

SaratogaArtsFest 2011 announces community partner grants

Planning is well under way for SaratogaArtsFest 2011, and to give the preparations a boost the festival's board of directors has awarded seven programming grants to arts partner organizations. The grants, totaling more than \$10,000, will assist local organizations in enhancing their performances and events for the fifth annual citywide celebration of the arts, scheduled for June 9-12.



The grants program, now in its second year, will provide programming support to the Albany Symphony Orchestra, the Children's Museum at Saratoga, Home Made Theater, Hubbard Hall, Opera Saratoga (formerly Lake George Opera), the Saratoga Chamber Players, and the Saratoga City Ballet.

"This grant program is one of the many ways that arts organizations, which are at the core of SaratogaArtsFest, benefit from our partner alliance," said Marie Glotzbach, president of the SaratogaArtsFest board. "The programs that these groups have proposed enhance our festival programming while supporting our collective mission to build arts audiences and to promote the rich arts landscape in the Saratoga region."

The programming being planned by the grant recipients includes:

Albany Symphony Orchestra: A performance of the orchestra's brass quintet, which will offer a varied program ranging from Renaissance and Baroque selections to big band jazz and Broadway show tunes.

The Children's Museum at Saratoga: Workshops on the process of making papier maché and clay sculptures inspired by art from around the world.

Home Made Theater: *A Love Story . . . for each generation*, a cabaret performance created especially for ArtsFest 2011 that will bring to life love stories of the young and old.

Hubbard Hall (Cambridge, N.Y.): A presentation of *The Medium*, a brief two-act opera that explores the themes of obsession, superstition, and love through a charlatan psychic's surprise encounter with the unknown.

Opera Saratoga: *The Trial of BB Wolf*, a new opera for families by artistic director Curt Tucker, in which favorite children's tunes turn topsy-turvy with plenty of surprises.

Saratoga Chamber Players: A concert by string quartet and soprano featuring the works of Debussy, Schubert, Mendelssohn, and Schoenberg.

Saratoga City Ballet: A dance performance and story time for families and children.

“This grant allows us to expand our performance into a fully staged production, adding elements of staging, costumes, props, and scenery,” said Curt Tucker, artistic director of Opera Saratoga. “During an economic time when nothing can be taken for granted, we are thrilled to receive support from SaratogaArtFest.”

Said Lynne Gelber, president of the Saratoga Chamber Players, “The grant we received will help pay for the world-class musicians who travel to Saratoga to join Artistic Director Jill Levy in a concert of songs and strings. We especially encourage families to attend the concert as we strive to bring the world of live, professional music to youngsters.”

The mission of SaratogaArtsFest is to promote Saratoga Springs as a premier arts destination. An annual celebration, the festival showcases local arts organizations through programming of local, national, and international artists, including emerging artists and those with established reputations. SaratogaArtsFest is made possible by a collaborative alliance of community partners committed to increasing appreciation and enjoyment of the arts and strengthening year-round cultural tourism in the Saratoga region.

The festival is designed to appeal to a wide range of audiences—from the seasoned arts aficionado, to the live-entertainment enthusiast, to families with young children.

“Our local and regional arts partners provide excellent programming that helps attract visitors to Saratoga. Their leadership in creating this level of quality and creative work for the 2011 festival is commendable,” said Glotzbach.