

AUGUST 2012

Friends

THE NEWSLETTER OF

Friends OF THE
Center
FOR THE
Arts

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR A SEASON OF GREAT PERFORMANCES



Cirque Chinois

From the breathtaking feats of Cirque Chinois and the inspirational harmonies of The Blind Boys of Alabama to the finest in opera, classical music, dance, and theater — the *Great Performances at Mason* season at the Center for the Arts has it all!

As always, the Center for the Arts will present classical music of the highest caliber, including the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields Chamber Ensemble, the Beethoven

Orchestra Bonn, the American Symphony Orchestra, and a showcase of musical gems from East to West by the China National Symphony Orchestra. Pianist Jeffrey Siegel will offer four captivating and illuminating new programs in his popular Keyboard Conversations® series. Virginia Opera will perform Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro*, Bizet's *The Pearl Fishers*, Johann Strauss' *Die Fledermaus*, and André Previn's *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

This season's Dynamic Dance Series will feature the extraordinary Russian National Ballet Theatre's *Giselle*, celebrated choreographer and tap dance legend Savion Glover, the always innovative Mark Morris Dance Group, and the all-male Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo. For dance with a Latin attitude, don't miss Cuba's Ballet Revolución.

Tom Reynolds, Director of Artistic Programming, is excited to be bringing four of America's renowned theater companies—The Acting Company, Aquila Theatre, L.A. Theatre Works and the Walnut Street Theatre -- to the Center for the Arts to present *Of Mice and Men*, *The Taming of The Shrew*, *Cyrano de Bergerac*, *Pride and Prejudice*, and *Around the World in 80 Days*.

Celebrate America's musical heritage with the Turtle Island Quartet and their special guest Cajun fiddler Michael Doucet, Mardi Gras with the Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra, and our nation's best loved tunes presented by Northern Virginia's own American Festival Pops Orchestra.

From around the globe, the Royal Drummers and Dancers of Burundi will bring big sounds from one of Africa's smallest countries to the Concert Hall. The Black Watch and the Band of Scots Guards display magnificent military pageantry, and two

of Spain's premiere classical guitar ensembles, The Romeros and Concerto Málaga will treat audiences to an evening of exquisite Christmas music. No passports are required!



The Blind Boys of Alabama

Since it's never too early to plan ahead for the holidays, consider treating your family and friends to tickets to one of these festive events. On Thanksgiving weekend, Chanticleer will ring in the holiday season with beloved carols and centuries of a cappella glee. In December, Danú will delight with a toe-tapping celebration of Celtic traditions, direct from County Waterford, Ireland. Other December highlights include the Vienna Boys Choir's celestial voices, Leahy's heart-warming Celtic family fun and Rockapella's high-spirited combination of Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa tunes.

Here's how to make the upcoming season even more special.

Attend ARTS by George!: This annual benefit event features the remarkable talents of students attending Mason's College of Visual and Performing Arts and culminates with a performance by two-time Tony Award Winner Sutton Foster.

Become a Subscriber: Save up to 25% percent on ticket purchases, get priority seating and generous ticket exchange privileges.

Bring the Whole Family: At events designated as Family Friendly (designated ff in our calendar and on-line at <http://cfa.gmu.edu/>) young audience members through Grade 12 qualify for half-price tickets when accompanied by an adult.

Attend a Pre-Performance Discussion: Sponsored by the Friends of the Center for the Arts, these lively discussions begin 45 minutes prior to curtain time on Grand Tier III. Admission is free to all ticket holders.

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Sutton Foster Headlines the 7th Annual ARTS by George! on Saturday, September 29, 2012



Sutton Foster

The versatile Sutton Foster, headliner for the 2012 ARTS by George! benefit, seemed destined for Broadway stardom from the start. At age four she started dancing lessons. At 14 she sang in the children's chorus in a Detroit production of Puccini's *La Boheme* and at 15 she appeared on television's *Star Search*. She left high school before graduating to join the national tour of *Will Rogers Follies*. Foster appeared in the first of her ten Broadway productions in *Grease* (1996), which was followed by roles in *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *Annie* and *Les Miserables*.

Her big opportunity came in 2002 during pre-Broadway rehearsals for *Thoroughly Modern Millie* when she replaced the leading lady. Following the Broadway opening *Time Magazine* wrote, "she's got the full package: girlish gawkiness and Broadway brass, the legs and the lungs. Foster is a big reason the show is just about the cutest thing to hit Broadway since Annie's dimples." Her performance earned her the 2002 Tony Award for Best Leading Actress in a Musical, the Astaire Award, the Drama Desk Award and the Outer Critics Circle Award.

Foster followed her breakthrough success with starring roles in *Little Women* as Jo Marsh, *The Drowsy Chaperone* as Janet Van De Graaff, *Young Frankenstein* as Inga, and *Shrek the Musical* as Princess Fiona. Of her role as Princess Fiona *The New York Times* wrote ".....an inspired, take-charge musical comedian. Ms. Foster managed both to make fun of and exult in classical musical-comedy moves while creating a real full character at the same time."

Sutton Foster's most recent triumph, for which she won her second Tony, was as Reno Sweeney in *Anything Goes*, a part originated by Ethel Merman in the show's 1934 debut. *The New York Times*' review began "Who needs a brass section when you've got Sutton Foster?Ms. Foster has the voice of a trumpet and a big gleaming presence that floods the house." *Curtain Up* magazine wrote "Foster is a knockout.a beguiling belter.... her singing and dancing are sublime." *The Broadway Critic Blog* noted that "Sutton Foster and Joel Grey (a previous ARTS by George! headliner) almost stole the show with their comical rendition of "Friendship." It was perfection. She is one of the few actors on the Broadway stage that is a true triple threat. She is becoming a true Broadway legend."

Currently Ms. Foster is starring in the new ABC Family series *Bunheads*, which premiered June 11.

Changing Faces on the FCFA Board

At the May Board meeting, Recognition Committee Chair Trish Fiser presented farewell gifts to C.J. Oborn and Kay Rongley upon their departure from the Board and promised to deliver one to Al Sims, who also left the Board at the end of the 2011/2012 Season.

All three have been very active in FCFA, attending many events and recruiting several new members. They each have made significant contributions to our organization.

C.J. joined the Board only two years ago, but has moved to North Carolina with her husband. She served on the Future Planning Committee and chaired several events. Demonstrating great ingenuity and dedication, in preparation for the special event connected with the The "All New" Original Tribute to the Blues Brothers performance, she watched the movie to get ideas for refreshments, dress, and décor, and came to the event dressed up in a lady Blues Brothers costume!

Kay Rongley had been a Board member for seven years, serving on various committees and

chairing several events. She decided it was time to focus on other programs in the College of Visual and Performing Arts, but intends to remain a Friend and volunteer for FCFA activities.

Al Sims has been active on the Board for four years, recruiting many new members, but is now spending most of his time in Florida. Al hosted an Artists in Conversation event in his home featuring Jeffrey Siegel, who played their newly tuned grand piano!

To replace the three departing members, the Board elected Joyce Grimes. She is a native Washingtonian. A graduate of Howard University, she became an elementary school teacher and retired as a principal in the DC school system. She is married to a retired Navy commander and lives in Lorton. We welcome her to the Board.



Joyce Grimes



Sonja Palomaki

2012/2013 Friends Special Events

Sonja Palomaki, the Friends' Vice President for Events, is planning even more exciting and informative programs for us in the 2012/2013 *Great Performances at Mason* season. The first scheduled is a Friends-only Artists in Conversation in conjunction with Aquila Theatre's production of *The Taming of the Shrew* in October followed by a Friday, November 2 Friends Special Event before the American Symphony Orchestra's performance.

Sonja has been volunteering with the Friends for several years both as the current Vice President and in the past as a member of the committee chaired by Judy Weltz, and has been instrumental in creating many memorable occasions for us to share our love of the performing arts. Who can forget The "All New" Original Tribute to the Blues Brothers,

The Mikado Tea or the Perú Negro Artists in Conversation with Eva Ayllón in the past few years?

She is always looking for additional volunteers to help organize and work at these functions and would be delighted to have you join her, so if you have enjoyed events in the past and would like to meet other Friends and get a "behind-the-scenes" look at how they are staged, please contact Deborah Páez Hoesly at dpaez@gmu.edu or 703-993 4188 and she will ask Sonja to contact you.

Save the date of September 6, 2012 for an evening of fun meeting other Friends both new and seasoned and stay afterwards to learn all about the many and varied opportunities to volunteer for our very worthwhile organization, from special events to newsletter writing, photography, note taking and working at either the Information Table or Refreshment Area during performances. We look forward to seeing you then!



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

Friends Season Preview Event on Wednesday, April 11, 2012



Frank and Alberta Boyd



Tom Ezell, Eve Ezell,
Tom Reynolds, and
Valentina Lukin



Janet and Wilfred Gagnon



Friends enjoying the Season Preview event



Bob and
Linda Crites



Anne-Marie Huynh, David Gray, Lenore and Peter Farrell



Lou Mazzatenta, Barbara and Barry Dunbar



Diane and Jim Kingsbury



Thelma Weiner, Lorraine Rosenberg, Norman Rosenberg, Florence Adler,
and Doris Weisman

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O. Louis Mazzatenta
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2012/2013 GREAT PERFORMANCES AT MASON

September | October | November | December

Sun., Sept. 23	7 p.m.	Jeffrey Siegel, <i>Spellbinding Bach</i>
Sat., Sept. 29	8 p.m.	Sutton Foster
Fri., Oct. 5	8 p.m.	Royal Drummers and Dancers of Burundi
Sat., Oct. 6	8 p.m.	Royal Drummers and Dancers of Burundi
Sun., Oct. 7	4 p.m.	Aquila Theatre, <i>The Taming of the Shrew</i>
Fri., Oct. 12	8 p.m.	Virginia Opera, <i>The Pearl Fishers</i>
Sun., Oct. 14	2 p.m.	Virginia Opera, <i>The Pearl Fishers</i>
Fri., Oct. 19	8 p.m.	The National Circus of the People's Republic of China, <i>Cirque Chinois</i>
Sat., Oct. 20	2 p.m.	The National Circus of the People's Republic of China, <i>Cirque Chinois</i>
Sat., Oct. 20	8 p.m.	The National Circus of the People's Republic of China, <i>Cirque Chinois</i>
Sun., Oct. 21	4 p.m.	Academy of St. Martin in the Fields Chamber Ensemble
Fri., Nov. 2	8 p.m.	American Symphony Orchestra
Sat., Nov. 3	8 p.m.	Dr. John & The Lower 911 Band and The Blind Boys of Alabama
Sun., Nov. 4	7 p.m.	L.A. Theatre Works, <i>Pride and Prejudice</i>
Sat., Nov. 10	8 p.m.	Voices of the Masters, <i>Shaolin Warriors</i>
Sun., Nov. 11	4 p.m.	Voices of the Masters, <i>Shaolin Warriors</i>
Sun., Nov. 18	7 p.m.	Jeffrey Siegel, <i>Claude DeBussy-Clair de Lune and Beyond</i>
Sat., Nov. 24	8 p.m.	Chanticleer
Fri., Nov. 30	8 p.m.	Virginia Opera, <i>Die Fledermaus</i>
Sat., Dec. 1	8 p.m.	Danú
Sun., Dec. 2	2 p.m.	Virginia Opera, <i>Die Fledermaus</i>
Fri., Dec. 7	8 p.m.	Rockapella
Fri., Dec. 14	8 p.m.	Vienna Boys Choir
Sat., Dec. 15	8 p.m.	The Romeros with Concerto Málaga
Sun., Dec. 16	7 p.m.	Leahy
Sat., Dec. 22	8 p.m.	American Festival Pops Orchestra