

A young boy with brown hair, wearing a light blue button-down shirt and blue jeans, is seen from behind. He is standing on a large, colorful abstract mural that covers the entire wall and floor. The mural is composed of various colors including blue, green, yellow, orange, red, and purple, with thick brushstrokes and splatters. The boy is reaching up with his right hand, touching the mural. The title "Exploring the Arts" is written in a large, blue, sans-serif font across the upper middle of the image.

Exploring the Arts

Art Appreciation

Area art fairs planned for Richfield and West Bend this spring and summer

By Eileen Mozinski Schmidt
Special to Conley Media

Art enthusiasts can look to Washington County in the coming months, as several area art fairs plan to resume annual outdoor events.

In Richfield, Art at the Mill will return from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 19. The art fair is held at Richfield Historical Park, 1896 Hwy 164.

“We’re excited about coming back. The artists are ecstatic about coming back,” said Lois Hessenauer, treasurer of the Richfield Historical Society and co-chair of Art at the Mill, who said last year’s event was canceled due to the pandemic.

She said there are over 70 artists signed up for the 2021 fair, which is the event’s capacity. It is the first time in planning Art at the Mill that there has been a waiting list of artists for the fair, Hessenauer said.

Art at the Mill also includes vendors, live music, and a silent auction featuring the artists’ work. La Cabana Mexican Grill will offer Mexican food for purchase, as well as burgers, hot dogs and other fare. Parking is free and admission is \$2. There are wagon rides available from the parking area to the exhibitions.

Attending artists are primarily from southeast Wisconsin, along with the Madison area and one from Chicago, according to Hessenauer. She said about two-thirds of this year’s artists are new to Art at the Mill, which is a juried art and fine craft fair. “All of these artists, unless they’re returning, had to send in pictures of their work and then it went to a juried committee” who judged based on the event’s criteria, Hessenauer said.

As an outdoor event, she said there is not a mask requirement, however masks will be available for those who would like them and social distancing will be encouraged.



Submitted photo

Attendees at a previous Art at the Mill in Richfield look over artwork. This year, participating artists are “ecstatic about coming back,” said Lois Hessenauer, treasurer of the Richfield Historical Society and co-chair of Art at the Mill, who said last year’s event was canceled due to the pandemic.

Art fans can also look forward to the return of Art & Chalk Fest in West Bend.

The four-acre campus of the Museum of Wisconsin Art will again become the canvas for outdoor artists, according to a museum press release.

The free, outdoor, live arts festival is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 21 to 22.

New this year will be a concert in the

MOWA Gardens Saturday night at 8 p.m., according to the museum.

The festival “brings together a diverse pool of creatives in celebration,” the museum release said. “For two jam-packed days, live art will animate the museum grounds.” This includes: chalk artists creating large-scale compositions on 10 x 10 feet parcels of pavement, fine artists offering live demonstrations in plain-air painting,

screen-printing, tintype photography, ceramic pottery and more.

“Artisans working with flowers, henna, and origami will surprise with their unconventional creations. There will be caricature artists and balloon art innovations. Pop-up and strolling performances in fashion, dance, and spoken word will take place in various locations throughout the festival,” the statement said.

Museum organizers are expecting a “fun, engaging and singularly spectacular cultural event.”

The live music will be performed on the main stage in the hydrangea fields of the MOWA gardens and includes a lineup of Wisconsin bands and a mix of genres, including indie rock, folk, mainstream rock and punk polka, according to the release.

The festival will also include a children’s art activity area, food trucks and a beer garden. The festival and museum admission are free all weekend long.

Festival organizers will take into consideration the need for more space for social distancing and increased sanitation procedures to “remain vigilant in whatever safety protocols we need to take at that time,” the statement said.



Submitted photo

A look at some of the artwork at a previous Art at the Mill. The annual event, a juried fair, will return this year and will also include vendors, live music, and a silent auction featuring the artists’ work.



Submitted photo

Visitors at a previous Art at the Mill. This year’s Art at the Mill will return from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 19. There are over 70 artists signed up for the 2021 fair, which is the event’s capacity, according to Lois Hessenauer, treasurer of the Richfield Historical Society and co-chair of Art at the Mill.



CEDARBURG
PERFORMING ARTS
CENTER

2021-2022 VISITING ARTISTS SERIES

*Where the Stars Come Alive...
and You Will, Too*

SEPTEMBER 25, 2021

**RICKY NELSON
REMEMBERED**

*Ricky Nelson's hit songs
performed by his twin sons*

October 8, 2021

THE TEXAS TENORS

*Three tenors who took
NBC's "America's Got
Talent" by storm*

December 17, 2021

**HERMAN'S HERMITS
STARRING PETER NOONE**

*Back at CPAC with "An Olde
English Christmas"*

January 21, 2022

**SWEARINGEN &
KELLI**

*Journey back in time
with "Folk Anthems
of the '70s"*

February 25, 2022

**SHAUN JOHNSON &
THE BIG BAND EXPERIENCE**

*Vocal jazz and swing with a
contemporary punch*

March 19, 2022

**SOCKS IN THE FRYING
PAN**

*One of the most sought-after
Irish music groups today*

May 6, 2022

**RUMOURS - A FLEETWOOD
MAC TRIBUTE**

*More than a tribute band -
it's a true experience!*

CALL 262.376.6162 FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR
UPCOMING LIVE SEASON



Music in the Air

Area organizations plan for summer outdoor music in Ozaukee and Washington counties

By Eileen Mozinski Schmidt
Special to Conley Media

Cue the band - live music will be back this spring and summer at some area locations. The non-profit group Gathering on the Green has plans underway for several live music events at Mequon Rotary Park, according to Rob Kos, executive director of the organization. This includes a free outdoor Jazz in the Park festival on Sunday, June 6 at Thiensville Village Park, which will feature music, food trucks and a family activity area, Kos said.

“It’s really going to be a fun thing,” he said, adding that the Gathering on the Green organization plans to follow local health guidelines in hosting events this summer.

“We are going to be supplying masks

for free for those who want them and also are having hand sanitizing stations throughout the park,” said Kos, who said although there are not restrictions in place on outdoor gatherings, the approach by the organization is to “recognize what we’ve been going through the last 12-plus months” and ensure people have options to take precautions if preferred.

The organization’s flagship fundraiser events include a performance by Trace Adkins with special guest Matt Wynn at 8 p.m. Friday, July 9 at Mequon Rotary Park. Ros said event capacity may be slightly reduced to allow attendees to spread out if preferred. “There is a lot of real estate to work with. Luckily it’s a pretty big park,” he said.

Saturday, July 10 will be a performance by



Submitted photo

A view of Gathering on the Green at Mequon Rotary Park in 2014. The non-profit group has several plans for live music events this spring and summer, according to Rob Kos, executive director of the organization.

Cheap Trick, also at Mequon Rotary Park. Another Music in the Park will be held Saturday, Aug. 7 at Thiensville Village Park. “We’re hoping people will come out with the family and spend the afternoon with us,” Ros said.

The plans for this season come on the heels of a 2020 season when Gathering on the Green was not able to host any live events. “The whole music industry canceled. They just weren’t able to put anything on the road. It was painfully obvious to us by the end of April of last year that the pandemic wasn’t going away soon and it was not going to be safe to hold any kind of mass gatherings,” said Ros, who said putting events on hold led to a challenge year. “We really only made it through because of the generosity of donors and sponsors,” he said. “Most of them said, ‘Just keep the money and call it a donation.’ Others rolled it toward this year.” The organization also benefited from federal and state loan programs and grants, according to Ros.

He believes this year’s scheduled events will prove popular. “There is such a pent-up demand for people to get out and do things. I think they’re going to be very successful,” he said, noting that

about six weeks ago, online ticket sales for Gathering on the Green events began steadily increasing. Ros noted the vaccine rollout is likely helping people’s confidence and comfort.

“Our plan really is to begin doing events again in a safe and responsible manner in which both our artists and our patrons feel comfortable,” he said.

In Washington County, HomeGrown Music Festival will also be back this year on Sunday, July 11 at Regner Park in West Bend, according to Mike Christian, co-founder and Vice President of the HomeTown Foundation Inc. “We’re going to fire it back up this year,” he said.

The event started in 2014 when Christian won an auction for a day at Regner Park in West Bend. “I was in a band at the time and thought we could use that date to go play on the stage and invite some family and friends and drink some beer and have some brats and have a good ol’ time,” said Christian, who invited a few other local bands to join in. The event grew organically, to include a variety of area bands and with proceeds benefiting the Washington County Historical Society.

Story continued on page 5.

The Cultural Center is OPEN and we would love to see you!

6/02-9/08 Blueburg Café on the Terrace

First Wed of Month

6/16-8/25 Tunes on the Terrace

Join us 7-9pm for the last 3 Wednesdays of the month!

**6/18-7/11 Plein Air in Cedarburg Continues Exhibit
& Youth Plein Air Exhibit**

6/19-10/2 Saturday Sessions on the Terrace

Join us on Sat afternoons 3-5 pm!

**7/16-8/29 The Art of Janice Lutton &
Wisconsin Visual Artists Exhibit**

7/12-7/29 Four incredible Youth Art Camps
featuring Sculpture, Plein Air, Acrylics & Multimedia!

CEDARBURG CULTURAL CENTER
W62 N546 Washington Ave / 262-375-3676
www.CedarburgCulturalCenter.org

Christian said each year the festival featuring Wisconsin-based music groups benefits an area non-profit. Homegrown Music Festival was not held last year, due to the pandemic. For the upcoming festival, Christian said a few contracts are still being worked out and the lineup of bands will be announced soon. The festival usually includes a mix of folk, bluegrass, jazz fusion, blues and rock, he said.

Like Ros, Christian anticipates a strong turnout this year. "People have been sort of longing for this sort of activity. We have a lot of feedback that people are excited and ready to come out in a responsible manner," he said, noting that the organization is taking health direction from the county and aims to be "conscious of everybody's well being."

Homegrown Music Festival will include food trucks with food for purchase and

Christian said the organization works in concert with other area non profits and is still seeking additional partnerships. "If they can provide some volunteer hours, we share the proceeds," he said.

The Homegrown Foundation is also partnering with The Historic West Bend Theatre to launch a music series this summer titled "Regner Rocks." The series will feature Wisconsin-based music groups starting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursdays from June 2 to Sept. 3 and will include performances by the opening bands at the theatre later on those same evenings. "We're really excited about it," Christian said.

For more information about the HomeGrown Music Festival, visit <https://www.fancypantspromotions.com/> and Hometown Foundation visit <https://hometown.foundation>.

For more information about Gathering on the Green or to purchase tickets, visit www.gatheringonthegreen.org.



Submitted photo

A view of Gathering on the Green at Mequon Rotary Park in 2012. The organization's flagship fundraiser events this year include a performance by Trace Adkins with special guest Matt Wynn at 8 p.m. Friday, July 9. Saturday, July 10 will be a performance by Cheap Trick.

Wisconsin Automotive Museum

Celebrating 35 Years!

- Over 115 cars and trucks exhibited, featuring Kissel, Nash, and more than 35 other marques
- Other automotive gems include gas pumps, vintage signs, model cars
- Over an acre of exhibit space



Open Year Round

147 North Rural Street • Hartford, WI • 262-673-7999
www.wisconsinautomuseum.com



Simple ways to encourage young artists

METRO -- Parents may need to take a more active role in support of their children's passion for art. The following are some ways parents can encourage that passion.

- Recognize the educational value of art. PBS notes that creative activities are some of the building blocks of child development. Parents should recognize that art can be incredibly valuable to young minds. For example, art can help young children develop language skills, as creating art projects, even while just a toddler, often compels children to talk about their art. In addition, a recent report from Americans for the Arts found that art education strengthens problem-solving and critical-thinking skills. If parents recognize the value of art, students are more likely to follow suit and reap all the rewards that art education provides.

- Allow children the freedom to create. While technique is important for artists, young artists can benefit from some space. Art sessions can be a great time for kids to simply explore their creativity without much interference from parents or educators. A designated room for arts, including arts and crafts, can illustrate to children that their interest in the arts is important and worthy of exploration.

- Keep supplies well-stocked. Parents of children with a passion for art can indulge that passion by enrolling them in local art classes and keeping them well-stocked with art supplies. Even if the supplies are as simple as crayons and construction paper, their availability can send kids the message that their passion for art is not taken lightly.

The arts can benefit students in myriad ways.



W 63 N675 Washington Ave., Cedarburg, WI (262) 377-6123

EXPERIENCE THE EXHIBITIONS

THE VALUE OF ART

May 13 - September 26

tom kubala: walking through cedarburg

May 13 - August 1

JOHN N. COLT: NATURE UP-CLOSE

May 14 - September 26

Plein Air: Cedarburg's Best

May 27 - September 12

DON ESSER: FORGING AHEAD

June 2 - October 3

SIP & SHOP IN THE SCULPTURE GARDEN

Thirst for Art Fair

Art Fair Series on Summer Saturdays: June 12 - September 11
Enjoy local art and libations from the Lakefront Brewery Carriage House

Visit www.cedarburgartmuseum.org for more information.

Cedarburg High School choir and library radio station pairing yields great success

By Lisa Curtis

Special to Conley Media

CEDARBURG -- When a local online radio station hungry for fresh content crossed paths with a high school choir hoping to showcase its extraordinary talents, some would say it was nothing short of the first introduction between chocolate and peanut butter.

The relationship, forged between the Cedarburg High School choirs and Cedarburg Public Library Radio Online last fall, has garnered a much larger and geographically diverse audience for the students while skyrocketing the number of listeners for the low-key CPL Radio.

“The opportunity to record was new and exciting for them,” CHS Music Department Chairwoman and Vocal Music Director Victoria Benson Hora said about the choir students. “Many also commented how great it was to be able to be heard by family and friends that normally would not be able to attend a concert.”

Like school choirs across the country, the COVID-19 pandemic posed real challenges for CHS choir students dependent on group gatherings to rehearse their craft.

But it would take more than a global pandemic to stand between music and Benson Hora, whose resume includes 15 years as an opera performer, leading roles with the Skylight Opera Theater, the Milwaukee Mandolin Orchestra and the Racine Symphony Orchestra and seminar instructor for the Skylight’s Apprentice Artist Program and the First Stage/Skylight Summer Academy for young performing artists. She has been at CHS since 2006.

To prepare for mid-pandemic music instruction, Benson Hora spent all of last summer attending local, state and national virtual meetings on safety issues for choral music.



Submitted photo

BELLA VOCE: Members of the bella voce choir rehearse for a choir performance.

Benson Hora mapped out a rehearsal and class meeting schedule for the five CHS choirs and the string ensemble that coincided with the school calendar — half the choirs met in the first and third quarters, the others in the second and fourth quarters.

When she learned about a facemask created specifically for singers, Benson Hora asked the costume designer Pat Fox to recreate it for her students.

She tackled the social distancing issue by changing the students’ rehearsal location every 30 minutes to cut the risk of COVID transmission.

“The locations included the choir room, the band room, the black box, the CPAC, the CPAC lobby and outside,” she said.

Once Benson Hora solved the issue of safe rehearsals, the question then became, who could even gather to listen to them?

“Everyone has done virtual choirs, so I wanted to do something different,” she said. “CPL radio was my first alternative to live concerts.”

Jeff Messerman, who runs the online station, remembers when Benson Hora first approached him with the idea.

“All I kept saying was ‘yes. Let’s do it,’” he said. “It was just such a no-brainer. On a greedy basis, I knew this would bring

in a lot of ears to the station. Not just here in Cedarburg, but you’re going to get Aunt Florence in Tallahassee and Uncle Louie in San Diego.”

He was not wrong.

Pre-pandemic, Messerman regularly visited local schools to invite students to learn more about the station, dip their toe into the broadcasting field or even host their own podcast.

The content for the 24/7 station includes between eight and 10 locally produced shows and, Messerman admits, mostly classic jazz in many of the remaining slots. So he is always on the hunt for more local programming.

For the CHS choir content, he said the students and Benson Hora did all of the heavy lifting. When they had their concert recordings complete, they sent over MP3 files and he edited them.

CPAC Director Paul Thur assisted with the recording.

The first concert was broadcast last September. Messerman couldn’t believe his eyes as he watched the data that tracks the number of streaming users.

“It was almost like looking at an EKG and I’m like, well the patient is mostly alive. And then all of a sudden the patient is running a marathon,” he said.

And the uptick in listeners has been sustained. Even the classic jazz is tracking higher now.

Subsequent concerts were posted on CPL Radio in October, December and February.

The station saw more than 1,000 listeners among the shows, compared to 25 on an average day.

“We recorded and produced five radio shows total, with every choir member singing in seven to 18 selections,” Benson Hora said.

She said the students have shared positive feedback as well.

“Overall, I think this year has turned into a good experience,” choir member Veronica Krygiel said. “It taught us we can overcome any obstacles that might stop us from reaching our goal, and that is, becoming better singers.”

The final show of the year was uploaded to the station April 28.

“And we’re discussing a “best of” broadcast for May,” Benson Hora said.

To learn more about CPL Radio Online or to listen to the concerts, go to <https://shows.acast.com/cpl-radio>.



Submitted photo

ACAPPELLA CHOIR: The Cedarburg High School acappella choir rehearses wearing custom-made masks that extend out away from the face, providing room to breathe and open and close their mouth, without breathing in material.

Where to brush up on art skills this summer in Oz

As society adjusts to “the new normal” of post-pandemic life, in-person art classes are slowly making their way back on to community event calendars for summer 2021. And experts all agree that whatever the medium, the world could use a healthy dose of communal creativity.

“I think everyone can agree that this year emphasized the importance of connection and relationships,” said Paula DeStefanis, director of the North Shore Academy of the Arts/Arts Mill in Grafton. “The arts can bring people together and even bring communities together, reducing isolation and making people feel safer.”

Here are just a few places to find art classes in the coming months:

Thanks to the wide open spaces afforded by its location, the Wisconsin Museum of Quilts and Fiber Arts in Cedarburg will be ahead of the curve when it comes to social distancing as it prepares for the return of in-person classes in June. “Our classes, to start with, are a little bit smaller, and pretty much every single class has a six-foot table as their workstation,” said executive director Melissa Wraalstad. In addition to courses on quilting and sewing with artists of regional and national acclaim, the WMQFA is planning for its outdoor Tie Dye Lab on July 6, a multigenerational event geared toward ages 12 and older. The museum will also continue offering many of its popular virtual courses, said Wraalstad. “The virtual program has built us an audience outside of our area,” she said.

This June, Cedarburg photographer Deni



Submitted photo

Wisconsin Museum of Quilt and Fiber Art's Tie Dye Lab a previous year.

Storm Rogers will once again be offering classes at her studio in the Cedar Creek Settlement. “I love teaching photography because it enables me to help others express their creativity,” said Rogers, who opened her studio at the Settlement in 2018. “Also, I get to talk about one of my favorite subjects with people who share that passion.” Classes will be divided based on age group (fourth grade and older) and will cover everything from photo history to lighting, composition and camera functions. For class times and details, email deni@denistorm.com or call 262-573-5436.

Art education has always been “the largest aspect” of the mission at the North Shore Academy of the Arts/Arts Mill, said DeStefanis. “Through education comes growth, humanity and understanding. We believe that by fostering creative minds and an appreciation for the arts, we are developing more community-minded citizens,” she said. The NSAA Arts Mill offers a variety of art classes aimed at all kinds of students with all ability levels, said DeStefanis —

“programs change constantly, and so do the people who attend,” she said. Details of current offerings can be found at theartsmill.org. “At this time, most have been smaller-scale courses such as private lessons in art, drums, guitar, piano and dance,” said DeStefanis.

This spring and summer, the Cedarburg Cultural Center will have a variety of opportunities for instruction in stained glass, painting, pastels, photography, wearable art and more — and that’s just for teens and adults. Their popular Color Your World Weeklong Art Camp for kids is being offered in July, as well as courses in acrylic painting, sculpture and more. The CCC has actually been holding art classes throughout the past year, said education manager Kerry Tharp. “We really wanted to keep the classes going for the community,” she said. “It’s important to have some normalcy during crazy times.” For class listings, visit cedarburgculturalcenter.org and click the

drop-down menu under “Visual Arts.”

Interior Garden Art Studio in Thiensville has been hosting art classes for students of all ages and all abilities for the past 20 years. Owner Carol Gengler uses a “design-your-own-art-sessions” model where students can choose dates and times that work for them, in addition to selecting the medium they would like to focus on. “Siblings come together, neighbors come together,” she said. “I approach it from the fact of what they want to do, where their skills are, and we work from there.” For more information, visit interiorgardenartstudio.com.

The Mequon-Thiensville Recreation Department has both youth and adult art classes included in its summer lineup this year. Topics range from acrylic painting to quilting and decorative box-making to henna tattoos. Registration is open to residents of Mequon and Thiensville as well as non-residents, for an extra fee. To find the summer activity guide, visit mtsd.k12.wi.us/homestead/student-life/rec.



Sheeping Beauty FIBRE ARTS

“Keeping the traditions of fiber art alive.”

LUCI WILLIAMS:
Master Spinner, Weaver, Fibre Artist

W533 State Road 33, Hartford, WI 53027
262-623-0244 • Luci@sheepingbeautyfibrearts.com
www.sheepingbeautyfibrearts.com

SPINNING • WEAVING • KNITTING • CROCHET • FELTING • WORKSHOPS

Richfield Historical Society

2021 13th Annual

Art at the Mill

Art & Fine Craft Fair

Sat. June 19 • 10-4 pm

70+ Talented Artists • Variety of Vendors
Silent Auction • Live Music • Great Food

Free Parking • Admission \$2
(children 5 & under free)

RichfieldHistoricalSociety.org
Richfield Historical & Nature Park
1896 Hwy. 164 • Richfield WI 53076

Thanks To Our Major Sponsors!

DCA DEHUMIDIFIER CORPORATION OF AMERICA

conley

STRAIGHT ARROW FINANCIAL GROUP

DIGITAL EDGE COPY & PRINT SOLUTIONS

Richfield Historical Society

Milling Around Memories



ARTISTS WITHOUT BORDERS

On view through July 3

Make this the year of art with intriguing art exhibitions, creative art-making classes, and family-friendly art events. Plan your next visit at wisconsinart.org

MOWA
MUSEUM OF WISCONSIN ART
205 Veterans Ave | West Bend