

ACCOLADES

For The Arts

Springfield Area Arts Council

November 2018

Gerlach Bequest funds two Arts Council partnerships

by Théa Chesley

In keeping with its mission, the Springfield Area Arts Council (SAAC) is pleased to announce two upcoming partnerships. Thanks to a generous bequest from former Arts Council Board President, the late Bobbette Gerlach, SAAC is able to fund these new initiatives.

One partnership is with the musical duo of Brian FitzGerald and Martin McCormack, collectively known as **Switchback**, known for traditional Celtic music and original Americana songs reflecting their Irish heritage and Midwestern roots, and also renowned for their outreach programs for schools, senior citizen groups, and special needs audiences.

With \$5,000 in SAAC funding from the Gerlach bequest, Switchback collaborated with Alisabeth Hopper of **Music Therapy Connections** and **Hope Learning Academy** to develop a week-long music-based curriculum tailored to Hope students and faculty. The resulting curriculum was put in place from October 22 through 26 on Hope's Springfield campus and then modified for use at Hope Learning Academy



Switchback visits Hope Learning Academy

Chicago. The program is the joint property of all the collaborators and will be made available to other educational institutions. See details in the related article on page 5.

In another new Artist-In-Residence partnership, SAAC will contribute \$10,000 over two calendar years to the **Springfield Art Association** to establish a Glass Artist Residency. The Springfield Art Association and SAAC will collaborate on printed promotional materials and broadcast promotions, and SAAC members will be eligible for member fees to participate in SAA

events and classes, including glass-related happenings, and the SAA Beaux Arts Ball in 2018 and 2019.

Says Sheila Walk, SAAC's interim executive director, "Arts in Education is a long-running and important Arts Council program, and it is one that Duane and Bobette Gerlach valued. The Springfield Area Arts Council looks forward enthusiastically to these collaborations honoring the wishes of Mrs. Gerlach who served the Arts Council so ably as a board member and volunteer."

Community Arts Access Grants

The Springfield Area Arts Council has announced grants for local arts projects through the Community Arts Access program. Grants are being awarded to:

- African-American History Foundation for their Middle Passage Exhibit
- Garvey-Tubman Center for their project, "The Power of Art"
- Hoogland Center for the Arts for a production of the musical *1776*
- Illinois State Museum Society for their Music at the Museum concerts
- Illinois Symphony Orchestra for their Around the Town concerts
- Johnson Study Guild for their African-American Read-in project
- Land of Lincoln Chorus for their "Music of the Silver Screen" concert
- Sangamon Valley Youth Symphony for their Starter Strings program
- Scholastic Art Awards for their Honors Day

- Springfield Ballet Company for their Educational Community Outreach project

The Community Arts Access (CAA) program creates a partnership between the Illinois Arts Council Agency (IACA) and IACA-designated organizations (including the Springfield Area Arts Council) by providing funds to expand local mechanisms that encourage and support developing arts programs throughout the organization's service area. Based on the assessment and perception of local needs, the CAA program's re-granting funds make it possible for designated CAA partners to develop grants-making processes that are responsive to their service area.

The CAA program is made possible with support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

First Night® Springfield Preview

by Courtney Wick

First Night® Springfield is our annual New Year's Eve Celebration of the Arts. This year's First Night, on Monday, December 31, will feature 43 performances with more than 200 local entertainers, plus our usual fireworks spectacular.

This year, we tried to put a new act on each stage, each beginning at a different time slot. Here are some of the new acts:

- Sesame Street Characters dance party: 2:30–3:00pm at Springfield High School Annex
- Colin Helton, Acoustic singer-songwriter: 9:30pm in H. D. Smith Art Gallery
- Dandelion Pickers, folk duo: 7:00–7:45pm at Lincoln Home Visitors Center
- Square of The Roots Band: Bluegrass, 8:30–10:00pm at Lincoln Library (Springfield's Public Library)
- Pam Brown, Living with Mrs. Lincoln one-woman show: 5:00pm–5:45pm

in the Hoogland Center for the Arts' Club Room

- Eddie Snow Blues Band: 9:30–11:15pm in Theater Three at the Hoogland Center for the Arts

There are also many returning performers who haven't been on the First Night stage in several years.

We would like to mention that The DePriest Puppet Show has been performing for First Night for 31 years. They have missed only one First Night since its introduction, and that was the second year. They will not be able to perform this year, but we found out that Ollie's (the puppeteer) birthday is on New Year's Eve. He's been spending EVERY BIRTHDAY FOR THIRTY YEARS at First Night Springfield! This year he has other birthday plans, so we're bringing in a new puppet show with Rebecca Muzzarelli in the afternoon at Springfield High School.

Springfield needs your vote!

by Lisa Clemmons-Stott

Downtown Springfield is now in the running to host a 10-12 week live music series next summer, but it needs your vote this November.

Sponsored by the Mortimer and Mimi Levitt Foundation, a national foundation dedicated to strengthening the social fabric of America through free live music, the Levitt AMP Grant Awards are an exciting matching grant opportunity to serve small to mid-sized towns and cities with populations up to 400,000.

Up to 15 nonprofits will receive \$25,000 each in matching funds to produce their own Levitt AMP Music Series—an outdoor, free concert series featuring a diverse line-up of professional musicians. Another key to winning a grant is hosting the series in a large, under-utilized lawn space that is accessible to all.

Downtown Springfield Inc., Springfield Area Arts Council, and Downtown Springfield Heritage Foundation jointly submitted the proposal to activate the

North Mansion Block and to gauge the popularity of a large-scale activity on the southern portion of the block, which must remain greenspace due to underground water issues.

Springfield's proposal will be posted on the Levitt AMP website for public voting starting November 1 through November 20 at <http://levittamp.org>.

A successful campaign for Downtown Springfield depends on community participation to get as many online votes as possible to bring the concert series to town. Community support, as measured by the number of online votes received, will be one of the key factors when the Levitt Foundation narrows the field down to the 15 winners.

The Top 25 finalists will be selected through online public voting. The Levitt Foundation will then review the proposals of these finalists and will select up to 15 Levitt AMP winners, which will be announced on December 18, 2018.

Kay Fuerer

Kay Feurer, former Executive Director of the SAAC, passed away on October 18, 2018. Kay was instrumental in the creation of First Night Springfield and saw her dream of an arts center with the opening of the Hoogland Center for the Arts. She took great pride in helping everyone in the local art community thrive. Kay also served the Springfield area through a number of other organizations; she was a volunteer leader for ARC (now SPARC) and served on the Springfield Ballet Company Board and on the Allocation Panel of the United Way. She was a committee member of Lincoln Academy; a member of the American Symphony Orchestra League; served on the Board of Directors for the Illinois Art Alliance and the Illinois Alliance for Arts Education.

According to her wishes, no services will be held and her body is to be donated to the Anatomical Gift Association.

The Springfield Area Arts Council extends its condolences to Kay's family and friends.

Uptown Friday Night

Uptown Friday Night is the Arts Council's free performance series, taking place from 5:30 to 7:30 on Friday evenings. Join us at Robbie's Restaurant on Old State Capitol Plaza South and start the weekend with outstanding jazz and blues, excellent food and drinks, and great company – all while supporting the Springfield Area Arts Council.

NOVEMBER

- 2 Chahrm
- 9 Sharpen Up
- 16 Chris Camp and his Blues Ambassadors
- 23 HOLIDAY – CLOSED
- 30 Johnnie Owens and Friends

DECEMBER

- 7 Samba Llamas
- 14 Denise LaGrassa Quartet
- 21 Sam Crain Quartet
- 28 HOLIDAY – CLOSED

SAAC Financial and In-Kind Contributors

FISCAL YEAR 2018 (October 1, 2017 – September 30, 2018)

Thank you! We couldn't do it without you!

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SPRINGFIELD AREA
ARTS COUNCIL

Accolades for the Arts

Accolades for the Arts is published by the Springfield Area Arts Council. Articles by Théa Chesley, Lisa Clemmons-Stott, Doug Kamholz, Mark Pence, Sheila Walk, and Courtney Wick. Layout by Mark Pence. Your comments are welcome. Call the Arts Council office at (217) 753-3519.

SAAC Mission

The Springfield Area Arts Council enriches the community by promoting and supporting all art forms and providing creative opportunities to participate in and enjoy the arts.

Switchback Develops Outreach Program with Hope

By Doug Kamholz

Folks who follow the band Switchback see occasional dates on their schedule marked "Outreach Program." Let's go close-up with one of those, one that happened in October in Springfield, Illinois.

The Hope Institute for Families and Children provides educational and residential services to children facing extraordinary cognitive, physical and emotional challenges. Switchback came for a week-long residency, everything from one-on-one engagement to an all-school concert.

This Outreach Program was quite different from a one-show gig. To plan their time, Martin McCormack and Brian FitzGerald worked with Hope's music therapist for months leading up to their week at the school. Alisabeth Hopper helped the band create a curriculum, a compendium of lesson plans to be piloted at her Hope Learning Center. Full of details, activities, aims, and goals this "HopeWork" is designed to be used in part or whole at other facilities by other musical performers.

About 30 youngsters arrive in a smallish space along with half a dozen staff. Marty and Brian have met all these folks earlier in the week, and most of today's songs have been sung in smaller classroom rehearsals. With the band plugged in just a few feet from the front row, first up is a medley of sing-alongs working off the same tune. It's "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" easily oozing into "Baa, Baa, Black Sheep" with a smooth segue into "The ABC Song" where Marty asks Brian if he's truly confident of the lyrics.

Songs throughout this half-hour session start and end gently, the idea being to stimulate but not over-stimulate Hope's students.

Next up, so to speak, is "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" with full-throat audience participation on the "One, two, three strikes you're out!" line.

Marty then reminds the students they are working on "White Christmas" for their upcoming holiday show so they should give that one a try. The room is full of singing and signing the familiar December-dream carol. Later the audience is asked for a song suggestion. It's "Jingle Bells" with bells handed out and enthusiastic response to the shouted "Hey!" with Brian upping the tempo each time around on his new mandolin.

Switchback did an instrumental so the audience could be the percussion section, slapping out beats on their thighs. It was just a strum-along, but Brian, always the creator, started whipping off licks on his Taylor M4-CE that would fly on any stage.

With the end near, Switchback led the singing of that tender and saucy tale of an errant meatball sneezed into oblivion—"On Top of Spaghetti"—to the delight of all.

After a few small-group photos with much hugging and many smiles, Switchback finished with Hope's traditional good-bye song and its lyric "Music is over until next time." Then Marty

signs off with a warning about the next day's closing concert: "There might be dancing!"

Back years ago when I first met Martin and Brian, they were fresh from a half-day at this same Hope Institute. Over lunch Marty said Switchback wanted to be "the house band for Hope." Pretty darned endearing. Sheila says it took a few years and a generous bequest, but this year she made it happen.

Celebrate Illinois' Bicentennial!



TWO FACES OF ILLINOIS' HISTORY:

Sparks Will Fly!

In This Debate Between

Territorial Governor Ninian Edwards

And Potawatomi Chief Gomo

Written And Performed By Brian "Fox" Ellis

November 18, 2018

2:00 pm

at the Illinois State Museum

502 South Spring Street, Springfield, IL

The program is Free with museum admission! Sponsored by Illinois Humanities, The Illinois State Museum & The Springfield Area Arts Council

Ace Sign Company event

Dennis Brinquet of Ace Sign Company hosted a celebration for Arts Council members on November 1 as he 'lit' a new addition to the sign museum – the ART sign from the former Art Theatre in downtown Springfield. Find out more about the museum here: <http://www.acesignco.com/museum/>

Poetry Out Loud 2019 Schedule

Central Illinois Regional Contest: Wednesday, February 13, 2019; Theatre Three, Hoogland Center for the Arts

Illinois State Contest: Friday, March 8, 2019; LRS Theatre, Hoogland Center for the Arts



This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency

Think Children Don't Need ART In the 21st Century? THINK AGAIN!

An Arts Education Teaches Children To...

Collaborate & Cooperate

- Work together
- Understand Their Actions Affect Others
- Realize Even Small Contributions Have Value
- Compromise for Common Goal
- Take Responsibility for Mistakes
- Share responsibility
- Realize Their Contribution is Important to the Success of the Group
- Realize Mistakes Happen

Communicate

- Receive Constructive Feedback
- Develop Language By Talking About Art & Describing Creations
- Improve Skills Through Evaluation
- Communicate Different Emotions
- Realize Feedback is a Part of Learning
- Breakdown the Mechanics of Body Language
- Portray a Character Effectively
- Interpret Visual Information
- Experience Different Ways of Moving

Be Creative

- Think on Their Feet
- Approach Tasks From Different Perspectives
- Intertwine Ideas Into New Possibilities
- Take Creative Risks
- Practice Creative Thinking Until It Becomes Natural
- Be Original!
- Develop a Sense of Innovation

Organize

- Concentrate & Focus
- Keep a Balance Between Listening & Contributing
- Develop Motor Skills
- Think About Their Role & How It Contributes To the Big Picture of What is Being Created

"We live in an age when the most valuable asset an economy can have is the ability to be creative—to spark and imagine new ideas, be they Broadway tunes, great books, iPads or new cancer drugs."
—Thomas Friedman, New York Times, August 4, 2010

Problem-Solve

- To Keep an Open Mind
- Explore Further Info
- Move Forward to New Insight & Understanding
- Have Decision-Making Skills
- Develop Skills in Reasoning & Understanding
- Be Attentive to Details, of Perceptions & Ideas

Self-Direct

- Persevere!
- Practice Follow-Through
- Improve Academic Work Habits Performance
- Develop Healthy Work Habits

Be Socially Responsible

- Act Responsibly With The Interests of the Larger Community in Mind
- Understand Choices Artists & Designers Make
- Know & Appreciate Diverse Societies
- Interpret & Evaluate Others' Perceptions of Reality

Be Fluent With Technology

- Develop Information & Media Literacy Skills
- Create Information in a Variety of Forms & Media
- Utilize Today's Digital & Social Media As An Appropriate Vehicle For Their Message (Computers, iPads, Video, Digital Cameras, and more!)

Resources:

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