

Arts & Entertainment

Exhibits



Amherst Artist on Exhibit

PORTSMOUTH – ‘Owl’s Head, Maine’ is the title of Ellen Friel’s watercolor painting recently juried into the 23rd Annual Lasonde Juried Exhibition at the New Hampshire Art Association’s Robert Lincoln Levy Gallery. The gallery is located at 136 State St. in Portsmouth, NH. For more information contact: www.newhampshireartassociation.org, or go to www.ellenfriel.com. The painting was done en plein aire, and reflects the incoming tide on a September afternoon, along the rugged coast of Maine. The image size is: 22 x30”, is archivally matted and framed, and is for sale.

Juror, Wes LaFountain, is the interim director for the University of New Hampshire, Museum of Art, Durham, NH.

The show is running now, through May 29.

June at East Colony Fine Art

MANCHESTER – East Colony Fine Art Gallery will highlight the work of member artist Lawrence Donovan as Feature Artist during the month of June. About his show, ‘Simplicity,’ the artist says: ‘Simplicity of line, of movement, of story holds fast in one’s memory. Using limited elements, I can record in oils images that sweep through the clutter of reality.’ The exhibition runs from May 26 through June 27, with an Artist’s Reception on Sunday, June 14, from 1-4 pm.

On Saturday, June 6, from 10-1, Laurel Jamieson will conduct an Open Studio watercolor class. Fee \$40. Call Laurel at 668-5760 to enroll. On the following Saturday, June 13, from 4-7 pm, the artists of East Colony invite you to their Seventh Anniversary Open House. Join them for refreshments and register for a door prize drawing which will be held on Thursday, June 25, when the gallery is open for Manchester’s second Trolley Night of the season from 5-8 pm.

All gallery events are free and open to the public. East Colony Fine Art is located in Langer Place, 55 South Commercial Street, Manchester. Phone: 621-7400. Web site: www.eastcolony.com.

Nashua Chamber Orchestra Performs June 6 and 7 Concerts

The Nashua Chamber Orchestra’s June concert, conducted by music director David Felner, opens with a bright burst of vintage Mozart, features the beloved Mendelssohn Violin Concerto, continues the cycle of late Haydn symphonies with No. 101 (the ‘Clock’), and offers the world premiere of a work commissioned for the Orchestra, by composer Adrienne Elisha. Performances are Saturday, June 6, 8:00 PM at Daniel Webster College’s Collings Auditorium in Nashua, and Sunday, June 7, 7:00 PM at the Milford Town Hall on the Milford Oval. Tickets (\$15 adult, \$13 senior and \$8 student) are available at the door, or in advance at Darrell’s Music Hall in Nashua, and Toadstool Books in Milford.

Mozart’s Overture to the German singspiel (comic opera), The Abduction from the Seraglio (Die Entfuhrung aus Dem Serail), opens the program. The opera exploits the Turkish theme so popular in the Vienna of that era. First performed in Vienna in July, 1782, it was an enormous hit, the greatest theatrical success of Mozart’s life. Romance, intrigue and the frantic activity of a lover attempting to rescue his sweetheart from the Pasha’s harem by plying Osmín, the buffo Turkish villain, with plenty of wine, are reflected in the Overture, with the restless energy of tremolo strings pitted against bursts of bass drum, cymbals and triangle, lending the Turkish flavor. In Mozart’s own words, describing the Overture in



Concertmaster and soloist, Beth Welty

a letter to his father: ‘It is quite short, and changes from forte to piano all the time; all the forte passages contain the Turkish music. It modulates continually through various keys, and I don’t think the audience will be able to sleep through it, even if they haven’t slept the night before.’

Offering homage to Felix Mendelssohn in the bicentennial year of his birth, the NCO presents his beloved Violin Concerto in E minor, Op. 64 (1844), featuring its celebrated concertmaster, Beth Welty, as soloist. A graduate of Indiana University and holding an Artist Diploma from the Longy School of Music, Ms. Welty has performed with orchestras and chamber groups throughout New England and abroad on tour, while maintaining a private violin studio in Waltham. Audiences may remember Ms. Welty’s debut performance with the NCO, playing Ralph Vaughn-Williams’ mellifluous The Lark Ascending, in October, 2005. Her lush, velvet tone and virtuoso technique bring out the deep sentimentality and brilliant luster of this concerto, a favorite of the standard repertoire. The lovingly lyrical slow movement with its sweetly flowing melodies and tender harmonies, is flanked by an equally passionate and tuneful opening movement and a vibrantly energetic, contrasting finale brimming with Mendelssohn’s characteristic restless vitality. Notable is the sustained tone of a lone bassoon that serves as an unbroken bridge, transitioning from E minor to C major between the first and second movements. Connoisseurs and uninitiated listeners alike will fall under the alluring spell of Ms. Welty’s wistful strains in what is sure to be a passionate, irresistible performance of this soulful concerto.

It is interesting to note that Franz Joseph Haydn (1732–1809) died the same year that Felix Mendelssohn was born, and that Symphony No. 101, a prototype of classical style, pre-dates the strikingly romantic E minor Violin Concerto by just 50 years. Written early in 1794, The Clock is one of the twelve final symphonies that Franz Joseph Haydn wrote specifically for his London concerts. Acclaimed at its premiere, its popularity has endured to the present day, and it is regarded as one of the greatest symphonies in the repertoire. Haydn’s genius lies in his synthesis of ordinary musical elements to create the extraordinary. The trademarks of ‘Papa’ Haydn’s creative genius



Adrienne Elisha

are flagrantly manifest throughout this symphony: unfettered by strict classical forms and tonal conventions, this prolific composer exercises his spontaneous, boisterous temperament, manipulating scale patterns, tweaking three-note motifs and rhythmic patterns the way Nature manipulates recombinant DNA. The result is a charming piece of music that keeps the listener engaged with its sparkling energy, kaleidoscopic evolution and dramatic shifts of mood. The nickname ‘Clock’ derives from the steady tick-tock rhythmic motif of the Andante, which stubbornly persists throughout the movement, just as ‘Papa’ Haydn’s popularity has endured the ticking pendulum of time over the duration of more than two centuries.

Adrienne Elisha is the winner of the 2007 Thayer Award in Music Composition. She recently earned her Ph.D in Composition at the University of Buffalo, and holds degrees from Indiana University and the Cleveland Institute of Music. Among the many feathers in her cap, this multi-talented musician is principal violist with the University of Buffalo Center for 21st Century Music (Slee Sinfonietta). Her works have been featured nationally and internationally at numerous concerts and music festivals.

The Lithuanian Dances (2009) were commissioned by the NCO under a grant from the Zylonis Trust Fund. Award-winning composer Adrienne Elisha says: ‘It was my intent to create a work which celebrates traditional Lithuanian folk songs and dances in a concert piece.’ In a glorious mastery of sonic painting, Ms. Elisha uses an artist’s palette of instrumental timbres to create a canvas of vivid colors, conjuring images of Lithuanian culture embedded in picturesque landscapes.

Each concert is followed by a reception where audience members can mingle with the musicians. Visit the Nashua Chamber Orchestra web site, www.nco-music.org or phone (603) 554-6164, for more information.

Alice in Wonderland Comes to Amato Center

Looking Glass Land - The Misadventures of a Girl Named Alice a production of the Riverbend Youth Company of the Boys & Girls Club of Souhegan Valley. Directed by Robin LaCroix

Lewis Carroll’s beloved classic Alice in Wonderland is the basis for a play of fun and imagination. Through a series of fantastic encounters, Alice learns being a queen

is not all its cut out to be--and that the real joy is in the adventure of life itself! Suitable for children of all ages.

This show will have four performances: June 12th at 7:00, June 13th at 2:00 and 7:00, June 14th at 2:00

Tickets available at the door. \$10.00 adults, \$5.00 students & seniors. To obtain group rates contact Robin at 672-1002 x20.

The Amherst Citizen brings you the best in Arts & Entertainment. Please visit: www.amherstcitizen.com

Monadnock Area Artists Assoc. – Art in the Park

KEENE – The Monadnock Artists Association is accepting applications for the annual Art in the Park exhibit and sale in Ashuelot River Park on West Street in Keene, NH. This 51st Anniversary Art In The Park will be held Saturday & Sunday September 5th and 6th. The show hours run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. Ribbons and cash prizes will be

awarded. No commission is pad on art sold. This is specifically an Art show only, no crafts are accepted. Application forms are available online at www.monadnockartists.org or by e-mail at hec_art_2007@yahoo.com. You can also request one to be sent by mail by calling Hannah Carpenter at 355-7605

Merrimack Concert Association’s Variety Show, May 30th

On May 30th, Merrimack Concert Association will present another unique concert performance, the third annual Variety Show: Hits from the ‘60’s and ‘70’s, an evening of entertainment which finds its roots in vaudeville. The evening’s musical revue will be enhanced by a dessert buffet and beverages.

Vaudeville developed in the 1880’s and flourished through the 1920’s as the most popular form of entertainment in America, becoming home to more than 25,000 performers. Variety shows evolved into an essential part of every community, from local small-towns stages all the way to New York’s Palace Theatre.

Seekers of diversified entertainment will enjoy members of the Merrimack Chorus and Concert Band perform as trios, quartets, and ensembles, featuring golden oldie tunes from the radio and Broadway which became hits almost forty years ago and are still popular today. Both Choral Director Sara Phelps and Band Director Anthony Varga will each make solo appearances.

The program includes songs from the Beatles, Simon and Garfunkel, Four Seasons, Crystals, Everly Brothers, and the Bee Gees, and from stage musicals by Stephen Sondheim and Andrew Lloyd Webber. The Merrimack Chorus will perform highlights from the movie soundtrack of the recent popular film Mamma Mia!, a story structured around the music of the ‘70’s Swedish pop band ABBA. The medley features timeless songs such as Dancing Queen, I Have a Dream, Mamma Mia, and Take a Chance on Me.

Last year’s performance sold out so make your table reservations early for this unique evening of musical entertainment and fine desserts at Merrimack High School. The performance starts at 8 P.M. All seating is reserved and available for both singles and large groups. Tickets, \$16 for adults and \$14 for seniors (65) and students, may be ordered before May 25th by calling 424-0558, or contacting info@merrimackconcert.org, or writing to Merrimack Concert Association, P.O. Box 461, Merrimack, NH 03054.

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Next Issue: June 9
Deadline: June 3

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