

Island Arts Centre Society

ARTSPRING news



100 Jackson Avenue Salt Spring Island BC V8K 2V8 Phone 537-2125 Ticket Centre 537-2102 tickets@artspring.ca www.artspring.ca PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT No. 40022673



by George Sipos

for stronger collaborations within the cultural community.”

I find this report encouraging. Many of the things we have been doing at ArtSpring recently address both these needs.

We have been trying hard to serve young audiences. Just in the past few months we have brought young-people’s theatre to Salt Spring, taken visiting classical musicians to the schools to do special performances, included dance workshops at GISS whenever choreographers visit ArtSpring, offered creative writing classes for children, and so on.

Our dance outreach worker, Anna Haltrecht, is working with Judith Garay

Those of us who work in the so-called “cultural industries” have always known that people’s interest in attending performances, visiting galleries, reading books and so on is related to their level of education and to their disposable income. Well educated people with means are more likely to be interested in the arts than the less educated or the poor.

At least we thought we knew this.

A new study called *Factors in Canadians’ Cultural Activities* prepared by Hill Strategies based on data drawn from a 2005 Statistics Canada survey of 10,000 Canadians paints a different picture.

The study finds that those who read books are more likely to attend concerts; those who attend concerts are more likely to visit art galleries; those who attend

galleries and museums are more likely to have an interest in theatre; and so on.

Something we could call an “arts bug”— a general and broad taste for the arts — is more significant in determining people’s attraction to a specific cultural activity than the mere demographics of age or income.

“The statistics imply that the arts can attract people from various demographic groups. In other words, the arts are not elitist in the conventional sense of the term. A key question for the cultural community is how to spread this beneficial bug to more people. Past studies have shown that a person’s childhood arts education is an important factor in adult arts participation.”

In addition, the study points to the inter-relatedness of different arts disciplines in spreading the “arts bug”:

“If organizations help ‘enlarge the pie’ of the arts-interested public, many organizations can reap the rewards. This supports the call

The “arts bug” is more significant in determining people’s attraction to a specific cultural activity than the mere demographics of age or income.

from Vancouver to choreograph a new work for young Salt Spring dancers to be performed in April as a curtain-raiser for Dancers Dancing.

Our Board members will again be hosting *Artfully Off in All Directions*, an exhibition of visual art by Salt Spring school children.

For adults too, we have been looking for opportunities to broaden our patron’s experiences by fostering cross-discipline cooperation between different art forms.

continued inside...

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

What’s On Now

Baltimore Consort

More Renovations

Farewell, Coco Chanel



More hammers and saws

Just about everyone who has seen and used the new expanded lobby space, wider stairs, and handicapped lift is pleased with the results of last September's renovations.

The next building project will be less visible to our patrons, but quite important from a safety and technical point of view.

At the moment the lighting booth is up in the rafters while the booth where the sound technician works is on a lower level immediately behind the back row of seats. This creates several major problems.

Most importantly, the lighting booth is a fire-trap. If the building needs to be evacuated, the door to the lighting booth is obstructed by the exit door from the back of the auditorium, leaving the lighting person trapped with no means of escape.

Also, from a technical point of view, having sound and lighting for shows controlled from two separate locations is inefficient and fraught with technical problems.

The Phase 3 renovation, which we will undertake starting mid-June will move the wall separating the technical booths from the mezzanine back three feet to allow both lighting and sound booths to be re-located into a single expanded space on the lower level. The booth will have a new door to allow safe exit for the technicians. The existing lighting booth up in the gods will turn into storage for technical equipment.

The cost of the whole project will be about half of the lobby renovations. We will, as you might expect, run a special fund-raising campaign with a goal of raising approximately half of the costs of Phase 3, while the rest will come out of our capital reserves.

We hope you will bear with us during the construction and will appreciate the changes, though they will be less visible than the lobby improvements.

A la mode, continued

Anna Haltrecht's Lobby Dance project introduces concertgoers to a short performance of contemporary dance. Currently we are working with professional photographers and Salt Spring writers to create a joint exhibition in March of words and images. We initiate and host periodic literary readings, offer George Ehring's excellent music appreciation courses, and invite professional artists to give talks about their work (such as the recent visit by Toronto curator Sally McKay and recent visits by choreographers Jennifer Mascal and Crystal Pite).

Perhaps our most successful recent effort to spread the "arts bug" was the Brunch Dance in January with Gail Lottenberg's Link Dance company.

Most of these activities are presented free or at modest cost to our community (with thanks to the BC Lotteries Corp). The goal in all of it is to work, through time, toward "enlarging the cultural pie", as the Hill Strategies study suggests.

We hope you will continue to support our efforts by participating in as many of these activities and initiatives as you can. There's pie enough for everyone.

IACS Board of Directors & ArtSpring Staff

John Stewart, President; Judy Nurse, Vice-President; Scott Howe, Treasurer; Pip Moore, Secretary; George Ehring, Lyle Eide, Sharon Farquharson, Wendy Herbert, Scott Howe, Fran McInnich, Judy Norget, Lyle Petch, Jane Winter.

George Sipos, Executive Director; Rita Gauld, Director of Events and Artists Services; John Wakefield, Director of Events and Community Development; Meghan Howcroft, Administrative Assistant; Bob Rogers, Building Manager; Andrew Peat, Bookkeeper; Jackie Rieder, Volunteer Coordinator



February 2008

Aggrieved Affection

GISS One Act Plays

Thursday February 14, 15 and 16

7:30pm

GISS 2nd Story Theatre presents a night of three student-directed one act plays.

The three students in Directing 12 each chose a play that inspired them enough to risk taking on the responsibility of directing their own play. A group of extremely dedicated, talented and enthusiastic students signed on to work with these directors because they never pass up awesome opportunities. The three plays are:

This is a Test

A hilarious and pointed satire of the school system. The play follows Alan, an average high-school student, as he wakes up on the morning of the most important test of his life. The questions are impossibly vague, all the other students are cheating and the romance novel-reading teacher seems to be out to get him.

Kissing Scene

How do you act what you truly feel? Richard, a slacker getting by on looks alone and Ashley, a studious actress with the snobbiest of aspirations, have to do a scene together...A Kissing Scene. Both operating under nefarious motivation, start to reveal more of their true characters than either one feels comfortable with.

The Qualities of Zero

An emotionless scientist, his insane brother, his "earth-first" love interest, a stoner neighbour, an alcoholic boss who has fantasies of being a Spanish sailor with a Prozac addicted white-collar ex-wife to be. These are the characters in Canadian playwright Jacob Richmond's new play.

WARNING: The evening will include loud gunshots and other noises, slight nudity, lots of kissing, graphic language, hilarity and some very unhappy people.

Julia Cairns Art Exhibition

Friday February 15 – February 21

Artist and illustrator Julia Cairns exhibits new work at Artspring from 15th-21st Feb. Julia lived in Africa for many years and her work reflects the life, joy and colour of that continent. Her work is licensed on products from jigsaw puzzles to shower curtains and she has illustrated several children's books. Opening reception Friday Feb. 15th 5-7pm. Tel 537 4814 for more information.



Ben Butterfield, Anne

Grimm & Kinza Tyrell

Sunday February 17, 2:30pm

pre-concert chat 1:30pm eyeGO.org

Victoria's Ben Butterfield is noted for his fine lyric tenor and his broad artistic range. His wife, Dutch soprano Anne Grimm, has "a clear, lovely lyric sound, even from top to bottom, used with taste and style." She is a specialist in baroque music but their joint repertoire extends to Poulenc, Faure and Kurt Weill. They are joined for this vocal recital by stunning Canadian pianist Kinza Tyrell who has been acclaimed both as a soloist and as an accompanist with the Canadian Opera Company and the Vancouver Opera.

Gary Coons MLA

Sunday February 17, 4:30pm:

Gary Coons, MLA will be visiting Salt Spring in his role as the Opposition Critic for Ferries. The public is invited to come and consult with Gary about the skyrocketing ferry fares, the Coastal Ferry Act and safety issues. Come and tell Gary what you think of the ongoing ferry fare increases. What is working with the current ferry system and what isn't? What direction would you like to see taken with the ferry system in the future? Gary is touring ferry communities over the next few months and in the end will be compiling the results into a report. It is a chance to have your voice heard about ferry issues. All are welcome.

Black Umfolosi

Thurs, February 21, 8:00pm eyeGO.org

Black Umfolosi is an internationally acclaimed harmonic a cappella singing and traditional African dance group. Compared to the likes of Ladysmith Black Mambazo of South Africa, Black Umfolosi tour extensively from their home in Bulawayo Zimbabwe. Their dynamic live performances showcase the traditional dancing styles of the Southern African region as well as the more contemporary styles and movements they develop themselves.

Valdy Concert

Give Literacy a Lift

Sunday February 24, 2:30pm

Valdy will be joined on stage by several budding young authors reading their own writing, and by local poet Nadine Shelly, as well as Kathy Page with an excerpt from her latest book, "Alphabet", concerning prison inmates learning to read. Arthur Black will lead the audience through the program as Master of Ceremonies.

Admission is free. Donations will be gratefully accepted with tax receipts issued upon request.

The Baltimore Consort

Friday February 29, 8:00pm eyeGO.org



The Baltimore Consort returns to ArtSpring with a special concert of music from 15th Century Spain, including both court music of the period and music from the Sephardic diaspora following the expulsion of the Jews by Ferdinand and Isabella in 1492. This is a rare treat to hear one of the world's best early-music ensembles live.

"The Baltimore Consort is perhaps the best balancing act of period authenticity, instrumental precision and sheer fun in the early music community today."

March 2008

Pangea

Saturday March 1, 7:30pm

An evening of music, film and dreams for a unified planet earth. Featuring Iroko (West-African drumming troupe), GISS jazz students, Cleo (hip-hop/jazz vocalist) and OM BASE Ensemble (world-beat/hip-hop)

From Bombay to Kingston, Jamaica, Aaron Ableman has sung, danced, painted and filmed the diverse rhythms of the globe. With an eye on the light and an ear for the streets, his story celebrates creativity, ecology and unity.

Please come prepared to explore the wild world of the planet earth and eat organic crepes with local maple syrup.

Anastasia – Ballet Jörgen

Tuesday March 11, 7:30pm eyeGO.org

Ballet Jörgen Canada presents its largest undertaking to date with the magical story of the Russian princess Anastasia. The mystery of what happened to the young 17 year old princess has fascinated people for 90 years. The human drama of this young girl born into privilege and cast out into a world of immense heartache proves an extraordinarily gripping tale. The ballet explores the emotions, aspirations and affections of this loveable yet controversial character as the world is transformed around her.

Created by acclaimed choreographer and Artistic Director Bengt Jörgen, Anastasia will be set to an original full orchestra score by Canadian/Russian composer Ivan Barbotin.

Bengt Jörgen is one of Canada's most popular choreographers. His productions have been performed both nationally and internationally, helping to broaden the interest in dance with ballets that are warm, engaging and creative.

This is a full-length ballet performed by 16 – 18 dancers with a full complement of production values including sets and costumes. A special feature of the show will be participation by 8 young Salt Spring dancers in minor roles.

The Gold Rush Music Hall Revue

Saturday, March 15 – 8:00pm

A good old-fashioned vaudeville performance direct from the Theatre Royal at Barkerville. Salt Spring native Amy Newman and her partner and co-producer Richard Wright bring back this popular production, one of the last remaining touring music hall shows in North America.

Through a Glass Darkly

March 17 to March 23

August 4 2007

Ten Salt Spring professional photographers have set themselves the challenge of creating an exhibition of new images responding to the famous phrase: "we see as through a glass, darkly" from *1 Corinthians*. Salt Spring writers have produced poetry and prose also responding to their vision of the

same phrase. The combined exhibition of visual images and language will be a fascinating glimpse into how artists from different disciplines respond to the same kernel of a creative idea.

Allison Crowe Spring Show

Saturday March 22, 8:00pm

Celebrate Spring's arrival with Allison Crowe and a musical bouquet of lively originals and much-loved interpretations from the popular songbook: rock, jazz, folk, soul, Broadway and more. "Ever wonder what it would have been like to listen to a gifted singer/songwriter from Saskatchewan in a small, intimate hall before she became Joni Mitchell? Don't fret the missed opportunity. There's no need to turn back the clock. Check out Allison Crowe," says Robert Reid, *The Record*.

Dolce (confections) hand-made by Bloom Breads and Bakery. Concert to aid the Salt Spring BCSPCA.



Trio Verlaine

Sunday March 30, 2:30pm

pre-concert chat 1:30pm eyeGO.org

Harpist Heidi Krutzen, flautist Lorna McGhee, and violinist David Harding are Vancouver's newest chamber trio, the Trio Verlaine. This March they will be joined by violinist Jonathan Crow and cellist Matt Heimowitz for an extraordinary concert *entre amis*.

Heidi and Lorna have played as a duo for many years to rave reviews. Now they expand their superb musicality to a broader repertoire in the company of three of Canada's pre-eminent string soloists.

Music by: Mozart, Francaix, J. Guy Ropartz, Ravel, Saint-Saens, Villa-Lobos.

Early Music at its best

February 29 is special not only because it is the leap-day in this leap-year, but also because ArtSpring hosts the Baltimore Consort.



There is no question that this is North America's most important early-music ensemble. For over 15 years they have toured the world performing music of the European Renaissance and have been recognized as one of the most authoritative voices of early music.

They come to us with period instruments (viol, rebec, cittern, Renaissance guitar, recorders and lutes) and a very specific concert of music from Spain circa 1500.

In 1492, while Columbus was sailing to America, the forces of Ferdinand and Isabella defeated the Moors at the decisive battle of Granada. This led not only to the end of Moslem presence in Spain but also, amid the turmoil, to the expulsion of Spanish Jews (Sephardim) from the Iberian Peninsula. The Sephardim spread across Europe and took their musical traditions with them to cross-fertilize existing music across the continent. The Baltimore Consort's programme, entitled *Canciero: Early Music from Spain c. 1500* explores the music of that tumultuous point in history.

Here is what one reviewer says: "The Baltimore Consort is continually surprising, even after fifteen years. Each of the concerts this reviewer has heard has been unlike the others ... the early-music movement has no more distinguished practitioners than this group."

We are delighted to be able to present the Baltimore Consort at ArtSpring. They are, however, the most expensive performance we have booked for this year, and it is for that reason that we have had to price adult tickets at \$35. This is higher than our usual ticket price and we regret the cost to you. We do know, however, that you will be delighted with this world-class ensemble.

Please note that \$5 EyeGo to the Arts tickets for high-school students are available for this event.

Farewell Coco Chanel, we'll miss you

When we think of the arts we usually think of the obvious: music, painting, theatre, literature, dance, sculpture, and so on.

Other senses than the eye and ear occasionally get included too. No-one can deny that the preparation and enjoyment of good food is an art. As is the appreciation of a fine single malt whisky!

Alas, the arts of taste often betray us. We now know that the double cream sauces of traditional French cuisine can kill us. Cholesterol unfortunately trumps aesthetics these days.

The one art form that has traditionally appealed to our olfactory sense is the art of fragrances. To many, a fine perfume ranks up there in pleasure with a good wine, a Mozart sonata, or a Turner painting.

Alas again! The world has changed.

Over the last number of decades our environment has become so saturated with chemicals, food additives and god knows what else, that many people are now allergic to things that were once benign. Regrettably, this is the case with perfume.



A significant number of our patrons are now severely allergic to even faint traces of cosmetic fragrance. They tell us that their concert-going experience can be ruined if they sit in the vicinity of someone wearing even modest amounts of perfume.

As a result we, like most theatres these days, must ask our patrons not to wear fragrances when they come to events in the ArtSpring theatre. It is a sad thing to have to exclude an ancient art that many still enjoy, but we ask you to understand that the comfort and safety of all our patrons requires this somewhat blunt request.

The same applies to the rare occasion when someone wants to bring a dog into the auditorium. Increased allergies to pets are also now a fact of life.

So please – no pets, no perfume when you come to performances at ArtSpring. We'll do our best with good food at the intermission and, if we could only figure out how to license the place, we'd love to oblige with the single malt too.

MEMBERSHIP

I WOULD LIKE TO BECOME AN ARTSPRING MEMBER
_____ number of memberships X \$30

As a Member, you will

- have an opportunity to purchase tickets to ArtSpring presented events before they are made available to the general public
- be kept up to date with the ArtSpring Newsletter
- have voting privileges at Annual General Meeting
- be investing in ArtSpring and providing us with the means to succeed.

DONATION

OPTION 1: ONE TIME GIFT (cheque or credit card information is enclosed)
 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 I would prefer to give \$ _____

OPTION 2: MONTHLY GIFT
Here is my monthly gift of \$ _____ for the next _____ months.
Start date / / End date / /
 DD MM YY DD MM YY

Total membership \$ _____ + total donation \$ _____ = total payment \$ _____

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____ Email _____

PAYMENT OPTIONS

cheque credit card: MC VISA Card # _____
 monthly debit (void cheque required) Exp date ____ / ____

Charitable Registration No. 13286 4414 RR0001 Tax receipts will be issued for donations.

As a donor, would you like your name listed in a donor honour roll? Yes No Please mail the completed form, plus your payment, to ArtSpring.
How do you prefer to receive ArtSpring News? Mail E-mail



PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT NO. 40022673