

Barrington White House Performances

THE AMERICAN STRING QUARTET

Special 9/11 Performance

Sunday, September 11 at 3 p.m.

PLAYING WITH “precision, eloquence and subtlety,” The American String Quartet is recognized as one of the finest quartets in the world. Their appearance at Barrington’s White House will be particularly moving and passionate as they perform selected works to honor fallen veterans, those immersed in global conflict, and victims of our nation’s tragedy on 9/11.

Entitled, “Lyric in the Time of War,” this musical performance will include carefully chosen works, interspersed with readings by poet Tom Sleigh, a journalist who has covered dozens of wars and will share poetry from his experiences.

The works performed by The American String Quartet will include poignant and reflective pieces created during times of conflict:

- Bach: Praeludium in F Minor, BWV 857, from the Well-Tempered Clavier
- Shostakovich: Quartet No. 8 in C minor (with Tom Sleigh)
- Bartok: Marcia from Quartet No. 6
- Barber: Adagio from Quartet for Strings, Op. 11

Tickets are \$40 for adults and \$20 for students (with ID) and are available at: www.BarringtonWhiteHouse.com.



The American Strings Quartet will perform on September 11.

Barrington's White House is a unique, historic venue located in the heart of downtown Barrington at 145 West Main Street. This meticulously restored 1898 mansion hosts cultural and community events, and is also available for rental for weddings, corporate meetings, nonprofit fundraisers and family celebrations. Visit our website or call 224-512-4292 for your private tour.



A Senior Recital: Barrington High School senior Lauren Conroy completed her senior recital performance on Saturday, June 11, with the support of family and friends. A luncheon was provided to guests who attended the piano and violin recital at Barrington's White House. (Photos: Bob Lee)



Great Blue Heron (*Ardea Herodias*) from "The Birds of America".

LECTURE AND EXHIBIT ON JOHN JAMES AUDUBON

Sunday, November 6 at 3 p.m.

BARRINGTON'S WHITE HOUSE will host one of the country's foremost authorities on the works of John James Audubon, Barrington resident Joel Oppenheimer, in an exhibit and lecture entitled "John James Audubon: An Introduction to His Life, Artwork, and Collecting Audubon Prints". The lecture is free and open to the public.

John James Audubon's rich, vibrant paintings of America's birds are some of the most recognized and prized images in our history. For his book, "The Birds of America", Audubon painted 435 life-size portraits—every bird then known in the United States, and some discovered by Audubon. This masterpiece of art took Audubon over 18 years; first to find and paint the birds, and then to produce and sell the book to subscribers. He also produced "The Quadrupeds of America" with the collaboration of John Bachman, as the artist's eyesight was by then fading.

ABOUT JOEL OPPENHEIMER

Joel Oppenheimer has devoted his life to the study and conservation of fine art. He has lectured extensively on the subject of Audubon and the various editions of his work, and will share his knowledge on Audubon's life and artwork, and on how to begin your own collection of Audubon prints.

Oppenheimer is the owner and president of a gallery and art conservation lab on the ground floor of the historic Wrigley Building on Michigan Avenue in Chicago. He has assembled one of the largest privately held natural history art collections in the world and had pioneered the field of high-quality replication of museum collections utilizing cutting-edge digital imaging technologies. Oppenheimer has worked with some of the most prestigious museums in the world, including The Field Museum, the New York Historical Society, and the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew in England.

Jewelry Artist Morgan Mehalic Sets Up Shop



Morgan Mehalic's jewelry can be found in her space at Barrington Flower Shop.

THE JOURNEY OF AN ARTIST REQUIRES TALENT, confidence, support and style. Morgan Mehalic, a jewelry and accessories artist, possesses each of these. Upon graduation from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, she's opened her first shop in a back room at the Barrington Flower Shop on Cook Street. It's a place where her artist mother, Fran, has worked for nearly two years. Mehalic grew up in Barrington and manages all facets of her business. She walks to work everyday feeling grateful for the support she has received from family, mentors, and the community.

"People I know see the progress I've made. They know my path and tell others," she says. One such person is her former Barrington High School art teacher, John Anderson. "At BHS, I learned so many techniques while studying with Mr. Anderson. I learned advanced ways to solder metal and set stone. I wouldn't be where I am now without that foundation." She's standing behind a piece of her high school experience, Mr. Anderson's workbench, that he gave to her.

Some of the metal display stands in Mehalic's shop were designed and built by her dad and uncle. Her family owns an industrial steel company. "Growing up walking through a steel shop has definitely influenced my work," she says. Hand-hammered metal rings and oxidized brass necklaces are included in her repertoire. She sings the praises of sterling silver. One of her favorite pieces is a ring with one amethyst stone and two quartz stones set in sterling silver.

During college, Mehalic worked with a variety of materials including fabric and leather. "I saw how clothing choices, shoes, jewelry, and accessories influence each other," she says.



Morgan Mehalic stands behind her workbench, a gift from her high school art teacher.

After sketching out an idea, Mehalic decides on what stone and metal to use. She considers texture, color, and weight. With a centrifugal casting machine she creates a single-use wax form. Her design inspiration often comes from nature. Her fashion influences come from around the world. Her clients, who custom order pieces made by her, also inspire her.

In addition to the stones, forms, and metals that Mehalic uses in her designs, there is an option on how to wear the jewelry. Some of her pieces are reversible. They can be flipped to show a different side.



Some are multi-directional, able to be worn pointing towards or away from the owner.

Mehalic sees that jewelry preferences can be generational and regional. Millennials love choices and changing things up. More mature buyers may like a consistent look. In the United States, she says, West Coast jewelry shows a free-spirited guise, while the East Coast is sophisticated with statement pieces. The Midwest is easygoing, she says, and comfortable with pieces that can be dressed up or down. “My jewelry and accessories work for any woman who dresses nicely, has sophisticated tastes, and likes clean, unique things. I’m not designing for teenagers,” she says.

JULY 15 GRAND OPENING

Going forward, the artist and entrepreneur will introduce a new line of purses. Later she hopes to start designing with the most precious of stones. “I haven’t worked with diamonds yet. It will take some time to learn how to set them properly.”

Morgan Mehalic is celebrating the grand opening of her shop at 201 N. Cook Street on July 15 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. To contact her, call 847-452-1473, or email morganmehalic@gmail.com.



AMAZING LIVE EVENTS. CLOSE TO HOME.



JULY 8 -31
Williams Street Rep
presents ART
Select weekend dates



JULY 10 @ 3 p.m.
Chicago Comedy
Icon Jeff Sweet



JULY 15 - AUG 6
Williams Street Rep
presents [title of show]
Select weekend dates



JULY 29 @ 8 p.m.
Comedy Legend
Louie Anderson



AUG 20 @ 8 p.m.
Christian Music Icon
Michael W. Smith



APRIL 7, 2017 @ 8 p.m.
Christian Music Icon
Amy Grant



Raue Center For The Arts
26 N Williams Street | Crystal Lake, IL
815.356.9212 | RAUECENTER.ORG



Guest musician saxophonist Mark Colby (on left) and Director of Bands at Barrington High School Randy Karon with Barrington High School and Middle School students at rehearsal.

Making Music in Barrington 220

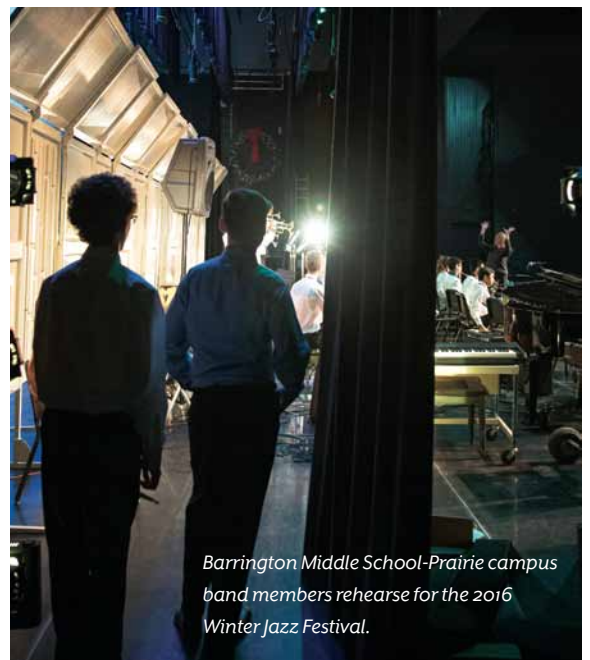
WINTER JAZZ FESTIVAL STRIKES A CHORD WITH MIDDLE SCHOOLERS

SHORTLY AFTER THE HOLIDAY SEASON ENDS and students settle back into their routines, another celebration takes place at Barrington High School, the Winter Jazz Festival.

For more than 20 years, the Jazz Band has invited middle school students from Barrington 220 Middle School's Prairie and Station campuses to join them in concert. It's a chance for the students to play on a professional stage, rather than in a gym with poor acoustics, and see what is possible when they make a commitment to stay in band throughout high school, says Randy Karon, director of bands at Barrington High School. The event has parents of high school students feeling nostalgic about their kids' early days in band and middle school parents excited about the possibilities for growth.

"It's one big mutual appreciation society," said Luana Byte, director of bands at Barrington Middle School-Prairie Campus.

The Winter Jazz Festival comes at a crucial time in the lives of eighth-graders. They are soon to enter high school with lots of activities to choose from and may consider dropping the instrument they have played since fifth grade. "I will tell parents, 'your kids can choose their flavor of ice cream or what they want to wear,'" Byte said. "But whether or not to continue with music instruction, after all these years of practicing and lessons, is not a decision you are going to leave to a 13-year-old. You have to help guide them." She suggests they try band freshmen year and then decide whether or not to continue with it.



Barrington Middle School-Prairie campus band members rehearse for the 2016 Winter Jazz Festival.



Barrington Middle School-Prairie Band Director Luana Byte and her students.



Barrington High School's Jazz Combo.

PULLING IT TOGETHER

The bands start preparing in October for the Winter Jazz Festival in February, practicing separately the entire time. Then, 15 minutes before the big event, they finally meet for rehearsal, and it all comes together.

Karon usually brings in a guest musician to inspire students. This year it was saxophonist Mark Colby. He often commissions the artist to compose a piece for the students and gives them an opportunity to work together. “It allows them to have a different voice and a different perspective, other than mine, giving critique on their performance,” Karon said. “Being able to hear and, many times, interact with a professional jazz player, is sometimes a catalyst to move kids to become better at their level.”

Students have to audition for Jazz Band. The directors provide them with sheet music and give them a couple weeks to prepare. To qualify, they must know their way around the instrument and be able to sight read, Byte said. The middle school jazz bands have from 20 to 25 musicians, because that is what the instrumentation dictates: five saxophones, five trumpets, five trombones, and a standard rhythm section of piano, bass, guitar, and drums. She remembers one year, when she doubled each instrument, because there were so many kids. “You want to give kids a chance,” she said. “But there’s a fine line between giving kids the opportunity and still following the instrumentation

for the song to sound like it’s supposed to.” Jazz Band meets after school, once a week, to practice for one hour and 20 minutes.


“Students learn to play Latin, Blues, Funk, and Swing varieties of Jazz, but they mostly rehearse Swing charts, because that’s the crux of it,” Byte said. “Jazz is the one form of music that originated in America. Yet teenagers aren’t likely to go out and buy a Jazz CD,” Byte said. It’s up to educators like her to introduce them to it.

“Jazz Band gives students, who have an interest in learning to play in Jazz and Rock styles, the opportunity to do so,” said Andrew Nelson, director of bands at Barrington Middle School-Station Campus. “Interested students also learn basic improvisation skills, which gives them more opportunities to play independently.”

PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

Barrington High School’s band program serves 150 kids, according to Kyle Kick, president of BHS’s Band Spirit Club, a parent booster program. She said Jazz Band represents a small portion of it. Most students who are in Jazz Band are also in concert and symphonic bands. “It’s a phenomenal experience for these kids,” she said, noting the bands travel locally, nationally, and internationally for performances. Marching Band played in London’s 2014 New Year’s Day Parade and at Disneyworld last Thanksgiving. Rithum Machine, the honors-level Jazz Band, has performed at Dirty Nellies in Palatine, opened for the Jazz Consortium Big Band in Chicago, and appeared at Jazz Showcase, the city’s oldest Jazz club. They also participate in competitions throughout the year, learning how to graciously accept criticism and put it to use.

Both of Kick’s children went through the Barrington 220 band program. Her son Teagan, who recently graduated from BHS, will double major in math and music at Depauw University in Greencastle, Ind., one of the country’s oldest music conservatories. He plans to do large scale scoring for movies and gaming. At the last concert of the year, the Symphonic Band performed one of his original compositions. “What meant the most to me was how willing the kids were to put in the time, energy, and effort to perform the piece,” she said.

Kick believes that for many kids, band is where they fit in. “It’s an amazing place,” she said. “They take care of each other and make each other feel good about who they are, regardless of whatever talent they have. It’s about being part of a team, teamwork, and dedication.” 



Director of Bands Andrew Nelson with some of his Barrington Middle School-Station campus band members.