

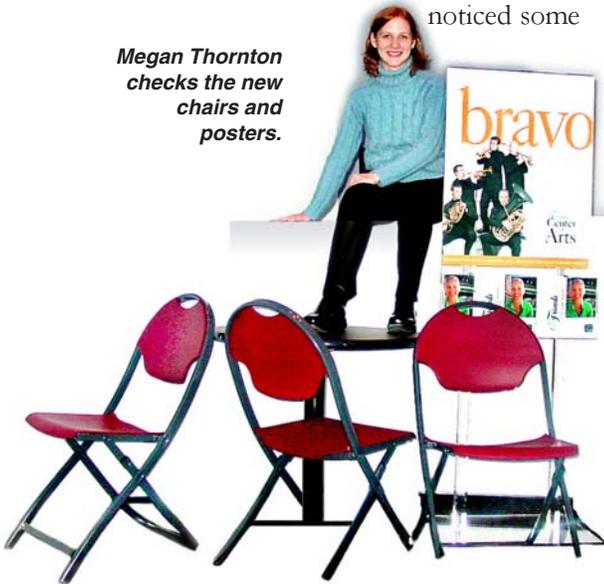
Friends

Winter 2004

FCFA adds a new look

If you have been an active participant in the Friends of the Center for the Arts (FCFA) and attending many of the Center's performances, you may have noticed some

Megan Thornton checks the new chairs and posters.



changes. There are new chairs, new promotional posters and even a new liaison for the FCFA.

"We needed some nice chairs for the FCFA intermission coffees, for special events and to just use throughout the center," said **Jerry Salter**, FCFA vice president for communications. A Friends committee looked at quite a few samples before buying more than 200 stackable chairs. Positive feedback this fall has included praise for their use at the pre-performance discussions.

Salter's communications committee, with help from the Center's designers, also developed a series of posters promoting the FCFA and

placed them in new lucite stands which hold Friends materials. "This is another way we can communicate with those supporting the Center," said Salter. You can see these posters in various locations when you come to a Center event.

And the new liaison? This fall, **Megan Thornton** joined the Center, replacing **Karin Hendrickson** whose support so many of us appreciated. In addition to promoting the Center's activities, Megan supports the FCFA board members and other volunteers with recruiting, programming and communications. She is a delight to work with and we are glad she is with us.

INSIDE

- President's Corner
- Past Events
- Valentine's Dinner
- Backstage Tour
- Calendar

The perks of membership

So you are now a member of FCFA, but you really haven't paid much attention to your benefits.

Well, here are some reminders! First, it's always good to remember the greatest benefit of our gifts: to support the Center for the Arts in order to continue enjoying the great perfor-

mances we have come to expect! We have heard it over and over – but it's true in any major artistic endeavor – the sale of tickets never covers all the costs. Your contribution helps to make up much of that difference!

Next, your volunteer work is essential to the Center's success. A volunteer I

recently worked with was enthusiastic about her involvement with the Meet and Greet program. By working occasionally at the lobby table to provide Center and Friends information, she interacts with audience members and meet other FCFA members. Volunteers

See Membership, page 2

The President's Corner

Greetings,
I hope your holidays were wonderful with family and friends and that perhaps you enjoyed some of the special seasonal events at the Center for the Arts.



Tom Ezell

The FCFA has done a remarkable job this year and there are even more opportunities in the second part of the season to support the arts in our community.

The nomination process for positions on the FCFA board will begin soon. Positions are for two-year

terms, and those who are elected must be committed to helping the FCFA grow and supporting one of the most outstanding resources in this area – the Center for the Arts. You will hear more about the board responsibilities in the spring newsletter. However, if you would like information now about serving on the FCFA board, please contact our nominations chairperson, **Alice Heyer**, at 703-425-8029 or e-mail chopinheyer@aol.com.

The FCFA is continuing to build a strong organization that brings together community support for the Center. The organization now stands at more than 300 members and is growing. If you would

like to become more actively involved in the FCFA or want to refer a friend, please contact **Jane Tombes**, vice president for membership, at 703-319-1888 or e-mail atombes@cox.net. Membership, as stated in the front-page article, is important in helping our organization grow. Active participation in FCFA helps us achieve results.

I look forward to seeing you at one of the remaining performances this season. Stop by the FCFA Coffee Area during intermissions and say “hello” to fellow members of the FCFA.

*Tom Ezell,
president*

Membership, from page 1

are required to work at the table 45 minutes before the show and at intermission. However, a small but important benefit of that volunteer activity is a complimentary ticket to that performance. Board member **Susanne Zumbro** is responsible for this volunteer activity. If you are interested, contact her for more information (szumbro@rocketmail.com).

And then there are the perks of membership that are sometimes overlooked. My favorites are the parking garage conveniences – discounted parking passes during weekend performances (Contributor level) and five free parking passes

(Patron level). Those who choose the Sponsor level are recognized as a President's Circle donor of George Mason University.

Additionally, one of the most popular benefits at every giving level is the free coffee at intermission for Friends members where you get to meet other Friends' members and avoid the long coffee lines in the lobby.

And not to be overlooked are upcoming Friends events closely identified with Center performances. A reminder – if you want to attend these activities, be sure to buy your performance ticket early. That would include *Murder by Poe* (Jan. 30 reception) and

the Moscow State Symphony and Chorus (Feb. 14 pre-performance dinner). The Feb. 21 *Rigoletto* backstage tour and brunch are not held the same day as the Feb. 20 and 22 opera performances, but you might enjoy it more if you also have tickets to the show!

We encourage you to take advantage of the benefits you receive as a Friends member. Don't hesitate to call **Megan Thornton** (703-993-4188) if you have any questions.

We look forward to seeing you in the lobby at the Meet and Greet table, at the intermission coffee and at the remaining events of the year. - by Jane Tombes

Membership has benefits

What's happening, *Friends!*

OH WHAT A WONDERFUL TIME WE'VE HAD— PAST EVENTS

Chocolate, conversation and Irish Coffee, too

More than 50 Friends enjoyed a variety of delicious chocolate treats, drank sparkling champagne and rubbed elbows with members of the Mark Morris Dance Group after their fabulous performance on Oct. 11. Pianist Abbey Simon joined members of FCFA at a backstage reception after his sterling performance on Nov. 1. And Eileen Ivers and members of Immigrant Soul drank Irish coffee with Friends at a post-performance soiree on Dec. 13. It was a great fall performance series happily supported by the Friends of the Center for the Arts.

In addition to the great kickoff event on Oct. 11, FCFA members continued to enjoy meeting each other at the intermission coffee during each performance. Hats off to the Program Planning Committee for such wonderful treats.



Members of FCFA program planning and guests toast a successful fall kickoff reception.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS—UPCOMING EVENTS

Here is a preview of the upcoming events sponsored by FCFA.

Don't choose – Come to them all.

A mysterious evening and an *Edgar* contest

Do you know your Poe? Join FCFA after the Tony-award winning Acting Company's *Murder by Poe* performance on Friday, Jan. 30, for a Friends-only dessert and coffee reception on the Grand Tier III of the Center. You won't want to miss meeting other FCFA members and sharing your knowledge of Edgar Allen Poe. Participate and win a prize, or just come and enjoy the party.

A Heart for you

Valentine's Day is for lovers – and that includes fine dining and great music. *From Moscow with Love* is an elegant, three-course, candlelight dinner on Feb. 14, before the Moscow State Radio Symphony and Chorus presents an all-Tchaikovsky concert. The evening will begin with appetizers at 5:30 p.m. on Tier II and dinner on Tier III. The cost is \$65 per person and includes appetizers, dinner, wine, a vodka toast and dinner entertainment by a balalaika trio from the Washington Balalaika Society. Dinner price does NOT include the concert ticket.

If you would like to join other FCFA members at this special Valentine's Day dinner, RSVP as directed in a mailed invitation. You don't want to miss this splendid event.

Morning behind the Scenes

On Saturday, Feb. 21, the FCFA is offering a backstage tour, talk and brunch in the setting of the Virginia Opera Company's *Rigoletto*. John Kennelly of the Virginia Opera will show us sets, costumes and props, and tell us what really happens behind the scenes of an opera. The event begins at 10:30 a.m. with brunch served following the tour. It's an event not to be missed. Watch the mail for your invitation.

2003-2004 FCFA Officers

- ♦ **Tom Ezell**, president
- ♦ **Ida Portland**, vice president for programs
- ♦ **Jane Tombes**, vice president for membership
- ♦ **Jerry Salter**, vice president for communications
- ♦ **Eileen Duggan**, secretary/treasurer
- ♦ **Susanne Zumbro**, meet and greet committee

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



George Mason University

January, February, March, April Calendar of Events

Jan 30 (Fri), 8 p.m. The Acting Company: *Murder by Poe*.
Friends-only mystery party.

Feb 7 (Sat), 8 p.m. Mark O'Connor Hot Swing Trio.

Feb 8 (Sun), 7 p.m. Keyboard Conversations® with Jeffrey Siegel: *Bach and the Romantics: Chopin, Mendelssohn and Franck*.

Feb 14 (Sat), 11 a.m. TFA: First Light Festival.

Feb 14 (Sat), 5:30 p.m. **FCFA Valentine's Dinner (reservations required).**

Feb 14 (Sun), 8 p.m. Moscow State Radio Symphony and Chorus: *All Tchaikovsky Program*.

Feb 20 (Fri), 8 p.m. Virginia

Opera: *Rigoletto*.

Feb 21 (Sat), 10:30 a.m., **FCFA backstage tour, talk and brunch on set of *Rigoletto*.**

Feb 22 (Sun), 2p.m., Virginia Opera: *Rigoletto*.

Feb 26 (Thu), 8 p.m. Ronald K. Brown/Evidence.

Feb 28 (Sat), 8 p.m. Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra.

Mar 6 (Sat), 8 p.m. Evelyn Glennie, percussionist.

Mar 12 (Fri), 8 p.m. David Dorfman Dance.

Mar 14 (Sun), 2 p.m. Canadian Brass.

Mar 27 (Sat), 8 p.m. Moscow Festival Ballet: *Cinderella*.

Mar 28 (Sun), 2 p.m. Moscow Festival Ballet: *Giselle*.

Apr 2 (Fri), 8 p.m. Virginia Opera: *Fidelio*.

Apr 4 (Sun), 2 p.m. Virginia Opera *Fidelio*.

Apr 18 (Sun), 7 p.m. Ute Lemper: *The Best of Ute Lemper*. **Friends-only post-performance cabaret.**

Apr 24 (Sat), 8 p.m. Miami City Ballet: *The Neighborhood Ballroom*.

Apr 25 (Sun), 2 p.m. Miami City Ballet: *Balanchine*.

FCFA newsletter committee
- John Nash
- Jane Tombes
- Connie Diamant
- Bob Armstrong

Special events for the FCFA are in bold.
For more information, please call 703-993-4188 or visit www.gmu.edu/cfa

Champagne Reception Kick-off

Members of the Friends of the Center for the Arts kicked off the fall 2003 season with an elegant champagne reception following the splendid performance of the Mark Morris Dance Group. Here are some pictures from that event.



A grand never sounded so good

Abbey Simon dazzled the audience with his incredible piano performance, then continued to dazzle as he entertained the Friends of the Center for the Arts members with stories from his long career. Almost 100 Friends attended the post-performance reception on stage. Here are pictures of that grand event.

