



## ***Returning to Highland County is the musical group After Jack.***

The trio is called “a musical celebration of togetherness.” The Highland County Arts Council’s Second Saturday @ Seven performance on April 9, 2022, will be at the Highland Center.

Named 2014 Americana Vocal Group of the Year by the Appalachian Cultural Music Association, the trio has been called “a musical celebration of togetherness.” Those who attended the trio’s previous concert know that After Jack couples a modern sensibility with distinctly old-time energy blending bluegrass, gospel and folk elements. With the signature of a foot-stomping string band topped off with harmonies that spring straight from the soul of the mountains, the performance promises to bring Highland audiences a night to remember.

After Jack hails from Ferrum, VA, in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

The all-female trio performs music from, and inspired by, the rich musical traditions of the region.

Members Mary Allison, Rachel Blankenship-Tucker and Emily Blankenship-Tucker met in 2010, while working as professional actors in a regional theatre company, After Jack’s touring has spanned much of the US, including tours west as far as Colorado, north to New England, and south to Georgia.

Admission to the April 9 concert is \$10 for adults and may be purchased at the door on the evening of the performance. Masks will be required.

The concert is supported in part by the Virginia Commission for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Community Foundation of the Central Blue Ridge.

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## **Make note**

Our new email:  
HighlandCoArts@gmail.com



## Thank you Claire and Welcome Karen!



As members of the Highland Arts Council, you have noticed the improvement of our monthly newsletters in 2021. Many people know Claire Sax for her excellent cakes, cookies, and catered meals but her talents go beyond baking. She has designed and formatted our newsletter, created rack cards, helped with creating a consistent image for our newspaper advertisements, and managed our Facebook posts. But Claire's passion is her baking and as Claire's Cake Company continues to grow, she needed to focus on her business. We were fortunate to benefit from her graphics and social media skills and understanding of the Arts Council. We know she will be successful in whatever venture she undertakes. Thank you Claire!

And how were we so fortunate to have another local graphics designer agree to lend her talents to the Arts Council! Karen Milnes, an artist living in Monterey, will now be formatting our newsletter and adding her own personal touch to the process. She concentrated in printmaking at the University of Virginia, and holds degrees in Studio Art and Biology. She is deeply influenced by the natural world around her and is drawn to the methodical process of printmaking. She was an instructor for the Highland Arts Academy in 2021 and taught a printmaking workshop. She has created numerous logo designs for local businesses, owns Cabin Critters, and sells her prints, hand towels, and cards at area shops. Welcome Karen!

## Music and Entertainment Returns to the Jones House

For many years the historic Charles Pinckney Jones House was a center of entertainment and music in Monterey. A room in the expanded log cabin was dedicated to gatherings ranging from music performances to bridge clubs. Now the Highland County Arts Council will revive that tradition in a summer series of entertainments in the restored garden at the Jones House. On June 11, the Council will bring the annual memorial concert dedicated to Elizabeth and Mary McCoy to their home. The jazz ensemble Zuzu Hot Five will perform many of the songs the McCoy sisters would have listen to when they moved to Monterey in the 1920s. On July 9, Tales Tall and Short will return with the local storytellers Norma and Bucky Reynolds and friends. The series will end on August 13 with An evening of Traditional Mountain Music.



According to the Council's president, Donna Bedwell, "The garden is a wonderful setting for a summer concert with its exceptional acoustics. What could be better than to sit outdoors in a Highland landmark and enjoy a music, song, and stories. Bring your chair and join us."

To add to the festivities, Claire's Cakes and Catering will have food and beverages available.

Performances are at 7 pm on the  
Second Saturday  
of the month from June thru August.  
Admission is "Pay What You Will".

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## Registration is Open for 2022 Workshops

The 2022 Highland Arts Academy workshops are open for registration! The program will be launched in May with two new workshops - **photography on May 13 - 15** and **hypertufa planters on May 21st**. More are scheduled throughout the summer and early fall and include barn quilt painting, basketry, broom making, ecoprinting, print making, pottery, and stained glass.

We are pleased to offer opportunities for creative learning for the 4th year of the Arts Academy with new subjects and new instructors but our most popular workshops are back by popular demand. A new art form will also be introduced to the offerings as we recognize and explore the importance of culinary art in Highland County.

For more information on the workshops, the instructors, and registration, visit [www.highlandartsacademy.com](http://www.highlandartsacademy.com). The Highland Arts Academy is a program of the Highland County Arts Council. Enthusiast-level members of the Arts Council are eligible for a 10% discount on Highland Arts Academy registration.

Contact [highlandcoarts@gmail.com](mailto:highlandcoarts@gmail.com) for your discount code.

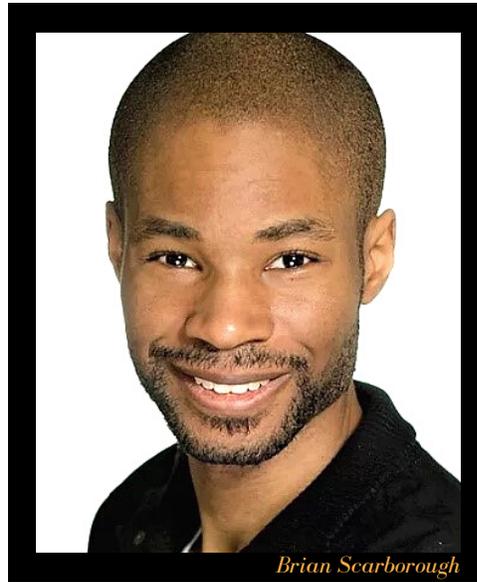


# *Strings Project Collaborates with Living Composer*

There's music in the air thanks to a special partnership between Garth Newel Music Center's Allegheny Mountain Strings Project and the Highland County Arts Council. Under the baton of Allegheny Mountain String Orchestra conductor Gretta Sandberg, a new work written specifically for our youth orchestra by Brian Scarborough is scheduled to premiere later this spring.

The AMSO has already begun rehearsing the new piece. "This is a special opportunity for our students", said Sandberg, "and they are excited that they will be able to work and talk with a composer to see how this entire process works from the inside."

The composer, Brian Scarborough, is a native of Reston, Virginia. Like our own AMSP students, he began learning violin early in life at age 8. Six months later, he composed his first piece for solo violin. Brian's love of music and composition eventually took him to the prestigious Boston Conservatory where he earned a degree in Music Theory and Composition.



*Brian Scarborough*

## *A word from a former board member: Lee Brody Beasley*

I brought with me to Highland County a love for theatre and writing. Family was the reason my husband Tim and I came to the county in 1989. I was introduced to some special women who were interested in meeting monthly to talk, hike, and share dreams about bringing arts to the little hub. A few years later, this women's group acquired a 501(c)3 status and became The Highland County Arts Council. I was fortunate to be one of the founding mothers, and I served for many years and gladly watched the council grow in membership. Before we knew it, we were rocking the arts in Highland. I took time away from the council to focus on raising my son and to teach at the local high school.

While teaching, I became the director for the Drama Club for ten years and found an entirely new adventure with teens and acting. A few years back, one of the current board members asked me to rejoin the board. One motivation for me was that I had hoped to direct community theatre, which was already in capable hands. I did get one chance to guest direct and that seed got planted again. The council also sponsored my Patio Poetry series for a couple years showcasing local poets and lots of talent. It is remarkable for me to see how much the arts council continues to grow and how many great programs are now a regular staple.

Although I am no longer serving on the board, I continue to relish the memories of the council's beginnings and I am proud of the accomplishments we see thirty years later. In the meantime, I am enjoying retirement from teaching and getting ready to have my first collection of poetry published. The Arts Council has been a great inspiration for this county, and I am grateful to be a member of such a dedicated group of people who bring to Highland a lot of great artistry.

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

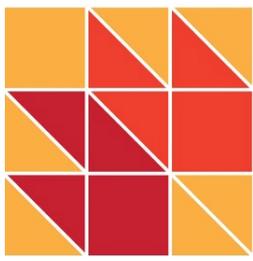
The National Endowment for the Arts

The Community Foundation of the Central Blue Ridge

The Little Swiss Fund

The Charles Pinckney Jones Foundation





HIGHLAND  
COUNTY  
ARTS  
COUNCIL

## 2022 SEASON



April 9  
7pm

### ***After Jack***

Combine your most beloved musical memories with a foot stomping string band and top it off with harmonies that spring straight from the soul of the mountains, and you've got After Jack.

### ***Robert Jospé Express***

May 14  
7pm



The Robert Jospé Express with Butch Taylor on keyboard, Dane Alderson on electric bass, Brian Mesko on guitar and Robert Jospé on drums play a percussive driven mix of jazz, rock, funk and Latin with a contemporary electric sound.

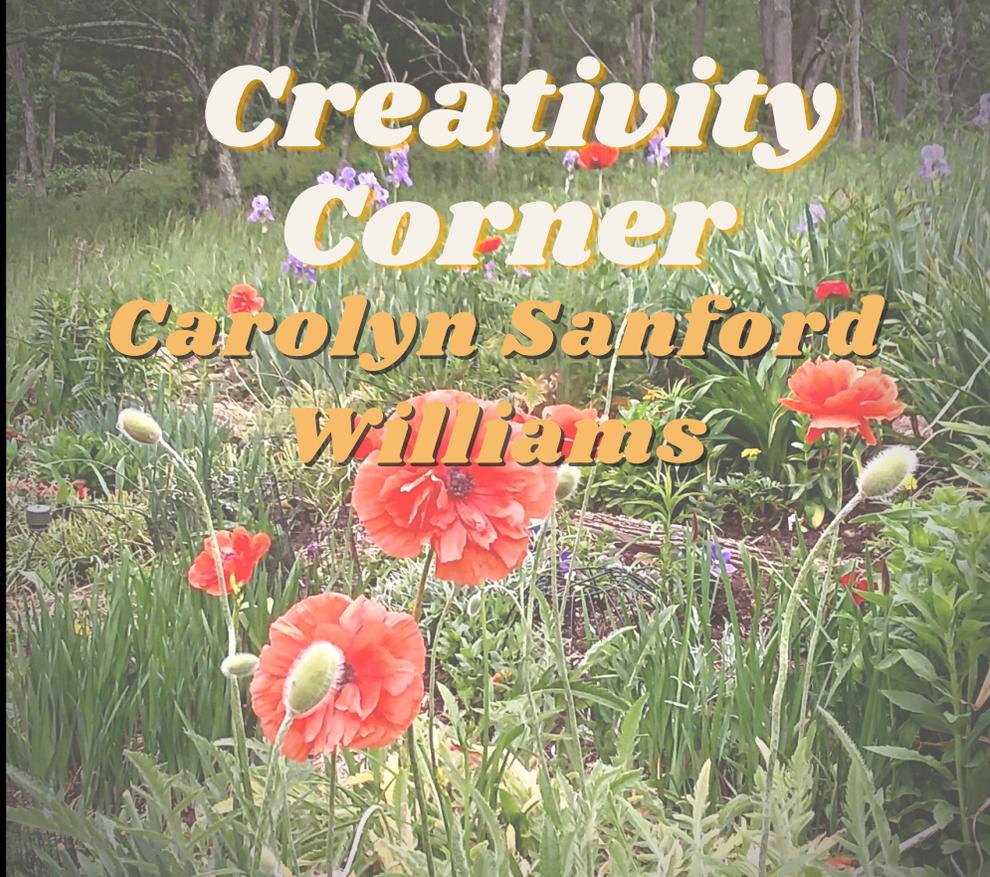


June 11  
7pm

### ***The McCoy Sister's Annual Concert w/Zuzu Hot 5***

Celebrate the lives of Elizabeth and Mary Hille McCoy with a musical tour of the sounds they enjoyed. Sponsored by the Charles Pickney Jones Foundation

# ***Creativity Corner Carolyn Sanford Williams***



## ***Gardens & Gardening***



Every nook, cranny, or corner can become a garden. Everyone can become a gardener, start small with just a few flowers. No two places or no two plants are alike. Every year is different too. Gardens are always welcoming, always waiting for us; it's only right that sometimes we must wait for them. Gardens are dynamic, ever changing, full of surprises. Gardening is total physical immersion into vibrant life and fascinating forms, involving all our senses. Gardens are always a work in progress and very forgiving. There is always next year to change, rearrange, or add new colors and shapes for enchanting delights. While planning, planting, and tending with patience and persistence, it's wonderful to remember that we are never really in control, because it is God who creates the flowers and brings about the growth.

