

Arts & Entertainment

Exhibits



Elaine Farmer, "Lake Sunset", 18x24 oil

January's Highlighted Artists at East Colony Fine Art

An exhibit of Art titled "Opposites Attract" is on exhibit from December 30 thru January 24, featuring abstract oil paintings by Cheryl Vratsenes and traditional oil paintings by Elaine Farmer.

Cheryl Vratsenes has been painting primarily in oils. She has a very loose and fluid style, recently focusing more on much larger canvases concentrating on color and design. Her work ranges from landscapes, still life, to abstract and has a passion for each. She continues to experiment with different techniques and designs in her work as well as exploring acrylics and the many different techniques that medium has to offer.

Traveling New England to find new ideas, Elaine's current body of work focuses on quiet landscapes as seen near home and beyond. Using a simple design structure and brighter than life colors, she blends traditional realism with a contemporary impressionistic feeling, capturing the essence of her inspiration. While exploring this new idea of simplifying the scene to reflect the bare essence of the theme, she still holds the Hudson River Valley Artists in high regard for their valuable studies in plein air along with their classical academic approach to painting.

Elaine uses a simplified method using a limited color palette. This has led to writing the book. Through her teaching experiences, her students led her to focus on developing an easy to understand color mixing method for use by working artists, teachers and the novice painter. The result was an e-book published in September 2013 titled "HARMONIOUS COLOR SCHEMES; a no nonsense approach using the Color Wheel". Elaine maintains an art studio in Amherst, NH where she provides art instruction and workshops.

Massabesic Audubon Art Exhibit



Great Sky at Lake Massabesic, 11x14 oil by Elaine Farmer

AUBURN – Featuring the artists of the Manchester Artists Association with an exhibit of Art titled "The Heart of Nature" on exhibit from January 5 thru February 21, 2015

Join the artists at the Opening Reception on Saturday, January 17, 1-3pm

Location: Massabesic Audubon Center, 26 Audubon Way, Auburn, NH 603-668-2045

Regular Hours: Tues. - Fri. 9-5, Sat., 10-4 and Sunday 11-1

Visit: <http://www.nhaudubon.org/locations/centers/massabesic>

The Manchester Artists Association is a non-profit organization founded in 1966 and is run by the artists. One of the purposes of the organization is to provide venues for showing and selling artwork which includes venues like the Massabesic Audubon Center. Members of the Manchester Artists Association

have come together to present this exhibit of fine art interpreting their love of nature will inspire the viewer to also embrace The Heart of Nature.

Participating artists from the area include the following:

Amherst: Richard Dye, Elaine Farmer, Howard Muscott
Auburn: Barbara Hreutress
Bedford: Noella Breault
Derry: Sharon Allen
East Kingston: Heather Crowley
Epsom: Judy Palfrey
Goffstown: Libby Laliberte
Hooksett: James O'Donell
Manchester: Roberta Banfield, Virginia Demers, Paul Ducret, Linda Feinberg, Macy Fox, Dee Lessard, Guy Lessard, Aline Lotter, Rollande Roussel

For more information on the Manchester Artists Association visit www.manchesterartists.com

All Beethoven Program An Excellent Entré Into Orchestral Music

NASHUA -- Symphony NH continues its 91st season under the baton of Jonathan McPhee with a program featuring works by the monolithic 19th century composer Ludwig van Beethoven, including his immensely popular Violin Concerto, played with the "luscious and velvety tone" of Romanian-born violinist Irina Muresanu.

It was the 1790s. Mozart was dead and Haydn was moving toward compositional retirement. Beethoven had the good manners to leave the 18th century to those two lions by waiting until 1800 to premiere his first symphony. The next century, and the symphony genre itself, would soon be his. Since then, Beethoven has grown into the most iconic fixture of the classical music world, instantly evoking the image of a rumpled genius with unkempt hair furiously notating the music heard only in his head. On January 23 at Concord City Auditorium and January 24 at the Keefe Center for the Arts in Nashua, Symphony NH brings the composer's music to raucous life.

"This concert is an excellent opportunity for the classical music novice as well as the seasoned listener," says Music Director and Principal Conductor Jonathan McPhee, "When it comes to writing for an orchestra, Beethoven perfected it. Further, Irina Muresanu is an absolutely resplendent player. We look forward to bringing her technical prowess and lyricism back to New Hampshire." Families looking to expose their children to Beethoven's legacy are especially lucky. Tickets for youth ages 5-15 are free with the purchase of an adult or senior ticket and students are always \$12.

Award-winning violinist Irina Muresanu will join Symphony NH for Beethoven's



Violinist Irina Muresanu

Violin Concerto. Today, the work is considered one of the best in the repertoire, but when it debuted critics panned it, one saying

it "might have been written by any third or fourth rate composer." Decades later, the 12 year old prodigy Joseph Joachim performed the piece under the baton of Mendelssohn, giving it the virtuosic treatment that the master's work deserved. One contemporary wrote that Joachim "performed Beethoven's solitary concerto, which we have heard all the great performers of the last twenty years attempt, and invariably fail in ... its performance was an eloquent vindication of the master-spirit who imagined it." Romanian-born but currently based in Boston, Ms. Muresanu has won the hearts of audiences and critics alike with her exciting, elegant and heartfelt performances of the classic, romantic and modern repertoire. Ms. Muresanu has performed in renowned concert halls throughout North America, Europe and Asia, has served on the faculty of Harvard and MIT, and currently serves on the faculty of the Boston Conservatory. Her appearance is made possible in Nashua by RiverStone Resources and in Concord by Concord Orthopaedics. Additional support for the Concord performance is provided by the Bagan Foundation.

The concert will also feature Beethoven's Egmont Overture and Symphony No. 1.

For more information behind the music, free public pre-concert talks will be presented by longtime SNH bassist Robert Hoffman on Tuesday, January 20 at 5:30 p.m. at the Nashua Public Library and Friday, January 23 at 4:30 p.m. at the Concord Public Library.

The concerts begin at 8 p.m. Tickets range from \$12-48 and can be purchased in person Monday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 6 Church Street in Nashua or by calling (603) 595-9156, or anytime at symphonynh.org.



NH Master Chorale

NASHUA – As one of New England's finest choral ensembles, the 2014-2015 concert season of the touring Chorale features the New England premiere of John Rattledge's cantata The Divine Siren. This lush, new work based on the life and poetry of Gaspara Stampa a 16th-century Italian poet- and her affair with Count Collaltino di Collalto inspired many of the 311 poems she published and dedicated to the Count.

The work is sung in English and Italian, interspersed with virtuosic solo work, accompanied by piano.

The NH Master Chorale makes its first return to Nashua since 2005.

Dan Perkins will conduct works by Brahms, Esenvalds, Rattledge and others

At the FIRST MUSIC CONCERT SERIES, The First Church (UCC), 1 Concord Street, Nashua on Sunday, February 1 at 3PM.

Admission: \$20/Adults - \$15/Seniors - \$1 Students under 21

Information: www.first-music.org, 882-4861.

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Amherst College Zumbies A-Capella Group to Perform, Sat. January 17th

PETERBOROUGH – What's a Zumbies Concert? It's a doo wop wallop of a -capella wizardry. "The New York Times" called them the most dangerous a cappella group on the planet". Every Zumbie performance is an opportunity to devise new ways to entertain with skits that are famous for their comedy and audio-visual spectacles. Residents in the Monadnock Region will have a first hand opportunity to experience this energetic collegiate group on Saturday, January 17 when they sing at The Peterborough Unitarian Universalist Church, Peterborough, NH.

The Zumbies were formed in 1950 by a group of eight ambitious and talented freshmen who were more interested in Jazz than in traditional collegiate repertoire. During the group's first year, the charter members practiced nightly in the basement of Stearns Dormitory. It was then that, in the midst of a search for a distinctive name, Steve Miller, charter member baritone, pulled "zumbies" from a hat.

And it stuck!

From the very outset, the Zumbies have adhered to the philosophy that blend is the single most important element of small group singing. Today, the Zumbies continue to arrange songs with energy, complexity, and significant jazz influence. In addition, the group's long history allows it the luxury of drawing on tried-and-true Jazz favorites that have been arranged, written out, and kept safe by talented Z-Alums over the past few decades.

A Zumbies concert is more aptly called a show - their performances are constructed equally around musical fare and irreverent humor, a high quality singing and choreography happening. More info about them is on the web at www.zumbies.com. Hear the Zumbies, a brotherhood of talented singers, at 7:00PM, January 17, Peterborough Unitarian Universalist Church, 25 Main Street, Peterborough, NH. Admission: Adults \$10 and Children \$5.00.

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