

# Friends

July 2005  
Summer

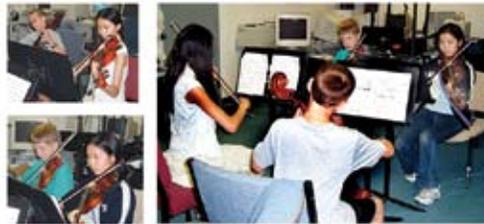
## Potomac Music Academy provides summer sounds

Ever wonder what goes on during the long summer months at the Center for the Arts as we wait impatiently for the Great Performances series to resume in mid-September? As it turns out, the theater is not dark but instead has been the home of the Potomac Music Academy for the past three summers. The Academy is made possible through the generous support of **Donald and Nancy de Laski**.

From June 6 until August 13, the Academy is sponsoring



Potomac Music Academy



a series of music seminars, workshops and symposiums for several hundred elementary through high school students, undergraduate and graduate students, and private music teachers, all primarily from the Washington, D.C. area. Programs are offered in string chamber and woodwind ensembles, piano pedagogy and choral conducting. There also are two honor band programs – one for eighth graders and the other for grades nine through 12.

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## New Board Officers and Members Take Office July 1

New board officers and members were elected in May for terms starting July 1.

**Tom Ezell** and **Jane Tombes** were selected for third terms as President and Vice President for Membership, respectively. **Ida Portland** was re-elected as Vice President for Programs. **John Nash** was named Vice

President for Communications, replacing **Jerry Salter**, and **Charlie Lawson** was chosen as Secretary/Treasurer, a post formerly held by **Eileen Duggan**.

Five new board members who started terms July 1 are **Gordon Canyock**, **Lynn Gramzow**, **Sonja Palomaki**, **Kay Rongley** and **Joan White**. Please look at page

three for more information about each one.

They join other current board members: **Bob Armstrong**, **Pat Carroll**, **A.J. Driscoll**, **Eileen Duggan**, **Shirley Joyce**, **Bob Phillips**, **Carole Scanlon**, **Ed Weiner**, **Thelma Weiner**, **Judy Weltz** and **Susanne Zumbro**. ■

## Leadership Corner



**Jane Tombes**

Dear Friends,  
You have received many letters from me in the past couple of years – perhaps more than you wanted to read – but the message has certainly produced great responses from all of you. I want to thank you for your many valuable contributions to the Center for the Arts which have helped us to reach goals we didn't even believe were achievable several years ago. I joined this group when I returned to Northern Virginia in 1998 after a ten-

year absence. Back then, the Friends financial contributions were only about 10 percent of what they are now. This amazing growth in support happened because of your willingness to contribute to making the Center's programming, outreach and physical structure even better than before.

Of course, we are always looking to the future with an eye toward greater achievements and with the knowledge that our contributions go towards enhancing the performance season, making improvements to the facility and continuing the outreach to the schools.

So if you have already renewed your membership, you are among the 75 percent of last year's members who have done so. Thanks again for your commitment. If you haven't yet renewed, I encourage you to join us again in order to support the Center and enjoy the enriching social benefits of membership.

I look forward to seeing you during the coming season, which promises to be one of our best ever.

Sincerely,

Jane Tombes  
Vice President for  
Membership

### Academy, from page 1

A highlight of the program each year is the Annual International Euphonium and Tuba Competition. Musicians from all over the U.S. attend and compete for up to \$600 in prizes as well as the opportunity to be a soloist in the final concert on June 26 with the U.S. Marine Corps Band. The tuba is usually thought of as a rhythm instrument, providing a deep bass note on each beat of a Sousa march. However, **Jo Lynn**

**Bailey-Page**, the coordinator of the Academy, points out that the tuba and its sister euphonium are beautifully expressive, soulful and haunting instruments when played as solos.

The Summer Symphony Honor Band for grades 9-12 provides a performance opportunity for local band students in advanced-level ensembles over the summer recess. The high school students learn music performance techniques from professional artist-teachers, develop individual playing skills and perform in a select honor band led by nationally acclaimed conductors.

There are two final con-



**Students take a practice break.**

certs: the honor bands on August 2 at 7:30 p.m. and the woodwind ensembles on August 5 at 8 p.m. Both events are in the Harris Theater and open to the public. You are all invited to see the Academy in action.

For more information, visit the Potomac Music Academy's Web site at [www.gmu.edu/departments/Music/potomac.html](http://www.gmu.edu/departments/Music/potomac.html). ■

**In the upcoming year, we plan to convert some of our communications and invitations to email. If you have not already given us your email address, please send it to [fcfa@gmu.edu](mailto:fcfa@gmu.edu) to ensure that you do not miss out on last-minute opportunities and important news.**

## New FCFA Board Members

**Gordon Canyock** is a retired US Army intelligence officer who specialized in the study of the USSR where he served two tours of duty. He also served as a State Department consultant, working in the former Soviet Union. Gordon and his wife Judy are avid fans of local theater and have a strong interest in Russian culture. Gordon has been a member of FCFA for two years. He and Judy have volunteered at the Center's information table, and Gordon has served on two event committees. He sits on the board of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at GMU where he participates in and occasionally coordinates the Readers' Theater troupe. ■



**Gordon Canyock**

**Lynn Gramzow**, a Texas native, spent a large part of her life as a civilian employee of the Defense Department, teaching English as a second language to civilians and military personnel in Vietnam and Germany. An arts lover, Lynn had long attended performances at the Kennedy Center and Shakespeare Theater before discovering the Center for the Arts. She became an FCFA member and an ardent supporter two years ago. Lynn has volunteered at the Center's information table during performances and has served on a Friends event committee. She is a member of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at GMU where she has led the Reader's Theater troupe for the past several years. ■



**Lynn Gramzow**

**Sonja Palomaki**, a former elementary school teacher, has long been interested in education, assisting for many years as a volunteer in local elementary and high schools. She has held offices both in the Parent/Teachers Association and in the Fairfax City branch of the American Association of University Women. She and her husband Don learned of the Center upon their arrival in the area from San Diego, CA, where Don, a military officer, had been stationed. Attracted by the Center's convenience and exceptional value, they quickly became subscribers and members of FCFA. Sonja and Don have volunteered at the Center's information table for several years. ■



**Sonja Palomaki**

**Kay Rongley** is currently an Executive Associate at the GMU Foundation. She has held a variety of volunteer and paid positions over the years. Kay was actively involved in a number of military and civilian community organizations in the US and in Europe. She served as a legislative aide to a Virginia State Senator, and sat on the Falls Church/Fairfax County Community Services Board and on the Vint Hill Economic Development Authority Board of Commissioners. Kay has been a lifelong advocate for the arts, especially in her personal support of emerging artists and community theater groups, and as a contributing arts patron. She is a familiar face at the Center where she attends as many events as she can. ■



**Kay Rongley**

**Joan White**, a long-time Northern Virginia resident, became a member of FCFA last year. She immediately was struck by the quality of the Center performances and by the Friends' efforts to reach out to the audience through their sponsorship of pre-performance discussions and pre- and post-performance events. Joan's interest in the arts began as a child, and she enjoys theater, music and art. She has focused much of her energy on volunteer work within the Fairfax County school system. Joan has served on the Board of the Fairfax County Association for the Gifted and functioned as a parent representative on the Northern Virginia Council for Gifted and Talented Education. She looks forward to active participation in FCFA. ■



**Joan White**



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

For more information,  
please call  
703-993-4188  
or visit [www.gmu.edu/cfa](http://www.gmu.edu/cfa)

## 2005-2006 Season Special Events for Friends

The 2005-2006 season at the Center for the Arts is full of outstanding events. Members of the FCFA will receive invitations to receptions and other activities connected with the following performances:

Sunday, October 23, 2005

**Marvin Hamlisch: *The Broadway Songbook***  
Celebrate the Best of the Great White Way

Saturday, December 17, 2005

**Canadian Brass**  
An Exclusive Friends-Only Holiday Celebration

Saturday, February 18, 2006

**Virginia Opera: *The Marriage of Figaro***  
Our Popular Behind-the-Scenes Tour and Brunch is Back Again!

Friday, March 10, 2006

**Russian National Orchestra**  
A Special Event with One of the World's Finest Orchestras

Saturday, May 6, 2006

**Mark O'Connor's Appalachia Waltz Trio**  
Experience America's Rich Folk Tradition

### 2005-2006 FCFA Officers

- ♦ **Tom Ezell**,  
President
- ♦ **Ida Portland**,  
Vice President  
for Programs
- ♦ **Jane Tombes**,  
Vice President  
for Membership
- ♦ **John Nash**, Vice  
President for  
Communications
- ♦ **Charlie Lawson**,  
Secretary/  
Treasurer

### FCFA newsletter committee

- John Nash
- Jane Tombes
- Gordon Canyock
- Eileen Duggan

Mark your calendars now  
and be sure to attend!

