

# Friends

January 2007  
Winter

## Experience the Fun of Being A Friend

Please join us for two upcoming Friends of the Center for the Arts events that are sure to lighten your mood this winter!

On Saturday, Feb. 3, preceding the afternoon performance of the **Cirque Eloize** production of *Rain*, we will be having a family-friendly lunchtime event with a circus flair. You can satisfy your appetite with traditional circus fare, including hot dogs, chicken-on-a-stick, pretzels, popcorn, lemonade, and ice cream. The children will enjoy the activities and entertainment planned especially for them, such as party hat decorating, face painting, a clown, and lots of balloons.

Cirque Eloize is a Quebec-based circus troupe known for its daring circus acts, thrilling acrobatics, and the hope and joy it inspires among audiences. The troupe has three exciting, family-friendly performances scheduled at the Center for the Arts on Feb. 2 and 3. If you are attending the show, we especially hope to see you for a Friends day at the circus on Feb.

3. We promise it will be fun and entertaining!

Also, mark your calendars now for a very special evening of dining and internationally acclaimed orchestral music on March 3. Preceding the 8 p.m. performance at the

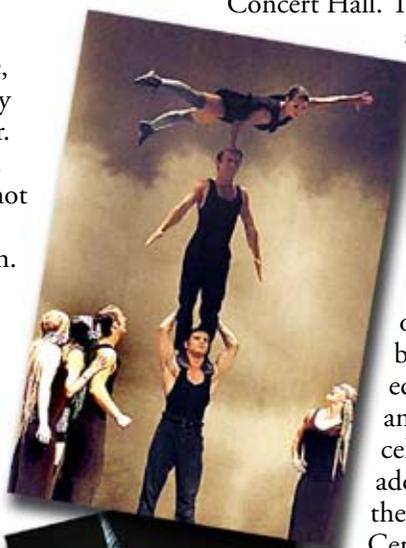
Center by the legendary **Gewandhaus Orchestra of Leipzig**, the Friends of the CFA will be hosting an elegant buffet dinner on Grand Tier III of the Concert Hall. The dinner will feature traditional and modern German-style

food, wine and live music from some of Mason's own excellent student musicians. Seating for this event will be limited, so please be sure to RSVP promptly upon receiving your invitation.

The Gewandhaus Orchestra of Leipzig, currently conducted by Riccardo Chailly, was founded in Germany in the late 1700s and is one of the world's most celebrated musical ensembles. In addition to full orchestral pieces, the orchestra's performance at the Center will feature pianist Yundi Li, first-place winner of the prestigious Chopin Competition, who will perform Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 1 in E-flat Major. We hope you will come and enjoy a "wundervoll" (wonderful) meal with us prior to the concert.

Please note that invitations to these upcoming Friends events will be forthcoming in the mail. Pricing and additional details will be included in the invitations.

We hope to share the fun of Friends with you this winter! Look for additional Friends events throughout the season, including the ever-popular Opera Brunch (see page 3). Take advantage of everything that being a Friend offers! ■



*Cirque Eloize and the Gewandhaus Orchestra of Leipzig are future attractions at the Center.*

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Find out more at  
[www.fcfa.gmu.edu](http://www.fcfa.gmu.edu)

## FCFA Events Chosen for Wide Appeal



**Judith Weltz**

As the new kid on the block and the newly elected Vice President for Programs at the CFA, I would like to give you some news about how we choose our special events and how we operate. My predecessor, Ida Portland, was extremely successful at creating programs for Friends and members of the Mason community. I intend to follow her example.

The FCFA Board of Direc-

tors chooses events they wish to focus on that would have a wide audience appeal. The committee members and I plan and implement all aspects of the event. The plans include working within an approved budget, selecting a theme, planning menus, and selecting catering services. One of my goals this season is to invite more board members and other Friends to act as chairpersons for the events.

The FCFA Discussion Series, planned exclusively for Friends, also continues

this season. Friends members host the series in their homes, with Mason faculty members and artists leading the discussions in conjunction with performances at the Center.

I would like to invite new members of the Friends as well as those who are familiar with our programs to contact me to assist with our events and help make this season a great success. I can be reached at [jolegp@msn.com](mailto:jolegp@msn.com).

— Judith Weltz, Vice President for Programs, FCFA

## Meet the Meet & Greeters

Doris and Burt Weisman have had an enduring love of classical music for many years and particularly appreciate the opera and dance performances at the Center for the Arts. They've been subscribers to the Great Performance series for about seven years

formation table in the lobby of the Center. Burt says that "being a member of Friends makes us feel a part of the CFA. It's a feeling we miss when we attend performances elsewhere. Being Friends has enabled us to help support the CFA, whose

programs give so much pleasure."

Both are originally from Massachusetts, but they met in San Diego where Doris was a schoolteacher and Burt a young Naval officer.

They have been married for 44 years and have traveled the world. One of his last assignments was as the US Naval Attaché in Yugoslavia and Romania in the late 1970s.

Settling in Fairfax in 1980, Burt went to work training attachés for the Defense In-

telligence Agency and Doris worked for the Fairfax County Public Library.

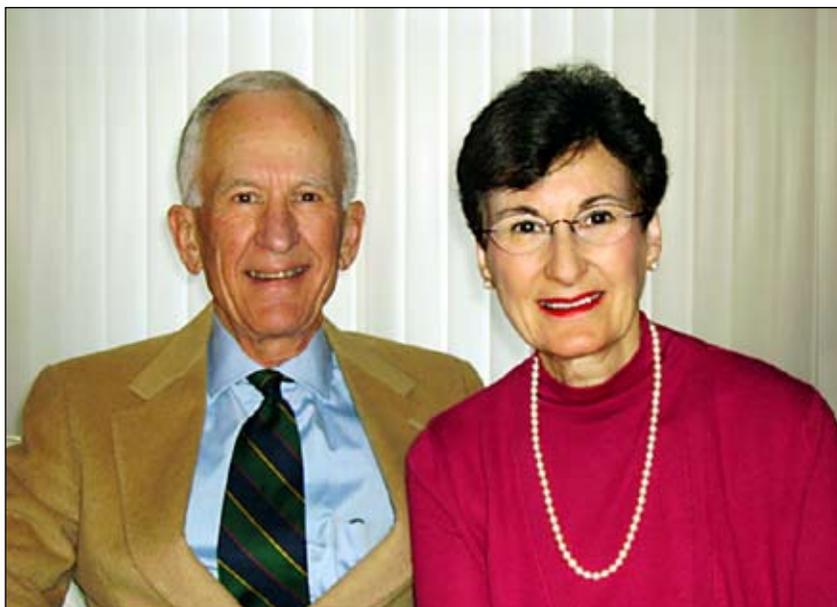
In addition to attending CFA performances, they are regulars at the Kennedy Center, Arena Stage, the Shakespeare Theater Company, and chamber music concerts at the Freer Gallery.

Burt's hobbies include trout fishing, stream rehabilitation, and skiing. He has been a docent at the National Museum of Natural History for the past 12 years.

Doris enjoys reading, taking classes at Mason's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, and jazzercise. She has served as president of their Homeowners' Association board, and currently chairs the Association's Architectural Review Committee.

They both serve on the executive committee of the Washington Churchill Society and enjoy traveling and visiting museums.

Next time you see the Weismans at their post in the lobby, please say hello. ■



**Burt and Doris Weisman**

and joined Friends in 2003. You have likely seen them working at the Friends in-

## Opera Brunch Returns

The ever-popular opera brunch sponsored by the Friends will return again this year on Saturday, March 31, the weekend of the two *Cavalleria Rusticana*/*Pagliacci* performances.

This year's brunch will be co-chaired by **Kay Rongley** and **Joan White** who promise a delectable Italian-themed buffet with special musical entertainment. Guests will have the opportunity to hear **Peter Marks**, Virginia Opera's artistic director, discuss the production of these two lyrical Italian operas followed by a backstage tour for an insider's look at scenery, props, and costumes.

Invitations will be mailed in early February, and attendance is limited to 125 guests. Make your reservation early to guarantee your participation in this lively and exciting event. ■



2006 Opera Brunch

## TFA Plans An Exciting Future

We were all surprised and disappointed last April when we learned that the Theater of the First Amendment, Mason's professional theater, was suspending productions in 2006 and 2007 as it sought to reexamine its business strategy. TFA supporters were uncertain what that meant or what the outcome would be.

In a recent interview with TFA's Managing Director **Kevin Murray**, we discovered that TFA is busily at work creating an exciting new model to showcase the performing arts in Northern Virginia. In June 2008, TFA will host and produce the first annual Arts at Mason Festival – a month-long event on the Mason campus. The performances will encompass the full spectrum of entertainment – opera, film, music, dance and, of course, theater. TFA will present several plays, including signature new works in multiple venues. There will be workshops, discussions and opportunities to meet the writers and performers.

While the primary focus will be on professional work, faculty and student performances will be included as well. "We are especially interested in the interaction between professional artist and student," Murray said. "We view Fairfax as the capital center of Northern Virginia and, as such, we need to celebrate our vibrant arts community." TFA has received financial support from the Arts Council of Fairfax County and the City of Fairfax Commission on the Arts and will collaborate with other entities within the community.

Between now and 2008, TFA will continue to sponsor play development and readings. The First Light Festival, featuring new works, student playwriting competitions and mentorship, will take place on Saturday and Sunday, March 17 and 18, 2007. A sample will be offered on March 2 at the Town Hall in Fairfax. For details check TFA's website at [www.gmu.edu/cfa/tfa/upcoming](http://www.gmu.edu/cfa/tfa/upcoming). ■



Open the Door, Virginia

## Candidates Sought for FCFA Board Positions

Nominations are being accepted now through the beginning of March for membership on the FCFA Board of Directors. The three-year term positions begin in July 2007 and will run through June 2010.

"FCFA members who enjoy the Center for the Arts and would like to devote some time and energy to its support may be interested in serving as a FCFA board member," said **Tom Ezell**, FCFA President. Among the responsibilities, board members are expected to keep their FCFA membership current, attend performances at the Center for the Arts, and work with an FCFA committee. The nomination committee will meet with board member candidates to fully explain responsibilities and present a slate of nominees to the FCFA board.

If you are interested in learning more about the nomination process or the role of board members, please contact **Tom Ezell** at [jteiii@cox.net](mailto:jteiii@cox.net) or 703-978-1958, or **Kathy Beyer**, [kbeyer2@gmu.edu](mailto:kbeyer2@gmu.edu) or 703-993-4188. ■

You had a choice of letting your hair down and rockin' 'n rollin' at the party following the Bo Diddley performance – or putting your hair up and enjoying a very elegant reception before the Department of Music Holiday Concert. Both were terrific events. If you were there...you may be here in the picture galleries of these two wonderful events. Make sure you plan to attend the next Friends social event.



*Ice cream sundaes were popular.*



*Neal Schiff and Linda Habenstret enter through the balloon arch.*



*Sonia and Don Palomaki dressed for the era.*



*Charlie and Shirley Joyce were swinging.*

Ice cream sundaes, rolled up jeans and bobby sox added atmosphere at the party on Nov. 8. Lots of hot music from the 50s and 60s helped us go back to our younger days of fun.



*The dance floor was lively.*



*A student ensemble provided music.*



*Eve and Tom Ezell, Frank and Mary Presta, and Anne Crutchfield enjoyed the evening.*

More than 200 people attended the Holiday Reception, co-sponsored by the Friends of the Center for the Arts and the Friends of Music, on Dec. 10 to enjoy champagne, chocolate and other delicacies before the holiday concert by the Department of Music.



*Refreshments were splendid.*



*Prof. Patricia Miller, Milt and Carolyn Peterson, and Dr. Linda Monson enjoyed a moment.*



*Alice Heyer, Chair of the Friends of Music, and Tom Ezell, President of FCFA.*



*Thelma Weiner and Florence Adler celebrate the evening.*

# Try Your Luck With Friends Facts

Here's a test of your knowledge of the benefits of Friends membership and other facts. You may need to consult your Friends brochure to help you with the answers. Have fun! (The answers are below.)

- At which recognition level can a member begin receiving discounted parking at weekend Great Performances?
  - Friend
  - Contributor
  - Benefactor
  - Donor
- At which recognition level can a member participate in the Friends coffee and refreshment bar before each performance and during intermission?
  - Donor
  - Friend
  - Contributor
  - All levels
- Who is the dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts?
  - Leonard Slatkin
  - Bo Diddley
  - William Reeder
  - Placido Domingo
- At which recognition level can a member begin receiving four vouchers for complimentary wine?
  - Donor
  - Patron
  - Contributor
  - Friend
- At which recognition level can a member begin receiving five free parking passes for use during Great Performances events?
  - Contributor
  - Donor
  - Patron
  - Friend
- Who is the president of George Mason University?
  - Jim Carroll
  - Tim Kaine
  - Jim Larranaga
  - Alan Merten
- At which recognition level can a member begin receiving recognition as a university President's Circle donor?
  - Sponsor
  - Patron
  - Donor
  - Friend
- At which recognition level can members feel good that their membership is supporting the arts at Mason?
  - Donor
  - Patron
  - All levels
  - Sponsor
- What is the primary use for the annual membership contribution from Friends members?
  - a huge holiday party for the CFA staff and ushers
  - the Great Performances programming and the Center's needs
  - a big tip for the parking garage attendants
  - a big end-of-the-year gift for the dean
- What do you need as an ID to enter the free coffee bar?
  - a used Mason Final-Four basketball ticket or a signed Final Four basketball
  - a used parking pass or a concert program
  - a Friends membership pin or a Friends recognition card
  - used Patriot Center tickets or a Virginia Opera Friends card

Remember that all FCFA members can enjoy free coffee or tea between performances in a special area in the foyer at the right side of the concert hall. It's a great way to meet your fellow members and exchange notes on the wonderful performances at the Center. See you there!

## Answers to the Friends Facts Questionnaire

1 - b, 2 - d, 3 - c,  
4 - b, 5 - c, 6 - b,  
7 - a, 8 - c, 9 - b,  
10 - c

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**Arts**

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For more information,  
 please call  
 703-993-4188  
 or visit  
<http://www.fcfa.gmu.edu>

**Calendar of Events: Great Performances at Mason**  
**Winter 2007**

**2006-2007  
 FCFA Officers**

- ♦ Tom Ezell,  
President
- ♦ Judith Weltz,  
Vice President  
for Programs
- ♦ Jane Tombes,  
Vice President  
for Membership
- ♦ John Nash,  
Vice President for  
Communications
- ♦ Charlie Lawson,  
Secretary
- ♦ A.J. Driscoll,  
Budget Officer

**FCFA newsletter  
 committee**

- John Nash
- Jane Tombes
- Gordon Canyock
- Eileen Duggan
- Robin Auger
- Kathy Beyer

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| Jan. 20 (Sat) 8 p.m. <b>Momix:</b><br><i>Lunar Sea</i>                  | Feb. 14 (Wed) 8 p.m. <b>The Act-</b><br><b>ing Company: Jane Eyre</b>   | Mar. 10 (Sat) 8 p.m. <b>Hungar-</b><br><b>ian State Folk Ensemble</b>                              |
| Jan. 21 (Sun) 4 p.m. <b>Momix:</b><br><i>Lunar Sea</i>                  | Feb. 17 (Sat) 8 p.m. <b>Metro-</b><br><b>politan Jazz Orchestra:</b><br><i>Swingin' with the Met</i>                                | Mar. 24 (Sat) 8 p.m. <b>Mos-</b><br><b>cow Festival Ballet: Don</b><br><i>Quixote</i>              |
| Jan. 24 (Wed) 8 p.m. <b>Urban</b><br><b>Bush Women</b>                  | Feb. 18 (Sun) 4 p.m. <b>Soweto</b><br><b>Gospel Choir</b>   | Mar. 25 (Sun) 2 p.m. <b>Moscow</b><br><b>Festival Ballet: Giselle</b>                              |
| Jan. 26 (Fri) 8 p.m. <b>Bulgarian</b><br><b>State Opera: Tosca</b>      | Feb. 23, 24 (Fri/Sat) 8 p.m.<br><b>Mark Morris Dance Group</b>  | Mar. 30 (Fri) 8 p.m. <b>Virginia</b><br><b>Opera: Cavalleria Rusti-</b><br><i>cana/I Pagliacci</i> |
| Jan. 28 (Sun) 4 p.m. <b>BBC Na-</b><br><b>tional Orchestra of Wales</b> | Feb. 25 (Sun) 7 p.m. <b>Key-</b><br><b>board Conversations® with</b><br><b>Jeffrey Siegel: Schubert—</b><br><i>On Wings of Song</i> | Apr. 1 (Sun) 2 p.m. <b>Virginia</b><br><b>Opera: Cavalleria Rusti-</b><br><i>cana/I Pagliacci</i>  |
| Feb. 2,3 (Sat/Sun) 8 p.m.<br><b>Cirque Eloize: Rain</b>                 | Mar. 3 (Sat) 8 p.m. <b>Gewand-</b><br><b>haus Orchestra of Leipzig</b>  |  |
| Feb. 3 (Sun) 2 p.m. <b>Cirque</b><br><b>Eloize: Rain</b>                | Mar. 4 (Sun) 7 p.m. <b>Natalie</b><br><b>MacMaster</b>  |  |
| Feb. 9 (Fri) 8 p.m. <b>Virginia</b><br><b>Opera: Agrippina</b>          |   |  |
| Feb. 11 (Sun) 2 p.m. <b>Virginia</b><br><b>Opera: Agrippina</b>         |   |  |

You can become a member of and contributor to the Friends of the Center for the Arts, helping to make wonderful performances available in our community. For more information, contact Kathy Beyer at 703-993-4188 or kbeyer2@gmu.edu.

