

## News release from SaratogaArtsFest

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### **SaratogaArtsFest 2012 Announces Arts Partner Programming Grants**

Planning is well under way for SaratogaArtsFest 2012, and, as in previous years, the core of the programming will be presented by SaratogaArtsFest arts Partners. To support these organizations in preparing their events, the festival's board of directors has awarded eight programming enhancement grants totaling more than \$14,000. The events will be part of the sixth annual citywide celebration of the arts, June 7-10.

The grants program, now in its third year, will provide programming support to the Albany Symphony Orchestra, Caffè Lena, the Children's Museum at Saratoga, Home Made Theater, Hubbard Hall, Opera Saratoga, the Saratoga Chamber Players, and Saratoga Arts.

"Receiving a programming enhancement grant is one of the many ways that our partner arts organizations, which are at the core of SaratogaArtsFest, benefit from our alliance," said Marie Glotzbach, president of the SaratogaArtsFest board. "The programs that these groups have proposed anchor the festival programming while supporting the collective mission of promoting the rich arts landscape in the Saratoga region."

The programs being planned by the grant recipients include:

**Albany Symphony Orchestra:** The orchestra's brass quintet will offer a varied program ranging from Renaissance and Baroque selections to big band jazz and Broadway show tunes.

**Caffe Lena:** David Greenberger and A Strong Dog will present a program of storytelling and music designed to capture the wit, opinions, quirks, and vibrant personalities of elderly people.

**Children's Museum at Saratoga:** Children will make their own puppets and put on a show in the museum's Little Theater. Students from the Dorothy Nolan School will also present a puppet show.

**Home Made Theater:** HMT's cabaret performance of *You Gotta Have Friends* will use song and speech to tell the story of friendship through the years. The company's singers will pay tribute to some of the most important relationships in life.

**Hubbard Hall** (Cambridge, N.Y.): Hubbard Hall will present Mozart's *The Abduction*, which blends high comedy with touching tragedy as a gentleman and his man Friday go through hijinks to rescue their lovers from a Pasha's harem.

**Opera Saratoga:** The company of singers will celebrate our national pastime as they perform baseball songs from America's past. Visiting artists from the 2012 Summer Opera Festival will take listeners on a nostalgic journey. The event will include a speaker from the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

**Saratoga Chamber Players:** In a concert titled *The Art of the String Quintet*, the Saratoga Chamber Players will perform works of von Dittersdorf, Onslow, and Dvorak.

**Saratoga Arts:** Kristin Hersh will perform *Paradoxical Undressing*, a riveting solo presentation combining film, music, and a scripted narrative excerpt from her acclaimed memoir, *Rat Girl*.

"SaratogaArtsFest has spurred Saratoga Arts and the Saratoga Film Forum to present collaborative programming over the past four years," said Joel Reed, executive director of Saratoga Arts. "We've always linked live music with film, and now with Kristin Hersh's *Paradoxical Undressing*, we'll be expanding into spoken word with non-narrative film serving as a theatrical set. The ArtsFest gives us the chance to partner in new ways and to push beyond our typical programming."

Said Sarah Craig, director of Caffè Lena, "ArtsFest ignites a spirit of exploration in audiences and arts venues. That's why we selected a program that experiments with blending art forms. David Greenberger's monologues of elderly Americans cover everything from the Titanic to firecrackers to broken hearts to beer. The grant support has enabled him to add a great back-up band, so the show will combine music and spoken words, creating a big emotional impact."

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 an alliance of community partners committed to increasing appreciation and enjoyment of the arts and to 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 families with young children

More information about the festival, including volunteer and sponsorship opportunities, is available at [www.SaratogaArtsFest.org](http://www.SaratogaArtsFest.org).

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