

# Friends

October 2006  
Fall

## Reeder's Enthusiasm and Vision are Keys to Success

William Reeder, Dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts, has an impressive background that includes opera credits as a leading tenor with the Zurich Opera Company and major management positions with the Washington Performing Arts Society and the Levine School of Music, among other distinguished positions in arts organizations nationwide. Additionally, he has served in teaching and administration at two universities.

Reeder originally came from a small Kansas town, and his first school was in a one-room schoolhouse that included a future pro-football standout and a millionaire. He credits six outstanding mentors at Indiana University – all of whom let him “carry their water buckets” – for their advice about his future. His interest in the intergenerational aspects of his career stemmed first from his experience in that tiny elementary school when older students would help the younger ones and later with these mentors who knew how to connect with someone younger than themselves.

Since becoming dean, Reeder has overseen a tremendous growth in Fairfax County's community-based support of the arts at Mason. He states that the changes at Mason have been “explosive” since he arrived five years ago. It is a “can-do place with generosity of spirit,” and he sees this trend most visibly in his College. A new home for the visual arts department is in the works, and the state has recently approved a new film and video studies program.

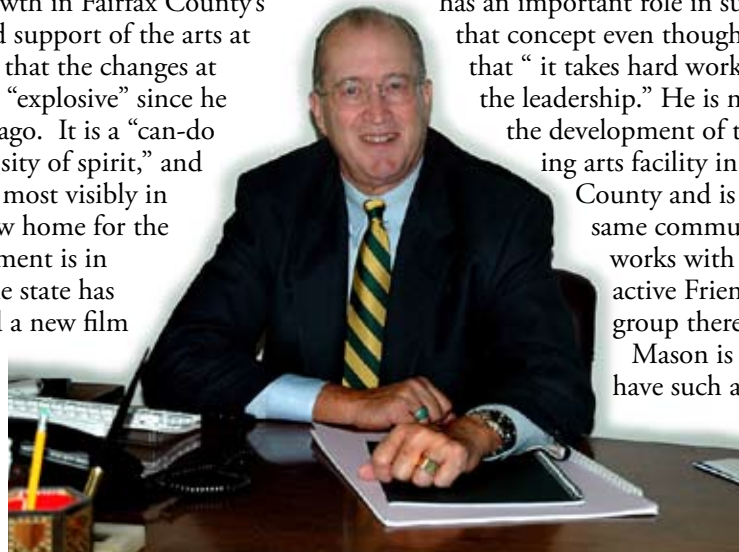
Concerning Center for the Arts programming, he states that eventually he

would like to see both a “high end” series of solo concerts by big name performers and more small ensembles that might include more jazz or bluegrass. However, the present size of the stage is frequently too small for some acts, but too large for others. Eventually, he sees bringing in more performances during the week and extending the season into the summer, beginning with the proposed Theater of the First Amendment Festival in 2008.

As Friends, we pride ourselves on our community outreach, but perhaps we could do more to attract people to support the Center's activities. Asked what improvements he might suggest for our fundraising efforts, Reeder noted that we should always be searching for a new generation of contributors whose family dynamics are changing, whose disposable income is increasing and who might have the resources to make larger contributions to the Center's programming.

Reeder believes that the key to any fundraising success is to develop a sense of “community” by providing contributors with reasons to become loyal to an organization. Our Friends group has an important role in succeeding with that concept even though Reeder knows that “it takes hard work on the part of the leadership.” He is now supervising the development of the new performing arts facility in Prince William County and is developing that same community concept as he works with a new and very active Friends fund-raising group there.

Mason is very fortunate to have such an experienced and knowledgeable leader whose enthusiasm will continue to motivate and encourage us. ■



William Reeder, Dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts

### IN THIS ISSUE

- ◆ Reeder's Keys to Success - 1
- ◆ Leadership Corner - 2
- ◆ Winners - 2
- ◆ Friend's Events - 3
- ◆ Calendar for Oct., Nov., Dec. - 4

Find out more at  
[www.fcfa.gmu.edu](http://www.fcfa.gmu.edu)

## Welcome to the New Season at the Center for the Arts



**Tom Ezell**

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome both returning and new Friends members to the outstanding 2006-2007 season. On behalf of FCFA, I thank you for your contributions, both in time and donations, which provide important support for the Center and its programs. I invite you all to explore the various programs available to you through the Center and the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

While our primary mission is to provide support for the Center, we also offer members opportunities to enhance their enjoyment of

the performances. Before each show in the Great Performance Series and during intermission, our members-only refreshment bar in the south wing of the lobby provides you with a chance to meet and interact with fellow members who share your interest in that performance.

In addition to Friends-only special events connected to selected performances, we will also be continuing the discussion series held in members' homes. These activities have all proven to be very popular, so you should mark your calendars and plan to make reservations promptly once you receive

your invitations. .

Please consider assisting with or hosting special events, staffing the Friends information table in the lobby, or helping the Center's staff with last-minute tasks. If you would like more information about volunteer opportunities, please contact Kathy Beyer at 703-993-8641 or [kbeyer2@gmu.edu](mailto:kbeyer2@gmu.edu).

I look forward to seeing you in the Friends area during intermission, but in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about FCFA. ■

*Tom Ezell, President  
FCFA*

## Season Tickets Winners

Rob and Debbie Spear are very excited about being the winners of a Great Performances subscription to the Center for the Arts. "It's the first time I've won some-

at the Friends 2006-7 season preview gala held in April where they subscribed to the Virginia Opera series, just as they have for years.

While they share a passion for great operatic performances, they do have different tastes. Rob, an architect who works as a design patent examiner for the US Patent and Trademark Office, loves Wagnerian operas, while Debbie, a contracts manager with SRA, prefers Italian operas because "the music is more romantic." They do agree on the quality of the performances produced by the Virginia Opera, which

Rob says "is as good as any opera company anywhere." He was especially moved by the company's production of *Tristan and Isolde* and called it "the best opera I've ever seen." The architect in him is also impressed with the consistent creativity of the Virginia Opera's set designs: "You never know what is going to be behind the curtain."

The Spears, who split their time between homes in Burke and Deep Creek Lake, MD, say that other performing arts venues around town are "no comparison" to the Center for the Arts. They say that because of the Center's high caliber of performances, its welcoming atmosphere, and the convenience of its location (along with easy parking), "Why go anywhere else?" ■



**Rob and Debbie Spear**

thing," says Debbie. The Spears won this special prize

## The ARTS, by George!

The ARTS by George! evening held on Saturday, Sept. 30, was a rousing success. Senator and Mrs. **John Warner** co-chaired the event, a scholarship benefit supporting student scholarships in the College of Visual and Performing Arts. Guests enjoyed cocktails on the Performing Arts plaza and food throughout the building while being entertained by Mason students and faculty in a series of presentations highlighting the talents of our Mason performing artists. Following a concert hall performance by **Michael Feinstein** at the Center, the lucky attendees joined Mr. Feinstein on stage for a champagne and dessert reception. ■



Michael Feinstein and admirers.

Bob and Ida Portland, Judith and Allen Weltz - members of the steering committee.



## Fairfax Symphony Orchestra Celebrates 50 Years of Great Music



William Hudson

Come help us celebrate the 50th birthday of the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra on Saturday, Oct. 21, at 8 p.m. The FSO has grown over the years from a small volunteer community orchestra to what *The New York Times* has labeled as one of the finest regional orchestras in the U.S. Under the baton of Maestro **William Hudson**, the FSO has performed at the Kennedy Center, Wolf Trap and the Shenandoah Valley Music Festival. The Center for the Arts is home stage for the FSO, and the orchestra will make a special appearance as part of the Great Performances at Mason series on Oct. 21. The program includes Beethoven's Violin Concerto, Op. 61, featuring Timothy Fain, 1999 winner of the prestigious Young Center Artists International Auditions. ■

## Rockin' and Rollin' with Bo Diddley & Friends

Join us for a return to the early days of rock and roll on Saturday, Nov. 4, when you will hear the rhythmic music of **Bo Diddley**, the legendary American rock and roll singer, songwriter and guitarist. Bo is considered a key figure in the transformation of blues into rock and roll. Many other artists though the years, including Buddy Holly, Bruce Springsteen, U2 and Guns and Roses, have used his hard-edged guitar sound with its distinctive "Bo Diddley beat."

Joining him on stage will be GRAMMY award-winning guitarist, **Alvin Youngblood Hart**.

After the performance, you can continue your blast from the past by visiting the FCFA Soda Shop on Grand Tier III for a post-performance event featuring ice cream sundaes, root beer floats and other nostalgic treats from the fifties. ■



Bo Diddley

## Holiday Festivity Includes Reception and Music

Don't miss this year's annual Music Holiday Concert on Dec. 10 at 7 p.m., which includes performances by the student symphony and chamber orchestras, and the chorale and soloists from both the music and dance departments. The quality of these ever-popular concerts is one of the best-kept secrets at Mason. Prepare to be overwhelmed by the talent and the artistry of Mason's faculty and students. A preliminary glimpse at the program includes selections from Handel's *Messiah*, Tchaikovsky's *"Nutcracker" Suite*, and Lucas Richman's *Hanukkah Festival Overture*. You will also be regaled with holiday tunes from the George Mason Faculty Accordion Trio – an annual favorite. To put you in the proper spirit, The Friends of the Center for the Arts and the Friends of Music will host a joint Friends-only champagne reception preceding the concert. ■

*Friends* OF THE  
**Center**  
 FOR THE  
**Arts**

Center for the Arts  
 George Mason University  
 4400 University Drive, MS 4C1  
 Fairfax, VA 22030

Non-Profit  
 U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
 Permit No. 339  
 Winchester, VA

For more information,  
 please call  
 703-993-4188  
 or visit  
<http://www.fcfa.gmu.edu>

**2006-2007  
 FCFA Officers**

- ♦ Tom Ezell,  
 President
- ♦ Judy Weltz,  
 Vice President  
 for Programs
- ♦ Jane Tombes,  
 Vice President  
 for Membership
- ♦ John Nash,  
 Vice President for  
 Communications
- ♦ Charlie Lawson,  
 Secretary
- ♦ A.J. Driscoll,  
 Budget Officer

**FCFA newsletter  
 committee**

- John Nash
- Jane Tombes
- Gordon Canyock
- Eileen Duggan
- Robin Auger
- Kathy Beyer

**Calendar of Events: Great Performances at Mason  
 October, November, December**

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| Oct. 13 (Fri) 8 p.m. <b>Virginia Opera: <i>Carmen</i></b>                                      | Oct. 29 (Sun) 7 p.m. <b>Chanticleer: <i>Love's Messengers</i></b>   | Dec. 1 (Fri) 8 p.m. <b>Virginia Opera: <i>Susannah</i></b>                        |
| Oct. 14 (Sat) 8 p.m. <b>Betty Buckley</b>  | Nov. 4 (Sat) 8 p.m. <b>Bo Diddley &amp; Friends</b>   | Dec. 3 (Sun) 2 p.m. <b>Virginia Opera: <i>Susannah</i></b>                        |
| Oct. 15 (Sun) 2 p.m. <b>Virginia Opera: <i>Carmen</i></b>                                      | Nov. 11 (Sat) 8 p.m. <b>Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Company</b>                                       | Dec. 8 (Fri) 8 p.m. <b>Christopher Parkening, guitar/Jubilant Sykes, baritone</b> |
| Oct. 21 (Sat) 8 p.m. <b>Fairfax Symphony Orchestra</b>   | Nov. 12 (Sun) 2 p.m. <b>Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Company</b>                                       | Dec. 15 (Fri) 8 p.m. <b>Eileen Ivers: <i>An Nollaig—An Irish Christmas</i></b>    |
| Oct. 22 (Sun) 7 p.m. <b>Ivo Pogorelich, pianist</b>  | Nov. 19 (Sun) 7 p.m. <b>Keyboard Conversations® with Jeffrey Siegel: <i>Schumann—Musical Love Letters</i></b> | Dec. 16 (Sat) 8 p.m. <b>Canadian Brass: <i>Canadian Brass Christmas</i></b>       |
| Oct. 25 (Wed) 8 p.m. <b>Dana Tai Soon Burgess &amp; Company: <i>Images from the Embers</i></b> |   |   |
| Oct. 28 (Sat) 8 p.m. <b>Tania Pérez-Salas Compañía de Danza</b>                                |   |   |

You can become a member of and contributor to the Friends of the Center for the Arts, helping to make wonderful performances available in our community. For more information, contact Kathy Beyer at 703-993-4188 or kbeyer2@gmu.edu.

