

Quarter Notes Newsletter

ArtsLIVE! 

August 2026



Michele Levin, Leqing Wang, Peter Zazofsky, Carol Wincenc, Mark Berger, Alexander Fiterstein, Mike Reynolds, Stacey Shames, Paul Glenn, Andrew Mark, Kathleen Reynolds



Natalie Madison-Rascoe and André Rascoe

2026 ArtsLIVE! Music Festival Review

Wow! Congratulations to the performers, the sponsors, the board, the staff and friends of ArtsLIVE! for performing, producing and supporting the 2026 ArtsLIVE! Music Festival. We could not have done this without you.

The phenomenal kickoff of this spectacular musical season took place at Trinity Episcopal Church May 13, 15 and 16, 2026. The performances were inspired and coordinated by Michael Reynolds, Artistic Director; Mark Berger (viola), Alexander Fiterstein (clarinet), Paul Glenn (double bass), Michele Levin (piano), Andrew Mark (cello), Kathleen Reynolds (bassoon), Stacey Shames (harp), Leqing Wang (violin), Carol Wincenc (flute), Peter Zazofsky (violin).

The Avery Ballet, directed by Lisa Snape Avery, performed at Trinity Episcopal a visually eloquent and inspiring performance on Sunday, May 17. The dancers opened the evening with Avery's original story ballet, "In the Spirit of Angels" which embodied the music of American composer, Louis Gottschalk. The diversified performance also included contemporary ensemble and solo work choreographed by Jenn Ruhl Kubilus and Kori Joseph, a restaging of Emma Atkinson's (NKA Sister Mary) "Anywhere Is", and "Lo Ti Penso Amore"

a trio choreographed by Avery, sung by operatic soprano, Odori Pendleton. The audience showed great appreciation with applause and ovations for the elite dancers of Avery Ballet.

The excellent performance on the St. George's Episcopal Church organ took place on Tuesday, May 19. Organist Ms. Gen Bolena of Staunton, Virginia, was fabulous and inspiring. Ms. Bolena performed a program of organ music by women composers. She introduced each piece from the organ bench and told the story of each woman composer: the time period they composed in, some of the hardships they endured to be heard as a composer and some of the unique qualities or characteristics of each piece. Ms. Bolena performed with mastery and grace. She received many standing ovations; the audience adored the program.

The Boundless Boundaries of Broadway performance took place on Saturday, May 23, at the Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church. Performing the Broadway program were ArtsLIVE! board members and husband and wife team Natalie and (Continued)

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André Rascoe, retired US Air Force Band members. Natalie and André gave great introductions to each spirited piece and the evening could not have been more perfect. Traditional and contemporary Broadway solo and duet favorites were performed with vim and vigor and accompanist Karen Clotfelter performed with great interpretation and energy. The audience loved the Rascoe's! Bravissimo!!

The Beltway Brass comprised of performers from the greater Fredericksburg region, performed at The Fredericksburg Presbyterian church, Sunday, May 24. Zach Smith, the lead trumpet and composer/arranger of Beltway Brass, presented a varied program of his own compositions and arrangements of many genres. The audience was enthusiastic about the presentation of fun, spirited brass ensemble pieces.



Lisa Avery, Avery Ballet dancers and Odori Pendleton



Arts in Motion

ArtsLIVE! in the Community

Whew! We have been busy.

- We presented a Violin Petting Zoo for Kids outside of Commonwealth Lighting on May 1st for First Friday.
- May 2nd we attended the Rappahannock Art & Music Festival at John Lee Pratt Park. We met some lovely arts enthusiasts and informed them of who we are, what we do in the community, and how they could help.
- A Ukelele-Singing Adventure was presented at The International School of Charlottesville to the four year old preschool class and the first and second grade classes on Thursday, May 28th in the morning. A few new and many familiar songs were enjoyed by all.
- The Voices have been performing multiple free concerts, including a performance of Doo Wop and Broadway at the Shakespeare Garden at Casa Cottage.

Board Spotlight: Natalie Madison-Rascoe

Natalie moved to the area with her husband, André, in 2016. She is a retired Air Force musician, vocalist, and content creator. She enjoys gardening, cooking, decorating, studying the Bible, and encouraging others through her YouTube channel, [Living with Lady Madison](#) where she shares home, garden, and everyday life.

Natalie joined ArtsLIVE! last year after visiting our table at First Friday. "They were so excited to give us information about ArtsLIVE! and suggested we perform for their festival series. I had no idea that I was speaking with the President and Vice-President of Arts Live, Anne Adams and Debbie Tripp. When I saw the involvement of the

organization's leadership, I knew ArtsLIVE! would be a great partner."

Natalie looks forward to seeing ArtsLIVE! become an integral part of the Rappahannock region and make the arts accessible, fun, and inspiring. She would love to see ArtsLIVE! continue to grow as a vibrant home for our local talent while showcasing new and out-of-state and international performers. She hopes to expand our outreach and attract new audiences while sustaining our current supporters. "I love our Rappahannock area! We have so many diverse outlets to serve the community, and I want ArtsLIVE! to be front and center when you hear the word arts."

Now Accepting Applications for the 2027 Young Artist Competition

ArtsLIVE!
Fall Fundraiser
Concert Details
Coming Soon!

We had a wonderful group of students compete in piano, classic instrument, and voice in the 2026 Young Artist Competition (YAC)! We hope to have even more apply for the competition to be held in January 2027 at Fredericksburg Baptist Church.

The top three students will receive prizes in the amounts of \$1,000, \$500, and \$300. This competition is generously funded by the Cornelia Bryant Fund at the Community Foundation of the Rappahannock River Region.

YAC is open to students 18 and younger in Spotsylvania, Fredericksburg, Stafford, King George, and Caroline counties. All entrants must be capable of performing a solo at a high level.

The application is available on our website and must be postmarked by December 16, 2026.

The finals competition will be held at Fredericksburg Baptist Church on January 31 at 3PM and is open to the public.

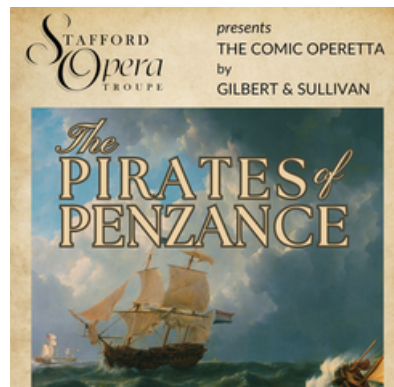
If you know a talented student of piano, classic instrument, or voice, encourage them to apply!

Opera in Schools

We were thrilled to bring opera back to local schools this year! Our partner, Stafford Opera Troupe, performed selections from "The Pirates of Penzance" for three area schools. The kids had a great time and the schools loved it as well.

In spring 2027 we hope to bring "The Magic Flute" to even more schools in our area. Stafford Opera Troupe does such a fantastic job engaging with the students. This is probably the first time most students get to experience opera and we want it to be educational, engaging, and FUN! Our hope is this sparks a life-long interest in the arts and that they realize you can create and experience art wherever you are, not just in large cities.

If you would like to make a donation to support our Opera in Schools program you can click this link, givebutter.com/artslive





TRIVIA CORNER

Otis Redding's biggest hit was "(Sittin' On) The Dock of the Bay." Released in 1968 just after his tragic death, it became the first posthumous number-one hit in U.S. history.

Domenico Scarlatti composed his 'cat fugue' after his cat, Pulcinella, walked across his keyboard.



Upcoming Community Events

For more information you can click the link to Facebook

