

ArtsMatters

SHOWCASING THE ARTS IN THE MORRIS AREA



2021



L-R, Top Row: 1) John Siegenthaler – former anchor for NBC Nightly News and MSNBC, Partner at Finn Partners; 2) Nicole Bennett – CEO of Pethealth, Inc.; 3) Mark Rivera – Longtime saxophonist for Billy Joel; 4) David Burke – Celebrity chef, restaurateur and cookbook author; 5) Daniel Varga, MD – Chief Physician Executive at Hackensack Meridian Health. L-R, Middle Row: 6) Willie Cole – Contemporary American sculptor, conceptual and visual artist; 7) George Philander, PhD – Renowned climate scientist, El Niño expert, Knox Taylor Professor Emeritus of Geosciences at Princeton. L-R, Bottom Row: 8) Ruth Clements – VP/GM of Infectious Disease & Immunology at Quest Diagnostics; 9) David Stanchak - President, Chief Real Estate & Development Officer at RH (Restoration Hardware); 10) Nancy Pak – CEO of Tate's Bake Shop; 11) Anne Berry – Chief Investment Officer at Wheelhouse; and 12) Richard Constable – EVP, Global Head of Government Affairs & Social Impact at Madison Square Garden Entertainment.

You don't want to miss this memorable experience – Morris Arts' *Great Conversations from Home*. Zoom fatigue doesn't apply to this uplifting, inspiring and intriguing event! So fire up your computer, settle in with your favorite quarantine cocktail, don those comfy slippers, and join the fun at our fabulous *Great Conversations from Home*, from 6:30-8:30pm on April 29, 2021.

What can guests expect? Nothing less than the sheer delight of interactive conversations with extraordinary and accomplished hosts from the arts, sciences, healthcare, entertainment, business, media, and more.

What is it like to share a stage with Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr, Billy Joel or Bruce Springsteen? How do you create powerful sculptures entirely from women's shoes? Can "useless knowledge" (i.e., basic research) lead to critical discoveries? Can examining climate change lead STEM students to appreciate the natural world more deeply? What's the best way to

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Mark your calendars now so you don't miss this one-of-a-kind evening while supporting Morris Arts' valuable work in the community!

Date: Thursday, April 29, 2021

Time: 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Place: Your computer screen

Tickets: \$125 if purchased by 4/11/21; \$150 after that

Contact: Gina Moran at gmoran@morrisarts.org

Morris Arts' Honors Ehlers and Coladarci Arts Scholarship Winners



L-R, 2021 Scholarship Winners: Visual Artist Peyton McGarry (Ehlers Arts Scholarship) and Soprano Ananya Vasireddy (Coladarci Arts Scholarship).

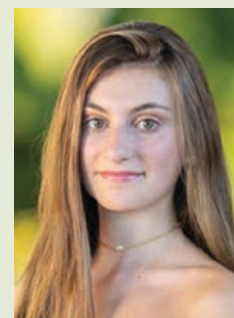
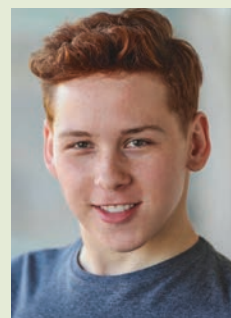
The 2021 Ehlers Arts Scholarship winner, visual artist **Peyton McGarry**, a graduating senior at Chatham High School, will pursue studies in art and architecture at Syracuse University next fall. She pursued years of additional training – in fashion design, interior design, and technical drawing/architecture at New York's Fashion Institute of Technology as well as drawing, painting (landscapes, portraits, still life, contemporary art) in a variety of media at the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey (Summit) as well as ceramics and sculpture at Madison Mud. Among other awards, Peyton won the nationwide Scholastic Art and Writing Gold Key Award for her powerful sculpture, "Gun Re-form" – which she created in response to the Sandy Hook killings and which was displayed at the Montclair Art Museum for several months. The maturity of her vision, the range of her subject matter, the technical polish of her execution, excellence in a variety of media and abundant creativity of her portfolio greatly impressed the panel. As one recommender wrote: "She takes advantage of each moment to create, revise and critique. She brings her ideas to life with superior craftsmanship and finesse." Another stated, "Peyton's creativity is limitless. She has pursued every art and design class offered at CHS and has demonstrated a clear passion and gift for visual art, architectural and 3D design and fashion design."

This year's Coladarci Scholarship winner is soprano, **Ananya Vasireddy**, a graduating senior at The Academy for Mathematics, Science and Engineering at Morris Hills High School who will be attending Stanford University next fall. She plans to minor in music and/or pursue a certificate in voice, sing in Stanford's chamber chorale and join their Raagapella *a capella* group, combining her love of classical Western and Indian music. Ananya trained at Westminster Choir

College – in their highly selective Solo Vocal Artist Program (by audition only) and their Contemporary Vocal Institute, where she won a merit scholarship and performed improvisation/jazz solos. Additionally, she studied voice and classical guitar at the Lindeblad School of Music and continued private lessons in classical voice and musical theatre vocal training with a Montclair State/University of Oklahoma voice professor. Among her many honors, she qualified for the All Eastern Honor Mixed Choir, ranked among the top 10 of Soprano 2s in All State Mixed Choir and placed 1st in the 2020 Morris Area Choral Directors' Association Honor Choir. Her voice was featured in the Penn Masala's Gaana Masala (Bollywood Fusion Music) competition video and she soloed in a Carnegie Hall performance of Haydn's "The Mermaid's Song." At the Governor's School for Engineering & Technology, Ananya's team built a generative music machine learning model that could produce original songs in seconds. She wrote eloquently of exploring not only Indian and Western classical music traditions but also the interconnections between the arts and sciences. Her impressive performance video demonstrated a true natural talent, with nuanced phrasing, outstanding intonation, fine breath control, centered and rounded vocal production, a wide dynamic range, excellent diction, a mastery of foreign languages, and an exceptional ability to convey the meaning of the text she was singing. One recommender stated, "...she sings like an angel" while another cited "her gift of a beautiful voice" and "...her ability to use languages and engage her audience."

Given this year's unusually strong applicant pool, the panel also awarded three Honorable Mentions, in recognition of the exceptional achievements of these applicants: Composer (violinist/pianist) Kailyn Williams (Morristown Beard School), Actor (dancer/singer) Andrew Palmieri (Chatham High School) and Actor Ava Longarzo (Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child).

The judges were unanimous in their choices. Congratulations to all!



L-R, 2021 Honorable Mention winners: Composer Kailyn Williams, Actor Andrew Palmieri and Actor Ava Longarzo.

Morris Arts Offers New Jersey Teaching Artists Relief Grants — March 15, 2021 deadline

Morris Arts is pleased to offer grants for New Jersey Teaching Artists experiencing financial hardship due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

Eligibility: practicing New Jersey Teaching Artists who are professional artists with dual careers as educators – in all artistic disciplines (music, dance, theatre, visual arts, writing) – who work in schools, museums, social service and community settings. Applicants must demonstrate strong financial need and a history of arts-based income. Full time K-12 or college faculty are not eligible. Applicants must live in New Jersey, be 18 years or older and able to receive taxable income in the United States.

March 15, 2021 is the grant application deadline. Awardees will be notified by email of the decision no later than April 30, 2021. Morris Arts will mail payment to awardees shortly following notification email. Grant awards are unrestricted and can be used for any kind of emergency relief. Grant recipients will not be required to file a final report. The decisions of Morris Arts are final.

The process: Morris Arts will administer the application, selection process, notification and disbursement of funds. All applications will be reviewed against the listed criteria for eligibility by Morris Arts staff. Once eligibility has been confirmed,

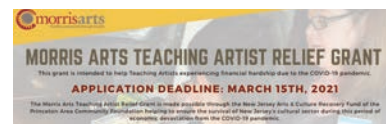
an independent grant panel will review applications and make award recommendations. Recommendations will be approved by the Morris Arts Board of Trustees.

Grants will be awarded based upon demonstrated financial need, available funding, and an equitable distribution of funds relating to racial/ethnic diversity, geography (South, Central, North New Jersey) and arts disciplines. We expect the need in the field to be extremely high.

The Morris Arts Teaching Artist Relief Grant is made possible through the New Jersey Arts & Culture Recovery Fund of the Princeton Area Community Foundation helping to ensure the survival of New Jersey's cultural sector during this period of economic devastation from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Application forms are available here at <https://tinyurl.com/t4aror4n> and at www.morrisarts.org.

Guidelines are also available in Spanish. If you have any questions please email Barbara Reuther at breuther@morrisarts.org.



Morris Arts Awards Local Arts Grants for Funding Year 2021



L-R: The British Invasion Years performed at First Night Morris County; ARTS by the People's artist Maxine Steinman for *Stories in Motion* program; All Children's Art Center of NJ; Madison Arts & Culture Alliance artist Dennis McKee's *The Yellow Tower*.

Morris Arts is pleased to announce that 28 Morris County arts organizations received Local Arts Grants totaling \$61,200 for Funding Year 2021. 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.



L-R: Skylands Songwriters Guild performer; Jazz trumpeter, Bria Skonberg, on New Jersey Jazz Society's magazine cover; Artwork Studios (Randolph) student; Fairleigh Dickinson University's WAMFEST.

2021 Local Arts Grant Awardees include: All Children's Art Center of New Jersey (Boonton), ARTS By The People (Morristown), Artworks Studio (Randolph), Baroque Orchestra of New Jersey (Dover), Community Foundation of New Jersey (Morristown), Cornerstone Family Programs/Morristown Neighborhood House (Morristown), Coro Lirico (Morristown), County College of Morris – Teen Arts Festival (Randolph), Dance Innovations Performance Foundation (Chatham), Downtown Denville Business Improvement District (Denville), Fairleigh Dickinson University – WAMFEST (Madison), First Night Morris County (Morristown), Friends of the Roxbury Library (Succasunna), Good Grief (Morristown), Grow it Green Morristown (Morristown), Harmonium Choral Society (Morristown), Huaxia Chinese Chorus (Parsippany), Lakeland Youth Symphony (Parsippany), Lyrica Chamber Music (Chatham Township), Madison Arts and Culture Alliance (Madison), Masterwork Chorus (Morristown), Morris Choral Society (Morristown), Morristown National Historical Park (Morristown), New Jersey Jazz Society (Summit), Opera at Florham (Convent Station), Roxbury Art Alliance (Ledgewood), Skylands Songwriters Guild (Ledgewood); and Visions and Pathways (Bridgewater).

Additionally, \$2,000 in mini-grants was awarded to Family Partners of Morris & Sussex Counties (Morristown) and MOMI – Museum of Imagination and Innovation (Morris County).



Clockwise from top left: Cornerstone Family Programs/Morristown Neighborhood House's preschool program and Unity Dance & Drill team; Tesla Quartet, chamber music group featured by Lyrica Chamber Music; Harmonium Choral Society; Lakeland Youth Symphony.

Great Conversations from Home

Continued from page 1

handle "crisis communications" amidst chaotic and fast moving situations? Where does one start to recover/rebuild after natural catastrophes – and what is the social responsibility of government and business at such times? How does one become a celebrity chef?

Spend an evening exploring these and many other questions – with hosts ranging from a celebrity chef/cookbook author, an internationally renowned climate scientist, the longtime saxophonist for Billy Joel, the Chief Physician Executive of a major health/hospital group, a former TV news anchor, a best-selling author, an acclaimed sculptor/conceptual artist, or any of the other similarly talented, distinguished and fascinating leaders and innovators.

Each "table" will feature a host Conversationalist whose unique experiences, life story and achievements will catalyze intriguing conversations. You may be surprised by what you discover at this truly memorable event.

How will it work? When registering, each guest selects his/her top five Conversationalist choices. Virtual table assignments are made on a first come, first serve basis. Tickets are now available (and going fast) for this special event. Visit <http://www.morrisarts.org> to find out more about each of the host conversationalists and to purchase tickets for this special event. For more information please email Gina Moran at gmoran@morrisarts.org.

Proceeds from Great Conversations help to support the many programs and services provided by Morris Arts. Often accomplished "behind the scenes," Morris Arts' work serves hundreds of thousands of people each year – with arts in education programs, arts programming in the community, grants, scholarships, advocacy, creative placemaking events and support for artists and arts organizations. These efforts are critical to enriching and improving the quality of life in the broader community. Join us from the comfort of your couch and savor the art of conversation, "meet" some extraordinary individuals and help a truly worthy organization give back to the community.

Morris Arts gratefully acknowledges the generosity of our corporate sponsors:

ENCORE:

Crum & Forster; Hackensack Meridian Health; MCM Wealth Management at Morgan Stanley; NJ Advance Media providing services for *NJ.com* & *The Star-Ledger*; NJTV; ROI-NJ

GREEN ROOM:

Delta Dental of New Jersey

OVATION:

Finn Partners; Mondelēz International; Quest Diagnostics

APPLAUSE:

BASF; Delta Dental of New Jersey; MetLife; Morristown Medical Center; NK Architects; Pfizer; RH (Restoration Hardware)

STAR:

PwC; Riker Danzig; Senlac Ridge Partners; Sherman Wells Sylvester & Stamelman

Morristown Young Artist/Student Mentoring Program Continues to Thrive

The 2020-2021 Morristown Young Artist/Student Mentoring Program is off to a wonderful start as a virtual program this year. Each Tuesday afternoon, students meet with artist mentors Susan Faoila and Dan Fenelon for class. Despite meeting over Zoom, students have been more engaged than ever and have been enjoying seeing their classmates and connecting with one another. Students have been sharing their project progress with their mentors and classmates on an online portal that allows for critiquing between classes. During the first few weeks, students worked on a self-portrait project and studied artists who are known for their self-portrait techniques.



Self-portrait by Mentoring student Elizabeth Peyton

2021 ARTS IN EDUCATION PROGRAM GUIDE

we've also made the Guide interactive. On each page you'll find program descriptions and interactive links to artist websites and email addresses enabling you to connect to artists immediately. They'll be happy to guide you through the process of coordinating and scheduling a program or to answer any questions you may have about content, grade levels or pricing. The Guide also features video highlights so you can preview a few of our virtual programs. As always, we're available to answer questions or guide you through the process. You can contact us by email breuther@morrisarts.org or by calling Barbara Reuther at 973-285-5115 or cell 973-945-9737. Visit www.morrisarts.org to view more in-depth descriptions.

We're happy to announce our 2021 Arts in Education Program Guide – filled with programs designed to educate and inspire students of all ages. In addition to all the fantastic new virtual programs we've added –

Morris Arts

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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,

like us on , and follow us on .

To support Morris Arts: How to get involved . . .

- **Consider an in-kind gift.**

Now is a great time to share your technical or professional expertise or items that you think might be useful to Morris Arts.

- **Celebrate holidays and milestones with a tribute gift to Morris Arts.**

A donation to Morris Arts is the perfect gift to for a loved one committed to creativity.

- **Check to see whether your company has a matching gift program.**

Some companies will match the donations or value of volunteer time given by their employees.

- **Send us your e-mail address!**

We value sustainability and community – help us communicate with you more effectively as we all work to build a greener, more creative world. To sign up, visit www.morrisarts.org.

All contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. For more information contact Gina Moran, Morris Arts' Director of Development, at gmoran@morrisarts.org or (973) 285-5115, ext. 13.

Thanks

to our very generous recent funders (since our last newsletter) whose support makes our work possible: Broadridge Financial Solutions; Crum & Forster; GRC Management Corporation; Masterwork Music & Arts Foundation; Mondelēz Global LLC; Morgan Stanley Foundation; Morris County Department of Human Services; New Jersey Arts & Culture Recovery Fund; New Jersey Economic Development Authority; New Jersey State Council on the Arts; Village Supermarkets

SAVE THE DATE:

April 29: Great Conversations, 6:30-8:30pm