

PICCOLO SPOLETO 2021

May 28
-June 13

PART TWO

**Kate Hooray
Osmond**
paints a colorful
'Song of Charleston'

Charleston traces its
jazz roots deep into
Lowcountry history

And more!

Official
Program
Guide

PICCOLO PICKS

An Enchanting
Evening in
the Garden

← Charlton
Singleton with
Contemporary
Flow

Piccolo in your
Neighborhood

Bluegrass
Stroll

Charleston
Reprise

A special
publication of



Piccolo Spoleto

CHARLESTON
CITY PAPER

CHAMPIONING OUR CREATIVE.

**We're proud to support those
who dream of a brighter tomorrow
through the performing arts.**



PUBLIX SUPER MARKETS
CHARITIES

NOURISHING COMMUNITIES

Welcome to the 2021 Piccolo Spoleto Festival, where we proudly advance a legacy spanning 43 years, during which time Charleston's local arts community has united each spring in the spirit of collaboration and partnership to create the perfect complement to the global aspirations of Spoleto Festival USA.

In a typical year, Piccolo Spoleto assembles some 500 performing, literary and visual arts events, marking 17 days of unbridled creativity that animates our galleries and theatres, historic houses of worship, sequestered courtyards and gardens, and the City's beloved and beautiful parks. It is a Charleston tradition that endures and grows richer with each new season.



Obviously, the disruption of last year's cancellations and the uncertainties of navigating a global pandemic have made all of us recalibrate and adjust to new patterns of socially distant alternatives, not to mention the seemingly endless cycle of Zooms and unmitigated screen fatigue.

We are more humble, and we recognize that the "little things" should not be taken for granted moving forward. So, it's truly wonderful that our Piccolo Spoleto Festival should afford us through countless small gestures and little bursts of delight the opportunity to come together safely and responsibly and celebrate as a community.

The arts are an intrinsic part of Charleston's collective DNA, and they create a nearly sacred space of inspiration where meaningful connection and dialogue can emerge and persist. Many of the 2021 Piccolo Spoleto events will feel familiar, be that browsing the artists' tents at Marion Square, listening to great jazz or enjoying a poetry reading in a beautiful garden as the evening sun fades. Other offerings will be maiden voyages for the festival, from lyrical, melodious strolls through our parks to high-spirited pop-up performances

and public art encounters in unexpected settings.

Perhaps most exciting, it is all just a hint of what is to follow over the course of the summer and as the 2021-2022 artistic season comes roaring back here in the Holy City in the months ahead.

Piccolo Spoleto would not be possible without the dedication and generosity of artists and arts enthusiasts throughout our community, and I want to acknowledge all of the outstanding artists and appreciative audience members who will make the 2021 Piccolo Spoleto Festival a resounding success. I also want to thank the staff of the City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs and the team of dedicated community volunteers and arts leaders who bring Piccolo Spoleto to life.

We also salute the medical professionals, safety experts, front line workers and City of Charleston staff who have worked behind the scenes to provide protocols and assessments to safeguard the well-being of our audiences and artists alike. A riotous round of applause to you all!

I very much hope you will join us in celebrating everything that Charleston and Piccolo Spoleto have to offer. I look forward to seeing you at the Festival.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John J. Tecklenburg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

John J. Tecklenburg
Mayor

Allegro

CHARTER SCHOOL of MUSIC

OPEN SPOTS AVAILABLE NOW!

Now enrolling Charleston County
residents in grades 6-12



2731 Gordon Street, North Charleston, SC 29405

843.297.8033

AllegroCharterSchool.org

About the Festival

The Piccolo Spoleto Festival annually presents a varied program that includes visual arts exhibitions, performances of classical music, jazz, dance, theater, and choral music, as well as cultural events and community celebrations, poetry readings, children's activities, craft shows, and film screenings.

Piccolo Spoleto prioritizes accessibility for both artists and performers, presenting professional work of the highest standard, while ensuring that nearly half of Piccolo's events are admission-free, with the balance offered at affordable ticket prices, in a traditional year. With that said, Piccolo Spoleto is certainly going to look a little different this year. For one, all 2021 Piccolo Spoleto events are free to attend!

In addition to the Festival's visual arts, artisan crafts exhibitions, and public art installations, performances are being planned for outdoor settings in Charleston's parks. Events are scheduled for the City's larger parks in formats that accommodate social distancing and smaller neighborhood pop-up events will be announced the week of the event to ensure that the weather will accommodate the performance.

Piccolo Spoleto was launched in 1979 by the City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs, which continues to work closely with an engaged group of volunteers from the Charleston arts community. The working group of arts professionals who serve as volunteer program coordinators for the Festival now numbers nearly forty, with each specializing in a particular discipline, genre, or period.

Applications for the 2022 Piccolo Spoleto Festival will be available online in the autumn at piccolospoleto.com.

For more information, call the City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs at (843) 724-7305 or email CulturalAffairs@charleston-sc.gov

ABT

ACROSS
AMERICA

JULY 17 | 7:30PM



Presented by the **Charleston Gaillard Center**. Performed at **The Citadel**. Learn more at gaillardcenter.org.

CHARLESTON
GAILLARD
CENTER

[f](https://www.facebook.com/gaillardcenter) [@](https://www.instagram.com/gaillardcenter) [t](https://www.tiktok.com/@gaillardcenter)
gaillardcenter.org
(843) 242-3099

CHLOE MISSELDINE AND JOSE SEBASTIAN IN LA FOLLIA VARIATIONS.
PHOTO: TODD ROSENBERG PHOTOGRAPHY.

Piccolo Spoleto salutes its 2020 and 2021 Sponsors

Piccolo Spoleto Festival is produced by the
City of Charleston





Aleeece Sophia

Kate Hooray Osmond paints a colorful ‘Song of Charleston’

By Chloe Hogan

Kate Hooray Osmond’s “A Song of Charleston,” sat untouched in her studio for a year. Initially created for the 2020 Piccolo Spoleto Festival, Osmond said the painting was a sign of hope for what’s to come during 2020. For the next couple weeks, it will be hard to miss the work that’s been waiting in the wings.

When Osmond was asked to create the poster art before last year’s festival was canceled, she wondered, “How could I cast a broad enough visual net to include everything the festival has come to represent?” She eventually landed on the idea of illustrating her love for Charleston:

“I love my city very much, and it is a living, breathing thing. Our town has experienced every kind of challenge in its history and it is still transforming today. We are helping our city grow and I designed the poster to give a nod to as many facets as I could.”

Osmond could not have possibly anticipated the painting would go unseen for a year. In a time of collective uncertainty, Osmond began to see the artwork as “a

bright beacon that I looked upon to boost my spirits.” She calls it poetic that the poster, which brought her hope in dark times, represents this year’s festival. This year’s festival is “more important than ever,” she said. “Piccolo Spoleto is nothing less than a shining gem of hope, joy and inspiration and is necessary now more than ever. It is a mirror of the beauty of humanity, and I am so grateful that it will shine on our city once again.”

Osmond’s vibrant paintings and installations show an appreciation for the natural patterns of the universe. Inspired by science, math and music theory, Osmond has an ability to depict order and chaos in a single brushstroke. She describes her most recent body of work, “SPECTRA,” as an exploration of the rhythm of life.

“It beats with every motion, every step, every sunrise. The melody of life is stunningly beautiful and full of terror. I want to learn the tune so that I may teach the song,” she said.

Osmond’s poster art references the song of life, with a musical staff strung like a ribbon through the city and its landmarks. Notes rise from factories, float like pollen from a magnolia and bubble in the harbor.



Courtesy Kate Hooray Osmond

Osmond’s painting, “A Song of Charleston,” is Piccolo Spoleto’s official poster this year.

When asked what the song of Charleston might sound like, Osmond imagines birds chirping before sunrise, the hum of rush-hour traffic — a “crescendo roar of airplanes and ocean waves, finishing with the delicate ‘I love you’ my children and I share every night,” she said. “The song changes every day and is more beautiful than the day before.”

The poster is dominated by a kaleidoscopic sunset, one of Osmond’s hallmarks. “The cycle of the sun is a nod to the central focus of all my work. I represent life and

“Piccolo Spoleto is nothing less than a shining gem of hope, joy and inspiration, and is necessary now more than ever.”

—Kate Hooray Osmond

Leah Edwards wants to change your mind about opera

By Kevin Young

When you think of opera, what comes to mind? *Shawshank Redemption*'s Andy Dufresne playing a piece from *The Marriage of Figaro* over the prison loudspeakers? Elmer Fudd singing "Kill the wabbit!" while hunting Bugs Bunny? Adam Sandler's Opera Man character singing the news on *Saturday Night Live*'s Weekend Update?

As a soprano, Leah Edwards is familiar with opera's place in pop culture. She's also aware of how easily it is dismissed.

"I often find myself in conversations attempting to convert skeptics," she told the *City Paper*. "In order to build an organization that is of and for our community, we have taken a significant amount of time in the last few years to pose this very question to our audience members. Here are some of the answers we have received: 'Opera is ... elitist, boring, not understandable, a fat lady in a horned hat, for rich people, not for me.'"

She has faith that these stereotypes can be broken. "These barriers are real, but not insurmountable," she says. "Building enough trust to embrace something unfamiliar is a challenge we embrace. We value every thought, take time for consideration and adjust our efforts in order to create a better experience for every individual."

Edwards' love of opera began when she

was 7 years old. Her parents took her to see a production of *Carmen*. The combination of music, dance, drama and design left her completely awestruck. Although she didn't pursue opera until much later, it was her first memory of falling in love with the art form. Over the years, that love for live theater only grew, eventually making her Broadway debut as a member of Terrence McNally's Master Class.

It was a 2015 trip to Charleston that inspired Edwards and her husband, tenor Dimitri Pittas. So charmed by its beauty and hospitality, they returned a month later to make it their home. As they became a part of the arts community, they realized that there

was a burgeoning desire to learn more about opera and musical theater. Upon learning that Charleston is, in fact, the birthplace of opera in North America, they embraced the serendipity and began creating Charleston's first full-time opera company, Holy City Arts & Lyric Opera (HALO).

HALO's mission is to engage the community by presenting quality art and artists in performances that range from large-scale productions to intimate conversations. Not content to put on shows, HALO has also focused on creating another avenue for discovering opera: education. Their Opera 101 classes cover

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



Edwards



Pittas



Provided

Leah Edwards and Dimitri Pittas started Charleston's first full-time opera company, Holy City Arts & Lyric Opera.



**JEWELRY for the
BRIGHT LIGHTS of**
Spoleto!
Croghans Jewel Box

SAME DAY APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE

308 ON WONDERFUL KING ST
843.723.3594 | CROGHANSJEWELBOX.COM

HEAR
FOLKTALES
IN GULLAH!



Visit Charleston's Afro-American Historical Sites

The Underground Railroad
The Battery • Slave Graveyard
Jones Hotel • Black Slave Owners
Brown Fellowship Society
The Market Place • Sweetgrass Baskets
Old Slave Mart • Porgy & Bess

**Tours leave from
43 John St.**

Monday - Friday
11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Saturday
11 a.m., 1 p.m.
and 3 p.m.



ALPHONSO BROWN, TOUR GUIDE
GullahTours.com • 843-763-7551 • info@gullahitours.com

Osmond

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

existence as a circle with colors radiating out of it." The colors in "Song" are balanced and complement each other. Osmond sees this as a metaphor for life.

"Sadness balances joy, night supports day, and destruction supports new growth," she said. "Every part of life is important and integral to the health of a system."

Last year, Osmond launched CRISIS, an in-place artistic residency which reframed the time of isolation as an opportunity for creative and personal growth.

"2020 was rough for everybody. My family and I have been lucky, but I had some very low moments where I questioned my future as an artist. I thought if I was struggling, maybe other creative people were too. In times of crisis and change, creativity is one of the most necessary and amazing tools that humans possess, but it can be hard to harness that creativity during stressful times."

The tuition-free residency serves "as a way to let artists know that there was someone, somewhere on the planet, that supported them and believed their creative practice is important," she said.

And, the CRISIS community has already



Images courtesy Kate Hooray Osmond

Osmond's "SPECTRA" series explores the rhythm of life.

had an impact, she said.

"It now has a network of over 200 individuals all over the globe, and I'm proud to say that it has helped me, too."

Chloe Hogan is an artist and writer, currently working as a museum engagement specialist at the Gibbes Museum of Art.

BISHOP GADSDEN

VOTED BEST

**ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNITY,
RETIREMENT COMMUNITY,
AND IN-HOME HEALTH CARE COMPANY!**

IN CHARLESTON CITY PAPER'S
BEST OF CHARLESTON AWARDS!



EXCELLENCE IN SENIOR LIVING

1 BISHOP GADSDEN WAY, CHARLESTON • 843-762-3300

BISHOPGADSDEN.ORG

INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR TEAM? SEE THE CAREERS SECTION ON OUR WEBSITE!



Provided

HALO started the Social Distance-SING! series during the pandemic.

Opera

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

basic terminology, popular operas and composers, detailed plots, historical context and in-depth analysis, all tied together with examples of great performances.

Over the past year, live weekly, judgment-free Zoom classes have been offered to a loyal local and national audience with each archived on the group's website. Another innovative solution for safely engaging the community during the COVID-19 pandemic has been its Social Distance-SING! series. Born from a spontaneous driveway concert on April 16, 2020, the mobile concerts, affectionately referred to as "a pair of singers, a piano and a pickup truck," offer an up-close experience of opera and classic musical theatre selections. They also feature un-amplified voices in an open-air setting and a TV that displays translations for selections that are in foreign languages.

For Edwards, the idea of the communal experience has always been the magic of live theater, "When the COVID-19 pandemic effectively shut down the performing arts across the globe, every artist I know went through a period of grief. For one's livelihood, one's very essence and purpose in life, to be deemed non-essential is crushing. That being said, ... we were able to continue making art. As husband and wife, we were still able to stand face to face, touch, even kiss, allowing us to deliver moments of true escapism for our audiences. In the last year, our organization has thrived by stripping opera down to its bare essence: communication."

As part of Piccolo Spoleto, HALO will present Social Distance-SING! at sunset at Colonial Lake on Friday, June 11, showcasing new and local Charleston artists. Edwards and Pittas will perform and answer questions about how you can become a part of reclaiming Charleston's legacy as the birthplace of opera in North America.

Charleston traces its jazz roots deep into Lowcountry history

By Vincent Harris

Charleston has a rich history of jazz music, and Karen Chandler, the co-founder and director of the Charleston Jazz Initiative, can fill you in on virtually all of it.

The Charleston Jazz Initiative is a multi-year research project that documents the African American jazz tradition in Charleston, the South Carolina Lowcountry, and its movement through the U.S. and Europe, so it makes sense that Chandler can tell you the actual year that jazz history began in our region.

“If I had to put a date on it, I probably would put the date that is the founding of the Jenkins orphanage, which is 1891,” Chandler said.

The Rev. Daniel Joseph Jenkins founded The Jenkins Orphanage, and the African-American children who lived there were taught music on donated instruments by local musicians P.M. “Hatsie” Logan and Francis Eugene Mikell.

The band even had a role in helping popularize the whirlwind craze of “the Charleston” dance step of the Jazz Age — even if that role was a bit concocted. A 1926



Chandler

visit by New York-based vaudeville dancer Bee Jackson saw cameras rolling in front of the Franklin Street orphanage, as the band carried a tune in the background.

The rest, as they say, is history.

“Many of the orphans ended up on the bandstands of Count Basie, Duke Ellington or Jimmie Lunceford, some of the early big bands,” Chandler said. “And, they were instrumental in taking the style of Charleston with them, the sound of Charleston, that Gullah rhythm.”

The Gullah connection is paramount, because as Chandler points out, the music that the children played at the orphanage originally wasn’t jazz, per se. They were simply playing music, influenced by African rhythms of their Gullah ancestors.

“It is the polyrhythms that were brought by those who were enslaved Africans from the windward coast of West Africa. Those rhythms that they brought in that horrible trans-Atlantic slave trade were retained and were heard primarily in many of the praise houses on some of the barrier islands in and around the Lowcountry and in the Georgia sea islands as well. And so, those polyrhythms are what we refer to as Gullah rhythms.”

Those rhythms were carried into the world by some soon-to-be-famous names.

“Oh, let’s see,” Chandler said. “There’s Freddie Green, who was Basie’s rhythm guitarist. Basie himself even said Freddie’s



Peter Frank Edwards

Charleston has been home to many jazz greats, like Grammy Award-winning Ranky Tanky (above) and the Count Basie Orchestra’s Freddie Green (right).

rhythm guitar was the definitive foundation for swing. There was Cat Anderson, who was Duke Ellington’s high-note trumpet player. There was Jabbo Smith, who used to duel all the time with Louis Armstrong, and it’s said that Jabbo was actually technically a faster player.”

On and on, the list of venerable jazz names goes, including alto saxophonist Willie Smith, who played with Jimmie Lunceford, Harry James and Duke Ellington. There’s Julian Dash, a swingin’ tenor sax player who also co-composed “Tuxedo Junction,” one of the most popular jazz tunes of the 1940s. And, don’t forget Bertha “Chippie” Hill, a powerhouse singer who performed with Louis Armstrong.

“I would say those are the predominant ones,” Chandler said, “but there are other people like (bassist) James Jamerson who, though he began his career in jazz, he obviously didn’t stay there because he ended up with a Motown. But, he had a very strong jazz beginning; he was Pearl Bailey’s bassist for a while.”

Those early influences can be traced into one of the country’s hottest roots jazz groups of the moment: Charleston’s own



Provided

Ranky Tanky, which took home a Grammy Award for its Gullah-inspired self-titled debut in 2017.

“Ranky Tanky has taken what the Charleston Jazz Initiative has been researching and has basically said, ‘Hey guys, there is something very unique about Gullah culture,’” Chandler said. “They have popularized these songs and are now taking that out to the world. So, that’s pretty phenomenal, to be able to start talking about this music really from before 1891 and now Ranky Tanky spreading it to the world. So you can start in the 1700s and work our way to the present.”

Ranky Tanky frontman Charlton Singleton takes the stage June 4 at 7 p.m. with his band, Contemporary Flow, for a show at Brittlebank Park to feature familiar and original rhythm and blues and jazz.



Courtesy Charleston Jazz Initiative/Avery Research Center/CofC

The Jenkins Orphanage Band children were taught music on donated instruments — and many went on to become big names in the national jazz scene.

Day by Day

Charleston's Piccolo Spoleto Festival is back in 2021 with a slate of all-free, all-outdoor performances and safe, pandemic-friendly exhibitions that will scratch that itch you've been feeling to get out and experience the Holy City's creative community.

This year's Piccolo Spoleto Festival includes a number of surprise pop-ups around Charleston, a series of unique outdoor poetry recitations downtown and performances you likely won't see even as precautions are phased out and the festival returns in 2022. And of course, Piccolo Spoleto features the outdoor arts exhibition that you know and love in Marion Square, with a weekend-long crafts market nearby.

The City of Charleston is cross-promoting, through its online "Arts in Charleston" calendar a number of events and performances by independent arts groups and ensembles during the festival, including free and ticketed events.

These events are being continuously updated at **charlestonarts.org**, so check frequently so you can support all of our local artists in whatever manner you feel most comfortable.

All Piccolo Spoleto Festival events are free and open to the public.

Every day

Piccolo Spoleto Outdoor Art Exhibition

Marion Square

329 Meeting St. Downtown.

Mon.-Thurs, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Fri.-Sun., 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Note: Sun., June 13 is an optional day for exhibitors.

Piccolo Spoleto Juried Art Exhibition

Charleston City Gallery

34 Prioleau St. Downtown.

12-5 p.m.

Public Art: Enough Pie

Vivian Moultrie Playground

1201 King St. Downtown.

Public Art: Tiger Strikes Asteroid

West Ashley Greenway

Wednesday, June 2

SUNDOWN POETRY

Valerie Nieman

Lenhardt Garden at The Gibbes Museum of Art

135 Meeting St. Downtown

6:30 p.m.

Valerie Nieman's third poetry collection, *Leopard Lady: A Life in Verse*, includes work that was featured in *The Missouri Review*. Her fourth novel, *To the Bones*, was published in 2019. A graduate of Queens University of Charlotte, she has held National Endowment for the Arts and other fellowships, and teaches at North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro.

"An Enchanting Evening in the Garden"

William Enston Homes

900 King St. Downtown

5 p.m.

Presented by the Housing Authority of the City of Charleston, "An Enchanting Evening in the Garden" will feature performances by the Plantation Singers, saxophonist Gavin Smith, a storyteller, as well as Sasha and the Dream Team Band.

Thursday, June 3

SUNDOWN POETRY

H.R. Spencer

Lenhardt Garden at The Gibbes Museum of Art

135 Meeting St. Downtown

6:30 p.m.

H. R. "Randy" Spencer will read from *The Color After Green*, published in 2019

by Finishing Line Press. Recently featured on SCETV's *By the River*, this collection of contemporary nature poems are both personal and reach for larger concerns around climate and ecological changes, sometimes set in the South Carolina Lowcountry.

Friday, June 4

Piccolo Spoleto Crafts Show

Wragg Square

342 Meeting St. Downtown

10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Family Fun on the Greenway

West Ashley Greenway at Farmfields Avenue

5 p.m.

Come join the festivities on the West Ashley Greenway with art, activities, and music by the V-Tones of Charleston and The Charlestons.

SUNDOWN POETRY

Kurt Lamkin

Lenhardt Garden at The Gibbes Museum of Art

135 Meeting St. Downtown

6:30 p.m.

Kurtis Lamkin is a widely anthologized poet and kora player whose recordings include *Queen of Carolina* and *Korapoems*. His animated poem, *The Foxes Manifesto*, aired on PBS for two years, and he was featured in the Bill Moyers documentary, *Fooling With Words*. He was poet-in-residence at The New School and Bourne poetry chair at Georgia Tech.

Charlton Singleton and Contemporary Flow

Brittlebank Park

185 Lockwood Dr. Downtown

7 p.m.

Featuring the best of contemporary jazz, R&B and originals from Charlton Singleton himself. Also performing: Demetrius Doctor on keyboards, Steven Washington on keyboards and vocals, LaVonta Green on bass and vocals and James "JT" Rollerson on drums.

Saturday, June 5

Piccolo Spoleto Crafts Show

Wragg Square

342 Meeting St. Downtown

10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Sunday, June 6

Piccolo Spoleto Crafts Show

Wragg Square

342 Meeting St. Downtown

11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Monday, June 7

SUNDOWN POETRY

Lola Haskins

Lenhardt Garden at The Gibbes Museum of Art

135 Meeting St. Downtown

6:30 p.m.

Lola Haskins (lolahaskins.com) has published 17 books, 14 of which are poetry. Her past honors include the Iowa Poetry Prize, two Florida Book Awards, two National Endowment for the Arts fellowships, and the Emily Dickinson prize from Poetry Society of America. She serves as honorary chancellor of the Florida State Poets Association.

Tuesday, June 8

SUNDOWN POETRY

David B. Axelrod

Lenhardt Garden at The Gibbes Museum of Art

135 Meeting St. Downtown

6:30 p.m.

Dr. David B. Axelrod served as poet laureate of Volusia County, Florida, from 2015-2023 and has been published in hundreds of magazines and anthologies, along with 22 books of poetry, including his newest, *All Vows: New & Selected Poems*. Axelrod has delivered hundreds of performances worldwide solo and with notable poets. He is a three-time Fulbright poet, and was the first Fulbright poet-in-residence in the People's Republic of China.

Wednesday, June 9

SUNDOWN POETRY

Kwoya Fagin Maples

Lenhardt Garden at The Gibbes Museum of Art

135 Meeting St. Downtown

6 p.m.

Kwoya Fagin Maples is a writer from Charleston. She holds a Master of Fine Arts degree in creative writing from the University of Alabama and is a Cave Canem fellow and current Alabama State Council on the Arts Literary fellow. She is the author of *Mend*, a 2019 finalist for the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award for Poetry and for the Association of Writers

Note Out of necessity, this year's schedule is subject to changes, with additions and tweaks expected in the coming weeks. Be sure to check back with the *City Paper* and the City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs for the latest up-to-date information.

piccolospoleto.com
PiccoloSpoletoFestival

charlestoncitypaper.com
charlestoncitypaper

and Writing Programs' Donald Hall Prize for Poetry.

Thursday, June 10

SUNDOWN POETRY

Grace C. Ocasio

Lenhardt Garden at The Gibbes Museum of Art

135 Meeting St. Downtown
6:30 p.m.

A two-time Pushcart Prize nominee, Grace C. Ocasio's latest collection, *Family Reunion* (Broadstone Books), was released in March. She was a finalist for the 2016 Aesthetica Creative Writing Award in Poetry and was a recipient of a 2014 North Carolina Arts Council Regional Artist Project grant.

Friday, June 11



Animalia Brass

Provided

Operatic Delights

Colonial Lake/Moultrie Playground

46-54 Ashley Ave. Downtown
6 p.m.

An inspired evening celebrating the grandeur of opera with a light-hearted spirit and boundless passion. Animalia Brass will open the family-friendly program with a memorable musical "crash course" for kids that is certain to help demystify classical music for younger listeners.

SUNDOWN POETRY

Lawrence Rhu

Lenhardt Garden at The Gibbes Museum of Art

135 Meeting St. Downtown
6:30 p.m.

Lawrence Rhu is Todd professor emeritus of the Italian renaissance at the University of South Carolina. He has published essays and books about the American and European renaissance. He received the 2018 Poetry Award from the Pirate's Alley Faulkner Society and was runner-up for the Society's 2019 Marble Faun Award.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Piccolo Picks

Piccolo Spoleto 2021 isn't be anything like you're used to experiencing. Blame the pandemic. But, the annual festival will still offer a wide variety of art experiences, says Scott Watson, director of the City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs, which produces the annual event that draws thousands to the city.

"Everything is free this year so come out and enjoy it," he says. "It's not going to look like past years, and it's going to be different, but it's still going to be a whole lot of fun."

While this year's show includes many "pop-up" events announced at the last moment for neighborhoods around the Holy City, here are five things you can count on to make memories that will last for years to come:

An Enchanting Evening in the Garden

The historic William Enston Home will host "An Enchanting Evening in the Garden" as part of Piccolo Spoleto 2021. Charleston's renowned acappella group The Plantation Singers will be performing, as will musician Gavin Smith and Sasha and the Dream Team Band. There will also be storytelling and perhaps a few surprises. The event is free to all.

June 2. 5 p.m. William Enston Homes, Charleston Housing Authority. 900 King St. Downtown



Provided

Charlton Singleton with Contemporary Flow

Charlton Singleton and Contemporary Flow will be performing at Brittlebank Park on June 4. Singleton is a founding member of the Grammy Award-winning and Billboard chart-topping quintet Ranky Tanky. His musical mastery covers a wide range of instruments and he is heralded the world over as one of the best living jazz musicians. Audiences will not want to miss this free performance from a contemporary virtuoso.

June 4. 7 p.m. Brittlebank Park. 185 Lockwood Drive Downtown.



Mauricio Richardson

Piccolo in your Neighborhood

Pop up events are happening all over the city on June 2. These little events are localized to specific parts of town, and depending on where you live, you should be close to an awesome free event in your neighborhood. West Ashley will be hearing from an acoustic duo over at **Lenevar Park**. If you're downtown, there's an event on **Morris Street** that will feature impressive improv comedy. You can make these events mini picnics if you'd like, or just come and hang out and enjoy the show.

June 2. Various locations.

Bluegrass Stroll

The sounds of bluegrass will flow through Hampton Park during the second weekend of Piccolo. The low-key and family friendly music venue Awendaw Green is partnering with Piccolo Spoleto to present some of the finest homegrown pickers and fiddlers Charleston has to offer. Boonie Bevins Band, Cane Creek String Band, and Big Stoner Creek will all be on hand to play exceptional bluegrass music.

June 11. 6 p.m. Hampton Park. 30 Mary Murray Drive Downtown.



Nuvo Images

Charleston Reprise

As the sun starts to set on Piccolo Spoleto 2021, Hampton Park will host another fun, free event to celebrate the city and the festival. The CSO Brass band will be performing. They are joined by exciting jazz group Gino Castillo and the Cuban Cowboys. Led by Afro-Cuban percussionist and singer Castillo, the Cuban Cowboys' high energy jazz performances bring dancers and non-dancers alike to their feet.

June 12. 6 p.m. Hampton Park. 30 Mary Murray Drive Downtown.



Provided



CHARLESTON COUNTY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS IS PROUD TO BE NAMED BEST PUBLIC SCHOOL! POSITIONS NOW OPEN!

Are you new to Charleston County? Charleston County School of the Arts (SOA) has openings for some art majors as well as waitlist openings and will conduct auditions for "move-in" students (grades 6-12) this summer.

Any student who has not previously applied for the 2021-2022 school year may apply for open seats.

Email Sylvia Edwards at Sylvia_Edwards@charleston.k12.sc.us for an application.

Visit soa.ccsdschools.com for audition requirements and to learn more about our one-of-a-kind school for student artists!

Openings:

Band: Grades 8-12

Creative Writing: Grades 10 & 12

Dance: Grades 9-12

Fashion & Costume Design:

Grades 11-12

Piano: Grades 7, 9-11

Strings: Grades 6-7 & 9-12

Theatre: Grade 12

Visual Arts: Grades 9-12 & 12

Vocal: Grades 6, 8-12

843.529.4990 • soa.ccsdschools.com

Day by Day

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Bluegrass Stroll

Hampton Park

30 Mary Murray Blvd.

6 p.m.

Featuring the Boonie Bevins Band, Cane Creek String Band and Big Stoner Creek. Produced in partnership with Awendaw Green.

Saturday, June 12

World Music

Colonial Lake

46-54 Ashley Ave. Downtown

4 p.m.

Peter Kfoury's "World Music Cafe" with



Provided

additional performances by Porto Seguro and others.

Charleston Reprise

Hampton Park

30 Mary Murray Blvd.

6 p.m.

Featuring performances by the Charleston Symphony Brass, and Gino Castillo and the Cuban Cowboys.

Piccolo Spoleto, the official outreach arm of Spoleto Festival USA, was founded by the City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs in 1979. The 2021 Piccolo Spoleto Festival is funded in part by grants from the City of Charleston, and the South Carolina Arts Commission, which receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts. Patrons with accessibility concerns should call or email the Office of Cultural Affairs at (843) 724-7305 or email CulturalAffairs@charleston-sc.gov. The Office of Cultural Affairs is open Monday-Friday from 9am-5pm. ©City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs, 2021.

42ND ANNUAL PICCOLO SPOLETO CRAFT SHOW

May 28-30 and
June 4-6

At Wragg Square
342 Meeting Street.
Charleston, SC

Gullah Juneteenth

Gadsdenboro Park

6/19/2021

<https://bit.ly/3o9KiD0>



Become a friend of Piccolo Spoleto!

We thank you for your past and continuing attendance of Piccolo Spoleto events and exhibitions. In fact, our audiences do something absolutely essential that the Festival alone cannot: you sustain the artists and ensembles that participate in Piccolo Spoleto through your purchases, your volunteer service, your gifts and your support in countless other ways, both during the Festival and throughout the year.

We encourage you to consider supporting our collective efforts to promote the arts and culture in the Lowcountry as a Friend of Piccolo with a gift at the level most comfortable to you.

Your Friends of Piccolo contribution will do much more than just help us offset the cost of producing an ambitious, multi-disciplinary arts festival. Your support will allow us to renew and expand our ongoing outreach efforts to make the Festival experience accessible to all. This includes bringing artists into schools, libraries, community centers, hospitals and nursing homes, as well as providing arts experiences for area students, seniors, veterans and others who might not be able to otherwise attend and participate.

In acknowledgment of your gift, we are pleased to offer recognition and premiums at a range of giving levels, from \$50 to \$5,000. Donate online at our website, piccolospoleto.com, or you can call our office at (843) 724-7305. No matter the level of your support, we will work tirelessly to make sure every dollar is utilized to mount a vibrant, artistically-excellent Festival and to keep the arts vital in Charleston year after year.

We hope you'll consider joining the Friends of Piccolo. Giving is easy, and whatever support you select, your gift will be deeply appreciated.

Festival Staff

Piccolo Spoleto Festival is produced and directed by the City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs

CITY OF CHARLESTON John J. Tecklenburg <i>Mayor</i>		
CITY COUNCIL Marie Delcioppo <i>District 1</i>	Karl L. Brady, Jr. <i>District 5</i>	A. Peter Shahid, Jr. <i>District 9</i>
Kevin Shealy <i>District 2</i>	William Dudley Gregorie <i>District 6</i>	Harry Griffin <i>District 10</i>
Jason Sakran <i>District 3</i>	Perry K. Waring <i>District 7</i>	Ross A. Appel <i>District 11</i>
Robert M. Mitchell <i>District 4</i>	Michael S. Seekings <i>District 8</i>	Carol Jackson <i>District 12</i>
OFFICE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS Scott Watson <i>Director</i>	Basil Punsalan <i>Outreach & Event Coordinator</i>	Ray Swagerty <i>Production Manager</i>
Mindy Manzano <i>Associate Producer of Piccolo Spoleto Festival</i>	Anne Quattlebaum <i>City Gallery Manager</i>	Hanna Wathen <i>Promotions Coordinator</i>
Harrison Chapman <i>Farmers Market Manager</i>	Tom Scerbo <i>City Gallery Assistant</i>	Rachel D. Workman <i>Finance Manager</i>
ADJUNCT STAFF Geoff Yost <i>Design</i>		

LIVE LOCAL OUTDOOR MUSIC

Visit us online to see live events hosted by Workshop, Tobin's Market, Safe Sounds and more!

CityPaperTickets.com

CITY PAPER TICKETS
LOCAL • LOW FEES • GREAT EVENTS



Voted Best Acupuncturist

"Thank you for the opportunity to support you, your friends, and your family in healing."
Kristin Query



Lowcountry Acupuncture

LowcountryAcupuncture.com
843.242.7688

BUXTON BOOKS

AND TOUR CHARLESTON
160 KING STREET | 843.723.1670



COME VISIT US. COME WALK WITH US.
OPEN DAILY.
ONLINE SHOPPING 24/7.
BUXTONBOOKS.COM
TOURCHARLESTON.COM

Gracie and Lacy's classic-inspired act stays in harmony

By Michael Smallwood

Friday's Charleston Fanfare event in Cannon Park did more than just serve as the official start to this year's Piccolo Spoleto. It also delivered on highlighting some of Charleston's musical traditions. For sister duo Gracie and Lacy, who have been performing together since they were 8 and 10, it's a high honor. This is their first time as part of the actual kickoff day for Piccolo, and it has been a long time coming.

"We'd just been talking with the Office of Cultural Affairs about the changes with the festival due to COVID," said Lacy. "They reached out to us and asked if we'd like to be a part of it and so we've been working on building a Charleston-themed mini show for the fanfare."

Gracie and Lacy have been working with Piccolo for years. They have normally been involved in the mayor's receptions, but with that not happening this year, they were added to the open-air fanfare event. They are still keeping fingers crossed that they get to perform with the mayor again this year.

As with every other live act, Gracie and Lacy have had to work within the confines of COVID restrictions. But, planning for Piccolo Spoleto was not a major issue. "Because of just having repertoire that's ready to go, I think that's one of the reasons that Cultural Affairs will reach out to organizations like ours and

the CSO," explains Lacy. "We're always ready for a show! So if they reach out to us last minute, we can certainly always put something together," she said.

The show that the sisters bring to Charleston audiences, as well as audiences around the country, is their signature combination of tight harmonies, retro fashion, and renditions of some of the most beloved pieces of music of Americana. The sisters perform cuts from the *Great American Songbook*, with choreography by Gracie and costumes designed by Lacy. It's the kind of vaudeville-style sister act that would have dominated the early days of Broadway. Comparisons to the iconic Betty and Judy Haynes from Irving Berlin's *White Christmas* are apt, as evidenced by the dead-ringer photo on the ladies' own website.

The realities of 2020 have kept Gracie and Lacy's show off the road and limited to their computers. Their planned show during the Piccolo 2020 was canceled, others were postponed multiple times. They shifted their focus to several virtual performances a week for a variety of audiences.

But it wasn't all bad. They have seen an uptick in engagement with schools, after being invited to come in and work with students. It's something both sisters are proud of.

"They've had a rough year," said Lacy. "So we've gone in person and virtually into the schools. We'll do anything from teaching them the Charleston virtually to dressing up like a tap-dancing pony. Everything we can to keep the morale high."

Lacy admires the poetry of their new-found educational outreach. "When we started performing together as sisters, we were 8 and 10 and used to put on shows in our driveway. So we really felt like we were coming full circle: from the driveway to the living room!"

Excitement about a return to audiences is a common theme among performers right



Milton Morris

Gracie and Lacy will perform June 12 at Forte Jazz Lounge, 477 King St. The duo was part of the opening performance for Piccolo Spoleto on May 28.

now, and Gracie and Lacy are no exception. While away, Lacy has taken up songwriting in a big way, becoming quite prolific and working on over a hundred songs. One of the songs, "Morris Island Lighthouse," was performed Friday night, and more will be worked into the rotation as the duo returns to live performances.

The sisters perform at Forte Jazz Lounge every second Saturday with a different themed show, and the June 12 performance will be The Charleston Show, which will

feature more of Lacy's new original material. The songs are all about Charleston, odes to the home the ladies have considered their base since 2014.

Gracie views it as the perfect chance for them to leave an impact on their neighbors.

"We're excited," she said. "We haven't had a monthly residency in Charleston, we're usually at private corporate events when we're in Charleston, so it's exciting to have the second Saturday shows so we can connect with the local audiences."

“When we started performing together as sisters, we were 8 and 10 and used to put on shows in our driveway.”

—Lacy

LOCAL SMALL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT



Quentin Govan owns
Electric Connection LLC

Get electrifying results with Electric Connection LLC

Electric Connection LLC delivers top-quality electrical work for residential and commercial customers so they feel their homes and business are safe and protected. Growing for the last three years, the Berkeley County-based business makes service calls all over the Lowcountry.

Owner-electrician Quentin Govan says his team provides detailed explanations to customers so they understand their electrical issues throughout an installation or during a repair call. "We give good-quality

service and communicate clearly with our customers to let them know what's going on."

Licensed, bonded and insured

Electric Connection LLC answers service calls any time, day or night. "Electrical work is challenging, but I learn something all of the time. It makes our understanding grow," he says.

The company provides a variety of residential electrical services, including installation of custom

lighting, generators, surge protectors and internet wiring. Technicians also do upgrades for electrical panel breakers, wiring for pools and spas, as well as lighting for kitchens, outdoor areas, holidays and more.

Contact Electric Connection LLC today for all of your electrical and energy-saving solutions. "We love interacting with customers and coming up with efficient ways to fix their electrical issues," Govan says.

Serving Charleston, Berkeley, and Dorchester counties • 843.494.8877 • qgovan@ElectricConnectionLLC.com • ElectricConnectionLLC.com

PRESENTED BY  **nephron**
pharmaceuticals corporation

SPONSORED BY

MOUNT ZION
AME
CHARLESTON

CHARLESTON
CITY PAPER

THE BEST LIVE JAZZ IN CHARLESTON

FORTE JAZZ LOUNGE

MAY, 2021

FRI 28 -THE JOE CLARKE BIG BAND, SPECIAL APPEARANCE BY "THE FORTETTES"
SAT 29 -CAMERON & THE SALTWATER BRASS, "FEEL THE NEW ORLEANS SOUND"
SUN 30 -SOULSWING, TURNING CLASSIC JAZZ INTO SOMETHING NEW
MON 31 -JOE CLARKE AT THE PIANO, VOCAL JAZZ STANDARDS



*Charleston's Only Jazz
Listening Room!*

JUNE, 2021

TUE 01 -JOE CLARKE QUARTET, VOCAL JAZZ STANDARDS
WED 02 -BRETT BELANGER TRIO, INSTRUMENTAL PIANO JAZZ
THU 03 -THE SINGING DIVAS, "A NIGHT OF ELLA, SARAH AND PEGGY"
FRI 04 -ALVA ANDERSON, JAZZ, BLUES & FOLK SONGS FROM AROUND THE WORLD
SAT 05 -SWINGIN' SINATRA SATURDAYS, WITH THE JOE CLARKE BIG BAND
SUN 06 -SOULSWING, TURNING CLASSIC JAZZ INTO SOMETHING NEW
MON 07 -GATSBY'S ORCHESTRA, REHEARSAL
TUE 08 -SAX IN THE CITY, A LIVELY MIX OF CLASSICAL, JAZZ, FOLK AND WORLD MUSIC
WED 09 -BRETT BELANGER TRIO, INSTRUMENTAL JAZZ
THU 10 -JOE CLARKE TRIO - VOCAL JAZZ STANDARDS
FRI 11 -GATSBY'S ORCHESTRA- AUTHENTIC MUSIC OF THE 1920'S AND 1930'S
SAT 12 -GRACIE & LACY, THE CHARLESTON SHOW
SUN 13 -CARL MICHAEL, CELEBRITIES' MAGICIAN, INTERACTIVE ORIGINAL MAGIC AND ILLUSIONS.

WINE & BEER
MENU



OPEN NIGHTLY | ALL SHOWS START AT 7:00PM | TICKETS: ONLINE OR AT THE DOOR

WWW.FORTEJAZZLOUNGE.COM | 475-477 KING ST, CHARLESTON, SC 29403 | (843) 637-4931

