



Creative Voice

PUBLISHED BY THE ISLE OF WIGHT ARTS LEAGUE

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Isle of Wight Arts League Board of Directors

Priscilla A. McGreevy,
President



Vice President.....Diane Milner

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The Annual Meeting of the Isle of Wight Arts League

will be held on Monday, January 8, 2024, at 7:00 PM, at the Arts Center @ 319, 319 Main Street, Smithfield, Virginia. Members are invited to attend.

In accordance with the By-laws of the Arts League, Deborah Duncan has been nominated to serve on the Board of Directors for a term of three-years; their appointment to the Board will be subject to a vote by members in attendance.

Please note: If you intend to join us, please let us know by calling the Arts Center at 357-7707 by 4:00 PM, Sunday, January 7th, so that we may arrange for adequate seating.

Creative Voice newsletters are available online at www.smithfieldarts.org

The Arts Center @ 319

is the home of the **Isle of Wight Arts League**, co-located with the Visitor Center, at 319 Main Street in Smithfield.



In addition to the Art Center, the Arts League also includes three music programs: Smithfield Music, the Summer Concert Series and Sundays at Four.

Information available at 757.357.7707 or info@smithfieldarts.org.

Support the Arts in your community!

Join the Arts League for only \$45 a year! Get discounts on classes and gift shop items at the Art Center.

THANK YOU!

We would like to thank all of the people who volunteered through the Isle of Wight Arts League at the Bacon Fest in November. We had 15 spots and we were able to fill them all. By volunteering for these events on behalf of the Isle of Wight Arts League, you help earn a financial donation to the organization!



Everything went great for the Event and the everyone that has posted that they had gone to the event said that it was great and they were really glad they had gone. We need to keep up the good work.

We will be having another Event in January on the 13, the **BOB Fest**. We will need 13 volunteers for this event. Anyone that may be interested please let me know! There will be volunteer opportunities available on the 11th, 12th and the 13th of January.

You can email me at: amilkfamily@charter.net.

Brenda Lovell

The Isle of Wight Arts League extends its gratitude for the financial support of the Arts Center @319 provided in part by these entities and community members who find the arts essential to a thriving community. Support the arts and join the league!



Hampton Roads Community Foundation
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Baritone Adam Richardson is a celebrated artist known for his captivating performances across opera, concert, and theatre stages. Praised by Opera News for his "gorgeous textured baritone," Richardson's career has been marked by a series of impressive achievements and notable debuts. In the upcoming 2023-2024 season, Richardson is set to make his debut with the Metropolitan Opera in ***X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X*** as from role of 'Friend', Virginia Opera in ***Sanctuary Road*** and Music Theatre Wichita. Additionally, he will return to Opera in the Heights as Schaunard in ***La Boheme***. The previous season, 2022-2023, showcased Richardson as he portrayed Yoshio in ***Hanjo*** with Catapult Opera, a role he reprised at Teatro Sociale di Trento, Italy. A significant highlight was his house debut with Opera Omaha, where he commanded the title role of Malcolm X in the title role of ***X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X***. He was seen in the world premiere of ***Factotum*** at Lyric Opera of Chicago and his return to the role of John Mack at Pittsburgh Opera in ***We Shall Not Be Moved***, a work he originated and premiered in 2017. Richardson's versatility extended to the realm of film, marking his first appearance in the famed "Blue's Clue's" franchise with ***Blue's Clue's Big City Adventure***. The 2021-2022 season saw Richardson in the Off-Broadway cast of Ricky Ian Gordon's ***Intimate Apparel*** at Lincoln Center Theater. He appeared as Sciarrone in ***Tosca*** at Cincinnati Opera, gave a debut recital with Linton Chamber Music, and performed a Liederabend with Beth Morrison Projects. Richardson also made his debut at Barrington Stage Company as Mr. Lindquist in Stephen Sondheim's ***A Little Night Music***. Throughout previous seasons, Richardson's career has been punctuated by remarkable milestones. He spent 18 months on a Broadway National Tour and participated in the virtual ***Night of Black Excellence*** gala with Fort Worth Opera. He engaged in ***THE MOVE Project*** with the University of Utah and presented a debut recital titled ***Stand the Storm*** with Extensity Concert Series. His roles included Guglielmo in ***Così fan tutte*** with Opera in the Heights and John Mack in ***We Shall Not Be Moved*** at Opera Philadelphia, The Apollo, and the Dutch National Opera. He debuted with Amarillo Opera as the title role in ***Joshua's Boots*** and performed as Jake in ***Porgy and Bess*** at esteemed venues like Alte Oper Frankfurt, Staatsoper Hamburg, and Opera de Massy. Richardson has also been featured at Central City Opera as Sciarrone in ***Tosca*** and Horace Tabor in ***The Ballad of Baby Doe***. He has been a studio member at various renowned companies, including Opera Santa Barbara, Caramoor, Cincinnati Opera, Opera North, and The Brevard Music Festival.



Richardson's artistic accomplishments have been duly recognized through numerous awards. He was named the New Mexico District Winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Competition and emerged as a Finalist in the Giulio Gari Competition. He received the Encouragement Award from the Gerda Lissner Song Competition and the Harlem Opera Theatre, as well as the Young Talent Award from the Lotte Lenya Competition. Richardson secured second place in the Pittsburgh National Arts and Letters competition and was a two-time Benjamin Matthews Competition Finalist. Hailing from Smithfield, Virginia, Richardson is a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University, holding a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, and The Juilliard School, where he earned a Masters degree.

Adam will be the baritone soloist with Virginia Opera in its "opera-oratorio" called "Sanctuary Road" about the Underground Railroad that will run in **Norfolk on Friday, Jan. 26, and Sun. matinee, Jan. 28; and in Richmond on Friday, Feb. 9 and Sun. matinee, Feb. 11.** Virginia Opera performs at the Harrison Opera House in Norfolk and the Dominion Energy Center in Richmond.

"Sanctuary Road" is called an opera-oratorio because it is not fully staged, with neither costumes nor sets. The music is by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Paul Moravec, with libretto by Mark Campbell. It is based on writings of William Still, a real-life conductor for the Underground Railroad who is credited with helping nearly 800 enslaved people escape to freedom.

Tickets are available at www.vaopera.org or by contacting the Box Office at 866-673-7282.



**Gnome for the Holidays
Youth Art Class**

Sunday, December 17

2 to 4 p.m.

Arts Center at 319 Main Street

Make your own holiday gnome with instructor Diane Greenhalgh. She will guide students as they paint and decorate their gnome's hat and attach beards and noses.

If time permits, we will also make a little mushroom ornament. Call 757.357.7707 for more details or to register.

Admission: \$25 members, \$35 non-members, plus a \$5 materials fee.

Sundays at Four

**An Evening of Piano Trios
Sunday, January 7 at 4 p.m.**

**Christ Episcopal Church
111 S. Church St., Smithfield**

Long established as solo and chamber musicians individually, violinist, Simon Lapointe, cellist, Rebecca Gilmore, and pianist, Alexander Beyer, are combining forces in an evening of piano trios not to be missed.

While Gilmore and Beyer have collaborated numerous times in 2022 and 2023, they are excited to venture into staples of the trio repertoire. Gilmore and Lapointe have performed in the Ambrosia Quartet and VSO together for years.

A performance of Joaquin Turina's Piano Trio No. 2, Opus 76, and Antonin Dvorak's Piano Trio No. 4, Opus 90, "Dumky" will be performed.

Admission: \$20 adults, \$10 Students

2023 Summer Concert Series Recap

The 2023 Summer Concert Series would like to thank everyone for their participation and support this year! We had some rainy weather, very hot weather, and a few days of air quality scares, but we were still able to have a great time!

Our mixture this year included a myriad of genres including; Blues, Rock, Patriotic, Reggae, Gospel, Bluegrass, a phenomenal Military Combo, Jazz, Country, and more.

The season was rounded up by a Motown Revue that had folks standing on their feet and rocking the night away.

The Town of Smithfield did an excellent job of creating a new stage. We thank them and all the donors wholeheartedly. We certainly appreciate the Town allowing us to continue to use the grounds.

Our fellow Board member and Smithfield Times publisher went above and beyond to promote, market and attend concerts. Thank you, Steve Stewart.

The Smithfield Center was very generous in allowing us to use their venue for the big indoor concert; thank you to Amy Novak. Tourism loaned us Judy Winslow to assist us throughout the concert season including overseeing our use of Smithfield Little Theatre on the night of the big concert.

Thank you to Smithfield Little Theatre and their President, James Clarke, for the use of your dressing rooms and lobby for our performers for the Motown Revue.

It took an excellent volunteer crew to manage the final big concert night.

Thank you to:

Nicole Talton	Paula Cole	Vero Tucker
Stephanie Faleski	Valerie Johnson	Steve Stewart
Kathy Strozak	Bob Strozak	Chenita Gillis

Elaine Dairo
Summer Concert Series

Isle of Wight Arts League
319 A Main Street
Smithfield, VA 23430

