

NEW LIGHT BOARD IN THE CONCERT HALL

The long awaited new light board for the Concert Hall was finally received in mid-August. The “board” is an Electronic Theatre Controls (ETC) Eos control console which was purchased from Barbizon



Ian Schmidt with the Eos Control Console

Lighting Company. Master Electrician Ian Schmidt is thrilled. He performed a basic installation for a show on September 1st that didn't require much in the way of lighting changes. Barbizon then completed the final installation in mid-September. The formal debut of the console occurred during the ARTS *by George!* performance by Sutton Foster, and it performed flawlessly.

The console itself contains two touch-screen monitors and a keyboard panel with a number of other control buttons and switches. There are an additional two remote monitors, each displaying different screens that are located on either side of the console. The console controls the conventional lighting fixtures for stage lighting, plus special effects. The latter include moving lights, fog machines, hazers (visible light beam), and projectors for showing background effects, such as rolling clouds on stage.

The system contains many high-tech features. It can be controlled with a smart phone or an iPad. ETC provides an app that can be loaded onto these devices. They operate off a private Wi-Fi network that has been installed inside the Concert Hall.

The wireless router is located above the proscenium. Ian plans to install another router so that he can improve coverage within the Concert Hall. He uses the remote to test light combinations and sequences during

rehearsals or with visiting artists and companies. Another feature is its capability to use light sequences that are recorded on a USB (or flash) drive, as long as the format is recognized by the system. For example, lights and sequences used by Virginia Opera will be “plugged into” the console and used during opera performances. Ian can also record a “Cue” list, which is a set of looks and sequences, in advance of a production.

The previous light board was about 10 years old and was controlled by obsolete technology. When the last PDA remote failed, Ian had to go to eBay to purchase a refurbished unit. When that failed, he had to cannibalize existing parts to make a unit that would work. “All that is in the past,” Ian noted. “We selected the Eos console due to its ease of use and programming. Its ability to make real time changes on the fly, and its user-friendliness sold us on the system.” The next time you are attending a performance in the Concert Hall, look toward the rear to see Ian or his assistants through the windows at the left of the audio booth.

In This Issue

NEW LIGHT BOARD
IN THE
CONCERT HALL
1

EXPAND YOUR ARTS
EXPERIENCE

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS
2

FRIENDS HELPING
FRIENDS
3

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
4

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

Expand Your Arts Experience

With performances featuring magnificent music, dynamic dance, enthralling theater, holiday extravaganzas and other exceptional entertainment, the *Great Performances at Mason Season* at the Center for the Arts has become one of the premier venues in the Washington, D.C. area.

Whether you plan your social calendar around Jeffrey Siegel's Keyboard Conversations®; wouldn't dream of missing each and every outstanding play or dance engagement; or ring in the holiday season

every year by bringing the entire family to hear the Vienna Boys Choir, you're already aware of many of the entertaining, innovative and life-enriching shows at the Center for the Arts. But have you thought about checking out some of the other terrific *Great Performances* you might be missing?

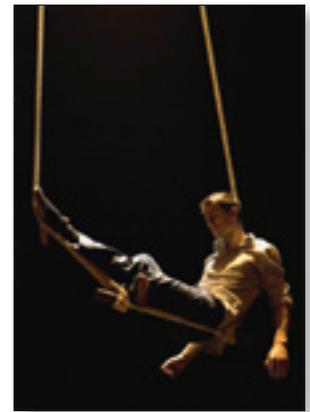
Why not take another look at the 2012/2013 season calendar and stretch your imagination? Attend an action packed opera or a toe-tapping tap dance performance. If you think the circus is only for kids, Montreal's Les 7 Doights de la Main is an awe-inspiring, cross-cultural encounter not to be missed by children of all ages.

Now, with *Great Introductions*, a special benefit for season subscribers and Friends of the Center for the Arts, it's easy and inexpensive to try something different!

Throughout the season, subscribers and Friends will receive half price offers for select concerts via email two to three weeks prior to select performances. Tickets will be available for purchase online at cfa.gmu.edu, by phone (703-993-2787) or in person at the ticket office. Only a limited number of tickets will be available at this special price, so act fast!

Through *Great Introductions*, you can enjoy a show-stopping performance you might not otherwise have attended. If you already have tickets, and receive a *Great Introductions* offer, you can purchase extras for up to four friends, family members or neighbors. The *Great Performances at Mason* offers a wealth of entertaining opportunities of all kinds this season. Don't let them pass you by.

Take a chance on something different. You may surprise yourself—and discover a great new talent, a brand new passion, or an art form you never knew you loved!



Les 7 Doights de la Main



Les 7 Doights de la Main

Membership Matters

The 2012/2013 season at the Center for the Arts is off to a rousing start, and the calendar of upcoming events promises another exciting year of outstanding *Great Performances*. Several Friends have expressed wonder at the ability of the Center to continually offer a wide variety of quality performances at affordable prices—a mainstay of each season. It is through the financial support that you provided when you became a Friend that the Center for the Arts can continue to offer the best in the performing arts.

The support of the Friends is of such vital importance to the continuation of excellence in

programming that many incentives (benefits) are offered for Friends to increase their membership level. Some of these benefits at increased levels include five free parking passes for use during any *Great Performances* event at the Patron level (\$500 - \$999) and invitation to University President's Circle events at the Sponsor level (\$1,000 - \$2,499).

Your contribution is acknowledged in performance programs for the entire 2012/2013 season. Complete details are found in the Membership brochure available in the Concert Hall lobby. Upgrade your membership today by calling 703-993-4188 or emailing fcfa@gmu.edu.

Friends Helping Friends

About two dozen friends gathered in the Center for the Arts lobby on a warm, sunny evening in early September to learn more about volunteer opportunities with the Friends. After about a half hour of mixing, mingling and sampling various wines and delicious cheeses, President Pat Carroll welcomed the group and introduced Paulette Miller, Vice President for Membership.

Paulette spoke in general about our need for volunteers throughout the organization, saying it's a great way to meet new and very nice people. She encouraged the attendees to think of ways that their own unique talents might be useful to FCFA and emphasized that we are always looking for fresh ideas to do things we never even thought of doing.

Sonja Palomaki, Vice President for Events, outlined the two special events and five Friends-Only Artists in Conversation events scheduled for the coming season and suggested that volunteering to help the folks in charge of these events is a great way to get involved.

Eloise Stinger, Vice President for Communications, spoke about the print and electronic newsletters that the FCFA publishes and said we are always looking for volunteers with writing, editing, or photography skills, and we also need people to follow the photographer around at our events and jot down the names of the people in each shot. Eloise also asked everyone to think of ideas for future articles and send her suggestions.

After the very brief comments by the officers, everyone returned to the wine, cheese and chat. Enid Weber, who has not volunteered with the Friends thus far, said that she was impressed with the presentations and commented that the event was so well organized and the people so very friendly, that she definitely will volunteer in the future.



Enid Weber



Eloise Stinger,
Vice President for
Communications



(left to right) Dick Stohr, Ray Rongley, Joan White, Kay Rongley



(left to right) Rita Flickinger, Rita Leake, *Photography Coordinator*



(left to right) Janet Gagnon, Wilfred Gagnon, Sonja Palomaki, *Vice President for Events*



Paulette Miller, *Vice President for Membership*

Friends OF THE Center FOR THE Arts

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For more information
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O. Louis Mazzatenta
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2012/2013 GREAT PERFORMANCES AT MASON

January | February | March | April | May

Fri., Jan. 18	8 pm	Aquila Theatre, <i>Cyrano de Bergerac</i>
Sun., Jan. 20	7 pm	Savion Glover
Sat., Jan. 26	2 pm	The Black Watch and the Band of Scots Guards
Sat., Jan. 26	8 pm	The Black Watch and the Band of Scots Guards
Fri., Feb. 1	8 pm	Paco Peña
Sat., Feb. 2	8 pm	China National Symphony Orchestra
Fri., Feb. 8	8 pm	Mark Morris Dance Group
Sat., Feb. 9	8 pm	Mark Morris Dance Group
Sat., Feb. 16	8 pm	Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra, <i>Mardi Gras with the MJO</i>
Sat., Feb. 23	8 pm	Walnut Street Theatre, <i>Around the World in 80 Days</i>
Sun., Feb. 24	7 pm	Jeffrey Siegel, <i>Schubert in the Age of the Sound Byte</i>
Fri., Mar. 1	8 pm	Virginia Opera, <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i>
Sat., Mar. 2	8 pm	Turtle Island Quartet
Sun., Mar. 3	2 pm	Virginia Opera, <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i>
Fri., Mar. 8	8 pm	RIOULT
Sat., Mar. 9	8 pm	Beethoven Orchestra Bonn
Sun., Mar. 17	7 pm	Natalie MacMaster
Fri., Mar. 29	8 pm	Les 7 Doigts de la Main
Sat., Mar. 30	2 pm	Les 7 Doigts de la Main
Sat., Mar. 30	8 pm	Les 7 Doigts de la Main
Sat., Apr. 6	8 pm	Russian National Ballet Theatre, <i>Giselle</i>
Sun., Apr. 7	4 pm	Russian National Ballet Theatre, <i>Swan Lake</i>
Sat., Apr. 13	8 pm	American Festival Pops Orchestra
Sun., Apr. 14	7 pm	Jeffrey Siegel, <i>Listen to the Dance</i>
Fri., Apr. 19	8 pm	Virginia Opera, <i>The Marriage of Figaro</i>
Sun., Apr. 21	2 pm	Virginia Opera, <i>The Marriage of Figaro</i>
Sun., Apr. 28	4 pm	The Acting Company, <i>Of Mice and Men</i>
Sat., May 4	8 pm	Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo