m.	<b>American Festival Pops Orchestra, <i>Anthony Maiello, conductor</i></b>
Friday, Oct. 15	8 p.m.	<b>Virginia Opera, <i>Rigoletto</i></b>
Saturday, Oct. 16	8 p.m.	<b>Brooklyn Rider</b>
Sunday, Oct. 17	2 p.m.	<b>Virginia Opera, <i>Rigoletto</i></b>
Friday, Oct. 22	8 p.m.	<b>The Merchants of Bollywood</b>
Saturday, Oct. 30	8 p.m.	<b>Buika</b>
Friday, Nov. 5	8 p.m.	<b>Lar Lubovitch Dance Company</b>
Saturday, Nov. 6	8 p.m.	<b>BBC Concert Orchestra, <i>Keith Lockhart, conductor and Ilya Yakushev, piano</i></b>
Sunday, Nov. 7	7 p.m.	<b>Jeffrey Siegel, <i>The Fantastic Fantasy World of Robert Schumann</i></b>
Friday, Nov. 12	8 p.m.	<b>Dailey &amp; Vincent</b>
Saturday, Nov. 13	8 p.m.	<b>Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Company</b>
Sunday, Nov. 14	4 p.m.	<b>Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Company</b>
Friday, Nov. 19	8 p.m.	<b>Aquila Theatre, <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i></b>
Sunday, Nov. 21	7 p.m.	<b>New Orleans Nights with Allen Toussaint, <i>Nicholas Payton, and the Joe Krown Trio</i></b>
Saturday, Nov. 27	8 p.m.	<b>Chanticleer, <i>A Chanticleer Christmas</i></b>
Friday, Dec. 3	8 p.m.	<b>Virginia Opera, <i>Così fan tutte</i></b>
Saturday, Dec. 4	8 p.m.	<b>Turtle Island Quartet, with Cyrus Chestnut and Mike Marshall</b>
Sunday, Dec. 5	2 p.m.	<b>Virginia Opera, <i>Così fan tutte</i></b>
Friday, Dec. 10	8 p.m.	<b>The Waverly Consort, <i>The Christmas Story</i></b>
Saturday, Dec. 11	8 p.m.	<b>Synergy Brass Quintet, <i>Christmas in Brass</i></b>
Friday, Dec. 17	8 p.m.	<b>Leahy, <i>Leahy Family Christmas</i></b>
Saturday, Dec. 18	8 p.m.	<b>Vienna Boys Choir, <i>Christmas in Vienna</i></b>
Sunday, Dec. 19	4 p.m.	<b>Vienna Boys Choir, <i>Christmas in Vienna</i></b>