

# **SaratogaArtsFest 2010**

## **Background Information on Performing and Literary Artists**

*[Information about Visual Artists begins on page 15]*

### **The Albany Symphony Orchestra Brass Quintet**

The Albany Symphony is a vibrant cultural organization in the New York Capital Region and enjoys a national reputation for its adventurous and innovative programming and recording projects. Under the artistic direction of Music Director David Alan Miller, the Albany Symphony Orchestra annually performs a Classical Series of nine concerts, a Berkshire and Saratoga Series of three concerts, two Magic of Christmas concerts, two Family concerts, and undertakes a wide variety of composer residencies and educational programs for the community. The 2010-11 concert season marks the Albany Symphony's 80th Anniversary and its debut at Carnegie Hall as part of the Spring for Music innovative programming series.

### **The Amazing Kids' Circus**

The Amazing Kids' Circus has been making kids the focus of its show for the past 24 years throughout the East Coast and Canada. Locally it has performed at First Night Saratoga, First Night Albany, The Victorian Stroll Troy, Tulip Festival Albany, and Capital District Apple Festival.

### **Annie & the Hedonists**

Annie & the Hedonists is a band with a great lead singer and tight harmonies, covering an eclectic mix of acoustic folk, torchy blues, standards, bluegrass, gospel, labor ballads, and early jazz. Annie Rosen on lead vocals; Jonny Rosen on guitar and vocals; Steve Fry on mandolin, trumpet, guitar, keyboard, and vocals; Betsy Fry on bass and vocals.

### **The Audiostars**

The Audiostars is a kinetic four-piece band that delivers know-'em-by-heart classic songs with the energy and passion that define live music at its very best. Featuring former members of some of the top bands in the Northeast—including vocalist J. Yager and guitarist Matt "Lanky" Pirog of The Burners U.K., drummer Chad Ploss of The Refrigerators, and bassist Bobbie Van Detta of City Rhythm—the Audiostars doesn't just get the party started: this band keeps it going strong.

### **Back Porch Prodigy**

Over the top, bluesy rock, folk and soul: James Gascoyne, Chris Carey, Chris Kyle, Jay PT, and Nate Solomon. Five organically grown, locally known artists with more than a half-century of combined experience collaborate on a rare set of original, yet familiar songs.

### **Ballston Spa Community Band**

The Ballston Spa Community Band originated as a program of the Ballston Spa Central School District Community Education Program in February, 2006. In December, 2007, it

was granted non-profit organization status. Now in its fourth season, the band continues to bring its love of music to the community through public performances.

### **Noah Baumbach**

Often described as witty, insightful and unapologetically New York, it was no surprise when writer-director Noah Baumbach drew comparisons to Woody Allen and Whit Stillman. A childhood spent in art house theaters helped shape his lifelong ambition to become a filmmaker. Raised in Brooklyn, Baumbach attended Vassar College, where he majored in English and wrote and directed his own plays. A promising entry at the 1995 New York Film Festival, Baumbach's debut feature, *Kicking and Screaming*, received distribution in Los Angeles and New York, but failed to crack six figures at the box office. It did, however, receive a fair amount of critical acclaim, making it an art house hit.

His important friendship with writer-director Wes Anderson led to collaboration on the script for Anderson's *The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou* (2004) and Baumbach's seminal film, *The Squid and the Whale*. After marrying his longtime girlfriend, actress Jennifer Jason Leigh, Baumbach cast her in *Margot at the Wedding* (2007). He next teamed with buddy Wes Anderson to co-script Anderson's first animated feature, an adaptation of children's author Roald Dahl's *The Fantastic Mr. Fox* (2009). This film was nominated for a Golden Globe Award for Best Animated Film. Baumbach was back behind the camera for *Greenberg* (2010), co-scripting with wife Leigh the studio comedy about a middle-aged man (Ben Stiller) at a crossroads.

### **Warren Bernhardt**

Internationally acclaimed jazz pianist Warren Bernhardt began playing classical piano as a child and took an interest in jazz while attending the University of Chicago in the late 1950s. In 1962, he relocated to New York City as a member of the Paul Winter Sextet. His career has included work with such notables as Gerry Mulligan, Clark Terry, David "Fathead" Newman, Mike Mainieri, Jack DeJohnette, and Jeremy Steig.

Warren Bernhardt has accompanied pop and folk singers such as Carly Simon, James Brown, Paul Simon, Art Garfunkel, Tim Hardin, Richie Havens, James Taylor, Don McLean, Donald Fagan and Bette Midler. He was co-leader of the band Steps Ahead, musical director and pianist with Steely Dan, and now co-leads an all-star quintet called L'Image with Mainieri, Steve Gadd, Tony Levin, and David Spinozza. He has released over 20 CDs and played on more than 50 major motion picture soundtracks and hundreds of other albums. He has just returned from a tour of the U.S. and Canada with Simon & Garfunkel.

### **Bicycle Lessons**

*Guy Mastrion*

A graduate of Parsons, The New School For Design, Guy Mastrion has worked in multimedia production for 30 years. His experience ranges from print design to broadcast production in radio, TV and Web. As an advertising creative director, Guy has produced broadcast assignments for a wide range of clients and works today as Chief Global

Creative Officer and founding partner of Palio Communications in Saratoga Springs. *Bicycle Lessons* is Guy's first film as Co-Producer and Director of Photography.

### *Jason Ward*

Jason Ward, producer of *Bicycle Lessons*, has worked as an actor, TV host, and producer. As a producer and founder of Candy Factory Productions, Jason produced the short narrative comedy *Regular Guy*, which won ten awards at various international film festivals. He also produced *Ride*, a live action event documenting the Americade motorcycle rally in Lake George. Jason is a graduate of the Walnut Hill School of Performing Arts and acted in numerous Boston stage productions.

### *John Wager*

John Wager, director of *Bicycle Lessons*, has worked in various aspects of the film and music industry. As a songwriter and composer, he has won three Grammy Awards. In 1996, he formed Galileo Media Arts, a sound studio and full production facility for film and music. Galileo has produced various works, from pre-production to finished product, including audio work for Ken Burn's *Baseball* and Maya Angelou's *Phenomenal Woman*. Recently, Galileo has produced and directed four commercials for Sam Adams Beer, starring founder Jim Koch.

### **Patricia Birch**

Director Patricia Birch has earned two Emmy Awards and five Tony nominations in a career that crosses all media. Other honors include Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle, Barrymore, Billboard, and MTV awards, as well as a Directors Guild nomination and the prestigious Fred Astaire Award for her choreography and direction of music-driven projects ranging from *Sondheim* to the *Rolling Stones*. Just last year, she was inducted to the Theater Hall of Fame.

She is currently choreographer for *Boardwalk Empire*, an HBO series to debut this fall, with executive producer, Martin Scorsese. Previously, she has created the musical staging for numerous original Broadway and off-Broadway shows, ranging from *Grease* to *Candide*. Direction and choreography credits include *Celebrating Gershwin* at BAM and the Melissa Manchester musical *I Sent a Letter to My Love*; with Michael Tilson Thomas and the San Francisco Symphony, semi-staged productions of Gershwin's *Of Thee I Sing* and *Let 'Em Eat Cake*, as well as *The Thomashefskys*, which will be at Avery Fischer Hall next year. She has collaborated with the New York City Opera, The Opera Company of Boston, and Chicago Lyric Opera, and has also worked with the New York State Theatre Institute on numerous productions.

Ms. Birch's film credits include choreography for all musical sequences in *Grease* and direction as well as choreography on *Grease 2*. She has also staged musical sequences for many other noteworthy films. For television, Ms. Birch has directed Natalie Cole: *Unforgettable with Love* and *Celebrating Gershwin* (Emmy Awards in direction). She was choreographer for *The Electric Company* and staged numbers for *Saturday Night Live* stars Gilda Radner, Steve Martin, Bill Murray, both Belushis, and Dan Ackroyd. She directed music videos for Cyndi Lauper, The Rolling Stones, Carly Simon, and the

NBC Olympics. After receiving her training at the School of American Ballet, and the Martha Graham School, Pat Birch became a soloist in the Graham Company, and played Anybody's in West Side Story.

### **Rick Bolton**

"I grew up in Hague. When summer hit, we got some culture, but not enough to hurt us. I buried myself in my room in winters and learned to play guitar. I listened to the Beatles and the Stones, and I worked backward toward the music's roots." Those traditions have found their way to the bands he's led for thirty years, including, most famously, the T-Bonz. His other bands include Big Medicine and Rick Bolton and the Dwyer Sisters, which includes his wife, artist Sharon Bolton, and her sister Molly.

### **George Boone Blues Trio**

An influential and veteran singer/songwriter/guitarist with commanding presence, George Boone explodes into an intense marriage of raw feeling and technical prowess, echoing the impassioned pleas and emotional authority of the most important legends of the blues. Take in the sound of the George Boone Blues Trio, which in 2008 and 2009 opened for BB King at the New Jersey Meadowlands.

### **Burnt Hills Oratorio Society**

Founded in 1970, Burnt Hills Oratorio Society strives to perform major choral works, discover or commission challenging contemporary pieces, and actively mentor young singers. Burnt Hills Oratorio Society attracts between 60 and 90 vocalists across all age groups and vocations from throughout the Capital Region. Started by Glenn Soellner, and now under the gifted direction of Rand Reeves, whose involvement as chorister, soloist and director dates to 1979, this non-profit organization celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

### **Caffè Lena**

Caffè Lena is widely recognized as the oldest continuously operating coffeehouse in the United States, an internationally renowned cultural center, and an American treasure. Opened in 1960, the café helped launch many of America's best loved songwriters, including Bob Dylan, Arlo Guthrie, and Ani DiFranco. In 1989, upon the death of founder Lena Spencer, Caffè Lena was converted to a non-profit institution. Caffè Lena has always been an intimate place where people renew their faith in the power of music.

### **Carnegie Hall Premieres presenting Ensemble ACJW**

Ensemble ACJW is the performing arm of The Academy—a program of Carnegie Hall, The Juilliard School, and The Weill Music Institute in partnership with the New York City Dept. of Education. The Academy's two-year leadership program for young professional musicians develops the skills and values for careers combining musical excellence with education, community engagement, and advocacy. The program provides opportunities to perform in concert halls, to teach in public schools, to engage in local communities and college campuses, and to support this work through professional development.

### **Michael Chesworth**

Children's author and illustrator Michael Chesworth has animated the pages of numerous books, among them stories by Bill Martin, Astrid Lindgren, and Pat McKissack, just to name a few. While titles such as *Jingle the Brass*, *Touchdown Mars!: An ABC Adventure*, *Pippi to the Rescue*, and *Rainy Day Dream*, feature Chesworth's engaging artwork, books such as *Alphaboat* also include the illustrator's original text.

*Alphaboat* engages readers in both a playful and educational tale that follows Mellow D's quest to find a hidden treasure chest on the I-land, with the help of all the letters of the alphabet, both upper and lower case. Each letter is personified in a colorful illustration that distinguishes its unique characteristics. In addition, Chesworth utilizes a rhyme scheme to keep kids entertained and the story enjoyable. "The lighthearted play will make you giggle as you read this tale to your children," commented *Childhood Education* reviewer Lisa Bilansky. A *Publishers Weekly* contributor also enjoyed the work, dubbing *Alphaboat* "Witty," and noting that Chesworth's "brain-teasing voyage ... should tickle the newly literate and old salts as well."

### **Richard Danielpour**

Grammy-award winning composer Richard Danielpour has established himself as one of the most gifted and sought-after composers of his generation. His music has attracted an illustrious array of champions, and, as a devoted mentor and educator, he has also had a significant impact on the younger generation of composers.

His list of commissions include some of the most celebrated artists of our day: Yo-Yo Ma, Jessye Norman, Dawn Upshaw, Emanuel Ax, Frederica von Stade, Thomas Hampson, and Gary Graffman; the Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio and the Guarneri, Emerson, and American String Quartets; the New York City and Pacific Northwest Ballets; and the New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia and Stuttgart Radio Orchestras, Orchestre National de France, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, and many more. With Nobel Laureate Toni Morrison, he created *Margaret Garner*, his first opera, which premiered May 2005 and had a second production in autumn 2007 with New York City Opera. Richard Danielpour's music is published by Associated Music Publisher, and since 2009, with Lean Kat Music Publications.

### **Danny Dobek**

Pianist Danny Dobek is a native New Englander, now residing in upstate New York, who attended Berklee College of Music for three years. After Berklee, Danny went on to play with John Bishop (former guitarist for Ray Charles), George Brown (drummer for the late Wes Montgomery), and George Benson. Today, he combines performances, studio session work, and teaching. He is working on his ninth album.

### **Dirty Little Boogie Band**

This high-energy fusion band of bluegrass-driven funk and soul found its members through the collaboration of local artists. Brought together by the Saratoga Springs open mic and music scene, Mitch Safford, Derik Buchner, Zach Young and Jurij Owad fell

together to form the core of the evolving band. With singer-songwriter Mitch's upbeat rhythm guitar and scat-like lyrics providing the building blocks, Derik's soulful leads, Zach's grooving bass lines, and Jurij's funk-ed-up rhythm, the band snaps together to keep everybody swaying and moving.

### **Empire State College**

Empire State College is a comprehensive public college within SUNY that awards associate, bachelor and master's degrees. Its mission is to enable motivated adults, regardless of geography or life circumstance, to design a rigorous, individualized academic program and earn a college degree.

### **Empire State Youth Orchestras**

Empire State Youth Orchestras provides high-quality music education/performance opportunities to over 300 talented young musicians, helping them develop leadership skills and teaching them the importance of sharing their talents with others. Well known as the "Melodies of Christmas" orchestra, the organization also includes an inner-city music training program and 9 performing ensembles. Members come from eastern New York and western New England. Annually, Empire State Youth Orchestras ensembles give approximately 30 performances, including concerts for young people and seniors.

### **Debra Fernandez**

A Professor of Dance at Skidmore College since 1991, Debra Fernandez received her B.A. from the University of South Florida where she studied with Haydee Gutierrez, Royes Fernandez, and Chase Robinson. Debra's choreography, which spans dance, theater, and opera, has been seen in numerous New York venues, including the 2000 Obie award-winning space, Five Myles, as well as MASS MoCA and the Tang Museum. Her second collaboration with painter Paul Henry Ramirez entitled "Zero Point Zero" was recently performed the Newark Museum

She worked with the Williamstown Theater Festival for seven years as a movement instructor, coach, and choreographer. She is a panelist for The New York State Council for the Arts and is on the board of directors of the National Museum of Dance. She is long-time yoga practitioner and leads workshops throughout the Capital Region. .

### **Flying Kite Children's Theatre**

Flying Kite Children's Theatre is led by co-artistic directors Kate Pitney-Gaba and Michelle Summerlin-Yergan. Their mission is to introduce children to the magic of live theater and inspire young imaginations. Flying Kite offers classes, workshops and summer camps to both aspiring actors who want to perform mainstage, as well as for students who want to learn the backstage process, learn to create costumes and design scenery. They produce four shows a year with open auditions for actors ages 7 and up.

### **The Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College**

The Tang Museum, an interdisciplinary museum located on the campus of Skidmore College, has as its mission to promote cross-disciplinary dialogue through its exhibitions. Tang Museum exhibitions feature contemporary art, but regularly address other disciplines, including the natural and social sciences, performing arts and humanities.

Tang Museum public events and education programs serve both the College and audiences of all ages from the Capital District and beyond.

### **Gallim Dance**

Founded in 2006 by choreographer Andrea Miller, Gallim Dance is based in New York City. The dance company's mission is to create, to play inside the imagination, to find juxtapositions of the mind and body that resonate in the soul, to investigate limitations and pleasures, and to realize the endless human capacity for inspiration. Gallim Dance has performed in premiere dance venues including Jacob's Pillow, Joyce SoHo, Judson Church, Dance Theater Workshop, Alvin Ailey Citigroup Theater, Juilliard, Battery Park, WHITE WAVE, and The Flea Theater.

### **Rubén Graciani**

Skidmore Assistant Professor of Dance Rubén Graciani graduated from the North Carolina School of the Arts where he majored in modern dance. While at the Juilliard School in New York City, he studied with the Martha Graham Company and the Merce Cunningham Dance Company. Rubén completed his studies at the SUNY Purchase, where he was invited to perform in three international festivals in Taiwan and China. His subsequent five-year affiliation with the Mark Morris Dance Group resulted in national and international tours. A member of bopi's black sheep/dances by kraig patterson since its inception, Rubén received his M.F.A. from the University of Maryland, College Park where he presented nine works of choreography for the Maryland Dance Ensemble. In September of 2005 he joined the faculty at Ohio University as an Assistant Professor. Rubén has been a member of the Joe Goode Performance Group for two seasons as well as a Guest Artist with the Brian Brooks Moving Company and sbb-the group, a Paris-based modern dance company.

### **Home Made Theater**

Home Made Theater is the resident company in the historic Spa Little Theater in the Saratoga Spa State Park. Now in its 25<sup>th</sup> season, HMT produces a four-show season between October and May. HMT also offers classes in the theater arts to all ages and provides the community with an opportunity to participate in all aspects of the theater.

### **Homespun Community Dancing with Peter, Paul & George**

Homespun Community Dancing combines the talents of three exceptional performers. Peter Davis, proficient on numerous wind, keyboard, and string instruments, performs with national names such as Jay Ungar and Molly Mason, and takes his own swing and jump blues band to swing dances throughout the Northeast. Paul Rosenberg is a gifted dance teacher who loves to make dance fans out of beginners and those with "dance phobia." Paul is known for his gentle (but energetic) encouraging style, concise teaching, and offbeat sense of humor. George Wilson is a multi-instrumental virtuoso and singer. As a fiddler, he has mastered nearly 400 tunes for dancing and listening; he plays at contradances, festivals, and dance and music camps nationwide.

### **Hubbard Hall Projects**

In 1978, members of the Cambridge community formed Hubbard Hall Projects to purchase, restore, and operate Hubbard Hall Opera House, built in 1878. Today, the Hall functions as a center for cultural activity. The Theatre Company at Hubbard Hall produces seven plays per year including an outdoor summer Shakespeare play. With a mission to “Make Art and Community Happen,” Hubbard Hall is also home to a professional opera company. It offers numerous arts and crafts classes for all ages, a full program of dance, from ballet, modern, teaching and performance of various ethnic traditions.

### **Hyperion String Quartet**

Described as “vivacious” by New York City's WQXR public radio and “a single living breathing organism...bringing grand and glorious life to the music” by Classical Voice of North Carolina, the prize-winning Hyperion String Quartet was formed in 1999 at the Eastman School of Music. It has since performed from California to New York’s Lincoln Center, and has had several live radio and television appearances. The Quartet has been selected to participate in such prestigious programs as the Juilliard String Quartet seminar and the Emerson Quartet International Chamber Music Workshop. Hyperion was the Young Quartet in Residence at the Strings in the Mountains Festival in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, in 2002 and 2003, and served as the Young Artist Ensemble in Residence at the Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival in 2005 and 2006. The Quartet is currently based in Saratoga Springs.

### **Ray Jung**

Ray Jung attended Berkley College of Music studying under Nick Goodrick. Ray taught and performed at the Guitar Institute in California. He then travelled in England where he studied and played with many famous musicians. He recorded the “Four Seasons” CDs with Cole Broderick locally in the early 1990s and he currently teaches at Drome Sound and works at the Danny Dobek Keyboard Studio in Rotterdam, NY. He is very active in his church, Calvary Tabernacle Church.

### **Elizabeth Woodbury Kasius & Heard**

The original repertoire of Heard is the work of composer-arranger-pianist Elizabeth Woodbury Kasius who brings a wide array of styles—jazz, classical and world music—into her captivating soundscape. Her inspirations come from her diverse experiences and interests and are often drawn from the raw and powerful sources that nature provides. Heard's dynamic and eclectic lineup of musicians provides Elizabeth with a multitude of talents and textures to compose for, and to perform with.

### **Lake George Opera at Saratoga**

The opera company that once was a dream founded on the majestic shores of Lake George is now a major performing arts organization serving over 36,000 individuals annually. Making its home in beautiful Saratoga Springs, Lake George Opera at Saratoga has gained recognition across New York State and beyond by “giving voice to the arts” through high caliber productions, instruction of young people through various education programs, and by conducting the second oldest Apprentice Artist Program in the country.

The Opera provides professional opera and opera education for a region encompassing Albany, New York, to points north in the Adirondack Mountains, and into western New England. Established in 1962 by opera lovers and aficionados, the Opera has a long, proud legacy of producing innovative, outstanding works that critics and patrons rave about each and every year.

### **Brandon Lee**

Brandon Lee has been called “one of the baddest young trumpeters out there” by Wynton Marsalis. The Juilliard graduate’s debut album, *From Within*, was released in 2007 and in 2008 he was the youngest member ever to be appointed to the Juilliard faculty. Lee has played with noted jazz musicians Kenny Barron, Carl Allen, Roy Hargrove, and Christian McBride among others. His latest release is *Absolute-Lee*.

### **Michelle Lewis**

Michelle writes intensely visual songs, rich with melodic texture and emotional depth, and she performs with an unmistakable swagger. Too refined to call folk and too personal to call pop, her music surprises listeners who think they know what to expect from a singer/songwriter, and those who never expected to like one. Michelle recorded her debut album, *This Time Around*, in 2004 and is currently celebrating the release of her new EP, *Broken*.

### **José Limón**

José Limón (1908-1972), a pioneering Mexican-born modern dancer and choreographer, is regarded as one of the modern dance world’s seminal creative artists. Known for his intense dramatic presence and the theatricality of his dances, Limón, along with his mentor Doris Humphrey, founded the Limón Dance Company in 1946. Today, the acclaimed company carries on Limón’s vision, performing both classic works as well as commissions from contemporary choreographers for audiences around the world.

### **The Local Actors Guild of Saratoga**

The Local Actors Guild of Saratoga was started in the fall of 2007 with its staged reading of the 9/11 drama, *The Guys*. Since then, LAG has produced 12 full-length plays and musicals at The Saratoga Arts Center. LAG is committed to bringing quality theater to Saratoga Springs that is both challenging and appealing to all audiences. To date, LAG has brought over 60 local actors to its stage.

### **Bairbre McCarthy**

Ireland’s Sunday Tribune describes Bairbre McCarthy as a master storyteller who can weave a great story. As a seanchaí (storyteller), she continues the oral tradition of the Celts. A native of County Clare and graduate of University College Galway, Bairbre is an author of children’s books and Irish legends. The Irish Prime Minister brought her latest book, “The Keeper of the Crock of Gold” to the White House on St. Patrick’s Day as a gift for President Obama’s daughters. Bairbre’s books on Irish mythology are published by Mercier Press, Cork, Ireland.

### **Franklin Micare Duo**

On his own, or in a duo, Franklin Micare has the ability to ignite an audience at any nightclub or party. His musical repertoire is endless from the soft, smooth voicings of Sinatra to the Drifters of the 1960s, to Latin. Micare also boasts an impressive record of performing, including tracks on the “Lost Lennon Tapes” radio show produced by Yoko Ono. He has recorded three solo albums with original music as well as CDs with his trio. In addition, he has been heard on numerous TV commercials.

### **Walt Michael**

Walt Michael is a virtuoso of tremendous influence in the revival of that complicated, heavenly instrument: the hammered dulcimer. His wide repertoire ranges from old-time Southern Appalachian, to Celtic, to breath-taking originals. His forty-year career has taken him from the coal camps of Appalachia to the closing ceremonies of the 13<sup>th</sup> Olympic Winter Games, and to countless folk festivals and clubs of excellent repute in between.

### **No. 11 Productions**

No. 11 Productions is a not-for-profit theatre company dedicated to creating theatre of the unexpected. No. 11’s first production was an original adaptation of Lysistrata, which premiered at SaratogaArtsFest and went on to the New York International Fringe Festival. Other productions include Claire and the Ornithological Shadow (South Street Seaport), The Elephant Man/The Musical (Capital Fringe and South Street Seaport), Mythunderstood (SaratogaArtsFest), Jet of Blood (FRIGID New York), and We Three (Capital Fringe and FringeNYC).

### **Nouveau Jazz Beat**

Jazz vocalist/clarinetist Jeanine Marie Ouderkirk performs with instrumental electronica group Le Rubb. DJ/electronics artist Nick Kopp and composer/multi-instrumentalist James Gascoyne collaborate with several guest artists, creating a unique sound as they remix classic standards with a club lounge spin. Crowds have been getting down to the swinging sounds of Nouveau Jazz Beat at the Circus Café, where the group has performed regularly over the last few years.

### **NYSTI**

The New York State Theatre Institute was created by state legislation in 1974. Collaborating with a committed group of educators and artists, founding director Patricia Di Benedetto Snyder believed that theatre for family audiences must be of the highest quality, and that theatre can be used to make the world a better place. Today, NYSTI stands as an internationally-acclaimed professional and educational regional theatre.

### **Alix Ohlin**

A native of Montreal, Alix Ohlin is the author of two works of fiction: Babylon and Other Stories and The Missing Person. A work of criticism about contemporary art and the environment is forthcoming. Her fiction has appeared in the Best American Short Stories, Best New American Voices, and on NPR’s “Selected Shorts.” She lives in Easton, Pennsylvania, where she teaches at Lafayette College.

### **Rich Ortiz**

Rich Ortiz, never a wallflower, believes he is the product of his family's cultural diversity and strengths. Since the age of seventeen he has focused all of his talents and time on his acoustic solo act. Rich plays six and twelve-string acoustic guitar, harmonica, and peddle bass (with his feet), and he turns heads with his vocals! Inspired by artists like Jim Croce, James Taylor, The Beatles, Stevie Wonder and Willie Nelson, he says "I feel I have to change every gig around in order to grow as a musician."

### **Otto's Jacket**

Otto's Jacket is a four-piece rock and roll band from Saratoga Springs that has experienced some national and international success. Many people have tried to describe the group's music as a mix between The Band, The Rolling Stones, and Wilco, only to decide that the Jacket has a sound that is truly unique. Founded by vocalist/bassist Mike Blair and vocalist/guitarist Marc Hartman, Otto's Jacket is rounded out by Jamie Munyon on keyboards and Joshua Corrigan on drums. With fresh material and frequent local radio airplay, Otto's Jacket is ready take the music scene by storm.

### **Keith Pray**

Saxophonist and composer Keith Pray is a native of upstate New York. He began his study of the saxophone in 1988 at age 15, and had his first professional performance one year later. Since then, Keith has traveled from the West Coast to Europe playing with hundreds of gifted musicians, including some of the giants of the business: Paul Anka, Benny Golson, The Temptations, Ray Vega, Mark Vinci and Ralph Lalama. After eight years living and performing in New York City, he relocated to the Capital Region. In addition to his regular performances, Keith teaches saxophone at SUNY Oneonta, jazz arranging and jazz history at Schenectady County Community College, and instrumental music for the Schenectady City School District.

### **Sean Rowe**

As thick and sweet as molasses, Sean Rowe's baritone is one of those rare singing voices that will leave you forever changed. Like Al Green, Van Morrison, or Gil Scott-Heron at their best, this is deep soul you'll feel right down to the tips of your toes. As *Metroland Magazine* noted in naming him Best Solo Artist 2009, "Sure, this guy once ate a chipmunk so as not to starve, but he also opened for Boz Scaggs and the Doobie Brothers, so cut him some slack. Better yet, give his recent album *Magic* a spin and then try to tell us Rowe ain't the bee's knees. This survivalist has pretty much the best baritone around and certainly knows his way around a six-string."

### **Same Blood Folk**

Cousins Jenny and Zachary Collins began performing together in 2007, giving the band its name, meaning "folks of the same blood." Jenny has a clear-as-honey voice and is a seasoned performer, having opened for Blues Traveler and Little Feat. Zachary's mesmerizing guitar talents show themselves without being boastful or overpowering. Brendan O'Connor provides a deeply technical and outlandishly funky percussion

backbone. Colin Nevison adds richness to the band's solid sound on the keyboard and accordion.

### **Saratoga Acoustic Blues Society**

The Saratoga Acoustic Blues Society, aka SABS, was founded in Saratoga Springs in 2008 by local blues aficionados and performers Phil Drum, Ray Giguere and Dave Scheffel. The trio specializes in the "old school" blues and ragtime music of such legends as Robert Johnson and Blind Lemon Jefferson. In addition to being a musical group, SABS is a not-for-profit organization, supported by donations and money made playing the blues around town, with the mission of promoting the performance, enjoyment and knowledge of acoustic blues in the Saratoga Springs/Capital region.

### **Saratoga Chamber Players**

The Saratoga Chamber Players, founded in 1986, is now under the artistic direction of Jill Levy, who is also concertmaster of the Albany Symphony Orchestra. The musicians present programs of chamber music in Saratoga and Warren Counties. Outstanding professional musicians from Canada, Europe, and the U.S. offer varied repertoire from classic and contemporary composers.

### **Saratoga Children's Theatre**

Enriching. Educating. Inspiring. Saratoga Children's Theatre's mission is to unleash the creative potential of children as students and actors. SCT offers children chances to develop skills and tools that will serve them for life. It strives to make the imaginative celebration a shared experience for children, families and our community. SCT not only creates theatre, but also instills a life-long love and participation in the arts of Saratoga Springs.

### **Saratoga Springs Youth Orchestra**

SSYO is a youth organization dedicated to fostering excellence in musical arts through structured rehearsal and community performance opportunities throughout the Capital Region. The 2010-2011 schedule will include a Pops Concert, a Rock Orchestra Concert with Mark Wood from the Trans Siberian Orchestra, along with our Serious Symphonic Concert at the Troy Savings Bank Music Hall.

### **Jon Shain and The Grandsons**

Jon Shain is a North Carolina-based songwriter who delights audiences with his jaunty, rootsy mix of Piedmont blues, swing, and ragtime. His original songwriting finds those heartstrings and gives them a good, hard yank. Tonight, he'll be accompanied by The Grandsons, a Washington, D.C. quartet that has been touring the world for 30 years. The Grandsons' exuberant sound has been described as "American music in a blender with the lid off." The more prominent elements in this eclectic whirlpool are New Orleans rhythm and blues, rockabilly, swing, and country two-steps.

### **Ellen Sinopoli Dance Company**

The Ellen Sinopoli Dance Company, resident company of The Egg, embraces a lush and vibrant choreography that is classically modern in style while uniquely entwined with a fast, spirited energy. "Exuberant, serendipitous, flawless, gutsy and soaring" and

“magicians in motion” are just some of the expressions used to describe ESDC dancers who delight audiences of all ages with movement that celebrates rhythm, energy and musicality. Since 1991, Artistic Director Ellen Sinopoli has created 65 new works and has collaborated with over 25 artists of distinct genres and backgrounds, such as architectural designer Frances Bronet, sculptor Jim Lewis, clarinetist Don Byron and composer Hilary Tann. ESDC was selected by Metroland as “Best Dance Troupe” for 2007 and 2009.

### **Sirsy**

This fiery, sultry, soulful, pop rock duo is a musical breath of fresh air in the too often homogenized landscape of indie rock. Sirsy is fronted by the charismatic Melanie Kraemer, who is also the band’s drummer, playing a full drum kit, bass parts (on a keyboard with her drum stick), a few Ian Anderson-esque flute solos and melodica, too. Rich Libutti plays everything else: guitar, piano, bass on a keyboard at his feet, and the occasional snare part with his feet. Despite the musical multi-tasking on stage, Sirsy’s live show is passionate, energetic, and always about connecting with its audience.

### **TAKE Dance**

TAKE Dance is a New York City-based contemporary dance company exploring the integration of expressive and physical movement. Artistic Director Takehiro “Take” Ueyama, a native of Japan, studied at the Juilliard School before joining the Paul Taylor Dance Company. After eight years with Taylor, Take founded TAKE Dance. Take blends Eastern and Western sensibilities to communicate the universal human condition: exciting athletic movement and an unusual sensitivity are combined to create distinctive work that is uniquely “TAKE.” Through its diverse movement, musical choices, subject matter and artistic partnerships, TAKE Dance brings a unique depth and fulfilling experience to audiences.

### **Tales ‘n Tunes**

Tales ‘n Tunes is a musical storytelling duo from the Capital District of New York. For twenty years, Carol Connolly and Don Darmer have been presenting programs in schools, libraries, museums, and at community events and festivals. Original songs and musical stories, which allow for plenty of audience participation, are their forte. The high energy of Tales ‘n Tunes engages children and has them singing and clapping along. The duo’s first CD, *Travelin’ Down the Road: Sing Along Stories from Around the World*, was awarded both an iParenting Media Award and a NAPPA Honors Award. The latest CD, *Bunches of Beasts*, also won a NAPPA Award. Both CDs garnered rave reviews in the *School Library Journal* and *Bunches of Beasts* also received a fantastic review in the *ALA’s Booklist*.

### **Tequila Mockingbirds**

High falutin’ acoustic blues, jazz, gypsy swing, classic rock & originals since 2004. George Fletcher and Peter Pashoukos on guitars.

**Jeff Walton**

Every so often you hear of that rare, no-gimmicks solo entertainer blessed with the ability to just capture the mood of any audience, no matter the occasion. Jeff Walton is that entertainer. Performing professionally since 1985, Jeff spellbinds his audiences with his unbelievable repertoire of songs, allowing them to make requests from a 500+ song list. His gut wrenching vocals coupled with his incomparable guitar and harmonica chops put him in a class by himself. Whether it's rock, folk, country, blues, reggae, Irish, classics, or his original material, Jeff is in complete control and it's only a matter of time before everyone is singing. There are few guarantees in life but one of them surely is a good time when Jeff Walton is at the mike.

**Xiayin Wang**

An artist with a winning combination of consummate technical brilliance, fine musicianship, and personal verve, pianist Xiayin Wang wins the hearts of audiences wherever she appears, frequently in such venues as New York's Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center. A Steinway artist, she has already achieved a high level of recognition for her commanding performances from national media.

**Tim Wechgelaer**

A highly-sought after solo performer, teacher, composer and band member with international credits, Tim Wechgelaer currently plays in two very popular bands in New York's Capital Region: Jim Gaudet and the Railroad Boys and the Big Medicine Band, an ensemble that perennially headlines several music festivals each year. Past performing credits include a stint with Celtic giants The McKrells, and numerous country and western bands. He has 20+ years experience playing in and around the New York City area, and has made his family's home in Saratoga Springs since 1997.

## **Background Information on Visual Artists for SaratogaArtsFest Special Exhibitions**

### **Amejo Amyot**

Amejo makes indoor and outdoor sculpture of birds and female figures.

### **David Arsenault**

Upstate New York painter David Arsenault was first inspired by art in 1970 when he discovered a reproduction of Edward Hopper's painting "Gas" in a grade school library book. It wasn't until the early 1990s, however, when a professor reintroduced him to Hopper's work, that he decided to study painting. It's not surprising, then, that the Wall Street Journal has said: "Some of Mr. Arsenault's paintings could pass for works by Edward Hopper." He uses large shapes and dramatic lighting with strong color contrasts in creating a compelling sense of mood, time and place. Each piece presents a private, quiet contemplation of the simple beauty of everyday existence. Arsenault strives to describe moments of shared human experience by expressing the transformational qualities of light, a sense of deeply personal solitude, and the elusive frozen moment in time." David's paintings and prints are in collections throughout the United States. He is represented by the Blue Heron Gallery, Wellfleet (Cape Cod), in Massachusetts, as well as in a number of online galleries.

### **Sarah Bean**

"I am a thirty-year-old visual artist originally from Maine. I came to collage from a background in physics and mathematics. I have been making a living as an artist for the last five years. I currently live in the mountains of Virginia with a group of poets, painters and musicians.

My artwork is a combination of photography, acrylic paint and found imagery collaged together using classic and cubist forms. I visually incorporate literature and poetry similar to a modern version of ancient Chinese storytelling. The surface is meticulously worked and resembles architectural forms."

### **Ian Berry**

Ian Berry is Associate Director and the Susan Rabinowitz Malloy '45 Curator of the Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College. A specialist in contemporary art, Berry has organized over fifty museum exhibitions. Recent publications include Kara Walker: Narratives of a Negress; America Starts Here: Kate Ericson and Mel Ziegler; Fred Tomaselli; and Tim Rollins and K.O.S.: A History.

### **Anthony Cafritz**

Founder of Salem Art Works in 2005, Anthony Cafritz has been a professor of art at Castleton State Community College in Castleton, Vermont; Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts; and Union College in Schenectady, New York. Formerly a studio assistant to renowned sculptor Mark Di Suvero, Cafritz has exhibited his work in numerous solo and group exhibitions.

### **Sandra Capecci**

Sandra Capecci is a Saratoga artist of multiple medias and disciplines, speaking in a newly found form. With an initial background in Graphic Design and Illustration, Sandra has explored a variety of artistic expressions over the past 30 years, including advertising, children's books, dimensional art, murals, and photography. Her work ranges from the classical to the abstract, she has appeared in publications and galleries, and has provided essential decorative elements to a wide range of environments around the world. While designing restaurant and retail interiors, she recognized her clients' need for bold, conceptual, original art. Subsequent experiments in paint, paper, and pastels led her to this current style of mixed media: beginning with collage form, she embellishes each work with texture and color of various media to create unique and evocative pieces. Her subject matter is inspired by the textures or colors of the found images. Sandra's goal with New Visions is to provide moments of reflection, to allow the viewers' thoughts to flow, and to offer creative spaces where imaginations can travel.

### **Los Carpinteros**

Since the early 1990s, Marco Antonio Castillo Valdés and Dagoberto Rodríguez Sánchez have been working together under the name Los Carpinteros. Both artists were born in Cuba in 1971 and 1969, respectively, and graduated from the Superior Art Institute of Havana. Their work has been widely exhibited, including exhibitions at P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, Long Island City, New York; Mori Art Museum, Tokyo; Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Havana; and Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris. Their work can currently be seen in a solo exhibition at the Tang Museum.

### **James D'Andrea**

James D'Andrea has undergraduate degrees in Arts Education, Illustration and an MFA in Figurative Drawing from the New York Academy of Art. He has shown his work in numerous exhibitions, including the popular Take Home a Nude, organized by Sotheby's and The Drawing Room, at The Arts Center. He has a wide range of teaching experience including teaching in public and private schools, as well as at the college level. His work is included in private collections around the world.

### **Dorothy Dehner**

Dorothy Dehner (1901–1994) was born in Cleveland, and studied at UCLA before moving to New York City. In 1925 she enrolled in New York's Art Students League and from 1950–52, she studied at Skidmore College. She had major retrospectives of her work at the Jewish Museum, New York; City University of New York; Katonah Museum of Art, New York; and Cleveland Museum of Art. Her work is included in the collections of the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Art Institute of Chicago, and Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, among others.

### **Anne Diggory**

A multi-media artist using watercolor, oil, charcoal and photography in her work, Anne Diggory lives in Saratoga Springs and frequently paints in the Adirondacks, the Hudson

River Valley and in Arizona. She graduated from Yale and has an MFA from Indiana University. She exhibits extensively in the New York and New England area and is represented by Blue Mountain Gallery in New York City. Her work is in numerous private and corporate collections nationwide, including recent purchases by Phoenix Home Life in Albany, Bessemer Trust in San Francisco, AYCO in Saratoga Springs. Her work has been featured in American Artist, Adirondack Life, and The New York Times.

### **Mark Di Suvero**

One of the most important American artists to emerge from the Abstract Expressionist era, Mark di Suvero began showing his sculpture in the late 1950s. His sculptures have been exhibited in citywide exhibitions in Paris, Venice, New York City, Stuttgart, Nice and Valence, France, and he was the first living artist to be shown in Le Jardin des Tuileries in Paris. Storm King Art Center mounted major exhibitions of di Suvero in 1985 and once again in 1995 and 1996.

### **Andy Dunnill**

Currently a professor at UNC Greensboro, Andy Dunnill has exhibited sculpture at Sculpture Center, NY, and large-scale outdoor works at Roosevelt Island and Long Island University, NY. Andy has also exhibited at the Navy Pier in Chicago, St. Paul's Western Sculpture Park, MN, and Franconia Sculpture Park, MN, where he was a resident artist in 1997. Recently Andy had a one-person exhibition at the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art in Winston Salem, NC. His sculptures are primarily steel, cast metal and mixed media.

### **Anne Francey**

Anne's paintings and drawings are abstractions that are often inspired by nature. Anne Francey was born in 1956 in Grandson, Switzerland. She attended Ecole des Beaux-Arts de Lausanne (ECBA) from 1976 to 1981, where she received a diploma in fine arts in painting. In 1981, she moved to New York City, where she attended the School of Visual Arts and the graduate program of Fine Arts at Hunter College, graduating with an MFA in 1987. Anne presently lives and works in Saratoga Springs and travels frequently to Switzerland and Tunisia. Besides her artistic practice in painting, drawing and ceramic, Anne Francey is an art professor and conducts art workshops for children. She is regularly invited as an artist in residence in public schools, where she works with students on creating collaborative ceramic murals.

### **Cecilia Frittelli & Richard Lockwood**

Cecilia Frittelli and Richard Lockwood have been textile designers for 25 years, married since 1984, and business partners since 1990. They started their business in New York City as "Manhattan Handweavers" and expanded as "frittelli & LOCKWOOD" during the 1990s in the Adirondacks. Frittelli and Lockwood moved to Saratoga in 2000 and set up a studio in an old mill building in Glens Falls called the Shirt Factory. Involved with the Saratoga Arts District for many years, they searched for local space; in 2008 major renovation work began on an 1850 building in the Arts District. In July 2009 they opened Textile Studio gallery, displaying their handwoven clothing and accessories alongside

their looms and yarn collections. Cecilia has a BS in Theatre Design and Textile Arts, Skidmore College; weaving workshop with Michael Schier at Syracuse University; and was a visiting student in scenic design at Wesleyan. Richard has a BA in English, Hobart College and an MA in Drama, Syracuse University.

### **Drew Goerlitz**

Drew Goerlitz received his MFA in Sculpture from the University of Maryland and his BA from SUNY Plattsburgh. Goerlitz has exhibited his work across the United States, Europe and Mexico. He has taught at the University of Notre Dame and currently teaches at SUNY Plattsburgh.

### **Jene Highstein**

Born in Baltimore in 1942, Jene Highstein studied philosophy, painting, and drawing at the University of Maryland, University of Chicago, and Royal Academy in London, before turning to sculpture in the late 1960s. Since the late 1960s, his work has been widely exhibited, including recent solo exhibitions at P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, Long Island City, New York; Baumgartner Gallery, New York; and Texas Gallery, Houston. His work is included in numerous collections, including the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; and Victoria and Albert Museum, London. Highstein currently lives and works in New York.

### **Carolyn Justice**

Carolyn Justice graduated from the Fashion Institute of Technology and has worked as an illustrator, portrait artist and teacher. She has a studio in her home and at the Beekman Street Co-op. Her work is currently being shown at Mimosa Gallery on Beekman Street in Saratoga Springs and has been exhibited in regional and national shows. She has also received numerous awards for her work, including, most recently, The Marion Strueken-Bachmann Award for Landscape, given by the Pastel Society of America.

### **Martin Kersels**

Born in Los Angeles in 1960, Martin Kersels received his B.A. and M.F.A. from UCLA in 1984 and 1995 respectively. His work has been widely exhibited, including solo exhibitions at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco; Kunsthalle, Bern, Switzerland; and Tang Museum. Recent group exhibitions include the 2010 Whitney Biennial and “Seriously Funny” at the Scottsdale Museum of Art, Scottsdale, Arizona. Kersels currently lives and works in Los Angeles.

### **Nicole LaFayette**

“I have always had a love of jewelry, and that love has turned into my passion. Jewelry has always brought a smile to my face. It’s rewarding to see people smile when they buy my jewelry.”

### **Michelle LaLonde**

The one-of-a-kind and limited edition handbags crafted by Michael and Michelle LaLonde are a rare combination of sculpture and contemporary fashion. This makes

perfect sense, when you learn that Michelle was previously a professor of handbag design at New York's Fashion Institute of Technology. By contrast, Michael LaLonde learned to make leather accessories alongside his father during the 1970s. Working together for the last 24 years, the duo has redefined wearable art handbags, emphasizing quality craftsmanship. Traditional fiber methods, such as silk-screening, quilting, trapunto, appliqué, beading, pleating, embroidery and weaving are used on these collectible pieces. The handbags are crafted using only the finest leathers and fabrics.

### **Coral Lambert**

Coral Lambert received her MFA in Sculpture from Manchester Met University. She regularly shows her work on both sides of the Atlantic. She has lectured as a visiting artist at the Royal College of Art, London, Chicago Art Institute, and the New York Institute of Technology, among many others. She founded The US/UK Symposium, which annually occurs in England or America. She leads the National Casting Center Foundry at Alfred University where she is Professor of Sculpture.

### **Peter Lundberg**

A sculptor and curator of monumental cast concrete sculptures, Peter Lundberg's work has been exhibited at Storm King Art Center, Grounds for Sculpture and at the entrance to the George Washington Bridge. Lundberg exhibits throughout Europe, having shown work in Germany, Norway, Switzerland and the Czech Republic. Lundberg also helped to establish new sculpture parks in Sweden, Germany, Philadelphia, Saratoga Springs, and Bridgeport, Connecticut. He resides and maintains studios in Dusseldorf, Germany and Hubbardton, Vermont.

### **Michael Manjarris**

Sculptor Michael Manjarris has studied in Ireland, Cuba, Spain, Mexico, and Italy. His geometric sculptures make use of a range of materials, including limestone, rope, clay, dirt, glass, cotton, and found materials. His work has been exhibited at the New Gallery, Houston; Jones Center for Contemporary Arts, Austin; Center for Contemporary Arts of Virginia, Virginia Beach; and the Audubon Park Sculpture Garden, New Orleans, among many others. He has curated for several outdoor sculpture locations, including "Contemporary Outdoor Sculpture in Meditation Park" at the Beeville Art Museum and "Hudson River Sculpture Trail: Art on the Hudson." Manjarris currently lives and works in Houston, Texas.

### **Beverley Mastrianni**

Bev has been making sculpture since graduating from Skidmore in 1976. Her early work was mostly abstract and landscape-based. Through the years, Mastrianni's work has become more conceptual and she is known for incorporating complex elements into her sculptures.

### **Doretta Miller**

Doretta Miller, Professor of Art at Skidmore College, received her AB degree from Ripon College, and Doctorate of Art Education and MFA in Painting and Drawing from Northern Illinois University. She teaches courses in foundations, drawing and painting,

and art theory at Skidmore College. Her gouache paintings and colored-pencil drawings have received numerous awards, and are included in the permanent collections of The Hyde Collection and the Albany Institute of History and Art. Her current work is featured at First Street Gallery in New York City. In 1996, Miller was Visiting Professor of Western-Style Oil Painting at Qufu Teachers' University in China. In 2003, she served as Faculty Curator at the Tang Teaching Museum and co-authored the catalogue for the exhibition "Brushing the Present: Contemporary Academy Painting from China." As guest curator in 2008 at First Street Gallery, she was editor of the exhibition catalogue "Beijing Now: Oil Paintings by Twelve Chinese Artists." Miller held The Robert Davidson Chair in Art from 2004-2009.

### **Catherine Minnery**

"The landscape is an important source of inspiration but the final work is worked in the studio. Working from nature, I make quick sketches in small journals covering the drawings with written notes. In the end, I try to rely more on the unseen, not the visual, when creating a piece."

### **Laura Neadle**

Laura is a painter who uses watercolor and watermedia to depict local landscapes, portraits and work infused with representational and design qualities. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Fine Art from Messiah College, and a Master's in teaching from Plattsburg State University. She has taught watercolor and drawing/design from her studio in Glens Falls for ten years, and has continued private study with accomplished artists in the watercolor field, such as John Gallucci, Don Getz, and Judi Betts. She has exhibited extensively in the Saratoga and Glens Falls regions, and is a member of the Guild of Adirondack Artists, the Upper Hudson Valley Watercolor Society, LARAC, The Central New York Watercolor Society (signature member), and The Shirt Factory Artist's Association.

### **Tom O'Brien**

"While I have been involved in many aspects of art, my heart has always favored portraying the dynamic of the human condition. When creating a portrait, I strive to capture the defining qualities that make an individual exceptional." Tom O'Brien has earned critical acclaim for his commercial sculptures and paintings for the Franklin Mint, Willits Design, The Bradford Exchange, and The Danbury Mint. His theme steins and mugs created for Avon Products and CUI are unsurpassed in the field.

### **Ashlee Rubinstein**

A resident of Saratoga Springs, Ashlee Rubinstein recently graduated from Skidmore College, with a major in Psychology and Studio Art, and a concentration in Painting and Drawing. Her main inspiration is the ocean that she spent her life growing up around in Miami. Her paintings are meant to capture that sense of invasion that might occur when a person enters the world of the fishes, as if you just caught the fish off guard and it is in the middle of doing something. The paintings are still meant to be fun and playful.

**Noah Savett**

Noah is inspired by the intrinsic beauty of his materials. His compositions are based largely on the form and coloration of metals, primarily steel. Savett's sculptures develop out of his prolific drawings; he produces close to 500 thumbnail sketches a year, of which 50 or so are developed into more resolved drawings; of these, 5 to 10 might become sculptures. "They're involved. They're serious efforts, complicated pieces to make. It takes 25 pages of written and drawn notes for a piece approximately six feet ... to do this, I have to stay focused." Rarely representational, the pieces are nevertheless often humorous or whimsical. Influenced by the sculpture of Smith, Tinguely, and Oldenburg, as well as the metalwork of Gaudi, Noah strives to create works that are "visually challenging and exciting to anyone who sees them." Noah's work is shown at both group and solo exhibitions; his pieces are also on loan and part of private collections.

**Jonathan Seliger**

Born in New York City in 1955, Jonathan Seliger received his B.A. from the State University of New York at Binghamton in 1978. His work has been featured in solo exhibitions at Bologna Art First, Bologna, Italy; Aldridge Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, Connecticut; and Tang Museum. His work has been included in recent group exhibitions at the Nassau County Museum of Art, Rosalyn Harbor, New York; McClain Gallery, Houston; and Barbara Krakow Gallery, Boston. Seliger currently lives and works in New York City.

**Nancy Sharples**

Nancy Sharples received a Masters Degree in Weaving and Teaching from the Rhode Island School of Design and taught weaving and related fiber arts at the College of Saint Rose for twelve years. Nancy has worked extensively with the Arts-in- Education program and has received several grants through Saratoga Arts.

**James Siena**

James Siena received his BFA from Cornell University, New York, in 1979. Siena's work has been the subject of numerous solo exhibitions at galleries nationwide and over 55 group exhibitions throughout the world, including the 2004 Whitney Museum of American Art Biennial. The recipient of multiple honors and awards, Siena received an Award in Art from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York (2000); the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Biennial Competition Award (1999); and The New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship in Painting (1994). Siena lectures and teaches at numerous institutions throughout the United States. He completed an artist-in-residency program at Yaddo in 2004 and 2007, and is a Director of Yaddo. His work is included in the permanent collections of numerous museums, including the Museum of Fine Art, Boston; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Museum of Modern Art, and the Whitney Museum of American Art, all in New York City; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; and the UCLA Hammer Museum, Los Angeles. James Siena currently lives and works in New York City and the Berkshires.

**Trudi Smith**

Trudi T. Smith was born in Roanoke, Virginia in 1945. She received her BFA from Richmond Professional Institute and did postgraduate work at Virginia Commonwealth University where she was awarded a teaching fellowship in 1970. From 1971 until early 1997, when Smith and her husband Wayne, a ceramic artist, became full-time residents of Saratoga Springs, she lived and worked in Brooklyn. From 1991 through 1992 she studied at the Art Students League of New York with Greg Kreutz and Ronald Sher and privately with Burton Silverman in 1994. In recent years, Smith has participated and won awards in numerous juried shows in New York City and locally. She is a signature member of the Pastel Society of America. Articles featuring her pastel paintings have appeared in the American Artist Magazine and Pastel Artist International Magazine.

**Justin Thompson**

Justin Randolph Thompson is a new media artist born in Peekskill, NY and currently based in Florence, Italy. Thompson's work investigates crossroads between art historical references from Italian antiquity and contemporary African-American cultural expressions.

**Barry Le Va**

Born in Long Beach, California in 1941, Barry Le Va received his B.A. and M.F.A. from the Otis Art Institute of Los Angeles in 1964 and 1967 respectively. His work has been widely exhibited, including solo exhibitions at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia; High Museum of Art, Atlanta; and P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, Long Island City, New York. His work has been included in recent group exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art, New York and Mary Boone Gallery, New York. Le Va currently lives and works in New York.

**mi Chelle Vera**

mi Chelle Vera is a multidisciplinary artist and educator who currently lives and works in Gansevoort, NY. She has worked in numerous studios and frequently teaches workshops and exhibits around North East New York.

**Takeyce Walter**

Takeyce Walter is a local artist whose return to painting in 2005 has been documented on A Fine Art Blog. She made a commitment to finishing at least one painting a week and started blogging to help track her progress. Nearly five years later, Takeyce has maintained that commitment and is currently producing art on a regular basis. Her work is emerging, and pouring forth in these prolific years. It captures the beautiful landscape of the Adirondacks, Vermont, and Saratoga County. In addition to exhibiting her paintings online, she also exhibits in local venues. Her art has found homes in many private collections locally, nationally, and internationally. She currently lives with her family in Saratoga County.

**Ryan Wilde**

Ryan Wilde's initial interest in hats started in Ireland at the horse races, where she fell in love with the "Ascot" style hats. Her desire to design and make hats increased during the

time she spent in London. Her idol in London, Isabella Blow, spent several afternoons mentoring and encouraging Wilde's dream to become a milliner. Wilde later returned to New York City to work with Chanel. During four years at Chanel, she passionately studied millinery. In the spring 2006, she launched her first collection. This collection was carried by Patricia Field and The Hat Shop. In 2007, she left Chanel to pursue millinery exclusively. Ryan's hats have been featured in Vogue, W., Cosmopolitan, The New Yorker, Interview and many other magazines. Her styles have caught the attention of celebrities such as Iman, Helen Mirren, Rihanna, Alec Baldwin, Hilary Duff and Ashley Olsen, who have all been seen in her unusual creations. Ms. Wilde's eclectic style covers the fashion spectrum, from pink to the avant garde couture. All the hats are hand blocked and sewn.

### **Susan Wiley**

Award-winning artist Susan Wiley teaches ongoing classes in watercolors and drawing in Saratoga Springs and the surrounding area and holds workshops throughout the Capital Region. She is a signature member of the Central New York Watercolor Society and has recently won the StuArt Award in the 31st International North East Watercolor Society.

### **Michelle Winnie**

Michelle Winnie is native to the Saratoga area. She graduated with a minor in the fine arts in 1983 from SUNY Brockport. Michelle works in a studio on Beekman Street with approximately twenty other artists. Her art focuses on line and light, often describing the figure, but Michelle branches out to portray warm interiors, or other life forms.

### **John Yost**

A photographer and filmmaker from New York's Capital District, John Yost recently completed his second feature film, *The Brave and the Kind*, and is currently enrolled in the MFA program at the University at Albany. His work is often a hybrid of narrative and documentary, constantly seeking beauty, truth, and a greater understanding of the self. Mr. Yost lives a modest and happy life with his wife Raeanne, and their cat, Toonces.

### **Gary Zack**

Gary Zack has been involved with glass since 1978. His love of hot glass is founded on the immediacy and spontaneous nature of the material, as well as the interplay of color and light. Zack creates sculptural vessels, paperweight forms, and perfume bottles using traditional glassworking methods. He incorporates 23k gold, dichroic glass and canes in many of his designs. His work is found in galleries across the United States.

### **Rena Zeppetelli**

In September 2007, Saratoga Today wrote about Rena Zeppetelli: "As a resident of Saratoga Springs Zeppetelli wanted her store to be part of the community she adores. She believes she found the perfect home for Rena's Fine Flowers at 51 Ash St., on the corner of Beekman and Ash. Trained by her sister who owns a flower shop in Cape Cod, Zeppetelli has had a passion for flowers for years. She believes the handpicked flowers from around the world that she uses and her unique arrangements set her apart from similar businesses.