

FALL 2008

# Friends

THE NEWSLETTER OF

Friends OF THE  
Center  
FOR THE  
Arts

## DON'T MISS OUT ON A MEMORABLE WEEKEND OF DANCE AND THEATER AT THE CENTER FOR THE ARTS

### Aquila Theatre Company - November 7 at 8:00 pm

It's back! Kimberly Pau Donato, Assistant Artistic Director of the highly-regarded Aquila Theatre Company, said in an interview that the company is looking forward to coming again to the Center for the Arts, having performed *Catch 22* to an enthusiastic audience last year. On November 7 they return with an imaginative, family-friendly production of Shakespeare's *Comedy of Errors*. To quote the *New York Times*, "No one who sees this rousing production by the excellent Aquila Theatre Company will forget a whit of it."

The intricate plot relates the story of two pairs of identical twins in the same household separated by a devastating shipwreck. Mistaken identity, assumed personas, hilarious machinations and whimsical family ties are the boisterous strands Shakespeare weaves to allow his audience to stay

one step ahead of the characters and laugh heartily at the outrageous results. "Superb acting and clever staging," said the *New Yorker*.

This non-profit company, based in New York City since 1999, was founded in London in 1991 with the mission of bringing the greatest theatrical works to the greatest number. It also serves as the Professional Company in Residence at NYU's Center for Ancient Studies. It presents a regular season of plays in New York, at international festivals, and is the foremost producer of touring classical theatre in the USA, visiting 60-70 cities per year.

This sensational new revival of Shakespeare's vibrant and sparkling comedy returns in an exuberant production with amazing visuals, clever movement, brilliant lighting and a specially commissioned musical score... an unforgettable theatrical experience you won't want to miss.

### Hubbard Street Dance Chicago - November 8 at 8:00 pm

Dance aficionados will be in for a treat when the eclectic dance company *Hubbard Street Dance Chicago* (HSDC) returns to the greater Washington, D.C., area on November 8. This is their second appearance at the Center for the Arts.

Three works will be presented, including "Minus 16," "The Constant Shift of Pulse," and a new dance choreographed by Alejandro Cerrudo.

"Minus 16" was choreographed by Ohad Naharin, who has been the artistic director of the Batsheva Dance Company since 1990. This dance is a clever and humorous full company piece that uses audience participation. The music ranges from Dean Martin "sway" to cha-cha, mambo, bossa nova, techno, and traditional Israeli music.

"The Constant Shift of Pulse" was choreographed by Doug Varone, the artistic director of Doug Varone and Dancers. "Pulse" is intricate and visually powerful, challenging its dancers to test the boundaries of trust and release.

Kristen Brogdon, Artistic Administrator for



HSDC, in describing the Cerrudo piece, remarked: "There is no story, but rather it is more of an abstract feeling. It conveys Cerrudo's classical European dance training."

HSDC is based in Chicago and is one of the few American companies that operate year-round. It has a full schedule of tours both nationally and internationally. This "must see" dance company is a powerful force in contemporary dance that has inspired and engaged audiences worldwide since its founding by Lou Conte in 1977.

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<http://fcfa.gmu.edu>

## Friends at the Table

The 2008-2009 Great Performances at Mason season includes an improved presence for Friends membership recruitment and renewal in the form of a newly designed Friends table in the Center for the Arts lobby, which is now called the Friends Information Center. This new table and information center contains information about all of the Friends groups at the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

Special built-in features, including video capability and mobility, will substantially improve our volunteers' ability to meet membership needs, particularly on special membership promotion nights.

As mentioned in the summer newsletter, Friends members no longer staff the "Meet and Greet" information table. Instead, volunteers are now staffing the Friends Information Center before performances and during intermission. Volunteer responsibilities include spreading the word about the work of the Friends and membership benefits, answering questions about FCFA, and taking membership applications. Training has been provided and volunteers receive free tickets to the performance for which they volunteer. If you are interested in helping at the Friends Information Center for the spring performances, please contact Susanne Zumbro at [szumbro@rocketmail.com](mailto:szumbro@rocketmail.com).



Susanne Zumbro leading a volunteer orientation session for the 2008-2009 Great Performances at Mason Season

We encourage all Friends to stop by the new Friends Information Center to ask questions you may have, make an additional contribution, or to introduce your friends and neighbors to the satisfaction and benefits of being a Friend of the Center for the Arts. As a special incentive, new members who join at one of the evening performances below receive a complimentary CD.

- Saturday, November 15 at 8:00 pm—  
*Doc Severinsen*
- Saturday, December 13 at 8:00 pm—  
*Leahy*
- Saturday, February 21 at 8:00 pm—  
*Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra*
- Friday, March 6 at 8:00 pm—  
*Mariza*

**Notice to Great Performances patrons: Free parking** is available in **Lot K** during any public performance or event at the Center for the Arts (includes Great Performances, Pre-performance Discussions, Friends Events, Vision Series and Student/Faculty performances). **You risk a parking fine and/or towing if you park in any other lot on campus.**

**Please note that Lot K is restricted to permit holders at all times except for the events mentioned above.** If you are visiting campus for a meeting or other reason, please use the visitors parking deck adjacent to the Center for the Arts, Concert Hall.

## Other Volunteer Activities for FCFA Members

We want to remind you of other volunteer opportunities available to you during the 2008-2009 season. The activities listed below can provide a great way to meet new people and understand the inner workings of the organization and the Center for the Arts. We welcome your participation.

- **Special events** – Help with planning and coordinating the Friends' **social events** or offer your home or your assistance with one of the **discussion series** events. Email Judy Weltz ([jolegp@msn.com](mailto:jolegp@msn.com)).
- **Volunteer help with mailings** – Assist the staff with **special mailings** during the

season. You may be needed for a morning or afternoon shift depending on the amount of work involved. Email Sonja Palomaki ([spalomaki@cox.net](mailto:spalomaki@cox.net)) or Deborah Paez at ([dpaez@gmu.edu](mailto:dpaez@gmu.edu)) if you are interested in being contacted for this volunteer effort.

- **Newsletter distribution** – Volunteer to **take newsletters** to various organizations such as libraries and community centers, especially if there is a place near your home where you can leave the documents. Email Al Sims ([amsims@cox.net](mailto:amsims@cox.net)) if you would like to help with this project.

## Friends at Play!



From left to right: Mariann Baker, Susanne Zumbro, Ray Rongley, Rick Davis at the home of Cheryl and Mark Piper.

The fall 2008 discussion series began on October 3 with a preview of *Shakespeare & Company's* first national tour of *Hamlet*, one of the most powerful plays ever written. Rick Davis, Artistic Director of the Center for the Arts, led the conversation. The evening's camaraderie and good cheer were further enhanced by a delicious Danish supper at the home of Cheryl and Mark Piper. The dinner was made possible by very generous donations from Costco in Sterling and Trader Joe's in Centreville.

The second event in the discussion series will be held on the evening of **Saturday, November 1 at 7:00 pm** at the home of Al and Mindy Sims. Critically acclaimed pianist **Jeffrey Siegel** will lead the discussion, which will allow us the opportunity to learn even more about the background of the pieces he will discuss and play during the *Basking in Beethoven* performance at the Center for the Arts, Concert Hall on **Sunday, November 2 at 7:00 pm**. **Jeffrey Siegel** returns to the Center for the Arts for the sixteenth season with his ever popular *Keyboard Conversations*®. Jeffrey Siegel's ability to incorporate a teaching element in addition to his performance of each composition in its entirety continues to make *Keyboard Conversations*® an integral part of the Great Performances series.



Jeffrey Siegel

Save the date! What could be more enjoyable than an elegant buffet dinner served on Grand Tier III after listening to exquisite music performed by Grammy Award-winning pianists **Emanuel Ax and Yefim Bronfman**. Join fellow Friends on **Sunday, November 23 at 6:00 pm** immediately following the performance for a wonderful opportunity to extend the enjoyment of a shared afternoon of music performed by these legendary pianists.



Emanuel Ax and Yefim Bronfman

Christmas in Vienna! Plan to celebrate the holiday season on **Friday, December 19**, in an elegant atmosphere with an Austrian touch. A post-performance family-friendly reception on Grand Tier III promises to be a festive and fabulous event, capping an evening of stellar entertainment by the **Vienna Boys Choir**. Synonymous with the hope and spirit of the holiday season for more than five centuries, the choir is one of the most recognized names and sounds in the world. This event is sure to be well-attended, so don't miss out! Respond to your invitation as soon as you receive it.



Vienna Boys Choir

# Friends OF THE Center FOR THE Arts

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## GREAT PERFORMANCES AT MASON

November | December

- Keyboard Conversations® with Jeffrey Siegel, *Basking in Beethoven* – Sunday, November 2 at 7:00 pm  
Aquila Theatre Company, *The Comedy of Errors* – Friday, November 7 at 8:00 pm  
Hubbard Street Dance Chicago – Saturday, November 8 at 8:00 pm  
Kirov Orchestra – Friday, November 14 at 8:00 pm  
Doc Severinsen and El Ritmo de la Vida – Saturday, November 15 at 8:00 pm  
Emanuel Ax and Yefim Bronfman – Sunday, November 23 at 4:00 pm  
Chanticleer, *A Chanticleer Christmas* – Saturday, November 29 at 8:00 pm and Sunday, November 30 at 2:00 pm  
Virginia Opera, *The Elixir of Love* – Friday, December 5 at 8:00 pm and Saturday, December 6 at 2:00 pm  
New Orleans Jazz Orchestra, *Home for the Holidays* – Friday, December 12 at 8:00 pm  
Leahy, *A Celtic Christmas* – Saturday, December 13 at 8:00 pm  
Vienna Boys Choir, *Christmas in Vienna* – Friday, December 19 at 8:00 pm  
Christopher Parkening and Jubilant Sykes, *A Classical Christmas* – Saturday, December 20 at 8:00 pm

## DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?

The Friends of the Center for the Arts would like to use electronic communications more frequently in order to make better use of your contributions. Next time you are at the Friends refreshment area, please check the binder to see if we have your correct email address or you can send your current email to [dpaez@gmu.edu](mailto:dpaez@gmu.edu).  
We do not share email addresses.

### 2008-2009

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