Highlights of events sponsored by The Arts Council, Inc. and/or Affiliate Arts Organizations

The Arts Council's 2009-2010 Evenings of Intimate Jazz

On ***Saturday, January 9th*** the Arts Council's 13th Season of Evenings of Intimate Jazz continues with the Larry Barker Jazz Ensemble.

Gainesville, Georgia's own Larry Barker is a jazz pianist with an eclectic musical background. Barker and his jazz ensemble will perform on ***Saturday, January 9, 2010***. Originally from St. Louis, Missouri, Barker has performed and/or recorded with Charles Glenn, the U. S. Army Band, the Glenn Miller Band, Tom Kennedy, Theo Peoples, Peter Mayer, The Drifters, and numerous others. For years, Mr. Barker has collaborated most often with vocalist Charles Glenn, resulting in one CD release (Offerings) and countless memorable jazz club performances. Since moving to Georgia in 2006, Larry has performed with Atlanta Acoustic Jazz, Atlanta Beat, Sam Skelton, Ken Watters, the Sweet Lu Quartet, FootLights. Barker's influences on jazz piano include Oscar Peterson, Gene Harris, Michel Petrucciani, Bill Evans, Fred Hersch, George Shearing, Dave McKenna, Nat King Cole, Ray Kennedy, and Kenny Barron. He prefers not to play "outside" in the manner of many jazz musicians, rather Mr. Barker finds ways to explore his way "inside" the music. His approach keeps audiences engaged with each song. Barker will be joined by Ken Watters on trumpet, Neal Starkey on bass and John Marsh vocals and trumpet.

A well-known and highly acclaimed performer on the local entertainment scene in her beloved hometown of Las Vegas, Sandy Kastel has spent an exhilarating lifetime singing, both literally and figuratively, the praises of the city and its incredible legacy of music. Sandy will make her *Evenings of Intimate Jazz* debut on ***Saturday, February 13, 2010***. Now, with the upcoming release of her debut album on Silk & Satin Records, the former Miss Nevada becomes a true cultural ambassador for the city, bringing this magic to the rest of the world for the very first time.

Kastel is currently putting the finishing touches on her eagerly anticipated recording, a tribute to the glorious entertainers who have defined the Vegas legend over the years. Putting her own unique spins on songs that continue to transfix our imaginations decades after we first heard them, the singer pays homage to, among others, Frank Sinatra (a medley of "All Of Me," "I've Got You Under My Skin" and "Just One Of Those Things," plus "Luck Be A Lady"), Wayne Newton ("Danke Schoen"), Peggy Lee ("Fever," "Come Back To Me"), Johnny Mathis ("Misty"), Dinah Washington/Celine Dion ("When I Fall In Love") and Judy Garland ("Over The Rainbow").

By popular demand, Lynne Arriale returns for her 3rd year to perform for our Gainesville audience on ***Saturday March 20th***. Lynne first performed at Evenings of Intimate Jazz during the 2004-2005-season. Pianist/composer, Lynne Arriale, earned a master's degree in piano performance before turning to jazz. Her trio now performs internationally and celebrates its tenth anniversary and ninth CD release with Come Together. Their previous CD, Arise, hit #17 on Billboard, #1 - UPI's Best Jazz CD's of 2003, and along with its predecessor, Inspiration, reached #1 on national jazz radio and #1 in New Yorker Magazine's Best CDs of 2003. Appearances in national media include PBS-TV's Profile of a Performing Artist, CNN/FN's Biz, NPR's Piano Jazz with Marion McPartland, Weekend Edition, Jazz Set and NPR's Jazz Piano Christmas - Live from The Kennedy Center. Arriale won 1993's Great American Jazz Piano Competition and toured Japan with 100 Golden Fingers, which also included legends Hank Jones, Tommy Flanagan, Kenny Barron, Harold Mabern, Junior Mance, Monty Alexander, Roger Kellaway, Ray Bryant and Cedar Walton.

The remaining performances of the 2009-2010 Evenings of Initmate Jazz season are ***the Diane Marino Trio on Friday, April 16th*** and the season finale is the ***Sam Skelton All Star Quartet on Saturday, May 8th***. Indivisual performance ticket prices remain $30 per person or $25 each for a group of 6 or more. As always, complimentary glasses, ice, set-ups, coffee and light snacks are included in all Evenings of Intimate Jazz indoor events.

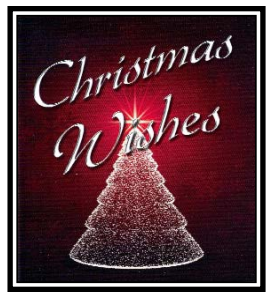
To order your individual performance tickets please call the Arts Council at 770-534-2787 or online www.theartscouncil.net.

Arts Calendar December 2009

Performances/Classes

DEC 3 A NORTHWINDS CHRISTMAS is presented by the Northwinds Symphonic Band at Lakewood Baptist Church. Performance: 7:30pm. Admission: Free, donations appreciated. Information: www.northwindsband.com.

DEC 4-5 CHRISTMAS WISHES is a holiday concert presented by the Voices of North Georgia at the St. Paul United Methodist Church Washington St. Program includes "Carols and Lullabys: Christmas in the Southwest" by Conrad Susa. Performance: 7:30pm nightly. Admission: $15 adult, $12 senior/students and $5 children under 11. Information: 678-943-7255 or www.voicesofnorthgeorgia.com.



DEC 4-6 THE NUTCRACKER is presented by the Gainesville Ballet Company at Pearce Auditorium Brenau University. Performances: Evening performances Fri-Sat 7:30pm; and matinee performances Sat-Sun 2pm. Tickets: $24 adults, $20 seniors; $16 students and children, Brenau faculty, staff and students free with valid ID. Information: 770-532-4241 or www.gainesvilleballet.org.

DEC 8 MESSIAH SING-ALONG is presented by the Lanier Chamber Singers and the Gainesville Symphony Orchestra at Pearce Auditorium - Brenau University. To honor the 250th anniversary of Handel's death, the Lanier Chamber Singers will be joined by the Gainesville Symphony Orchestra in the Christmas portion of Handel's Messiah. Performance: 7:30pm. Tickets: $30 adults, $27 seniors and $12 students/children. Information: 770-532-5727 or www.lanierchambersingers.org or www.gainesvillesymphony.com.

FEB 6 THE GSO BIG BAND WITH JOE GRANSDEN Winter picnic pops and dance performance presented by the Gainesville Symphony Orchestra at the Georgia Mountains Center. Performance: 7:30pm. Tickets: $30 adults, $27 seniors and $12 students/children. Information: 770-532-5727 or www.gainesvillesymphony.com.

FEB 9-20 THE BEAUX' STRATAGEM is a GTA MainStage performance in the Hosch Theatre-Brenau University. Admission: TBA. Performances: TBA Information: 770-717-3624 or www.gainesvilletheatrealliance.org.

FEB 21 ALEJANDRO SALADIN COTE - GUITARIST is presented by ProMusica Concert Series at he Pleasant Hill Baptist Church on Browns Bridge Road. Performance: 3:00pm. Tickets: $15. Information: 770-531-7776 or www.promusicaconcertseries.com.

FEB 18-21 FEB 25-27 WEDDING BELLS is presented by the Georgia Mountain Players at the Georgia Mountains Center Theatre. Performances: 8PM February 18-20 & 25-27 and matinees, 21 & 27. Individual tickets: $16 adults, $12 seniors, students, & children. Information: 770-536-4677 or email: gmplayer@bellsouth.net.

FEB 25 CELTIC CROSSROADS concert is presented by the Arts Council's Arts Council Pearce Series in Pearce Auditorium at 8:00pm.

Celtic Crossroads is critically acclaimed as 'the most exhilarating and authentic show to come from Ireland in decades - not to be missed'. It is an explosion of youthful energy and dazzling musicianship. Celtic Crossroads abounds with fusions of traditional Irish music, bluegrass, gypsy and jazz whilst pulsating with the rhythms of exciting Irish dance percussion. Tickets: $35. Information: 770-534-2787 or online www.theartscouncil.net.

Exhibits/Open Houses

OCT 15-DEC 6 62ND ANNUAL MEMBERS' EXHIBITION is at the Quinlan Visual Arts Center. Admission: Free: Gallery Hours: Mon-Fri 9am to 5pm, Sat 10am to 5pm, Sun 12pm to 4pm. Information: 770-536-2575 or online www.quinlanartscenter.org.

OCT 27-DEC 11 FOUND OBJECTS is an exhibition in the Sellars Gallery-Simmons Visual Arts Center Brenau University. Exhibit will feature works by Loren Schwend, Donna Mintz and Pam Longobardi. Exhibit Reception: Nov 19 from 6:30pm to 8pm. Admission: Free: Gallery Hours: call 770-534-6263. Information: 770-534-6263 or www.brenau.edu. (Closed: November 25-29)

NOV 5-DEC 4 GEORGIA ARTISTS WITH DISABILITIES EXHIBIT at the Arts Council Smithgall Arts Center. 40 works on exhibit from the 25th Annual Exhibit tour. Admission: Free. Gallery Hours: Mon-Fri from9am to 4pm. Information: 770-534-2787

NOV 17-JAN 17 ELEGANCE AND STRENGTH: COUTURE DESIGNS BY YUKINARI YAO is an exhibition in the Leo Castelli Art Gallery of the John S. Burd Performing Arts Center Brenau University. Exhibit Reception & "Catwalk" Fashion Show : Nov 19 from 6pm. Admission: Free: Gallery Hours: call 770-534-6263. Information: 770-534-6263 or www.brenau.edu. (Closed: November 25-29 & Dec 11-Jan 5)