

Island Arts Centre Society

ARTSPRING
news

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Leap Year Coming Once in Four

by George Sipos

What better way to start a brand new year than to send you best wishes from all of us at ArtSpring for health and prosperity in this auspicious year with an extra day in it.

Before launching into all the wonderful events and projects coming up in the next little while, however, a big thank you to Jill Tarswell who organized and produced a terrific Christmas carol sing-along concert on December 21. Many Salt Spring singers, musicians and performers generously provided their talents to make a memorable evening. This was the first time in several years that every seat was taken, with even more carolers peeping.

Thanks also to our audience for supporting the Food Bank with your donations, which have been passed on to needy recipients.

January and February will be even busier than last year, and the rest of this newsletter is given over to letting you know about many ArtSpring presented and originated projects in music, theatre, dance, literary readings, and young people's programming. There is so much going on, you won't even notice the extra bonus day of rain that will be our lucky lot this year.

So fetch your brand new calendars and mark the dates for all the terrific events you won't want to miss.

From Sea Even Unto Sea

Tuesday January 29 sees two distinguished poets from the Maritimes join Salt Spring writer Chris Smart for an evening of literary readings.

Lorri Neilsen Glenn is Poet Laureate of Halifax and Agnes Walsh is Poet Laureate of St John's. They are on a reading jaunt through such obvious winter cities as Yellowknife and Whitehorse (where else would two Maritime poets want to visit in January?).

Their reading at ArtSpring happily coincides with an opportunity to officially present Chris Smart with the Acorn/Plantos award which she was announced as winning a few months ago. This award recognizes a Canadian book of poetry that speaks most directly and accessibly to ordinary people and not just to a hermetic literary community.

This will be your opportunity to enjoy readings by three very fine, approachable poets and to join in a little celebration of one of our own whose work has been recognized and honoured in the big, cold world.

The event starts at 7:00 in the ArtSpring gallery and is free of charge.



The Glory Days

The 1940s and 1950s were the golden age of radio. The spoken word, combined with the artistry of music and sound effects, conjured worlds of suspense, humour and romance for a whole generation before television came and muddied the waters of the imagination.

The radio dramas of that era had an unmistakable edge and excitement for the very fact that they were broadcast live. The sound artists and musicians and actors had to live the dramatic contours of their scripts or else they were lost.

ArtSpring's presentation of Live Radio Theatre, produced and directed by Jan Rabson, is your chance to return to that world and watch it all happen before your eyes on stage.

Jan has produced a similar stage programme at ArtSpring before, but this will be all new material – new scripts, new mysteries, new suspense, a new cast, even new period commercials.

Live Radio Theatre is part of ArtSpring's first full season of professional theatre, and we are delighted to have such a fine home-grown production to offer as part of the series.

Tickets are still available for both performances: Saturday, Jan 19 at 8:00pm and Sunday, Jan 20 at 2:00pm.



Urinetown The Musical

Thursday, Friday, Saturday

January 10-12, 7:30pm

Performed by GISS's 2nd Story Theatre

Thirty-some-odd students in grades 9 through 12 are involved in every aspect of the production: acting, live music, scenic construction, lighting, costume and props design, promotion and stage management. Oh, and the inimitable Mr. Ray Colleran is playing the role of Officer Lockstock.

Nothing can kill a show like too much exposition...except maybe a bad title... To begin with, it is very difficult to accurately explain this show with the title and a brief synopsis alone. I usually begin by avoiding the title and plot and cutting right to, "It's hilarious, you will pee yourself." From there I like to highlight the music. Wow, the music is fabulous. *Urinetown* is a satire, it sends-up the conventions of musical theatre with great songs and a tip of the hat to some of Broadway's biggest hits and American popular culture such as comic books. Then, there is as much intellectual payoff as you're willing to look for. *Urinetown* depicts a world beset by environmental disaster; a world where there is so little fresh water that people can only pee once per day. In this world the lines blur between the good guys and the bad guys. Also, in this world people are emotional enough that they must break into song in order to properly express themselves.

Produced and Directed by Jason Donaldson

Musical Direction by Bruce Smith.

Also featuring dance choreography by Sonia Langer and Patrice Bowler.



Brunch Dance

Sunday January 13, 11:30am

LINK Dance Foundation: Artist Director Gail Lotenberg
 (Part of ArtSpring's Dance Outreach programme)

Discover modern dance in an informal and user-friendly setting. We serve you a nice brunch in a cabaret-style setting around a dance stage in our gallery. Three dancers perform a short piece, there is an opportunity for the audience to comment on what they have seen, and then the dancers return to perform again in to respond to the audience's reflections. Interesting, non-threatening, innovative, delicious.

Tickets are only \$10 to cover the cost of the brunch. Seating limited to 70 people.

Canto e Colore

Sunday January 13, 3:00pm

Beautiful classical songs and arias sung to projections of exquisite art — a feast for the eyes and ears! Salt Spring artist Leslie Corry will provide colour and atmosphere with dramatic backdrops of her stunning work. Soprano Patricia Corry, an opera singer now working in Germany, will sing glorious arias by Puccini, Donizetti, Mozart, Rossini, Catalini, Kalman and songs by Rachmaninov, R. Strauss, K. Weill and more. She will be accompanied by Chris Kodaly who will also play some solos. See and hear movement, colour, melodies and drama as the two sisters collaborate on this unique project.

GISS Dance

**Wednesday and Thursday
 January 16 & 17, 7:30pm**

Live Radio Theatre

Saturday January 20, 8:00pm and

Sunday January 21, 2:00pm

(The second show in ArtSpring's new Professional Theatre season)

Travel back to the glory days of live-to-air radio drama. Jan Rabson re-creates the studio atmosphere of early radio, with live actors and sound effects, and even live radio commercials in an evening of authentic 1940s and 1950s radio plays.

Those who have seen the sold-out performances of Jan Rabson's previous evenings of live radio theatre should know that this will be all new material, not a re-presentation of the previous shows.

As an ArtSpring presented event, these performances are eligible for EyeGo to the Arts student discounts.

Nationalism in Music with George Ehring

**Mondays January 21 - March 3 from
 7:00-10:00pm**

After the huge success of George Ehring's introductory music appreciation course last winter, he returns with a totally new series of narrated listening experiences:

In the 19th century, prompted by a resurgence of cultural identity and a new political nationalism, European composers sought the roots of their indigenous musical traditions and forged them into classical music. We'll wander with them across the English countryside, the Russian steppes, and the Scandinavian fjords in a musical travelogue that will also explore why French music sounds French, and why those gypsy melodies take us straight to Bohemia. Mixing in a little history and art, this new music appreciation course will highlight the music of the most "nationalistic" composers of their time.

On seven Monday nights starting at the end of January, George Ehring will be your guide across Europe, visiting Russia, England, France, Italy, Spain, Scandinavia, and Bohemia.

Registration \$50 for the seven-week course, refreshments each week included, though the ArtSpring Ticket centre.

Open Masterclass with Zach Brock & Morgan Childs

Tuesday, January 22

10:00am to 12:00 noon

Zach Brock is a jazz musician with a background as a classical violinist. Morgan Childs is a jazz drummer who appeared at ArtSpring in September as part of the Amanda Tosoff Quartet. They will work with music students from GISS on jazz technique and improvisation. The public is welcome to attend this masterclass. The event is free.

GISS Music

Thursday January 24, 7:30pm

Music Intima

Sunday January 27, 2:30pm

Pre-Concert Chat 1:30pm

Since 1992, Musica Intima performances have sparked with insight, youthfulness and a vibrant musicality. As a self-directed vocal chamber ensemble, the 12 singers rehearse and perform without a conductor. In performance, they engage the audience with a freshness and spontaneity all their own.

“The most exciting small choir in the land”
– National Post

Poetry Reading

**Agnes Walsh, Lorri Neilsen
Glenn, Chris Smart**

Tuesday January 29, 7:00pm

Agnes Walsh is Poet Laureate of St John's Nfld. Lorri Neilsen is Poet Laureate of Halifax. Chris Smart is a Salt Spring poet who has recently won the Acorn/Plantos Award for the best book of poems published in Canada in 2007 that has a broad popular appeal and speaks to the common man. The evening will feature the official presentation of the Acorn/Plantos medal.

This event is free, as part of ArtSpring's occasional literary readings series.

Nationalism & Music

George Ehring has been working all through the holidays to put together a terrific music appreciation course scheduled to start Monday, January 21. Over seven weeks you will travel through the musical and historical landscape of Europe, sampling familiar and little-known music by 19th and 20th Century composers who were inspired by and interested in music of a “national” origin and character.

All this will be accompanied by exciting visuals and George's legendary erudition and irreverent wit.

Each evening runs from 7:00 to 10:00, with snacks provided during the intermission. The course registration is \$50 for the entire seven-evening series. As last year, George is providing his expertise to ArtSpring for free, so the course also serves as a fundraiser for our community programming.

Call the Ticket Centre (537-2102) to register.



Anna Haltrecht, our Dance Outreach Worker, has been busy organizing a number of innovative projects to increase awareness of contemporary dance.

Just before Christmas, Boston choreographer Danny McCusker worked with over a dozen Salt Spring dancers creating and rehearsing a new short dance piece specifically designed to be performed in the ArtSpring lobby. The dancers will perform the piece on four or five different occasions during January and February in the lobby about a half hour before scheduled concerts and plays.

The dance piece is about seven minutes long, and is quite graceful, so we hope you will enjoy this added artistic experience when you visit ArtSpring.

Meanwhile, on Sunday, January 13 ArtSpring welcomes LINK Dance of Vancouver for a special Dance Brunch performance. This is a project that has toured Canada to enthusiastic reviews.

The audience will enjoy a nice brunch at 11:30 followed by two short dance performances by the company's professional dancers, and including an opportunity for viewers to respond to what they have seen and to discuss their reactions to it.

It is all designed to be enjoyable, friendly and a bit eye-opening about the possibilities of movement as an art-form.

ArtSpring is essentially offering this experience for free, and charging only \$10 to help cover the costs of the catered brunch. Seating in our gallery space is limited to 70, so early booking through our Ticket Centre is encouraged.



January 22, 2008
 Masterclasses with Zach Brock & Morgan Childs at ArtSpring

January 29, 2008
 Atomic at All-Saints-By-The-Sea

February 9, 2008
 Anne Schaefer at All-Saints-By-The-Sea

March 1, 2008
 Brent Jarvis at All-Saints-By-The-Sea

April 3, 2008
 Eugene Smith at Moby's Pub

April 6, 2008
 Jody Proznick Quartet at ArtSpring

Open Masterclass with Zach Brock & Morgan Childs at ArtSpring

Tuesday, January 22 – 10:00am to 12:00 noon
 tix free

Zach Brock is a jazz musician with a background as a classical violinist. Morgan Childs is a jazz drummer who appeared at ArtSpring in September as part of the Amanda Tosoff Quartet. They will work with music students from GISS on jazz technique and improvisation. The public is welcome to attend this masterclass.

Atomic at All-Saints-By-The-Sea

Tuesday, January 29 –8:00 pm

www.atomicjazz.com

tix \$15-\$18, available at ArtSpring, Acoustic Planet Music and at the door

One of the key bands of the 'new wave' of Scandinavian jazz currently attracting much press attention, Atomic brings together five important young musicians from the adventurous jazz underground of Sweden and Norway. Formed in spring 1999, they quickly forged a strong group identity without sacrificing individual freedom of expression. Combining the powerful, cutting edge Oslo rhythm section of Håvard Wiik on piano, Ingebrigt Håker Flaten on bass and Paal Nilssen-Love on drums - a combination that received rave notices as the rhythm team of the Coltrane-influenced 'cult' group Element - with the Stockholm front-line of trumpeter Magnus Broo and saxophonist Fredrik Ljungkvist, this group are one of the freshest acoustic ensembles to have emerged in the new millennium. Atomic's debut album "Feet Music" (Jazzland Acoustic 2002) presented a vital and central instalment of exciting and creative new jazz from Bugge Wesseltoft's adventurous Oslo based Jazzland label. "Debut of the year!" John Fordham in The Guardian (UK) described the music and the musicians as "One of the most exhilarating new groups on the European circuit!"

Anne Schaefer at All-Saints-By-The-Sea

Saturday, February 9 – 8:00 pm

www.anneschaefer.com

tix \$15-\$18, available at ArtSpring, Acoustic Planet Music and at the door

Winner of the 2005 Songwriter and Artist of the Year Awards (IMA), 2004 Vocalist of the Year Award (IMA), Anne Schaefer is exploding onto the Canadian music scene after two short decades of arduous work and life altering experiences! The October 2005 release into distribution of her debut album, *Twelve Easy Pieces* has found its way onto the airwaves of countless national CBC and Canadian campus radio programming as well as into the ears of reviewers and industry professionals who can't keep quiet. Anne will be performing selections from her album with her trio at All Saints and it promises to be a captivating evening of song, in a latin jazz vein.

"...stunning debut album...compellingly modern music about modern realities-performed by an artist in full possession of unique qualities: An exceptional voice, a poet's eye, a courageous heart, and a damn fine set of guitar-picking fingers."

– Gregg Quill, *Toronto Star*





Brent Jarvis Trio at All-Saints-By-The-Sea

Saturday, March 1 – 8:00 pm

<http://www.brentjarvis.com>

tix \$15-\$18, available at ArtSpring, Acoustic Planet Music & at the door

Brent Jarvis' debut CD "Sequences" garnered much acclaim and accolade including being named "Best Jazz Album" of 2005 by CJAM FM. "Sequences" features many original compositions and the brilliant guitar work of guitar legend Pat Coleman. Brent's second CD *Solo Piano* is a departure from the first with a focus on the interpretation of traditional well traveled tunes in an expressive and original way. "Solo Piano" pays homage to the pianists that came before including: Bill Evans, Keith Jarrett, Chick Corea etc... while maintaining a strong focus on presenting a unified and personal sound. Here on Salt Spring he'll be performing music from the repertoire of Bill Evans and some selections from his albums with Ken Lister on bass and Buff Allen on drums.

"romantic but never cloying... a beautifully balanced quartet"
– Katie Malloch *CBC Jazz Beat*

"introspective, expressionistic.. lyrical.. daring keyboard pyrotechnics..a rising star..."
– Joe Blake *Victoria Times Colonist*



Salt Licks is published by ArtSpring and the Salt Spring Jazz and Blues Society.

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Salt Spring Jazz & Blues Society 537-1813 info@saltspringjazzfest.org.

Eugene Smith at Moby's Pub

Thursday, April 3 – 7pm

Tix \$5 at the door

Eugene's vocal talents are supported by solid rhythms from his four-string tenor guitar and he holds in his bag of tricks a variety of musical accompaniments including a djembe, harmonica, jaw harp, finger piano and even a hand trumpet. His delivery is light and humorous, entertaining audiences of all ages.

Eugene's career began at the age of 14. Since then he has shared the stage with Bo Diddley, John Lee Hooker, Gordon Lightfoot, David Clayton Thomas, King Curtis, Willie Dickson, Lenny Breau and k.d. lang. He played Toronto and toured the States with Ronnie Hawkins. He has recorded for CBC Radio and Television. He has performed at Folk Festivals in Toronto, Edmonton, Hamilton and Vancouver Island. Blues Festivals have brought him to Toronto and Halifax. He toured Canada and played Calgary Winter Olympics with the Labatts Double Blues Band. He has shared the festival stage with Amos Garrett, Tim Williams, Carlos Del Junco, David Easig and Jim Byrnes. He was brought to Windsor in 2001 as the Canadian Motown star in celebration of Detroit's 300th birthday.

Eugene will be joined at Moby's Pub by a local blues unit hosted by Dave Roland. Don't miss the fun!



Jody Proznick Quartet at ArtSpring

Sunday, April 6 – 2:30pm

(Garry Oaks Winery tasting 1:30pm)

Tix \$25 at ArtSpring

Part of ArtSpring's ArtSwings series

"Bassist/composer Jodi Proznick is a gifted young musician whose star is definitely on the rise. Although she plays regularly in a number of groups, the totality of her gifts comes to light as a leader. Her quartet is fresh, intense, and highly interactive, featuring some of the finest young musicians in the country" – Vancouver International Jazz Festival.

"A jazz bassist with great time and a rock-solid sound is worth her weight in gold, and Jodi Proznick IS that lady!"
– Katie Malloch, *Host of CBC Radio's Jazz Beat*



Woman Idiot Lunatic Criminal

This provocative phrase, taken from the pre-1918 Canadian Elections Act specifying who did not have a right to vote, is the title of a play for youth audiences we will be presenting February 5 and 6.

The 50-minute play is a lively look at the early days of the women's movement in Canada and elsewhere in the world.

The show, from Vancouver's Shameless Hussy Productions, will be here for three performances. The first one, at 8:00pm on Tuesday, Feb 5 is open to the public. The other two, during the day on Wednesday, Feb 6 are special student performances which we are offering for free to middle and elementary schools and other groups.

The evening performance is priced at a mere \$12 for adults and \$5.00 for high-school students through our EyeGo to the Arts programme. Our hope is that parents whose children will be seeing the play as part of a school excursion on Wednesday will want to come Tuesday evening to see what it's all about and then share the ideas and issues of the play with them later.

Tickets for the Tuesday evening performance are available through the ArtSpring Ticket Centre.

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