

SUMMER 2011

THE NEWSLETTER OF

Friends OF THE  
Center  
FOR THE  
Arts

# Friends

## 2011/2012 GREAT PERFORMANCES AT MASON SEASON

"Wow!" was the reaction heard in the Concert Hall on the evening of April 6 as Tom Reynolds, Director of Artistic Programming, briefed the assembled Friends of the Center for the Arts on next year's spectacular *Great Performances at Mason Season*. After our annual tradition of sampling various appetizers and fine wines in the lobby, we learned about the 51 performances scheduled for next year. Perhaps the highlight of the entire season will be the 6<sup>th</sup> annual ARTS *by George!* benefit event, headlined by Michael Feinstein and Marvin Hamlisch, two of America's top musicians performing together in a concert entitled *The Great American Songbook*.

As in past years, there will be a broad spectrum of artistic genres represented. The "Magnificent Music" series features the world-renowned Mariinsky Orchestra (formerly the Kirov), with Valery Gergiev conducting, and the novel Chamber Orchestra Kremlin, in which the audience will vote on which pieces will be performed after intermission. The "Dynamic Dance" series features the Martha Graham Dance Company performing Aaron Copeland's *Appalachian Spring*, followed by a joint performance with the Mason Dance Company, and The Moscow Festival Ballet returns next spring to perform family favorites *Cinderella* and *Sleeping Beauty*. The "Global View" series includes the spectacular National Acrobats of China and The Ballet Folklorico de Antioquia, Colombia.

The "American Echoes" series brings Grammy-award winner and "dean of Latin Jazz" Chucho Valdes and his Afro-Cuban band to our stage, as well as The "All New" Original Tribute to the Blues Brothers, which was a huge hit on London's West End. The "Enthralling Theater" series includes the Theater of the First Amendment's innovative production of *Stay*, the first appearance on our stage of Philadelphia's Walnut Street

Theatre performing *Proof*, as well as performances by the Aquila British-American touring company of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* and Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*. The Virginia Opera will present Verdi's *Aida*; Engelbert Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*, which will be sung in English and feature half-price tickets for children up to grade 12; Philip Glass's *Orpheus*; and Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado*. Audience favorite

Jeffrey Siegel also returns with his Keyboard Conversations series of four fascinating concerts.

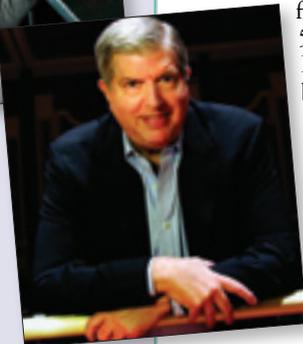
### There have been several changes to the season brochure we received on April 6:

- *Mariza* has cancelled her tour of the U.S. and will not be here on Saturday, November 5, 2011
- *Mason Student Symphony Orchestra and Choruses Holiday Concert* will take place on Sunday, December 11, 2011 at 7 p.m. (instead of the 12<sup>th</sup>),
- A holiday performance by the *American Festival Pops Orchestra* will take place on Friday, December 9, 2011 at 8 p.m.
- *Düsseldorf Symphony Orchestra* will not be here on Friday, February 24, 2012 and
- *Vienna Boys Choir* will perform on Sunday, March 11, 2011 at 7 p.m.

Remember that subscribing has many advantages, including priority seating, a substantial discount over single-ticket purchases of up to 25%, and generous exchange privileges if you are unable to attend a performance. The subscription form allows you to sign up for the ARTS *by George!* benefit event on September 24 and, if you have not done so already, to conveniently renew your membership in the Friends of the Center for the Arts. While you are at it, please consider increasing your level of contribution to provide greater support to this wonderful performing arts program that we are so privileged to have access to here in Northern Virginia.



Michael Feinstein



Marvin Hamlisch

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### Save These Dates!

#### FRIENDS SPECIAL EVENTS

Members will receive an invitation in the **mail** for receptions and other activities connected with the following performances:

Sunday, November 6, 2011

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA KREMLIN

Saturday, February 18, 2012 THE "ALL NEW" ORIGINAL TRIBUTE TO THE BLUES BROTHERS

Wednesday, April 11, 2012 2012/2013 FRIENDS-ONLY SEASON PREVIEW

#### FRIENDS-ONLY ARTISTS IN CONVERSATION

Members will receive an invitation by **e-mail** with the date and location of the Artists in Conversation event connected to the following performances:

MARTHA GRAHAM DANCE COMPANY  
DAILEY & VINCENT

AQUILA THEATRE, *Macbeth*  
VIRGINIA OPERA, *The Mikado*

THEATER OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT, *Stay*



## Ways to Give

The Center for the Arts is a premier performing arts center in Northern Virginia. Many Friends are seeking ways in which they can help to ensure that it will be just as vital for future generations.

The answer is *Planned Giving*. George Mason University has developed guidance to help you select a giving option that best fits your financial and tax situation. Here is a brief look at some of the estate planning options.

### Gifts that pay you income.

**Charitable Gift Annuities, Charitable Remainder Unitrusts and Charitable Remainder Annuity Trusts** are examples. The type of income stream (fixed or variable) and term (life or term of years) is a function of the gift type chosen. They all provide a current income tax deduction. If the trusts are funded by long-term appreciated assets, upfront capital gains taxes are avoided. The Center for the Arts is the future residual beneficiary.

### A gift that the Center for the Arts can use today.

A **Charitable Lead Trust** provides the Center with a current income stream for a term of years. The donor or his heirs are the future residual beneficiaries. There is potential gift tax savings to the heirs.

### Gifts that benefit the Center for the Arts in the future.

The Center for the Arts is the future beneficiary in each gift type. With a **Bequest**, a large gift is possible with no immediate cost, and provides a charitable deduction for taxable estates. **Life Insurance** is another way to provide a large gift with little cost to the donor. **Retirement Plans** (IRA, Keogh) are subject to both income and estate taxes. This double taxation is avoided when the plan assets are gifted, and often is the most cost effective gift one can make. A residence or farm can be gifted under the terms of a **Retained Life Estate** in which the donor (or his designee) has the use of the property for life. This provides a charitable deduction on income taxes and reduces estate taxes.

A Friend of the Center for the Arts who wishes to learn more about the various Planned Giving options is urged to contact Una M. Murphy by phone, 703-993-8621, or e-mail, [umurphy@gmu.edu](mailto:umurphy@gmu.edu). She can provide detailed information and guidance. After selecting the planned giving option(s) which meet his/her criteria, you should consult with your estate planning lawyer.

## DO WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESS?

The Friends of the Center for the Arts frequently use email to communicate with its members. Next time you are at the Friends Refreshment area, please check the binder to see if we have your current email address. You may also send your current email address to [dpaez@gmu.edu](mailto:dpaez@gmu.edu). We do not share email addresses.

## Concert Hall Ushers



Elizabeth Katz

Did you know that there are 30 ushers and 4 usher supervisors that greet and assist you at every Great Performance and every Student Performance in the Concert Hall? The ushers include Friends members and other patrons who volunteer their services and Mason students who are paid for their services. The usher supervisors are also paid and include a few Mason students. Volunteers are distinguished by their gray vests, whereas paid ushers wear red vests. At any given time there are anywhere from 75 to 100 ushers and 12 usher supervisors that are on the roster and available. Ushers working performances are generally split evenly between volunteers and paid staff, although at Great Performances approximately 1/3 of the ushers are volunteers. All ushers are supervised by Elizabeth Katz, the Concert Hall Front of House Manager. Elizabeth recruits and trains all ushers, but pointed out that recruiting student ushers is often easier because there are always students who want to earn extra money.

The attraction for a person to volunteer is the benefit of seeing the performances for free. Students and others who are paid do not get to see entire performances as they remain in the lobby or at the doors of the Concert Hall to assist late-arriving patrons or other patrons as necessary. They do, however, sometimes get to see a portion of the performances. Elizabeth noted that since she has been on the job, "I haven't had to advertise for ushers. People are made aware through word-of-mouth about openings and they immediately apply, both for volunteer and for paid positions." She has sign-up sheets each semester for ushers to indicate the performances they want to work. She remarked, "Volunteers select performances they want to see, whereas students select performances by the dates they are available." Each volunteer works about 10 performances per year, whereas students and paid ushers work approximately twice per month. Elizabeth noted that turnovers during the season do occur, particularly with the students due to graduation or finding jobs in their field of study, but it is not a problem since there is a waiting list of students who want to work.

# Eats, Shoots, and Loves Music



Rita Leake

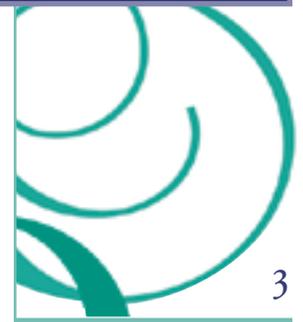
The Friends of the Center for the Arts is looking for volunteers to snap photos during our Pre-Performance discussions and Friends-only special events. It takes only a little bit of your time, and your lively photos will make *Friends*, our print newsletter, and *Friends Front & Center*, our e-newsletter, visually appealing.

Do you fancy yourself a Paparazzi? Got a great new lens you want to show off? If you own a digital camera and think you'd be good at capturing the spirit of one of our fun-filled events, please consider becoming one of our team of photographers. You'll have the opportunity to attend receptions, backstage tours, and Artists in

Conversation events. Your duties will include discreetly taking photos, having a great time "covering" the event and burning your best shots onto a disc for future use in publications.

We're also looking for a few sociable Friends to assist our photographers as notetakers. Duties include basic photo styling (i.e. removing a crumbled dirty napkin or tucking an unsightly knapsack out of sight), recording the spelling of the names of those who appear in each photo, and turning in a typed list of the names you have recorded. As a "recorder," you get to introduce yourself and meet people you otherwise might not meet while helping Friends provide accurate caption information.

How can we thank you for your services? Let's start with a complimentary invitation to the luscious dinners, lunches and dessert receptions that you photograph. You'll also be listed in all publications as a member of the FCFA Communications Committee. For more information or to volunteer, call 703-993-4188 or contact Volunteer Photography Coordinator Rita Leake at [fraurl@cox.net](mailto:fraurl@cox.net).



<http://cfa.gmu.edu/friends/>

## Friends at Play

**Artists in Conversation on Aquila Theatre's production of *Six Characters in Search of an Author* with Dr. Rick Davis, Associate Provost at Mason**

**Thursday, February 10, 2011, Home of Ida and Rob Portland**



Dr. Rick Davis



Friends enjoying supper

**Friends-only Season Preview**

**Wednesday, April 6, 2011, Center for the Arts, Concert Hall**



(left to right) Lenore Farrell, David Gray, Anne-Marie Gray

**Tango Buenos Aires post-performance reception**

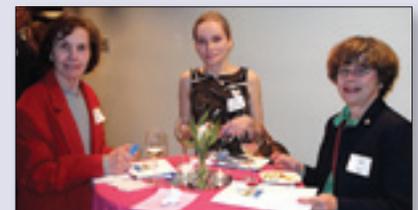
**Saturday, March 5, 2011, Center for the Arts, Grand Tier III**



(left to right) Rose Campiglia and Kit McGinnis



(left to right) Everett Chasen, Carmen Deshler, Bill Deshler, Barbara Jacksier



(left to right) Wilma Benitez, Valentina Lukin, Barbara Spiller

**Opera Brunch celebrating the Virginia Opera's production of *Madama Butterfly***

**Saturday, April 2, 2011, Center for the Arts, Concert Hall**



Presentation by the Virginia Opera on *Madama Butterfly*



(left to right) Sonja Palomaki, Paulette Miller, Carol Robinson



(left to right) Evelyn Kiley, Mary Presta

# Friends OF THE Center FOR THE Arts

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## Join us for the 6<sup>th</sup> annual ARTS by George!

The 6<sup>th</sup> annual presentation of **ARTS by George!** will take place on Saturday, September 24, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. **ARTS by George!** is a celebration of the Arts at Mason, with proceeds benefiting the Center for the Arts, *Great Performances at Mason Season* as well as student scholarships in Art, Dance, Music, Theater, Film and Video Studies, Computer Game Design, and Arts Management.

At **ARTS by George!** you and your guests will experience the extraordinary talents of our students and faculty in a variety of “behind-the-scenes” studio environments in the recently expanded de Laski Performing Arts Building and Harris Theater. Along the way, guests will find sumptuous food stations and plentiful bars throughout the performances spaces and under the **ARTS by George!** tent. Guests will also have the opportunity to bid on an array of experiences and items in a unique arts-related silent auction.

The evening culminates with an 8 p.m. gala performance featuring two American entertainment powerhouses as they take you on a melodic journey through the *Great American Songbook*, showcasing the best of popular music from Broadway to Hollywood. American vocalist, pianist, musicologist and foremost interpreter for the songbook, the immensely talented Michael Feinstein has been hailed as the “quintessential New York voice” (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette). Marvin Hamlisch, renowned composer, conductor, musical director, and winner of numerous Oscars, Emmys, Grammys, Golden Globes and a Tony has created some of the best known and loved music of our time including *The Way We Were*, *The Sting*, *Sophie's Choice*, *Ordinary People*, and *A Chorus Line*. A post-performance champagne and dessert reception on stage with the artists will close the evening's festivities.

Tickets to **ARTS by George!** are \$200 each, of which \$120 is a tax-deductible contribution to the College of Visual and Performing Arts. Please keep in mind that you may designate the \$120 tax-deductible portion to the Center for the Arts, *Great Performances at Mason Season* and/or student scholarship in any of the seven academic disciplines mentioned above. To purchase tickets, call 703-993-4188 or email [dpaez@gmu.edu](mailto:dpaez@gmu.edu). Visit <http://artsbygeorge.gmu.edu> for more information on this unique event.