



Georgia
COUNCIL FOR THE Arts
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



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

THE SWINGIN' MEDALLIONS TO OPEN THE 2010 ARTS COUNCIL/SMITHGALL ARTS CENTER SUMMER MUSICFEST

The Arts Council of Gainesville's outdoor Summer MusicFest will feature everything from the familiar party music of the popular Swingin' Medallions to a new local group that plays oldies from the 1960s and '70s to the rich and relaxing classical tones of the world renowned Atlanta Symphony Orchestra.

All will perform on The Arts Council's Smithgall Arts Center outdoor lawn at the end of Spring Street, SW in downtown Gainesville. Hundreds come to the concerts bearing lawn chairs or blankets to sit on and picnic baskets. Many reserve and decorate elaborate tables to dine and listen to the music.

"The Arts Council's Summer Series has been a favorite of ours since we moved to Northeast Georgia 12 years ago," said Angela Sparks of Gainesville. "We get a table and decorate it with candles, flowers and whatever else fits the mood of the performance. We fill it with friends who all bring food and drink, and we have a wonderful summer evening under the Gainesville skies.

"We always go early enough to walk around and see who's there, stop and chat, meet new people, and generally enjoy ourselves," she said. "When we lived in Atlanta we went to Chastain Park, but I can tell you this is better, much more intimate, and much less expensive."

Up first this year are the *Swingin' Medallions* at 8 p.m. **June 4.** The group based in nearby Greenwood, S.C., has toured nationwide since the early 1960s. It plays beach music, frat rock, rhythm and blues or shaggin' music. Its most familiar and popular recording "Double Shot (of My Baby's Love)" became a million seller in 1966 and continues to be a party classic for college students, present and past.

"We started playing 'Double Shot' in 1965, and the college kids loved it," said original drummer Joe Morris in a recent interview. They recorded it a few months later, and it rose rapidly on the music charts.

Leader John McElrath is the only original performing member of The Swingin' Medallions. The musicians have changed over the years, but the high-energy music and performances remain the same.

The show the group puts on earned it the nickname "The Party Band of the South."



Back in Time Band is the second MusicFest event at 8 p.m. **June 25.** Its leader is Mercer Crook, former longtime band director at East Hall High School, who has assembled a group that specializes in hits from the 1960s and '70s. Arrangements are authentic to the original artists, Crook said. For instance, they do "My Girl" by The Temptations and "Desperado" by The Eagles.

Crook's two sons, Michael and Rory, play in the band, along with two of his college classmates,

John Harriman and Glenn Brown. Chuck McKissick is the popular local drummer.

Crook is coming back from a serious traffic accident that resulted in months-long hospital stays and surgeries. It delayed plans for his band, which began playing last fall, but has had several performances leading up to Summer MusicFest.

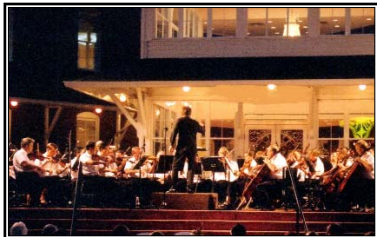
The final in the MusicFest series is the annual performance of the *Atlanta Symphony Orchestra*, making its 35th appearance in Gainesville at 8 p.m. **July 30.**

The Symphony is known internationally, touring in such cities as Paris, London and Vienna. Its director is Robert Spano and principal guest conductor Donald Runnicles. It has a reputation for attracting directors who each has taken the orchestra to new heights. These included the famous Henry Sopkin, Robert Shaw and Yoel Levi.

The performance in Gainesville will be one of more than 200 the orchestra does annually. It has been reaching outside Atlanta to other communities around the state for more than three decades, but Gainesville is only one of two to be hosts to the full orchestra.

At each of the Summer MusicFest concerts, gates will open at 6 p.m. Tickets for The Swingin' Medallions are \$25 or \$240 for a table of eight. Back in Time tickets are FREE for Arts Council members and are \$20 for non-members or \$200 for a table of eight. The Atlanta Symphony tickets are \$35 for adults, \$32 for seniors, \$28 for students and children and \$320 for a table of eight. Rain date for the Symphony is Aug. 1.

Information is available at (770) 534-2787 or www.theartscouncil.net.



ARTS CALENDAR JUNE 2010

PERFORMANCES/CLASSES

JUN-JUL 2010 JUNGLE BOOGIE: SUMMER ART CAMPS presented by the Quinlan Visual Arts Center at the Quinlan. Eight weekly sessions June 7 thru July 30 from 9am to 2pm. Weekly registration: \$125 per child. For wish list of camp supplies visit the Quinlan website. Information: 770-536-2575 or www.quinlanartscenter.org.

JUN 4 THE SWINGIN' MEDALLIONS is an Arts Council Summer MusicFest presentation on the lawn at the Smithgall Arts Center. Gates Open: 6pm. Performance: 8pm. Tickets: \$25 per person. Rain Date: August 12th. Information: 770-534-2787 or www.theartscouncil.net

JUN 8-10 ONCE UPON THIS ISLAND JR: Children's Musical Theatre Workshop performance is presented by Gainesville Parks & Recreation Agency at the GHS Warehouse. Performances: 7pm Tues-Wed and 10am Wed-Thurs. Tickets: \$10 adults, \$5 seniors and children. Information: 770-531-2680.

JUN 11 STARLIGHT CONCERT AND FIREWORKS SHOW is presented at Gainesville State College G.W. Bailey Amphitheater. Gates open at 5:30pm. Parking: \$10 per vehicle. Information: www.gsc.edu.

JUN 17 AVATAR an Arts Council Movies on the Green presentation is at the Arts Council Smithgall Arts Center. Show time: DUSK. Gates Open: 7:30pm. Admission: Members FREE, non-members \$2 adults, \$1 children/students. Information: 770-534-2787 or www.theartscouncil.net.

JUN 25 BACK IN TIME an Arts Council Summer MusicFest presentation is on the lawn at the Arts Council Smithgall Arts Center. Gates Open: 6pm. Performance: 8pm. Admission: AC members FREE, \$20 non-members. Information: 770-534-2787 or www.theartscouncil.net

JUL 1 ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL an Arts Council Movies on the Green presentation is at Arts Council Smithgall Arts Center. Gates Open: 7:30pm. Show Time: DUSK. Admission: AC Members

FREE, non-members \$2 adults, \$1 children/students. Information: 770-534-2787 or www.theartscouncil.net.

JUL 3 GSO PATRIOTIC POPS CONCERT is presented by the Gainesville Symphony Orchestra at the Brenau University Amphitheater. Guest Soloist: Shawn Megorden, Vocalist. Performance: 7:30pm (gates open at 6PM). Tickets: \$30 adults, \$27 seniors, \$12 students, table for 8 add \$50. Information and tickets: 770-532-5727 or www.gainesvillesymphony.com.

EXHIBITS/OPEN HOUSES

MAY 28-JUL 3 AMAZING(LY) GRACE(FUL) exhibition is at the Sautee Nacoochee Center Gallery. Artist reception: May 29th from 6:30pm to 8pm. Admission: Free. Gallery Hours: Mon-Fri 9am to 5pm; Sat 10am to 5pm and Sun 1pm to 5pm. Information: 706-878-3300 or www.snca.org.

JUN 3-AUG 14 VANGUARD, A JURIED EXHIBITION HONORING GEORGIA ART EDUCATORS, THE PORTRAIT SOCIETY OF ATLANTA are exhibits at the Quinlan Visual Arts Center. Additional Exhibits: Family Matters sculpture by Venessa Grubbs and Solo Exhibition featuring Charles Walls. Opening reception: June 3 from 5:30pm to 7:00pm. Admission: Free. Gallery Hours: Mon-Fri 9am to 5pm, Sat 10am to 5pm. Information: 770-536-2575 or online www.quinlanartscenter.org.

JUN 4-26 HEART IN HAND QUILT SHOW is at the Bowen Arts Center Dawsonville. Exhibit reception: June 5 2pm to 4pm. Admission: Free. Gallery Hours: Tues-Friday 10am to 4pm; Saturday 12pm to 4pm. Information: 706-216-2787 or www.dawsonarts.org.

JUL 2-31 SAWNEE ARTISTS ASSOCIATION EXHIBITION is at the Bowen Arts Center Dawsonville. Exhibit reception: July 10 2pm to 4pm. Admission: Free. Gallery Hours: Tues-Friday 10am to 4pm; Saturday 12pm to 4pm. Information: 706-216-2787 or www.dawsonarts.org.

Movies on the Green 2010 Arts Council Smithgall Arts Center

June 17 - AVATAR

July 1 - Alvin & the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel

Arts Council Members Admitted FREE
Non Members: Adults: \$2 - Children: \$1
Show Times: Dusk Gates open 7:30pm

