

# ArtsMatters

SHOWCASING THE ARTS IN THE MORRIS AREA



2018-2019

## A sparkling lineup for First Night® Morris County's 27th season



TOP ROW, L-R: The legendary Frank Vignola and his Hot Jazz Guitar Trio; John Ginty with his Hammond B-3 organ; the Baroque Orchestra of New Jersey; Electro/Acoustic Oboe Master Matt Sullivan; The Cobra Brothers Blues Band. BOTTOM ROW, L-R: Comedy folk singer and "professional smart aleck," Carla Ulbrich; Folk band/vocal chameleons The Windborne Singers; The Feinberg Brothers Bluegrass Band; Moldovan piano virtuoso, Maria Sumareva; The Zydeco Revelators.

December 31, 2018 marks the 27th year of New Jersey's biggest and brightest First Night, a New Year's Eve family-friendly, alcohol-free celebration of the arts – with more than 100 artists, 81 events in 23 venues – representing dance, theatre, music, world cultures, visual arts and children's programs. For all 27 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 world class venues, 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 gypsy/neo-Balkan Trio, a Moldovan piano virtuoso, or a legendary hot jazz guitarist to a one-man sideshow, a champion Irish fiddler or a live reptile show.

On the **Rock/Bluegrass/Blues/Zydeco/Drum** front, **The John Ginty Band** rocks the house, showcasing Ginty, who toured/performed with the Dixie Chicks, Jewel, Santana and received two Grammy nominations as a founding member of Robert Randolph & the Family Band. **The Feinberg Brothers'** 5 piece band, profiled expansively in a recent *Bluegrass Unlimited*, embodies classical bluegrass with their tight, soulful harmonies and masterful, intricate instrumentals. For gutsy, full-throated blues, wailing harmonica riffs, and raw voiced vocals (with a touch of funk, R&B, country and jazz), catch the **Cobra Brothers** – heard at blues festivals, The Stone Pony and The Bitter End. Got rhythm? Connect with **Dana McCurdy's Community In Rhythm Drum Circle**.

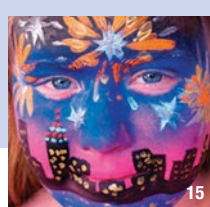
Looking for flavors from New Orleans' "Big Easy"? **The Zydeco Revelators** offer that sweet Cajun accordion, cool rubboard vest mixed with zydeco classics, rock and jam band in an irresistible "jambalaya" of sound.

Hankering for **Jazz**? Miracles happen. After a near fatal accident, the legendary guitarist **Frank Vignola** is back and better than ever with his **Hot Jazz Guitar Trio**, with guitar partner, Vinny Raniolo, and "monster" bassist, Gary Mazzaroppi. One of the top five guitarists in the world according to the great Les Paul, Vignola has performed with Lionel Hampton, Ringo Starr, Wynton Marsalis and other superstars, bringing his astounding virtuosity, sly humor and incomparable musicianship back to our stage. 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.

If **Folk Music** is your bag, be sure to catch the wit and wordplay of comedy folk singer, **Carla Ulbrich**, with her songs about wedgies, Waffle Houses, Klingons and how rich she would be if she had the copyright on the "F" word. Remembering Pete Seeger, **Spook Handy** "keeps the flame alive," in his ongoing World Tour, sharing Seeger's music and legacy in all 50 states, 10 Canadian provinces and 21 NJ counties. You'll want to hear the **Windborne Singers**, a unique quartet of vocal chameleons who will captivate you with the purity of their voices, their close harmony singing and a fascinating repertoire spanning centuries / cultures.

(Continued on page 2)





1.) Champion Irish Fiddler, Brian Conway; 2.) Tavche Gravche, Gypsy/Neo-Balkan Trio; 3.) David Darwin, One Man Sideshow; 4.) Shubanjali Indian Classical and Folk Dance; 5.) Comedienne Erin Jackson; 6.) Mimi Topping demonstrating Zentangle; 7.) Global fusion ensemble, Afrika Meets India; 8.) NJTAP2, young tap dance ensemble; 9.) Comedian Tom McTiernan; 10.) Clowns "Glitter" and "Juggles" at Children's Fun Festival; 11.) At the Atrium Gallery: Chris Kappemeier's oil, *Taxi Crossing Manhattan Bridge*; 12.) Bascove's oil, *Inscope Arch*; and 13.) Ruth Bauer Neustadter's multimedia work, *Dreamscape*; 14.) Alborada Spanish Dance Theatre; 15.) Transformations Facepainting; 16.) Mr. Hypno, Comedy Hypnotist Stephen Christopher; 17.) Dinoman Dinosaurs!

## 27th First Night® Morris County (Continued from page 1)

First Night's **Classical** offerings include the superb artistry of Moldovan piano virtuoso, **Maria Sumareva**, winner of international piano competitions who dazzles with a repertoire spanning the Baroque through contemporary. The **Baroque Orchestra of New Jersey** explores great orchestral works from the 17th through the 21st centuries while the **Solid Brass Quartet's** grand and resonant brass features music from the Renaissance, Baroque and contemporary eras. Known for its inventive, international programming, **Harmonium Choral Society** will feature South and Central American Christmas music, spirituals, Yiddish and American works. And, for "something completely different," check out the **Electro/acoustic Oboe** mastery of **Matt Sullivan** whose sonic explorations/improvisations produce sounds you've probably never heard from any double reed instrument.

First Night's generous sampling of **World Cultures** includes the global fusion ensemble, **Afrika meets India**, blending the rich rhythmic and melodic traditions of India and Africa. Irish (and other) eyes will be smiling at the music of champion **Irish Fiddler, Brian Conway** while **Tavche Gravche**, a gypsy/neo-Balkan trio, offers a unique, fiery mix of Balkan/Eastern European and Mediterranean melodies while maintaining the explosive dance rhythms of Balkan music. Feeling mellow? Groove on the lilting, joyous music of **Random Test Reggae** playing Caribbean *reggae*, *soca* and *calypso*. **Alborada Spanish Dance Theatre** showcases Spanish flamenco traditions while **Shubanjali's** dancers highlight **Indian Classical/Folk Dance**.

Speaking of **Dance**, in addition to the power, passion, and castanets of the **Alborada Spanish Dance Theatre** and the stunning costumes and intricate gestures/footwork of **Shubanjali's Indian Classical/Folk Dance**, First Night's roster offers the dynamic rhythms of **NJTAP2**, whose young artists highlight the great American art form of rhythm tap dancing. If you love line dancing, square dancing or are just curious, neither experience nor partner is needed to participate in **Square Dancing with caller, Mary Moody** – fun for all ages.

Looking for **Theater/Comedy**? Laugh your way into the New Year with the wit and wry humor of two comedy stars, **Erin Jackson** and **Tom McTiernan**. Erin's megawatt smile and keen insights have made her a regular at NYC's top comedy clubs, on numerous TV comedy shows and as a semifinalist with NBC's *Last Comic Standing*. Tom is one of the East Coast's best (and cleanest) comedians, featured at top clubs on both the East and West Coasts, on TV and opening for top acts in Atlantic City and Las Vegas. More laughs are in store with **Mr. Hypno's Comedy Hypnotism** as hypnotized volunteers discover such hidden talents as ballet dancing

or cow milking! **Illusionist Benjamin Lipman's** Comedy Cascade combines circus arts, vaudeville and humor with juggling, mime and magic. Billing themselves as "Manhattan Transfer meets *Second City*," **The Loose Canons** are master purveyors of musical parody. A semifinalist with *America's Got Talent*, **David Darwin, the one-man sideshow**, astounds audiences with his contortions, sword swallowing, glass walking, magic, juggling, fire manipulations and comedy. And, if you love history, don't miss **Living Voices: Our Revolution**, a profoundly moving account of the American Revolution, told from the perspective of an African-American soldier (portrayed by a professional actor) and enhanced by riveting documentary graphics.

**Children's/Family Programs:** Who could resist **Dinoman Dinosaurs!** with Bob Lisaius' life size, inflatable dinosaurs? **Rizzo's Reptile Discovery** shares live reptiles (and other animals) – under the watchful eye of a seasoned animal handler. Catch the clowns, face painting and glitter tattoos 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** explores **The Mystery & History of Magic**, making things float in the air, appear/disappear and replicating signature feats of legendary magicians. Another favorite, **Storyteller Julie Pasqual**, brings her uniquely playful, physical theater skills, sharing stories from around the world.

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 popular **Fun with LEGOs®**. New to this year's early session is the **NJTAP2**, an ensemble of young tap dancers, sharing their skills in rhythm tap dancing as well as **Square Dancing with Caller, Mary Moody**, with fun for the whole family.

**Visual Arts:** No experience is necessary to try **Zentangle**, a unique method of drawing using structured patterns, guided by art teacher Mimi Topping. And, as in years past, 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](http://www.firstnightmorris.com).

*One inexpensive admission (before 12/21: \$20/ticket; \$17.50 for 4 or more prices go up 12/22-12/31/18) 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](http://www.firstnightmorris.com) or call the First Night® Morris official ticketing partner, the Mayo Performing Arts Center Box Office at (973) 539-8008.*



# Morris Arts Awards Local Arts Grants for Funding Year 2019

Morris Arts is pleased to announce that 30 Morris County arts organizations received Local Arts Grants totaling \$55,700 for Funding Year 2019. These grants help support visual arts, theatre, dance, choral and instrumental 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); 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); Festival of Books through CFNJ (Morristown); First Night® Morris County (Morristown); Folk Project (Morristown); Good Grief (Morristown); Hanover Wind Symphony (Whippany); Harmonium Choral Society (Morristown); Huaxia Chinese Chorus (Parsippany); Kiwanis Club of Randolph (Randolph); Lakeland Youth Symphony (Parsippany); Masterwork Chorus (Morristown); Morris Choral Society (Morristown); Morris Music Men (Morristown); Morristown Neighborhood House (Morristown); Music at Morristown United Methodist Church (Morristown); New Jersey Jazz Society (Summit); New Jersey Womens Theater Company (Lake Hiawatha); Opera at Florham (Convent Station); The Seeing Eye (Morristown); Skylands Songwriters Guild (Ledgewood); Visions and Pathways (Bridgewater); and Wind of the Spirit (Morristown). Additionally, \$2,000 is available for mini-grants in 2019.



Clockwise from top left: Chris Matthews, author and MSNBC host at the Morristown Festival of Books; a Korean Drum Dancer (with KTDOD) at First Night Morris County, December, 2018; Art in the Atrium's 2018 Featured Artist Leroy Campbell with his painting *Passing down the Tradition*; Flutes and Brass from Hanover Wind Symphony; a Lakeland Youth Symphony rehearsal.

## Mentoring + Persistence = cultural diversity

Thanks to their own determination and to mentoring by Morris Arts' Local Arts Grant administrator, Carlos Sotelo, the Huaxia Chinese chorus rebounded from last year's unsuccessful grant application to winning a FY2019 Local Arts Grant. The difference was their actively seeking and receiving additional mentoring with regard to application requirements. The end result: a packed, diverse and enthusiastic audience attending their November 11th performance at the Parsippany Public Library. (An added bonus was the delicious free food provided by the Chorus). With a mission to "promote cultural exchange, music appreciation" and "to broaden the cultural horizons," this excellent mixed-voice choir is a beautiful addition to the diversity of cultural offerings in Morris County.



The Huaxia Chinese Chorus

regard to application requirements. The end result: a packed, diverse and enthusiastic audience attending their November 11th performance at the Parsippany Public Library. (An added bonus was the delicious free food provided by the Chorus). With a mission to "promote cultural exchange, music appreciation" and "to broaden the cultural horizons," this excellent mixed-voice choir is a beautiful addition to the diversity of cultural offerings in Morris County.

## Arts & Culture Collaborative announces the LatinX ConeXiones project



An umbrella organization formed in 2017 "to collaboratively develop arts & culture projects," bringing together creators and audiences and encouraging mutual understanding and inclusion, the Arts & Culture Collaborative includes 20 (and growing) area organizations: The Baroque Orchestra of New Jersey, County College of Morris, College of St. Elizabeth, Drew University, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Macculloch Hall Historical Museum, Madison Arts and Culture Alliance, Mayo Performing Arts Center, Morris Arts, Morris County Organization for Hispanic Affairs, Morris County Historical Society at Acorn Hall, Morris School District and Morristown High School, Morris Museum, Morristown National Historical Park, Morristown and Morris Township Library, Morristown United Methodist Church/First United Methodist Church in Dover, Museum of Early Trades and Crafts, Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, Wind of the Spirit, Zufall Health Center.

On November 17, 2018 at MPAC's Starlight Room, the Collaborative officially announced the launch of its LatinX ConeXiones project. Prior to a festive and exciting performance by Ballet Folklórico de Mexico, attended by 900 at MPAC, Morris Arts' Tom Werder, Alan Levitan, along with Kadie Dempsey, Luz Huertas (FDU) and Nieves Gruneiro (CCM) explained that the project would include events, exhibitions, performances, learning experiences and other creative endeavors developed by member organizations and focussing on the arts and culture of LatinX artists and communities in Morris County. Participation may encompass fine arts, crafts, dance, education, food, history, installations, literature, music, poetry and other creative disciplines occurring anytime during 2019, with a focus on the September 15 - November 15, 2019 timeframe. The events will take place in venues across Morris County, publicized via members' websites, newsletters and social media as well as via a Collaborative calendar of events prior to and during the fourth quarter of 2019. Alan Levitan, added: "The Collaborative has been working together for more than a year. We are excited to begin sharing our ideas and plans for next fall's LatinX ConeXiones. Individuals, businesses and organizations interested in learning more about us and joining should contact me or Tom Werder through Morris Arts."



At top: The Collaborative's new logo (designed by John Weber); Above: Dancer, the Ballet Folklórico de Mexico.



## Ehlers and Coladarci Arts Scholarship applications available in December



Due by **5pm on Friday, January 18, 2019**, applications will be available in early December at the guidance offices of Morris County public, private and parochial high schools and online at the Morris Arts website, <http://goo.gl/GqidYf> or [www.morrisarts.org](http://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, 2018 Scholarship recipients: Honorable Mention artist Coral Coad, actress Nicole Giordano (Coladarci), pianist John Nguyen with Morris Arts' Executive Director, Tom Werder. L-R, at top: Nicole Giordano and John Nguyen.

## 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](mailto:gmoran@morrisarts.org) or at (973) 285-5115, x13.

## Thanks...

to our very generous recent funders whose support makes our work possible: The Allergan Foundation; Frank & Lydia Bergen Foundation; investors Bank; MetLife Foundation; Mondelēz Global LLC; Morgan Stanley & Co., Inc. and William E. Simon Foundation.

### Morris Arts

14 Maple Avenue, Suite 301  
Morristown, NJ 07960  
(973) 285-5115  
Editor: Dr. Lynn L. Siebert



Partial funding for ARTS MATTERS from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/ Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

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](http://www.morrisarts.org),

like us on , and follow us on .

## Save the Dates:

- **DECEMBER 31, 2018:**  
**First Night Morris County,**  
81 events in 23 venues Morristown,  
4:45pm-midnight, visit [www.firstnightmorris.com](http://www.firstnightmorris.com) for tickets and information.
- **MAY 1, 2019:**  
**Great Conversations Gala,**  
5-10pm, Birchwood Manor, Whippany, NJ

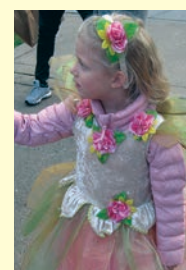
## great conversations

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 **May 1, 2019** 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!



## 9th Annual Pumpkin Illumination

On October 28th, more than 1,300 people joined Morris Arts at the Vail Mansion to celebrate the 9th Annual Pumpkin Illumination. After placing their carved pumpkins along the reflecting pool, kids and their families participated in the mask-making workshop led by artist Dan Fenelon. The Lintet jazz ensemble added a lively musical background, playing "When the Saints Go Marching In" as they joined with Morristown Mayor Tim Dougherty and his wife Mary, leading the parade of glowing masks and the giant skeleton puppet created by Fenelon around the circular drive near the Vail Mansion. Mondelēz-provided goody bags topped off the festive night!



Clockwise from top left: masks at Vail mansion monument; Kevin O'Brien, 2nd Vice Chair of the NJ State Council on the Arts with Morristown Mayor Tim Dougherty; artist Dan Fenelon sits among his lit mask creations; a young 'Wood Fairy' attended with her family; it takes 3 to work Fenelon's giant skeleton puppet; carved pumpkins line the reflecting pool.

For more information and photos, visit [www.morrisarts.org](http://www.morrisarts.org) and the MorristownGreen.com writeup at <https://tinyurl.com/y7ewmtqp>.

Morris Arts gratefully acknowledges the generosity of sponsors:

