Hand-picked Pavorattis to sing in the new season

Leah Rankin
Staff Writer

A singer’s life is not just about music. It’s about stage presence, drama and being the newscast section. Today at 11 a.m., in the Amphitheater, students in the Chautauqua School of Music’s Voice Program will celebrate the beginning of an intense summer season with the annual “sing-in” event.

Although the roles for the Voice Program’s two summer opera productions have already been cast, the song-in will allow Voice Chair Martinas Malina to confirm her choices among a group of 45 hand-picked Pavorattis from around the world. As singers from ages 17 to 30 introduce themselves through song, the singer is, more than anything, an introduction.

“Everybody learns from everybody,” Malina said.

As per tradition, the Voice Program produces two operas each season that poetically contrast in musical styles. This year’s choices: modern, polyphonic, and global children. Staff Writer

Emma Morehart
Staff Writer

The members of Apollo’s Fire bowed to the audience’s applause after their performance at Chautauqua in 2010, but this year’s performance of “Come to the River” may yield even better results.

“This program is really special for Chautauqua in particular because Chautauqua has this long tradition of focusing on Protestant church history and the different ideals that have been discussed,” said Jeannette Sorrell, the founder of Apollo’s Fire.

At 8:15 p.m. tonight in the Amphitheater, the performers will gather again to give a concert complete with a mixture of singing, acting and instrumental music.

Of the 11 performers, nine are singers and two are instrumentalists. The music includes folk, baroque and old-time music, and the instruments include a hammered dulcimer, fiddle, banjo, mandolin and guitar.

“This show is pretty unique,” said Tina Bergmann, who plays the hammered dulcimer and sings in the show. “It’s unusual; it’s both old-time music and really different instruments. We would not find in an old-time band for sure. It’s its own animal.”

A story line about a 19th-century preacher’s journey drives the performances. The plot, which is written by Sorrell and is loosely based on historical figures, follows a preacher’s journey with his family from Pennsylvania to Kentucky.

The show begins with balls and barn dances and ends with American Protestant revival-themed music as one of the characters murders a man, spends 20 years in prison, finds faith in Jesus and changes his life.

“I feel really lucky to be a part of Jeannette’s idea, putting story and drama first, and not just making pretty sounds,” said Ross Hack, a great artist in Apollo’s Fire and the character who finds his faith.

See APOLO, Page 4

Mother of 3 stresses attitude change about women

Emma Morehart
Staff Writer

De Jean Chamberlain Froese’s kids are global children. They each know what it means to fly in different languages to these countries, and Froese focuses on the attitudes toward women and families.

“There’s a place for aid, but really there’s very little place until people’s attitudes change,” Froese said. “The idea is to train Ugandan leaders who will then go into their own culture and try to bring about change.”

In 2003, Froese founded Save the Mothers International, a public health leader- ship program which does and offers training to Ugandan leaders. She is also the technical expert for Saving Mothers and Newborns, a program through the International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics. While living in Canada, Froese works as an obstetrician.

Like Dybul, Froese advocates for basic care. Approximately 15 women die each year from childbirth in Froese’s home country of Canada, but 100,000 women die each year from the same complications in Uganda. This, Froese said, is the attitude chasm between countries.

“We just take it for granted,” Froese said. “In the states, you go in and you decide, ‘Do I want a room, or a pack room?’ In Uganda, it’s a battle, and sometimes women and families have to fight the battle and stand up.”

In a guest column for the National Post, Froese calls the situation “unacceptably the most under-reported story of our time.”

Many of the solutions to health problems are a lack of resources, like access to electricity, medicine and surgical equipment.

See FROESE, Page 4

INTERFAITH LECTURE SERIES

Dr. Jean Chamberlain Froese

Chamberlain Froese is the founder of Save the Mothers International, whose mission is to reduce maternal mortality around the world. Froese said one of the important parts of the organization is training Ugandan leaders. She is also the technical expert for Saving Mothers and Newborns, a program through the International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics.

Through her work, Froese has been fighting for AIDS education and prevention throughout the world. As director of Emory University’s Interfaith Health Program, she leads health practitioners into different faiths to bring about community health improvements.

At 10:00 a.m. today, she will bring her diverse expertise to the Amphitheater.

Thurman’s journey began over two decades ago in Georgia, when she began volunteering at AID Atlanta, a local non-profit organization dedicated to finding care and support for HIV and AIDS victims.

See THURMAN, Page 4
CWC Young Women’s Group holds Tuesday Coffees

The Canton Women’s Club’s Young Women’s Group meets 9:30 a.m. every Tuesday, for social time with the Young Women’s Group and members of teens. Meetings are open to young women of all ages. For information or to join, contact Cindy Miller at 664-5453.

CWC offers Weekly Duplicate Bridge Games

Moms plan evening activities and volunteer activities for teens. Meet new friends and renew old friendships. For information call 664-5453.

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Ventriloquist set to amaze families tonight

Suzi Stohlmeyer Staff Writer

Families looking to enjoy a stress-free Tuesday night have found their answer in the tonight’s Family Entertainment. A ventriloquist, a photographer, and even a comedian will all perform at 7 p.m. tonight in Smith Millers Hall.

A semi-finalist on the 2011 season of “America’s Got Talent,” Harrison takes his passion for entertaining kids and families very seriously. He has performed on many cruise lines, including Norwegian, Princess, Royal Caribbean International and Holland America, and he just finished his 30th year with Disney Cruise Line.

He also expanded his talents to the TV realm when he wrote and starred in “Kids in the Family” while working for Disney. While Harrison, who is from Vancouver, British Co-
lumbia, has never been to Chautauqua, he said he has known for approximately six months that he would be bringing his show here during the 2012 season. He was approached about performing in Chautauqua after doing a performing arts show in New York City.

With a background in improvisation, Harrison said he tries to go with the flow in his performances and try to adapt to unexpected family-friendly situations. “It’s good as a performer to be slightly nervous,” he said. “You don’t want to be too comfortable that you get too insulated and start thinking you know what kids are going to do so we won’t have to go with the flow.”

Harrison’s show typically runs for 45 minutes to one hour long, and he said determining the length of his show can be challenging when dealing with young kids.

“Ease to the family mar-
ket, so we don’t have to go too much into smaller parts,” Harrison said. “I play it by ear and if they’re still en-
gaged, I keep going. Every performance is different.”

Harrison said that the majority of his show’s act is dedicated to entertaining families, so he said he often has to spend time making sure his audience understands the different aspects of the show.

For tonight’s performances, Harrison expects audiences to “take them on a little bit of a ride.” He does this by provid-
ing the audiences with entertainment for entire families of any age. He also said he enjoys the fact that the show can “get kids away from the television for an hour or so.”

Overall, Harrison said he wants to see his audience in Chautauqua have a good time and forget their worries as part of the 100th anniversary celebration of the Chautauqua icon.

To submit photos, visitors are encouraged to visit the Miller Bell Tower 100th Birthday Celebration. Chautauqua Institution staff will also select two winning photos (Best Overall Photo, Best Family/Community Photo and Best Historic Photo) the winners will be announced at the birthday party.

Winning photos will be featured prominently on the Institution’s website and will be displayed at the Miller Bell Tower for a year. The family or friendship submissions will be featured in color on the Millers Bell Tower’s stage at the Miller Bell Tower 100th Birthday Celebration Chautauqua Institution staff will also select two winning photos (Best Overall Photo, Best Family/Community Photo and Best Historic Photo). The winners will be announced at the birthday party.

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In honor of the Miller Bell Tower’s upcoming 100th birthday, Chautauqua Institution’s Marketing and Communications office is collecting historic, family and miscellaneous photos of the Chautauqua icon for display online and in print.

The celebration at the Miller Bell Tower, which was dedicated to Institution co-founder Lewis Miller in August 1911, takes place throughout the 2011 Season, with special events planned for Old First Night, Aug. 2, and a county-
wide celebration on Aug. 21 as part of Chautauqua County’s Bicentennial Celebration.

Throughout the season, Chautauquans are invited to share their Miller Bell Tower photos at a website created specifically for the event, www.millerbelltower.com.

To submit photos to the website can simply upload them to the “guest” album, which those who wish to create their own albums, or comment on the photos of others, can do so by registering.

As part of the celebration, users and guests are encouraged to include a brief description, including who is in the picture, when the photo was taken.

Some of the best submissions will be featured in color on the stage at the Miller Bell Tower 100th Birthday Celebration Chautauqua Institution staff will also select two winning photos (Best Overall Photo, Best Family/Community Photo and Best Historic Photo). The winners will be announced at the birthday party.

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VOICE

“I hesitated to do [Elis Czervon] because it is a big opera for big voices,” Malas said.

That’s why Malas has included both bel canto and Chi classes for her voice students this year. Since voices, especially those of people training for opera, mature later in life, it is crit-
ical to support that physical growth every way.

Malas never accepts au-
tition tapes. She requires all of her students to audi-
tion in person so that she can assess their vocal qual-
ties and passion for music up close.

“Every year I tell students I won’t accept no more than two stu-
dents,” Malas said. “Some-
thing has to work out that way.”

Some students this year have traveled from Austra-
ia, Poland and Mexico to be a part of the Voice Program.

“Each one of us is primar-
ily an instrumental group,”

Safro allows the ensemble to find truly
mature, professional musicians to do crossover
music. Trained in both classical and popular
music, Safro has graduated from Chau-
tauqua a few years ago, she is just as excited
about Sorrell’s vision as the first year. “I’m ex-
cited about the chance to connect with an
audience that is interested in Protestant-American
church history, which I think most people at Chau-
tauqua are,” Sorrell said.

Before long, she led AID Orlando into multiple shows with increasing staff and vol-
umnteers.

The nonprofit group grew into a much larger organiza-
tion, with 85 percent of its
workers providing direct
HV services.

From 1993 until 1996,
Thurman remained in Al-
tanta as Director of Advo-
cacy Programs at The Task
Force for Child Survival and Development at the Center
House. Keeping her sights on global health reform, she un-
terrified initiatives regarding children’s immunization and the eradication of polio.

In 1997, President Bill Clin-
on appointed Thurman di-
cector of the Office of Nation-
Al AIDS Policy in the White
House, a position she held
until 2003. Thurman’s leader-
ship proved successful, and the
U.S. government multi-
ples its funding for HIV/AIDS.

Psalm 46:1, many times: “God is my refuge and strength.”

“IT’S not us doing it our-
selfs,” Frenze said. “It’s rec-
ognizing God’s protection on your life, and the encour-
gagement that he’s there with you.

As a child, Frenze grew up
sounded by diversity and attended a church that taught that helping others, no matter their religion, was
what it meant to be a good person and a Christian.

Frenze’s children are now
learning the same lessons in diversity.

“IT definitely has its chal-
ges,” Frenze said. “We do
our best to make sure the kids have fun. That takes a lot of energy, but I don’t ever want my kids to say, ‘I wish my parents hadn’t done that.”

Notice to Parents

RISKY SAFETY RULES

1. Bikes must be maintained in a safe operating condition and should have adequate brakes, a bell or other signaling device, a rear reflector and a headlight. Operators, under 14 years of age, must wear a CPSC-approved helmet.

2. Bikes are not to be used on brick sidewalks or other sidewalks that are unsafe for pedestrian use.

3. Bikes must be operated in a careful manner that is reasonable and prudent and no instance at more than 12 mph.

4. Bikes shall always give the right of way to pedestrians.

5. In accordance with New York State law, bicycles shall observe all traffic signs and signals (for example, stop signs, one-way streets).

Parents must teach their five children: 1. by enforcing the rules and by setting a good example.

ON THE WEB

www.chqdaily.com

Check out the new chqdaily.com for this summer for the heading stories from the Daily, multimedia content, a downloadable PDF of today’s newspaper and a printable program of today’s events.

A CHOIR AFFAIR

Celebrating 150 Years of Cultural Performance www.chqhighlights.com

TRUMANAH

Above Left: Chautauqua’s pastor the Rev. Joan Brown Campbell greets
voters at the site.

ABOVE RIGHT: Jared Jacobs, organist and coordinator of worship and sacred music, examine the Chautauqua Choir and Amphitheater audience in song during Sunday evening’s Sacred Song service.

FROESE

In her column, Froese said she witnessed the heart of the
problem at a funeral she at-
tended in Uganda; pallbear-
ers were cautious about how
close to the other women they
brought a woman’s casket.

Froese’s job is demanding, but she said the best part is when she sees East African leaders change their perspec-
tives and realize how impor-
tant mothers are.

“We as citizens of this country have demanded it, verse in East Africa it’s, ‘No, that was God’s will for that to happen, but it isn’t
God’s will for that to hap-
pen.” Froese said.

Froese said her faith keeps her going, and she has called on her favorite verse, "I am the Lord your God, I am the God who made you and formed you. I am the Lord your God, you have not brought me this people to do evil. I have only made you a name, and you will be a fear to the nations." Deut. 4:6.

VOICE

“IT wasn’t that I didn’t be-
ed to do it, I just didn’t know
how it would be received.”

Safro invited guest artists like Hauck to sing in spe-
cific programs.

“AIDS programs both at home and abroad for two and three
AID programs both at home and abroad for two and three
times, respectively.

At Chautauqua’s second
summer, Thurman received a bach-
lor’s degree from
Sorrell invites guest artists like
Malas to sign in spe-
cific programs.
Chautauqua Institution’s rich, long, variegated past

Archivist Schmitz talks history

George Cooper Staff Writer

Chautauqua’s 147 years of history in an hour and 15 minutes (including Q-and-A). That’s why it is called an overview.

Jim Schmitz, Chautauqua archivist and historian, will give just such an overview of Chautauqua history at 12:15 p.m. today in the Hall of Christ.

George Santayana once said, “Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it.”

However, this doesn’t all apply to Chautauqua.

Repeated history is a well-come way of life during the summer, and remembering the history is yet another way to deal with it — but it isn’t always easy.

Schmitz has chronicled California department of fish and game engineer and a volunteer naturalist with the California Department of Fish and Game.

He is an aeronautical engineer and a volunteer naturalist with the California Department of Fish and Game.

Now a retired poet, she was raised Rastafarian by parents who viewed education as the cornerstone to their religion. In the public understanding, the Rastafarian movement is strongly connected to Jamaican identity, but McCallum’s private experience was much different.

Schmitz will talk about today. McCallum’s lecture will also address the work of other poets who have drawn from their identities and private records to portray the public record. She will discuss writers like Brian Turner, a soldier-poet from the Iraq War, and Derek Walcott, whose poem “A Far Cry From Babylon” explores a feeling of home.

There’s always a space for the voice and the voice that de-sires to speak and the failure to some way to completely crap- ture any large experiences.” This inability to fully ex- press “is a good thing,” a driving force for McCallum, she said, that separates the way she and other poets re- cord history from that of par- ticipants, who have no kind facts, and historians, who make ar- guments about the past. Her- personal and public histories are in these ways unber- iewable, and they are instrumen- tal in providing an emotional understanding of history.

“I’d love to believe I can un- derstand a poem, right? It’s not possible, but if we could do it, it would be to summarize and get the same experience as the poem, the poem would not exist.” McCallum said. “If Chautauqua once origi- nated as a form of education, that it is called an overview that has taught us much more about the past.”

Chautauqua and independent schools were once Chautauqua’s 147 years of history in an hour and 15 minutes (including Q-and-A). That’s why it is called an overview.

McCallum considers herself a Caribbean poet, among other identities. Now a retired poet, she was raised Rastafarian by parents who viewed education as the cornerstone to their religion. In the public understanding, the Rastafarian movement is strongly connected to Jamaican identity, but McCallum’s private experience was much different.

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Bikers shall always give the right of way to pedestrians.

Bike Safety Tips

All manuscripts must be typed and double-spaced. Two copies of each entry must be submitted without a signature or other identifying marks and accompanied by this completed form. The winning entries will be considered for publication in Chautauqua, at the discretion of the editor.

B崖o How Beautifully The Light Includes These Things
At the Children’s Museum, Utica, NY
ty Sarah Averill
There is a wall against which you can stand and become a silhouette, where you press and press a button and in a flash you turn to see your shadow pinned to the wall, exactly as you were, waving at your grandparents, or making peace signs, hands splayed to climb like Spiderman.

You are a little uncertain of this shadow you, how it is shaping with no distinction or definition, like the chalk outlines you draw on the pavement at recess.

You have no face, and you fade so quickly. Years later you will read a story about the H-bomb, about other shadows you turn to see your shadow pinned to the wall, exactly as you were, waving at your grandparents, or making peace signs, hands splayed to climb like Spiderman.
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I f it were not for that some people find church boring, and the pressure to make church more relevant to the world, there would no doubt be a lot less to do with style or corporate ability and personal image than there is to do with telling people. It rests in what is said and how it is said, or what is not said and how it is not said.

“As the little girl in church with her parents said with that whisper that echoes around the pews, ‘Daddy, is it true? Is it Sunday?’” The Rev. Alastair Symington said he began his sermon, “Time for Some Scandal,” at the 9:15 a.m. worship service on Monday. Symington said he had deliberately chosen to read from Acts about Paul’s speech to the people of Athens.

“...it must rank as one of Paul’s most boring sermons,” he said, and yet the most important for the Christian to understand from the last century, dismissed it as a philosophical discussion about nature and history, and the foundations of the Greek language and poetic quotations. The Athenians listened politely until Paul changed direction.

“Paul switched from an ‘all things to all people’ approach to ‘one phrase the ignored minds and souls alike,’” Symington said.

Paul remembered his Damascus Road experience. He remembered the fine of the new faith. So Paul switched directions on the Athenians and told them that God had invaded history in the person of Jesus Christ.

“God has raised up Jesus Christ from the dead,” Symington said. “And I tell you that by this one act, history has been transformed.”

The mood of the Athenians changed. Some dismissed Paul, others thought they might come back to hear him and still others, when they saw the course that faith is to change the world. We bore people when we take the Gospel and couch it in vague generalities and clever words, we scandal to this world. We bear people when we take the Gospel and couch it in vague generalities and clever words, offering nothing that will make their faith go out into our own world with the fire of a living faith.”

“Symington said much of religion today is pantheistic, the mixing of all gods and religions together to give a ‘common sort of world religions,’ acceptable to all and offen- ose to none.

“People will hear it one time or twice but no more. It bores people because it has nothing to say to those who long for a message that will ‘ring within their ears and come into their hearts.’

“The truth is we can bore people into leaving us,” he said.

In looking at many growing independent churches, he sees the centrality of Jesus Christ preached and people identify with the abused.

“My friends, present Christ. Offer Christ Jesus Give to the people, unanswered, the risen Christ Jesus,” Symington said, “And I tell you of the resurrection of Jesus Christ this day.”

He concluded with the traditional post-Easter greeting: “Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. And I hope ev- ery single one of you walks out of the Amphitheater today feeling not just glad but free.”

The Rev. Dr. Jean Brown Campbell presided. The Rev. Dr. George Wirth, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest, said the scripture from the Book of Acts and from Luke 24: 36-53. The Motet Choir, under the direction of Dr. Martin Shaw, sang “With A Voice from Heaven” by Boots Higbe, Mary Ellen boes, Kathleen Miller and Joanne Hathaway.

Chabad Lubavitch
Rabbi Zalman Winkin leads a study of classic Jewish text on Acts about Paul’s speech to the people of Athens. His text was Acts 17:22–34. Symington said he had been deliberately chosen to read from Acts about Paul’s speech to the people of Athens.

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Paul Farmer, a founding director of Partners In Health, delivers the first Amphitheater lecture of 2011 with his presentation, “Partnership with the Poor: One Physician’s Perspective on Global Health.”

Q: wonder if you could comment on, not just The Burden of the Disaster in Haiti, but the concentration of the problems that have occurred since then, in the long line of care of victims in that country which including some in the State Department or other policymaker and making sure that history, have you had a perspective on the violence.

Q: In your experience, do you believe that the world of public health is a particular person in your life? This impact your great look...or, a group, a religious or some in the State Department, to make sure that, for example, the White House, the State Department, to take that as an example, the administration, in my opinion, the Violence in public health, and also it's an era when people are really talking to those oldargued but true about human security, as a key to security in general. That's also one of those things that and think about the sense of security as well as.

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A: It's very common. I've met a lot of people in that sector who are looking at us, but to making things better. It's a very under-recog- nized value of true species, and it's much more common than the awe that we hear so much about, including in 2008 with the financial what- ever. I've met a lot of people in that sector who are looking at us, but to making things better. It's a very under-recog- nized value of true species, and it's much more common than the awe that we hear so much about, including in 2008 with the financial what- ever. I've met a lot of people in that sector who are looking at us, but to making things better. It's a very under-recog- nized value of true species, and it's much more common than the awe that we hear so much about, including in 2008 with the financial what- ever. I've met a lot of people in that sector who are looking at us, but to making things better. It's a very under-recog- nized value of true species, and it's much more common than the awe that we hear so much about, including in 2008 with the financial what- ever. I've met a lot of people in that sector who are looking at us, but to making things better. It's a very under-recog- nized value of true species, and it's much more common than the awe that we hear so much about, including in 2008 with the financial what- ever. I've met a lot of people in that sector who are looking at us, but to making things better. It's a very under-recog- nized value of true species, and it's much more common than the awe that we hear so much about, including in 2008 with the financial what- ever. I've met a lot of people in that sector who are looking at us, but to making things better. It's a very under-recog- nized value of true species, and it's much more common than the awe that we hear so much about, including in 2008 with the financial what- ever. I've met a lot of people in that sector who are looking at us, but to making things better. It's a very under-recog- nized value of true species, and it's much more common than the awe that we hear so much about, including in 2008 with the financial what- ever. I've met a lot of people in that sector who are looking at us, but to making things better. It's a very under-recog-
Groffs ensure others have their own Chautauqua experience

Sarah Gelfand
Staff Writer

When Kent and Fredrika “Freddy” Groff first visited Chautauqua in the summer of ’75, they were so taken with the place that they settled here almost immediately.

“We came on a Sunday and bought a house on Friday,” Kent said.

Their attraction to the Institute remains unswerving after 35 years, and they are committed to help facilitate other families’ visits to Chautauqua, particularly those who are less able financially.

Their house on Foster Avenue is a testament to their dedication to the Presbytery of Chautauqua; she served on the board of trustees from the 1980s through the early 2000s. She is also a regular attendee of the morning worship services at the Amphitheater.

“Chautauqua is such a treasure that we would like to share that with people who ordinarily might not be able to come, financially,” Kent said. “Part of that could create a little more cultural diversity, and we hope that that would be another goal.”

Kent and his wife come to Chautauqua every summer, they’ll open their home to that same woman. One Dozen Who Care. This founder of the organization One Dozen Wise Cans. This summer, they’ll open their home to that same woman.

The Groffs have opened their home and the Chautauqua experience itself for those who may not otherwise be able to attend to come. In 1984, a year after both their parents had died, Kent and Freddy created the Groff-Simpson Family Scholarship with the Chautauqua Foundation, to both honor their families and give back to Chautauqua. The fund enables families to spend time at Chautauqua. The Groffs recently updated their will in order to add to their fund through a bequest, which will allow for a greater and more lasting impact.

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Kent said when he and his wife come to Chautauqua, they didn’t want a place to vegetate; they were looking for a meaningful and unique place to spend the summer. The Groffs found an intellectually and spiritually fulfilling community in Chautauqua, and they are extending that experience to many others. Though they moved to Denver in 2005 to be closer to their family, they return for the first few weeks of every season with their three children and grandchildren.

“I like to say Chautauqua is a holistic experience, which matches a person in so many different ways: intellectually, physically and spiritually,” Kent said.

By making a provision in their will for Chautauqua Foundation, the Groffs became members of the Eleanor B. Daugherty Society, a group of individuals who have included the Chautauqua in their estate plans through a life-income gift, retirement plan, trust or by bequest.

If you would like to learn more about including Chautauqua in your estate plans, please contact Karen Blozie, director of gift planning. Chautauqua Foundation, at 716-357-6214 or email kblozie@ciweb.org.
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TOP LEFT: John Altman plays a solo at the end of the performance. TOP RIGHT: Members of the Soldiers’ Chorus.

ABOVE: Two members of the U.S. Army Field Band practice outside the Amphitheater before Sunday afternoon’s show with the Soldiers’ Chorus. TOP LEFT: John Altman plays a solo at the end of the performance. TOP RIGHT: Members of the Soldiers’ Chorus.

FOOD/PRODUCE

TOP LEFT: John Altman plays a solo at the end of the performance. TOP RIGHT: Members of the Soldiers’ Chorus.

ABOVE: Two members of the U.S. Army Field Band practice outside the Amphitheater before Sunday afternoon’s show with the Soldiers’ Chorus. TOP LEFT: John Altman plays a solo at the end of the performance. TOP RIGHT: Members of the Soldiers’ Chorus.
Sailing Center prereps season long before guests arrive

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Kempner, Hewitt to screen satirical ‘Madness of Art’

Elissa Tucci
Staff Writer

Fine artist Jim Kempner used to do stand-up comedy. He went on to become an artist in New York City, where he now owns Jim Kempner Fine Art. But the desire to be funny never left him.

“I’ve always been interested in a lot of different things— theater, film, comedy,” he said. “It’s in my blood.”

After he opened the gallery, he bought a camera and searched for a way to unite his interests. It turns out he didn’t have to look far.

“Everywhere where people work has humor, and the art world is no exception,” he said.

He started paying close attention to the daily lives of artists and their works on film, and after, he met some artists who loved the idea of a comic and wanted to portray the art world, “The Madness of Art” was born.

The series consists of five to-ten-minute online episodes, written by Kempner and produced and directed by Charlie Hewitt, that poke satirical fun at life in an art gallery.

Kempner and Hewitt, who together established the “Chautauqua Art Printmaking Program” in 1989, reflect on the screening of “The Madness of Art” at 7 p.m. tonight in Elizabeth S. Lenna Hall. The duo discussed the process and ideas behind the film, which is a compilation of 10 episodes they selected.

“We picked some of our favorite ones, and we ended up getting them.” Kempner and Hewitt also discussed the making of the frame for the art world,” Kempner said.

The episodes draw on real, seemingly banal situations in the art world, from art dealers competing for customers to slow days for business to health benefits for gallery employees. They are good-natured self-deprecating humor to give viewers and themselves a fresh perspective on art and on life.

“It’s just something that has never been done before, and it immediately gets people thinking about their relationships to art,” Kempner said.

The characters are convincing because they play the same roles they play in real life — Jim Kempner slams Jim Kempner, his gallery staff plays the galleries, the folder workers make appearances as the folder workers even the gallery’s real clients appear in the video as clients.

The circumstances of the series come from actual experiences. Kempner said much of the series’ material comes from artists who watch the episodes and think of funny occurrences from their own lives that they want to see on the show.

But Kempner said what satisfies him most is the way people outside of the art world can also appreciate the videos.

“We don’t dumb it down, but we use situations that everyone can relate to on some level.”

He said art is often portrayed on television and in the media as an esoteric, highbrow place.

Fans of the series have discovered the program from those depictions reality, and enjoy the program.

“We want the opposite of that,” he said. “We want people to see the madness of art shows the madness of art.”

Check out the new chqdaily.com this summer for the headlining story. Visit http://www.chqdaily.com to read today’s newspaper and a printable program of today’s events.

Post your comments about the news @ CHQDAILY.com.

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Michael Rodgers Nightfly plays an unplayed还真有ito in Alfred Hitchcock’s spy thriller “The Lady Vanishes,” which opens the Chautauqua Classic Film series Wednesday. David Zinnem, author of “100 Classic Motion Posters,” will feature on the film and lead a discussion after it is shown. That’s Diana Alice Wife lying under the hanging. Locking on from left are Catherine Lacey and Margaret Lockwood. The program begins at Chautauqua Cinema, Hunt and Wylie, at 5:30 p.m. (note early start time). Brown bags encouraged.

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