



Classical Guitarist Pays Special Visit to Highland

The Highland County Arts Council typically does not schedule a performance in January due to the possibility of inclement weather in our mountainous community. But this January, we have an opportunity that was impossible to pass up and will have the honor of presenting a very special performance on **Friday, January 6th at 7 pm** at the Highland Center.

Mary Musick contacted us to say her daughter-in-law would be visiting in early January and wondered if we would like to have her perform. As you read more about her, you will understand why this was a unique and wonderful opportunity for the Arts Council to showcase an exceptional talent.

Margherita Cappellesso was born in Venice on June 24th 1998. She began studying guitar at the age of 10. She won the first and the second prizes in several guitar competitions in Italy. Since 2016, she has been a student of Maestro Stefano Grondona at the Arrigo Pedrollo Conservatory of Vicenza where she graduated in 2021 with a bachelor's degree in classical guitar and is currently enrolled in the second year of a master's level course. In 2019 she performed at Teatro Olimpico in Vicenza in a guitar-violin duo. She has also performed at various festivals such as the International Day of Yoga, Biblical Festival, Musical Matinees of Camisano Vicentino, Saturdays at the Cordellina, and Saturdays at the Conservatory. She participated in Masterclasses by Maestro Laura Mondiello, Paul Galbraith and Andrea Dieci. In 2022 she won 3rd prize at the 26th "Giulio Rospigliosi" national guitar competition and was awarded a scholarship dedicated to Luca Salvadori at Laura Mondiello's international masterclass in Ponte in Valtellina. In August 2022 she recorded M.M. Ponce's "Sonatina Meridional," which will be included in a musical album dedicated to the composer.

Since 2019 she has also dedicated herself to the study of Indian classical music and in particular to the study of Kathak dance with Teacher Rosella Fanelli. She actively performs as a dancer in various festivals. She is always interested in different musical styles and she's continuously exploring the sound of the classical guitar across cultures and musical styles.

During the January 6th performance, she will play music by Bach, Arcas, Villa-Lobos, Ponce and Piazzolla. David Musick will also play a piece on the piano during the intermission. He has prepared a Rachmaninoff prelude op. 3 no. 2 in C sharp minor.

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Take note

Our email:
HighlandCoArts@gmail.com



Welcome Business Level Sponsors

The Highland County Arts Council created a Business Level Sponsor category for our membership and we are proud to announce several organizations and businesses have already signed up for 2023. While we value all memberships and supporters, we would like to call attention to these partners in our efforts to help the arts thrive in Highland County.

The Highland County Chamber of Commerce is a long-time partner of the Arts Council and fellow tenant at the Highland Center. The organization strives to lift up local businesses and entrepreneurs, promote Highland County, and champion economic prosperity and quality of life. Whether a visitor or resident, the Chamber invites you to elevate your lifestyle in our rural mountain community! They seek to create a county that is recognized worldwide as a unique destination and feels art is an important element in our economic vibrancy and quality of life.

Shamrock & Stephenson Realty, is owned by Richard Shamrock and Charlotte Stephenson, who are are brokers and real estate agents in Monterey, VA. Their main goal is to assist sellers and buyers in marketing and purchasing property for the right price under the best terms! Years of experience help them find the, "sweet spot" in Highland County for their clients. According to Charlotte, "the great Appalachians and Highland County prove the hills, the ridges, the mountains are works of art all year long".

Positive Momentum LLC's mission is to "empower people to take charge of their health through education and awareness". Owners, and Highland County residents, Somers Stephenson & Steve Fullerton bring expert speakers in the functional/naturopathic medicine and health & wellness fields to Highland. They also provide health coaching, nutrition counseling, and movement & mobility training services. All net proceeds from their events and services are donated to our local school system to put StandUp/Active desks in the classrooms to improve the overall health and wellness of children. Somers and Steve recently commented "Positive Momentum supports the Highland County Arts Council as we believe the Arts provide a healthy "stimulus" to all our residents and visitors by providing fun, happiness, creativity, and fellowship to all involved."

If you would like more information on how you can become a business level sponsor, please visit our website <https://www.highlandcountyartscouncil.org/membership>

Annual Planning Retreat Set for January 14, 2023

The Board of the Highland County Arts Council meets annually in January to review the strategic plan and set goals for the coming year. This meeting replaces the typical monthly meeting and includes the selection of officers and discussion of programs. If you would like to provide input for topics, please email us at HighlandCoArts@gmail.com with your comments or suggestions. Look for a report of the meeting in our February newsletter.



Youth Programs

At the Highland County Arts Council, we believe that the arts should be open and accessible to all. In 2023, we're starting a new series of classes for our youngest Highland County residents in collaboration with The Wayne Theater. The Wayne Theater will provide the teachers and resources for all programs, but they will be taught in Monterey to make it easy to participate. Costs for the classes are covered by a donor, with one class requiring a supply fee.

Dates for future youth events include:

January 21, 2023

An Improv Workshop taught by Wayne artistic director Lesley Larson along with members of of The Improvisators, the region's only teen improv troupe.

February 18, 2023

After the huge success of the Grossies and Gories workshop this fall, Corey Holmes, Wayne educational director, is bringing back a Fantasy Makeup workshop for children of all ages. This class will require a \$7 per student supply fee.

April 22, 2023

The Wayne will bring Theater Movement to Highland, allowing students of all ages to learn and grow their experience on the stage.

May 20, 2023

Conflict is one of the seven elements of a good story, so proper Stage Combat is an amazing skill for children who want to be involved in theater. This class will teach the choreography and skill behind physical conflict on the stage.

Look for more details in flyers around town or through the Highland County Schools.

Coming in February!

The Highland County Arts Council will present Judy Chops for a concert on February 11. The performance will follow a special "pairing dinner" hosted by Claire's Cafe and Big Fish Cider at the Highland Center. Stay tuned for more information.



This Month in the Mountain View Room

The current show in the Mountain View Room of the Highland County Public Library offers a rare treat for us all. Clair Myers is sharing his collection of prints by Lionel Barrymore. Most of us think of the Barrymores as a talented acting family from the past. Lionel Barrymore, however, majored in Art while in college in France in his early years and continued to pursue this interest over time. We have the opportunity to see his printmaking talents in this show. These include the usual black and white prints but also includes works in bold colors and silver, as well as those done on metal. The show will continue through early February and is a "must see"!



HCAC Receives Little Swiss Fund Grant

Highland County is fortunate to have The Little Swiss Fund as support for its non-profit organizations. The Fund was established by an anonymous donor with the expressed purpose to financially support non-profits which are physically located in Highland, Virginia, and serve the community. The only requirements are that the non-profit have broad, active volunteer support and annual revenues exceeding \$25,000.

The Highland County Arts Council meets the Fund's requirements and has received funds to support the Council's goals of making a broad range of arts available to the community and to support arts education. The latest grant of \$10,000 will be used to hire an administrative assistant to more aggressively use social media and other outlets to bring attention to the Council's Saturday @ Seven Series and its workshops for children and adults and thus support the Council's goal of making Highland an "arts destination."

The Highland County Arts Council thanks the Community Foundation of Rockbridge County for its administration of the Little Swiss Fund.



HARRISONBURG-ROCKINGHAM

THANK YOU

Without the support of the following organizations, the Highland County Arts Council would not be able to provide the programming that is its hallmark.

The Virginia Commission for the Arts

The National Endowment for the Arts

The Community Foundation of the Central Blue Ridge

The Little Swiss Fund

The Charles Pinckney Jones Foundation

Creativity Corner

Norma Reynolds

My husband, Bucky and I moved to Highland County in 1999. I was a high school and college mathematics teacher for 25 years before retiring in 1998. Although I continued to tutor students in mathematics, I also ventured into other fields in my retirement. Highland County provides ample opportunities for willing volunteers and I have sampled many of them. In addition, I followed sage advice from a book about the joys of retirement and tried new fields and revisited previous passions.

I had thoroughly enjoyed acting in high school and college dramatic productions. I literally jumped at the chance to act in some of the plays directed by Caroline Smith and presented in The Highland Center prior to recent renovations. However, I discovered a new and unique way to express my creative side about 20 years ago. Part of an "Elderhostel" (renamed "Road Scholar") program on "Humor" included a workshop on Storytelling and Bucky and I both got hooked. We have since traveled to Storytelling Festivals, and heard wonderful tellers—especially at the International Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, Tennessee. But what fun we have had performing ourselves.

I am not reticent, enjoy public speaking and acting which seem to be about the only prerequisites for an amateur teller. I started out focusing on children's stories told in venues such as elementary classrooms, libraries, state parks, and churches. I have since branched out to telling ghost stories, personal family stories, folk and fairy tales. I particularly enjoy telling a story with a twist or unexpected ending as well as experimenting with accents and different "voices".

Recently, I asked Jessie Rogers, with whom I acted years ago in such classics as "The Kitchen Witches", if she was ready to perform again. I admitted that I missed it. After watching me give a melodramatic telling of a ghost story, she asked me if that satisfied my need to perform and emote. Maybe it does in part. But storytelling is more than interpreting other writer's words, it involves creating a scenario, a picture, a mood. I love watching audiences react to my stories and their reactions often alter my telling. I am very grateful to the Highland County Arts Council for their special summer programs featuring Storytelling which allow us the opportunity to practice our craft.

