

NEWSLETTER



Zuzu Hot 5

The Highland County Arts Council will take to the road when it presents a summer season of performances in the garden at the Charles Pinckney Jones House on West Main in Monterey, Virginia at 7 pm on June 11. Admission is by free-will offering.

The first performance will be by Zuzu's Hot 5. It is a memorial to the last inhabitants of the house, Elizabeth and Mary Hilley McCoy with support from the Charles Pinckney Jones Foundation.

Susanna Rosen, the lead vocalist of the group and its "Zuzu," described the style and repertoire of the ensemble:

"When you read The Great Gatsby and want to jump headlong into The Jazz Age, Zuzu's Hot 5 is what happens. But then you discover that this is not only history, it is also the very social music still living in the streets and clubs in New Orleans and other major cities. DC, Philly, NYC, Seattle, San Fran, Durham, Virginia Beach, Asheville, Austin, and Atlanta all have vibrant, right-now, scenes that would have F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald wishing they had partied for

the really long haul. Brass and string bands still meet in dance halls where The Lindy Hop, Charleston, Balboa, Blues, and The Jitterbug Stroll are King. Improvisations abound in the feet and in the soloists. There are plenty of lowdown blues, rocking tempos, and swinging numbers for every mood.

For over 10 years, Zuzu's Hot 5, fueled by the Traditional Jazz of Buddy Bolden, King Oliver, and Louis Armstrong, has supplied stomps, blues, and struts, summoning the rich, living musical heritage of NOLA, and the roots of America's Classical Music, Jazz. Add a swing dance or a romantic ballad, and you've got High-Octane Gilded-Age Madness right now."

The performance will be at the rear of the Jones property. Bring your own chair or blanket and food and drink. In case of inclement weather, the performance will be held at the Highland Center.

Susanna left us with one last note in anticipation of the performance: "Come join us. Be a part of the music. And don't blame the Arts Council if you can't sit still!"

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Make note

Our new email:
HighlandCoArts@gmail.com



Highland Arts Academy Was In Focus This Month

Donna Bedwell



Moth shot by workshop participant Laura Honaker

The first workshop of the 2022 season was held May 13 – 15 and the images from the Photography Workshop are spectacular! Instructor Elizabeth Larson led a group of four talented photographers around Highland as they photographed landscapes, nature, and the architecture of this beautiful county. On the final morning, each participant shared their 10 favorite images for a discussion on techniques and methods used in their photos. Each person was asked to send the Arts Council their two favorite and they will be uploaded to www.highlandcountyartscouncil.org - Be sure to check them out.

But the fun does not stop with photography. A second workshop was held on May 21 & 22 where participants made Hypertufa Planters. These versatile planters make excellent additions to rock gardens and other outdoor settings because they can be left outside throughout the winter and age beautifully as moss or lichen grow on their surface.

More workshops are planned for July, August, and September. Find workshop and instructor information at www.highlandartsacademy.com

Several of the workshops are filling up, so register today!



Visual Arts Update

The Arts Council has resumed our practice of providing regular art shows in the Mountain View Room of HCPL and on the South wall of The Highland Center events space. The current library show is a group showing of works by students of HCPS Art teacher Renee Vandevander. It runs through June 9th. The Highland Center Show is watercolors by Liz Delahoussaye inspired by the writing of Anne Dillard in her book *Teaching a Stone to Talk*.

Suggestions for future shows are welcome. Contact Highland County Arts Council on our website or Facebook page.

Artists' Weekend Is Back!

The 12th Annual Highland County Artists' Weekend is back June 24 - 26 after a two year absence. Artists from around the state can be seen along the scenic roads, streams, and buildings of Highland as they capture on canvas the beauty of our area. Participants and their guests will enjoy a special dinner at the Highland Center on Saturday evening where they can meet their fellow artists and discuss their experiences.

A popular feature of the weekend for area art enthusiasts is the Wet Paint Show and Sale held on Sunday June 26th from 2 – 4 pm at the Highland Center. Artists will feature and sell their weekend creations to the public. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet and support the visiting artists. For more information or to register as a participant, visit www.highlandcountyartscouncil.org.

A Legacy Lives On: the McCoy Sisters

This June's Second Saturday Concert featuring Zuzu's Hot 5, will kick off the Arts Council's summer concert series and will take place in the garden of the historic Charles Pinckney Jones House in Monterey. The performance will be offered as a tribute to sisters Mary Hille and Elizabeth McCoy, who were beloved fixtures of the Highland community for nearly 90 years and the last Jones descendants to live in the iconic West Main Street home.

Granddaughters of C.P. Jones and his wife Martha Jane "Maggie" Wilson Jones, Elizabeth (age 7) and Mary Hille (age 9) McCoy moved into the C P Jones House in 1929 with their mother Mabel Jones McCoy after their father Dr. George McCoy died unexpectedly. After graduating from Highland High School, they attended Longwood Teacher's College in Farmville and pursued careers



as educators, Mary Hille for a long while as an agricultural extension agent outside of Highland, Elizabeth briefly in the Highland public schools. Neither sister ever married. After a brief time away, Elizabeth returned to Highland to live with her mother in the ancestral home. Mary Hille retired in 1981 and returned to Highland and joined Elizabeth. The house was their home until their dying day. Elizabeth passed away in 2012 at age 89, Mary Hille in 2018 at age 98.

As different as night and day – Mary Hille was the clear-eyed tomboy and Elizabeth the dreamy creative – the pair was active in all facets of community life and fiercely protective of Highland's natural beauty and the well-being of the people who live here. They were outspoken advocates of the causes they believed in. Mary Hille's ultimate bliss, however, was being in her garden for long hours, getting as busy and dirty as she could while Elizabeth's bliss was following her muse wherever it might take her, creating a poem, a small ceramic piece or a whimsical item fashioned of found objects.

The June concert will be a fitting tribute to the McCoy Sisters because it is, quite simply, a musical event. The sisters hailed from a long family tradition of musicians. For two women known for taking unabashed joy in life's simplest pleasures and delighting in sharing their joy with others, Zuzu's Hot 5 will serve up a fitting tribute of toe-tapping, hand-clapping, fun-loving tunes of their youth.

Thank you, Highland County Arts Council!

The Allegheny Mountain String Orchestra performed a newly commissioned work by young composer, Brian Scarbrough, on Sunday, May 15 at the Garth Newel Music Center in Warms Springs. The orchestra played to a packed house. The commissioned work, Embark, was warmly received by the audience. The Highland County Arts Council funded the commission, as part of their outreach to the community and to further develop the talents of the young musicians in the Allegheny Mountain String Project (AMSP). The Highland County Arts Council supports the AMSP with an annual contribution. The composer was in the audience on Sunday and had a chance to speak with the orchestra members before the performance. The students asked many interesting questions about composing.

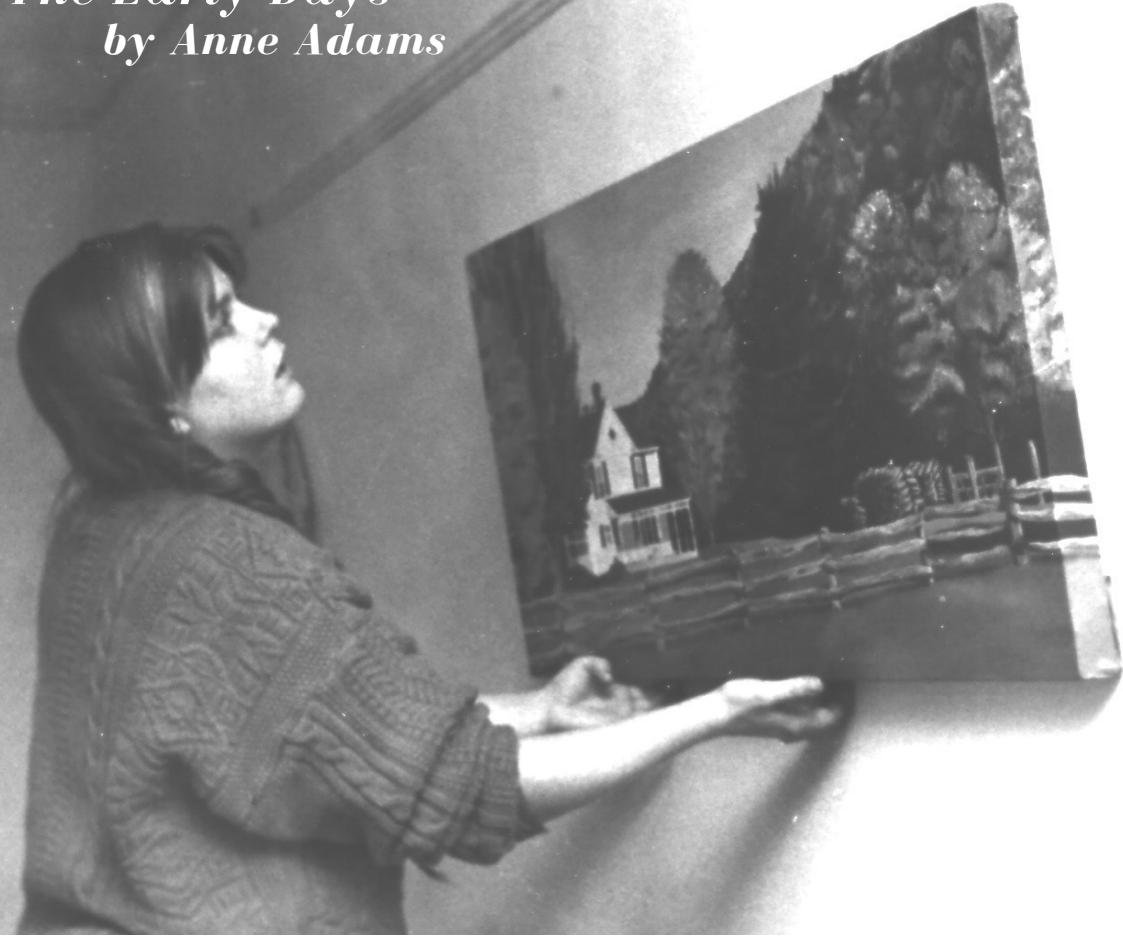
During the rehearsals of the orchestra, the students have been very engaged in the learning process of getting a brand-new piece ready for performance. They offered many suggestions and solutions to problems that occurred with the learning of a new piece. In this way, the students took "ownership" of Embark and grew to really enjoy playing the piece. Embark has many interesting harmonies and rhythms, which the students, at first, were not sure about. But, as the rehearsals went on, they understood the harmonies better and they figured out how to surmount difficulties. It was a great learning process!

Thank you, Highland County Arts Council, for providing the funding to do this project! Much learning and growing happened during these months of rehearsals!



Gretta Sandberg, Director of Allegheny Mountain String Orchestra

The Early Days by Anne Adams



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

I remember the early days of the Highland County Arts Council ... I was invited to join when I first moved to Highland from New Orleans in 1990, right after earning my BFA in drawing and oil painting.

My first commissioned piece here was an oil painting of Irene McAllister's home in Mustoe, which still hangs in the home today, as far as I know.

The council had one wonderful meeting at Deb Timberlake's home around a bonfire that lasted well into the evening. I hosted a meeting once at my unfinished home on Hardscrabble with Bernice Eubank, Laurie Berman, Deb Ellington, and a couple of the other founders.

Later, I enjoyed teaching beginning drawing and painting classes at The Highland Center, and even hung a show at the Highland County Public Library. That show included Irene's painting, my college thesis drawings, plus several sculptures I'd created the first summer I moved here.

I've always thought highly of the Arts Council and its mission. I am beyond thrilled to see how much it's been revitalized to bring artists — and music lovers — into our community, with all the terrific new programs, including the arts academy.

What an incredible asset the council is to this community!



Creativity Corner

Creativity is defined as “the tendency to generate or recognize ideas, alternatives, or possibilities that may be useful in solving problems, communicating with others, and entertaining ourselves and others.” Cambridge English Dictionary. We are fortunate in Highland County to have an abundance of creative individuals. There are many ways that creativity shows itself. Whether it is making a drawing, writing a story, fixing a broken tractor or lawnmower, sewing an outfit, or getting the herd to the next pasture, there are ways we must think and be open to possibilities. Please send your story and/or item to HighlandCoArts@gmail.com