

ArtsMatters

SHOWCASING THE ARTS IN THE MORRIS AREA



2017-2018

First Night® Morris County keeps its WOW factor for 26th year

December 31, 2017 marks the 26th year of New Jersey's biggest and brightest First Night, a New Year's Eve family-friendly, alcohol-free celebration of the arts – with nearly 200 artists, 85 events in 24 venues – representing dance, theatre, music, world cultures, visual arts and children's events. For all 26 years, Morris Arts has been First Night Morris' artistic programmer, securing topflight talents who attract thousands from throughout the state and beyond. More than half of the program features new artists (or artists returning after several years), many of whom have performed at top venues (the White House, Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Metropolitan Opera, etc.), won international recognition, performed on national radio/TV, in major films and/or collaborated with superstars of performing arts. On that night, one can experience everything from a Metropolitan Opera soprano to inflatable dinosaurs!

On the **Rock/Bluegrass/Blues** front, **The John Ginty Band** rocks the house, showcasing Ginty (on Hammond B-3 organ), who toured/performed with the Dixie Chicks, Jewel, Santana and received two Grammy nominations as a founding member of Robert Randolph & the Family Band. **Silk City** brings its unique blend of bluegrass, roots and honky-tonk music and features artists who have performed with *Hot Tuna*, at Carnegie Hall, and with artists like Vassar Clements and David Bromberg. And, for gutsy, full-throated blues with a touch of funk, R&B, country and jazz mixed in, don't miss the **Cobra Brothers** who have performed at The Stone Pony and The Bitter End.

Hankering for **Jazz** and **Swing**? First Night would not be complete without our own sizzling jazz pianist, **Rio Clemente** (the "Bishop of Jazz") whose

inventive and sparkling improvisations astonish and inspire all. With performances at The Blue Note, NJPAC, international jazz festivals and The Whitney Museum, **Mauricio de Souza's** band, **Bossa Brasil®**, adds a his special brand of smooth, Brazilian-tinted jazz while **James Langton** takes it **Nice & Easy, Swingin' the Great American Songbook**, recalling the glamor and the timeless standards of the era.

And how could anyone resist hearing the soaring, heart-stopping songs of **Broadway**? **A Night of Broadway Stars** transports the Great White Way to First Night, featuring actual Broadway stars singing their unforgettable songs from Broadway productions such as *Phantom*, *Wicked*, *Aladdin*, and *Beauty and the Beast*.

If **Folk Music** is your bag, be sure to catch the crystalline voice of award winning singer/songwriter **Christine DeLeon**. If you prefer musical satire, don't miss "the Jon Stewart of Music," **John Forster**, a four-time Grammy nominee whose works were recorded by Judy Collins, Roseanne Cash, heard on NPR and admired by the great musical satirist, Tom Lehrer, himself.

(Continued on page 2)

Top Row, L-R: John Ginty with his Hammond B-3 organ; NJ Festival Orchestra conductor Shuang Guo Wroe; Rio Clemente, The "Bishop of Jazz;" Folk Singer/Songwriter Christine DeLeon; Silk City.

Bottom Row, L-R: Tamer Pinarbasi (with *kanun*) and Ara Dinkjian (with *oud*) play Music of the Middle East; Metropolitan Opera Soprano Jennifer Check; James Langton swingin' the Great American Songbook; Grammy nominated mallet master, Greg Giannascoli.



26th First Night® Morris County (Continued from page 1)

If you prefer **Classical Music**, you have the unique opportunity to hear the superb artistry and true musical magic of **Metropolitan Opera Soprano, Jennifer Check**, whom the *NY Times* called “a rare talent that can send chills down a listener’s spine.” She has sung under the world’s top conductors (Levine, Maazel, Ozawa), in top venues (the Met, Tanglewood, Spoleto, etc.) and will be joined by award winning **pianist, Andrew Rosenblum** who has performed internationally, as well as at the Kennedy Center and Alice Tully Hall. On the Juilliard faculty, Grammy-nominated mallet master **Greg Giannascoli** performed at Carnegie Hall, on NPR, PBS and has been called “astonishing... in artistry and virtuosity.” First Night also offers the artistry of the **New Jersey Festival Orchestra**, the piano virtuosity of **Laryssa Krupa** (with her trio), the grand brass of **Solid Brass Lite** and the polish and inventive programming of the award winning **Harmonium Choral Society**. One can even meet “Beethoven” himself as Dennis Kobray’s **Meet the Musicians** shares the life and works by the great composer.

First Night’s generous sampling of **World Cultures** includes the **Korean Traditional Dance of Choomnoori** whose elegant costumes and distinctive movements showcase the rich traditional dances of Korea. Savor the intricate and exotic **Music of the Middle East**, which spotlights two of the world’s best on their respective instruments, Armenian *oud* master **Ara Dinkjian** and Turkish *kanun* virtuoso **Tamer Pinarbasi**. **Melanie Mitrano** performs the haunting songs of both **Portuguese Fado** and **Brazilian song** traditions while Irish (and other) eyes will be smiling at the music of champion **Irish Fiddler, Brian Conway** (with guitarist John Walsh) who has performed and recorded to international acclaim. Groove on those good vibrations from **The Didge Project** which blends the sounds of the **Australian aboriginal didgeridoo** with world rhythms and tribal beats. And, if you love **Latin Dancing**, join in the *salsa*, *merengue* and *tango* with **Daniel Herrera’s DREAMS dancers** or move to the joyful, infectious rhythms of **Folk Music of Colombia** with **Viva Vallenato’s cumbia** and *vallenato*.

Do you love **Theater/Comedy**? Laugh your way into the New Year with the wit and warm charm of **Comedian Moody McCarthy**, featured on late night shows with *David Letterman* (twice), *Jimmy Kimmel*, *Conan O’Brien*, *Last Comic Standing*, *Star Search*, *America’s Got Talent* and *Gotham Comedy Live*. Laugh more with **HypnoMarc’s Comedy Hypnotism** where you might feel an imaginary heatwave or talk to your shoe! Laughs also accompany award-winning **Master Magician and Illusionist Great Scott!**, who, with his feathered partner *Thurston* (a blue/gold macaw), spellbound audiences on *Conan O’Brien* and *David Letterman*. Beethoven is not the only historic “giant” appearing at First Night: **Robert Costello** becomes **Abraham Lincoln**, sharing his folksy stories, sorrows, and triumphs as 16th

President. **Lou Del Bianco** tells the story of his grandfather, the **Master Carver of Mt. Rushmore** while the theater-trained verbal virtuosi known as **The Mayhem Poets** blend poetry, hip hop, improv, stand-up comedy and theatre to tell gut-wrenching truths about life. For children of all ages, **Kit’s Interactive Theater** drafts the audience directly into the performance of **Cinderella’s Fairy Godmother** and **Storyteller Extraordinaire, Julie Pasqual**, brings her uniquely playful, physical theater skills into play, sharing stories from around the world.

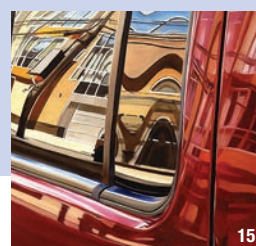
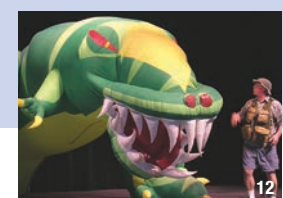
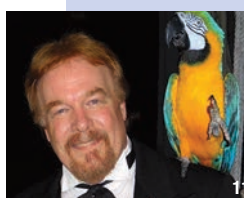
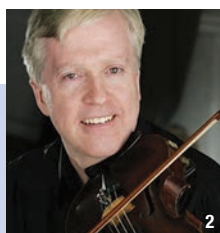
When it comes to **Dance**, First Nighters can savor the fancy footwork and dazzling routines of **New Jersey Tap Ensemble soloists Maurice Chestnut** (who danced with Savion Glover) and Morristown’s own **Jeffrey Foote**. **Latin Dance** is alive and well with Daniel Herrera’s **D.R.E.A.M.S.** dancers and no partner or experience are necessary to try **Square Dancing with Caller, Mary Moody**.

Children’s/Family Programs: Who could resist **Dinoman Dinosaurs!** with Bob Lisaius’ life size, inflatable dinosaurs? And **Rizzo’s Reptile Discovery** shares *live* reptiles (and other animals) – under the watchful eye of a seasoned animal handler. Catch the clowns, face painting, balloons, and organ grinder at **The Children’s Fun Festival** or visit **Transformations Facepainting** where each face becomes a living work of art. Perennial favorite and skilled circus performer, **Mr. Fish** will be back to amaze audiences with **Phenomenal Physics**, sharing tricks that actually have scientific explanations.

The early session for younger children (4:45-6:45pm) includes hula hooping with **Whirled Revolution**, art making activities with artist Samantha (“Sam”) Matthews’ **Art 4 Kids** and the always popular **Fun with LEGOs®**. New to this year’s early session is the acclaimed **Korean Traditional Dance of Choomnoori**, with their dazzling costumes and choreography, and **Square Dancing with Caller, Mary Moody**, with fun for the whole family.

Three visual arts exhibits (displaying over 300 artworks) and two sets of fireworks top off that magical evening known as First Night® Morris County. To check out the full lineup of artists, visit: www.firstnightmorris.com.

One inexpensive admission (before 12/21: \$20/ticket; \$17.50 for 4 or more; prices go up 12/22-12/31/16) covers all events at First Night®. Every venue is indoors and a free shuttle will take you to nearly all locations. For more information, the latest program updates, to volunteer or to purchase tickets, please visit the First Night® Morris County website at www.firstnightmorris.com or call (973) 455-0708.



1.) HypnoMarc (Marshall); 2.) Champion Irish Fiddler Brian Conway; 3.) Melanie Mitrano sings Portuguese *Fado* and Brazilian song; 4.) AJ Block of the Didge Project plays the *didgeridoo*; 5.) The Fan Dance performed by the Korean Traditional Dance of Choomnoori; 6.) New Jersey Tap Ensemble Soloist Maurice Chestnut; 7.) Viva Vallenato! Folk Music of Colombia; 8.) Lou Del Bianco, grandson of Mt. Rushmore's Master Carver; 9.) Mr. Fish with *Phenomenal Physics*; 10.) Comedian Moody McCarthy; 11.) Magician/Illusionist Great Scott (Drukker); 12.) Bob Lisaius' *Dinoman Dinosaurs*; 13.) Kit's Interactive Theatre, *Cinderella's Fairy Godmother*; 14.) Robert Costello as Abraham Lincoln; 15.) Allan Gorman's *Williamsburg Red*; 16.) The Mayhem Poets.

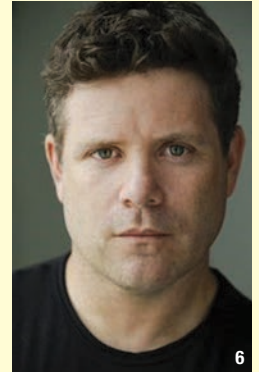
Morris Arts Awards Local Arts Grants for Funding Year 2018

Morris Arts is pleased to announce that 24 Morris County arts organizations received Local Arts Grants totaling \$52,500 for Funding Year 2018. These grants help support visual arts, theatre, dance, instrumental and choral groups, museums, and broad-based community arts programming which, in turn, enable thousands of people throughout our county to experience the arts in a multitude of ways. Funding is made possible through the Local Arts Program of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

This year's awardees include: Art in the Atrium, Inc. (Morristown); Arts! By the People (Morristown); Artworks Studio (Randolph); Baroque Orchestra of New Jersey (Dover); Blackwell Street Center for the Arts, Inc. (Denville); Chatham Community Players (Chatham); Coro Lirico (Morristown); County College of Morris Teen Arts Festival (Randolph); Dance Innovations Performance Foundation (Chatham); Fairleigh Dickinson University – WAMFEST (Madison/Teaneck); First Night® Morris County (Morristown); Folk Project (Morristown); Fusion Color Guard, Inc. (Lake Hopatcong); Hanover Wind Symphony (Whippany); Harmonium Choral Society (Morristown); Lakeland Youth Symphony (Parsippany); Masterwork Chorus (Morristown); Morris Choral Society (Morristown); Morris Music Men (Morristown); Morristown Neighborhood House (Morristown); Netcong Community Partnership (Netcong); New Jersey Jazz Society (Summit); Opera at Florham (Convent Station); and Visions and Pathways (Bridgewater)

Additionally, funding is available for mini-grants (up to \$1,000 each) in 2018.

1.) The Nai Ni Chen Dance Company performing at First Night Morris County; 2.) The Chatham Community Players production of Frederick Knott's *Wait Until Dark*; 3.) a Lakeland Youth Symphony rehearsal; 4.) Artworks Studio; 5.) Pat Victor and Reggie Harris perform at The Folk Project; 6.) Film actor, director, voice artist and producer Sean Astin (Samwise Gamgee in *Lord of the Rings*) was featured at FDU's WAMFest, 2017.



The Arts mean Business / Arts and Economic Prosperity 5

In late October, before a packed house of area officials, arts and business leaders at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, Morris Arts' Executive Director Tom Werder shared *Arts & Economic Prosperity 5*, the regional portion of the national survey by Americans for the Arts, a national non-profit based in Washington DC. The bottom line: "Art is not just food for the soul, it's food on the table," said Werder. The arts and cultural events are an economic engine for Morris County, generating nearly \$32 million in total economic activity for 2015. (Half of the amount was spent by nonprofit arts and cultural organizations and the other half was event-related spending by their audiences). The study concluded that these nonprofits supported 982 full time jobs, generated \$17.2 million in household income for area residents and delivered \$3.2 million in local and state revenue.

Nationally, the nonprofit arts industry is very big business. In 2015, it supported 4.6 million jobs and generated \$166.3 billion of economic activity and \$27.5 billion for local, state and federal government. Combined, the nonprofit and commercial

arts/cultural/arts education sector is a \$730 billion industry, providing 4.2 % of the nation's Gross Domestic Product (and, according to the US Bureau of Economic Analysis, that is more than transportation, tourism, agriculture and construction!). Werder added, "The AEP5 study emphasizes that the arts not only build community by inspiring, delighting and uniting us – but build our community economically as well... Art is a fundamental component of our humanity – but we can also think of the arts as an industry – one that supports jobs, generates government revenue and is a cornerstone to tourism."



Morris Arts' Executive Director, Tom Werder

great conversations

Guests had so much fun talking with the accomplished and fascinating Host Conversationalists at last year's Great Conversations that no one wanted to leave! Be sure to mark **April 26, 2018** on your calendars now and reserve your place as soon as invitations arrive in January. Experience a one-of-a-kind evening with the many distinguished and highly accomplished host conversationalists while helping Morris Arts continue its valuable work in the community!



Thanks to our very generous recent funders whose support makes our work possible: The Allergan Foundation; Kiwanis Club of Randolph, Inc.; MetLife Foundation; Mondelēz Global LLC; Morgan Stanley & Co., Inc.; and William E. Simon Foundation.

January 26, 2018 Opening at Atrium Gallery for Art in the Atrium's African American Exhibit and Sale



L-R: Leroy Campbell's *Well Fed*; the artist, Leroy Campbell

Join Morris Arts at the Atrium Gallery on January 26, 2018 from 6:30-9pm, for the Opening Reception of *Solutions*, Art in the Atrium's 26th annual African American art exhibit and sale. This year's show spotlights the works of renowned artist Leroy Campbell, drawing both established and emerging artists from across the country for what is widely considered the largest exhibit of African American art in New Jersey. A native of Charleston, SC, Leroy Campbell uses his art to address contributions to humanity through the African American perspective, to teach others about the richness of his heritage and to promote understanding and hope for humanity.

The Atrium Gallery, managed by Morris Arts' Dr. Lynn L. Siebert, is located on floors 2-5 of the Morris County Administration & Records Building, 10 Court Street, Morristown. The Gallery is open Monday-Friday, 8:30-4:30pm.

SAVE THE DATES:

- **DECEMBER 31, 2017:**
First Night Morris County,
85 events in 24 venues Morristown,
4:45pm-midnight, visit www.firstnightmorris.com
for tickets and information.
- **JANUARY 26, 2018:**
**Opening Reception for *Solutions*,
African American Art Exhibit and Sale**
curated by Art in the Atrium, 6:30-9:00pm,
Atrium Gallery at floors 2-5, County Administration
& Records Building, 10 Court Street, Morristown
- **APRIL 26, 2018:**
Great Conversations Gala,
5-10pm, Madison Hotel, Morristown, NJ

Looking for the Perfect Gift?

Celebrate the holidays and milestones with the gift that keeps giving all year long! A donation to Morris Arts is a perfect way to honor that special someone who values the joy that the Arts bring to children and families in our community. Colorful gift cards will be sent to your honoree, with a letter acknowledging your tax deductible contribution forwarded to you. Contact Gina Moran at gmoran@morrisarts.org or at (973) 285-5115, x13.

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The New Jersey State Council on the Arts has awarded *Morris Arts* a "Citation of Excellence" and designation as a "Major Service Organization" in recognition of the quality of its solid history of "service excellence, substantial activity and broad public service".

This newsletter is available in large print by calling (973) 285-5115, ext. 10.

Large Print

For a calendar listing of arts events in Morris County and for more information on Morris Arts' many programs and services, visit us at www.morrisarts.org,

like us on ,
and follow us on .

Ehlers and Coladarci Arts Scholarship applications available in December



Due by 5pm on Friday, January 19, 2018 applications will be available in early December at the guidance offices of Morris County high schools and online at the Morris Arts website, <http://goo.gl/GqidYf> or www.morrisarts.org (under Programs). The Elaine Ehlers Arts Scholarship (\$5,000) and the Eugenie Coladarci Arts Scholarship (\$1,500) are awarded each year to graduating high school seniors who must be Morris County residents, have demonstrated artistic excellence in dance, drama, music or visual arts and plan to pursue post-secondary studies at an accredited institution or acknowledged arts school or fine arts program.



L-R, 2017 Scholarship recipients: Soprano Lila Dunn (Coladarci) and oboist Ethan Whang (Ehlers); Top: Lila Dunn and Ethan Whang.

8th Annual Pumpkin Illumination

A major nor'easter postponed our event to Monday, October 30th, but we still had an enthusiastic crowd at the Vail Mansion festivities. Accompanied by the Lintet Jazz Band, several hundred people came with their carved pumpkins, donned some of the mask creations (of Dan Fenelon and his students) and marched in the luminary parade led by Mary Dougherty, wife of the Morristown Mayor. There was also a Pumpkin Illumination event this year in Dover.



Clockwise from top left: (Photos by Morristowngreen.com:) Pumpkins line the Vail Mansion reflecting pool; Lit pumpkins reflected in the water; (Photos by Dr. Lynn Siebert:) Glowing "humanity" pumpkin; Little girl proudly holds her carved pumpkin; Lit masks in the luminary parade; Assorted masks by Dan Fenelon.

Visit www.morrisarts.org and Morristowngreen.com at <http://tinyurl.com/y8tmqb52> for more photos and links to additional coverage in the media.

Morris Arts gratefully acknowledges the generosity of sponsors:

