

EXPERIENCE THE WONDERS OF ANCIENT MEXICAN DANCE AND MUSIC



America Indigena

Traditional music of the Mayan civilization and Aztec dances will be presented at Ohio festivals this summer through the performances of America Indigena. America Indigena is touring the state as part of the Ohio Arts Council's Summer International Music and Performing Arts in Communities Tour (IMPACT). America Indigena will perform six shows, June 11-26. Performance locations include Nelsonville, Coshocton/Warsaw, Cincinnati, Ashland, Warren and Columbus. All performances are free and open to the public.

Each of America Indigena's instruments is handmade by master musician Xavier Quijas Xyayotl. Most are authentic

replicas of ancient instruments. This is a rare opportunity to hear these instruments and to learn about their importance to Mesoamerican cultures. Quijas has worked for 30 years researching ancient musical traditions.

Quijas also works with a troupe of Aztec dancers, who have mastered both the art of intensely physical dances and the craft of the exquisite, colorful costuming. Each performer makes their own costumes and the costume designs for each performance are unique, employing feathers up to four feet in length and vivid cloths. The dances depict various aspects of Aztec religion and daily life, (*con't page 2*)

SOMALIS THROUGH THE LENS OF ABDI ROBLE

The Somali Diaspora is on view at the Vern Riffe Center for Government and Arts through July 1, 2005. A unique collection of photographs by Abdi Roble, this exhibition captures an important transition in the cultural history of the Somali community of central Ohio. This exhibition runs concurrently with *Land of Latitudes: Contemporary Art From Chile* at the Riffe Gallery.

The goal of *The Somali Diaspora* is to document through photography the members of the Diaspora while they are still engaging in the cultural practices of their homeland. Somali residents in Ohio are relatively recent immigrants who relocated to escape the violence and civil strife following the fall of the Siad Barre regime in January 1991. Featured photographs in the exhibition include Somalis who have begun to adopt the language and culture of the U.S. yet still struggle to retain the cultural identity of their homeland.

The Somali Diaspora is on view during (*con't page 2*)

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REDiscovering Classical Music

A Literary Arts Festival Celebrates Appalachia

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

“[The Ohio Arts Council] grant award allowed me to record pieces which were shared with me in the Ukrainian Countryside and to present them to a broad range of people. This is extremely gratifying to me as a musician and I am grateful to the OAC for that opportunity. Without OAC funding, this project would have been an impossible undertaking. The grant also served to legitimize the work itself. When a project receives OAC funding, it is almost as if it is a seal of approval or a guarantor of quality work.”

—NADIA TARNAWSKY,
vocal artist

“Over the years, the Ohio Arts Council has been most instrumental and supportive in the success of the Butler Institute of American Art. Your agency has always been most cooperative, accessible and responsive to our needs for which we are most appreciative. Keep up the good work and continue to be a strong advocate in supporting and promoting the importance of the arts for not only the cultural benefits but also for the resultant economic advantages to the state of Ohio and its citizens.”

—LOUIS ZONA, Butler
Institute of American Art

REDISCOVERING CLASSICAL MUSIC

Red {an orchestra} is made up of classical musicians and artists with a mission to “REDefine classical music programming, REDesign the concert experience and REDiscover classical music.”

Red completed its third season with overwhelming success. A critical element to this success was the support received from the Cleveland community, enabling them to be a part of revitalizing the city with innovation and energy.

In a recent letter thanking the Ohio Arts Council for funding, Red executive director Deborah Crawford wrote, “Artistically, we presented three concerts that received fantastic reviews.” She added, “In terms of developing audiences, we expanded both the diversity and number of attendees from a historical high of 650 attendees for a given concert to over 1,200.”

Red was founded in 2001 by a volunteer group of arts patrons and musicians. The orchestra educates, entertains and inspires its audiences by presenting a unique, multi-sensory and memorable music experience.

Red is setting new standards by presenting music in collaboration with other artistic disciplines such as film, visual arts, opera, theater, poetry and literature. For more information about Red {an orchestra}, visit www.redanorchestra.org or call 440/519-1733.

ANCIENT MEXICAN (CONT.)

including prayers to the gods, hunting and the ultimate expression of faith, the Fire Dance, in which the dancer's elevated emotional state makes him impervious to the effects of the fire on his skin. The combined result of the ancient music, dances and costuming is a compelling stage spectacle with unique sounds and sights.

Summer IMPACT will feature educational outreach programs in addition to the performances at each site. For more information visit the Ohio Arts Council website at www.oac.state.oh.us, call 614/466-2613 or e-mail kathy.cain@oac.state.oh.us.

Since 1998, IMPACT has been bringing international artists to Ohio each fall for a statewide tour of places of worship. Because of its popularity, the Ohio Arts Council, Ohio Arts Presenters Network (OAPN) and Arts Midwest have partnered to create Summer IMPACT. Summer IMPACT will continue the tradition of exposing new audiences to art forms from around the world through festivals that unite communities around the state each summer. IMPACT is designed to bring the best international performing arts groups to audiences in Ohio.

ABDI ROBLE (CONT.)

regular business hours on the first floor of the Riffe Center just outside the Riffe Gallery. The exhibition is free and open to the public. For information and hours, call 614/644-9624 or visit the web at www.riffegallery.org.



Pat Ingram with the finished mural on the lobby wall of the Fort Steuben Visitors Center

FORT STEUBEN VISITOR CENTER GETS OHIO RIVER SCENIC BYWAY MURAL

The Ohio River Scenic Byway boasts several towns which feature unique murals, but now the Byway itself has a mural depicting the sights along its 452-mile drive. In early May, highlights of the Ohio River Scenic Byway were painted on the walls of the foyer in the Fort Steuben Visitor Center in Steubenville, by artist Pat Keagler Ingram.

With funding from the Ohio Arts Council through Ohio River Trails, manager of the Ohio River (National) Scenic Byway, and the Old Fort Steuben Project, Inc., the mural provides information for tourists as well as a treat for the eyes with the illustrated map. The Fort Steuben Visitors Center not only serves the reconstructed 18th century Fort Steuben but offers information on other attractions throughout Steubenville and Jefferson County. Some of the attractions illustrated on the mural include historic Fort Steuben, the Ceramic Museum in East Liverpool, the Caboose in Belpre, the Ohio River Murals in Portsmouth and President Grant's birthplace in Clermont County.

C.B. Herrmann, President of Ohio River Trails, and Richard King, Board Chairman of the Old Fort Steuben Project expressed appreciation to the Ohio Arts Council for recognizing the merits of an interior mural at the Fort Steuben Visitor Center.

Working with acrylic paints on a 15-foot-high scaffolding, Ingram enjoys her work and she has designed and painted murals all around the country. Specializing in trompe l'oeil ("fool the eye") techniques, Ingram has painted murals depicting familiar scenes and historical places ranging from mountain vistas, jungle habitat, aquatic animals and rustic gardens.

Born in Steubenville, Ingram studied art at Endicott College in Massachusetts and attended Boston University. She now works out of her Brushworks Studio in Chardon. "I am really pleased to have done this in my home town," Ingram noted.

PLANS BEGIN FOR NORTHLANDPARK ARTS CENTER IN COLUMBUS

TRIAD Architects recently shared its plan for the NorthlandPark Arts Center (NPAC), part of the major Northland Mall redevelopment project spearheaded by the Columbus Urban Growth Corporation.

TRIAD is working with Vaud-Villities Productions, Inc. to transform the former General Cinema at Northland Mall into a state-of-the-art entertainment facility that will house Vaud-Villities and will be used to host commercial, local and touring production companies as well as local community events and exhibits. The 33,000 square foot complex will provide opportunities in the arts that don't already exist in Columbus. One of these unique opportunities includes using NPAC as a charter school for the arts.

In April Vaud-Villities kicked off its major fundraising campaign. The group hopes to raise \$12 million to \$15 million for the project. According to Kent Stuckey, president, Vaud-Villities board of trustees, "our likelihood for success is improved by the world-class design [of Triad]."

The long-term plan for NPAC will be realized in phases to take place over the next four years. For more information, contact Emily King, media relations coordinator at 614/751-1833 or eking@triadarchitects.com.

A LITERARY ARTS FESTIVAL CELEBRATES APPALACHIA

Individual members of the Friends of the Herbert Wescoat Library began preparations for a three-day literary arts festival (to be held April 15, 16 and 17, 2005) in May 2004. Knowing that at least two grant programs in Ohio fund artistic, cultural and literary presentations, the Friends of the Library and the library's professional staff began to seek outside funding for the proposed event in July 2004. The fundraising and programming committees of the Friends of the Library, headed by Douglas C. Kinder and Erick C. Walker, worked together to arrange the spring literary arts festival.

The Board of Trustees of the Herbert Wescoat Memorial Library was so impressed with the proposal that it agreed, if necessary, to pay the entire cost of the festival. However, with funding from the Ohio Arts Council and Ohio Humanities Council, the contribution of the board was reduced by 50 percent.

"All of this led to tremendous collaborative efforts in Vinton County. This year's theme was Celebrating Appalachia, and it did indeed celebrate our heritage," stated Katrina Conway, Director of the Herbert Wescoat Memorial Library.

The event included a performance of traditional Celtic folk music by the General Guinness Band (an accomplished troupe of professional musicians and step dancers from Columbus); a writing contest for high school students residing in Vinton County; two presentations by noted local authors; two keynote presentations by nationally recognized authors from outside southern Ohio (Sharyn McCrumb, Appalachian novelist, and John Alexander Williams, Appalachian historian); and a raffle of a 40-inch by 40-inch hand-quilted wallhanging. Planned as an annual event, the literary arts festival will showcase local authors and artists and provide a forum for residents to experience successful authors from outside the region.

MORE COMMUNITY FEEDBACK!

"The Appalachian Community Development Association has been able to take advantage of several of the OAC's services, such as grant information (both verbally and written) and inclusion into the yearly festival directory, to name a few. We've been met with very helpful and cooperative people and services, all of which have been very instrumental in the presentation of past and future services of the organization and festival. Two representatives from our organization attended one of the convenings [held in spring 2004] and left the meeting with a whole new understanding of how much our artistic programs and events place a public value in the community."

—ALLISON RAISOR,

Appalachian Community Development Association



Ohio Arts Council

artsPerspective

Published by the Ohio Arts Council

This newsletter aims to keep Ohio's key decision makers informed about the work of the state's arts agency. We'd like this to be a two-way communication. If you have comments about the OAC's involvement in your district or area of expertise please send them to Kathy Burgan at the address below. Thanks for reading.

Gregg Dodd, *Public Information Director*
Jami Goldstein, *Communications Manager*
Kathy Burgan, *Editor*

We're Building Ohio Through the Arts

The Ohio Arts Council is a state agency that funds and supports quality arts experiences to strengthen Ohio communities culturally, educationally and economically.

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