



A Word From Robert Jospé

We are all very much looking forward to coming to Monterey on May 14 to play for the Highland County Arts Council. I have had the pleasure of working with Clair Myers on numerous occasions when Clair was presenting jazz concerts in Waynesboro. I was thrilled when Clair got in touch with me about coming to perform for the Arts Council summer concert series.

Over the past 28 years as a touring artist with the Virginia Commission for the Arts I have been presenting jazz concerts throughout Virginia, often for audiences not that familiar with jazz. I always enjoy the opportunity. Hearing live jazz outside of urban areas is a challenge for most jazz lovers as well as music fans who tastes include many other genres. For our concert on Saturday, May 14, we will be presenting a program of jazz standards from the American Songbook, some blues, Latin jazz, and some variations on recent hit songs. Our theme is "Celebrating the Moment," emphasizing improvising on familiar musical themes.

Besides myself on drums, the trio features two amazing musicians, Daniel Clarke on piano and Paul Languosh on bass. We have been playing together for over 20 years. Over the past ten years Daniel has been touring with k.d. Lang and Paul spent 20 years on the road with Tony Bennett. Along with touring for the VCA, I have been a member of the music faculty at the University of Virginia for the past 32 years teaching jazz drums and classes in hand drumming and performing with Free Bridge Quintet, the UVA faculty jazz quintet. Due to the pandemic and over the past two years most of our performances have been outdoors. I'm looking forward to the months ahead with concerts booked in such places as Fairfax, Williamsburg, suburban Richmond and Charlottesville. The concert is scheduled for 7pm May 14th, at the Highland Center.

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Make note

Our new email:
HighlandCoArts@gmail.com



Congratulations to Emma Harman



Emma Grace Harman, a senior at Highland High School, has been awarded a \$500 scholarship by the Highland County Arts Council for attendance at Virginia Commonwealth University where she plans to continue her learning within the arts and further her experience in music.

The Highland County Arts Council holds funds to distribute each year to students who have demonstrated experience in the arts and plan to study in the arts as a part of their higher education. Local applications were accepted until April 1 of this year with the scholarship funds being distributed during the second semester of a student's freshman year in college or university.

Harman started her arts education at a very young age. She began private viola lessons at the age of six with the Allegheny Mountain String Project and plays a wide variety of instruments.

"Music has always been a huge part of my life, and I hope to continue playing into college and beyond," said Harman. "Every day, I am doing some kind of art or music, whether it's perfecting an art project in school, performing with the drama club, or practicing one of my many instruments. I also enjoy learning about new instruments and art mediums in my free time."

Additional scholarships are now available through the Highland County Arts Council to support students interested in attending arts camps this summer. Applications are due on May 1 and details can be found on the Arts Council website.

Check Out our new Website!

Anyone who deals with content management of a website understands this is an ongoing responsibility. The Arts Council misses Jason Canze, our past President, in so many ways, but his knowledge and ability to manage our website has been difficult for the organization to replace since he moved. A major goal for 2022 was to simplify the site and make it more user friendly for both the Board to add information in a timely manner and for the public to access current information about our events, activities, and support for the arts in Highland.



The Highland Center's Executive Director, Elizabeth Lohr-Myers, recognized the importance of the Arts Council's partnership in promoting events at the Center and how important a good website is to this effort.

She also had the talent for web design that we so desperately needed and volunteered to review our site and make recommendations for improvement. She has worked with Board members Donna Bedwell and Brit Chambers on a new design and format over the last month, and we could not be more pleased with the result! We think you will be too! Check it out at www.highlandcountyartscouncil.org!

12th Artists' Weekend Scheduled

In 2008, Liz Delahoussaye decided it was time to share the beauty of Highland County with other visual artists. Thus began the Highland County Artists' Weekend. Each year since then, with the exception of a two-year hiatus thanks to Covid, artists from across Virginia and nearby states have come to Highland County to paint and to exchange perspectives on painting in the open air. A highlight of the weekend has been the Wet Paint Show and Sale on the last day of the gathering.

"We are looking forward to welcoming 'plein-air' artists back to the County the last full weekend in June (June 24-26)," said Liz Delahoussaye. She is working with Donna Bedwell, President of the Highland County Arts Council, to make the 12th Artists' Weekend a memorable anniversary.

The event not only fulfills the Arts Council's goal of making Highland County an 'arts destination', but it also makes a significant contribution to the economic development of the County.

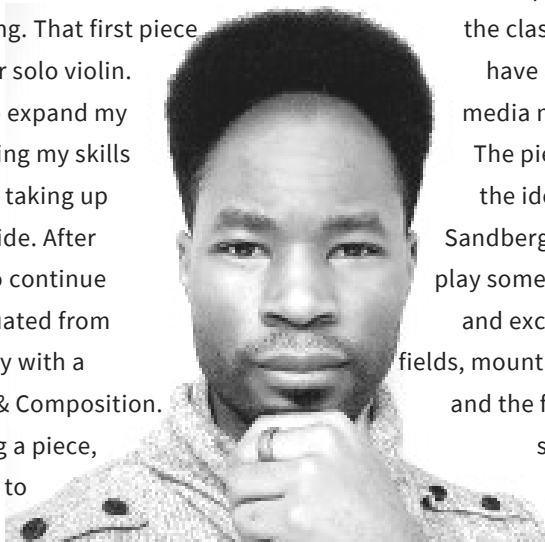
For more information check the Arts Council's website.



Highland County Arts Council funds commissioned piece for the Allegheny Mountain String Orchestra

From the composer, Brian Scarbrough:

I started playing the violin in fourth grade at Hunters Woods Elementary school in Fairfax County, VA. I remember having to choose between either the violin or cello since I liked both. Very shortly after the first few classes, I started composing my very first piece. Music was something I always had floating around in my head but until fourth grade it would have been a challenge to begin writing. That first piece of course was written for solo violin. Over time I continued to expand my craft while also developing my skills on the violin, eventually taking up cello and piano on the side. After high school, I decided to continue my education and graduated from The Boston Conservatory with a degree in Music Theory & Composition. When it comes to writing a piece, there can be many ways to approach it. For me,

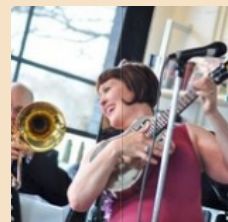


once I know details like the ensemble size and general theme, my mind works fast. When a musical idea appears in my head, most of the time it is fully realized in its orchestration and very mature in its initial form. My mind then likes to play around with it and explore other possibilities

and expansions. I have roots in the classical genre; however, I have a great interest in film, media music, and other areas. The piece Embark came from the idea presented by Gretta Sandberg's students wanting to play something energetic, bright, and exciting. The vision of vast fields, mountains, glorious pastures, and the feeling of adventure all served as a visual while creating this work.



NEXT CONCERT



Zuzu Hot 5

June 11
7pm

Celebrate the lives of Elizabeth and Mary Hille McCoy at the Jones House. Bring your chair or blanket. Beverages and food available.

From the director of the Allegheny Mountain String Orchestra, Gretta Sandberg:

I first met Brian Scarbrough at the music store in Falls Church, VA, Foxes Music Company, which supplies string instruments for my Highland County String Studio. Most of the Highland string players rent the appropriate size string instrument and when the student has grown to a full-size instrument, the student purchases the instrument from Foxes. Brian is one of the string specialists at Foxes and most of the time helps me with the selection of the rental or the purchase. He understands the workings of my program in Highland and has always been a tremendous help with my selections. Brian knows so much about my students and their families in my Highland Studio, but he has never met them!

Brian is doing what most young composers are doing – working a day job, so that they have the time to compose! I heard that Brian was a composer and not just a string specialist at the store and I was intrigued as to what kind of music he composed, I went on Brian's website and was pleased with what I heard – a mix of lovely harmonies and just a bit of "vinegar" to add some spice! His music reminded me of some of the video game music that I had heard, and I figured that the orchestra students would find a connection to his music. I had wanted to commission a piece for the Allegheny Mountain String orchestra for quite some time.

The Highland County Arts Council readily agreed to fund the project and so now we will have a chance to listen to a brand, new piece, written by a living composer, which has never been performed before!

The Allegheny Mountain String orchestra will perform Embark on Sunday, May 15 at the Garth Newel Music Center in Warm Springs at 3:00 p.m. Admission is free!



The Birthing of the Arts Council

by Bernice Elizabeth Eubank

Some years ago, a group of perhaps uncommon women got together for friendship and togetherness. These included Susan Applegate, a stellar teacher; Lee Brody Beasley, teacher of english and drama; Laurie Berman, mother and practitioner of permaculture; Debora Ellington, farmer and artist and crafter with a dream, and myself, an autodidact, seeing art almost everywhere I look. Debora had long had the dream of forming an art guild. There, the Highland County Arts Council was conceived. I and my friends were very appreciative of the arts in the county, the music of the late Arnet Gutshall and many others; the clogging and square dancing, sculpture and the painting of the late Doreen Ralston and others. However, we were thinking of outreach, outreach and very importantly, lessons for children in dance and other arts. Many charismatic people joined us not least of whom was the late Char Sweet with her phenomenal ideas.

At Highland County Fairs we surveyed popular ideas and interests with slices of banana bread and carrot cake available, and presented a quilt show fund raiser featuring the art of many Highland quilters.

To make the Highland County Arts Council official, Melissa Dowd, attorney at law, took care of every legal detail. Others joined us along the way. We began small, but became what the Highland County Arts Council is today. It has been a springboard for drama camps, former involvement with Destination Imagination in the schools, which was a wonderful and stimulating marriage of arts and science for students; our unparalleled strings school; and lovely plein air arts program. It has also sponsored concerts, poetry and author readings, like those of the late Donald McCaig and working with the schools to provide stimulating programs including music like Japanese drumming and dramatic arts, etc.

When the future of the old stone elementary school was being considered, two suggestions were

made. It was the Highland County Arts Council whose vision it was for it to be what it is today - a community center for the people, with arts and dance classes, space for artists and plays, beautiful concerts, the occasional program of raptor and other exotic native birds; pop-up and incubator businesses, the Farmers' Market and much, much more. Many, many Arts Council events have been held there, including our own member and board of directors meetings.

The Arts Council facilitated the initial nonprofit status for the Highland Center and chose fully half of its first board of directors.

I am very, very pleased, but not really surprised that the arts have grown in Highland often with the encouragement of the Highland County Arts Council.

When at a non-Arts Council public event a few years ago, a mother whose two young children thrived in a program which began through the Arts Council, asked, "Bernice, were you involved with the founding of the Arts Council?" I answered, "yes", and she solemnly said, "Thank you."

* The term uncommon women is a jesting reference to the 1975 play "Uncommon Women and Others" by Wendy Waaserstein.



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

Collage is, according to Merriam-Webster, “artistic composition made of various materials (such as paper, cloth, or wood) glued onto a surface.” This collaged mirror frame is a hodgepodge of paper gathered from poster books, note cards, wrapping paper, stamps, and gorgeous marbled paper made by John and Suse Field.

The goal was to lead the viewer into a perceived “ other dimension” or rabbit hole, spark joy, and provoke more creativity.

Hopefully it won’t ever be finished.

Lois Showalter

