

Arts & Entertainment

Acclaimed Boston Organist Opens 7th Season

Nationally-acclaimed organist Colin Lynch will perform on Sunday, October 19th at 3 p.m. at the First Music Concert Series held at The First Church (UCC), 1 Concord Street, Nashua.

Mr. Lynch will be playing an audience-friendly works by Bach, Dupré, Whitlock, Widor and others. Whether a featured artist at the National Convention of the American Guild of Organists, or at the console of church music powerhouse Trinity Church in Boston, Colin Lynch is one of the premiere organists of his generation.

Join us as Mr. Lynch puts the 1926 Anderson Memorial Organ (Austin Organ Co. - Opus 1406) through its paces, just weeks before the magnificent pipe organ begins its long-anticipated restoration and tonal expansion. Admission: \$15/Adults - \$12/Seniors - \$1 students under 21.

Hailed as "an impeccable performer with compelling musicality and technical command," (The American Organist Magazine) First Prize Winner of the Fort Wayne National Organ Playing Competition, Colin Daniel Lynch maintains a busy performance career that has taken him to prominent venues throughout the U.S., Europe, Canada, South Africa, Brazil, and Argentina. At the invitation of the Cuban government, he traveled to Cuba as a featured performer and lecturer at the Ars Longa Baroque Music Festival.

Mr. Lynch serves as Associate Director of Music and Organist at Trinity Church, Copley Square in Boston, MA. Previously, he has held



positions at Christ & Holy Trinity Church in Westport, CT, Marquand Chapel of the Yale Divinity School, the Episcopal Church at Yale, and was organ scholar at Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago. As Director of Chapel Music and School Organist at St. Paul's School in Concord, NH, he led the choirs on performance tours to South Africa and

Cuba in addition to producing two commercially available recordings.

Mr. Lynch earned an Artist Diploma from Oberlin Conservatory, studying with James David Christie and Olivier Latry. He holds a Master of Music degree in Organ Performance with Thomas Murray at Yale University's Institute of Sacred Music and earned a Bachelor

of Music degree in Organ Performance from Northwestern University, where he studied with Douglas Cleveland. His critically acclaimed debut solo album The Organ of Stambaugh Auditorium is available on the Raven Label.

Deb's Chesham House in Harrisville Concerts Presents:



Ellis Paul – Sunday, October 5th

Pot luck 5pm, Concert 6pm
Tickets \$20 advance/\$25 day of concert.

Master songwriter and storyteller with captivating vocals "A singer songwriter is only as good as the times he reflects. In times like these, when so many nuts are running the show, it's comforting to know that Ellis Paul is actually holding our sanity on his own stage! Wise, tender, brilliant and biting, Ellis is one of our best human compasses, marking in melodies and poems where we've been and where we might go if we so choose to.

Ellis Paul's songwriting credentials are unassailable. They are as genuine as the fifteen Boston Music Awards he has earned, as indelible as the tattoo of Woody Guthrie that adorns his arm, and as authentic as the musical roots he draws upon with every note he plays. He emerged out of the Boston music scene during a time when contemporary folk was beginning to come into the mainstream. Now, with 20+ years of playing 150 to 200 shows annually, 19 record releases, a documentary film, a book of poems/short stories, an award winning children's book project, as well as songs featured on Hollywood soundtracks, he makes Boston's music scene proud.

Reservations required. Purchase tickets with credit card at Ticketstage or by check. Please email or call 827-2905 for address/directions and to RSVP for pot luck.



The Kennedys – Saturday, September 27

6pm pot luck, 7pm concert
Tickets - \$15.00

In a career that now spans two decades, New York duo Pete and Maura Kennedy have traversed a broad musical landscape, surveying power pop, acoustic songwriting, organic rock rooted in their early days in Austin, and a Byrds-inspired jangle that drew the attention of Roger McGuinn, Steve Earle, and most notably Nanci Griffith. The duo co-produced Nanci's latest CD. On their own recent release, "Closer Than You Know," the songs have a quality, inherent in Maura's voice, that is both soothing and urgent. As writers and producers, the Kennedys continue to mature, from their early style-conscious pop to today's burnished sheen. Always tuned to their own muse, Pete and Maura have once again come up with a unique sound that is as uplifting as it is unclassifiable.

Reservations required. Purchase tickets with credit card at Ticketstage or by check. Please email or call 827-2905 for address/directions and to RSVP for pot luck.

SV Chorus Prepares for Christmas in Hollywood

The Souhegan Valley Chorus invites interested singers to join the chorus for its upcoming season. Weekly rehearsals are held on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 pm in the Milford Middle School music room, starting on September 9th. The first two rehearsals of the season are "open" for new members to visit and see what we're all about!

The SVC is directed by Jennifer K. Erdody of Milford, and accompanied by Kimberly Vars Whitehead also of Milford. SVC, now in its 34th season, performs a variety of choral music - from classical and jazz, to popular and gospel. Its membership of 60+ singers are from towns in and around the Souhegan Valley. Two concerts are performed each season, one in December and one in May, along with the popular variety showcase in June. SVC also participates in local town events such as the Amherst 4th of July celebration, Milford Labor Day parade, veteran's observances, and the Milford Holiday Stroll.

Jennifer K. Erdody is the choral director at Milford High School, where she also teaches voice workshop and musical theater. Jennifer serves on the staff of the Souhegan Valley Boys and Girls Club School



of Theatre Arts, and directs the annual "Messiah" performance in Mont Vernon. The music she has selected for our next concert is from some of Hollywood's favorite movies of the holiday season - including The Polar Express, Holiday Inn, Home Alone, and Meet Me in St. Louis. Add a little music to your holiday and come join us!

Souhegan Valley Chorus is open without audition to singers of high school age or older. Members bring

a wide range of abilities and experience, so anyone who loves to sing is encouraged to give the chorus a try at one of the first two rehearsals in September. As one member put it - "Rehearsals are a good balance of work and fun. It's such a welcome treat for me at the end of a busy work day." For more information, visit the chorus website at www.souheganvalleychorus.org, or find us on Facebook,

PEM Presents Poignant Works of Beauty and Conflict

IN U.S. DEBUT EXHIBITION OF SOUTH AFRICAN PHOTOGRAPHER JO RACTLIFFE

On view October 11, 2014, through spring 2015

SALEM, MA -- The Peabody Essex Museum (PEM) presents nearly 50 works from Jo Ractliffe's four-year quest to photograph Angola in the aftermath of its civil war. The Angolan Civil War was one of the longest and bloodiest in African history. With South Africa and the United States backing one side and Cuba and the Soviet Union supporting the other, the war lasted from 1975 to 2002 and cost the lives of some 1.5 million people while displacing 4 million others. In 2007, long after the war correspondents and photojournalists had left the country, Ractliffe made her first trips to the capital city, Luanda. Images of Angola's post-war markets, monuments and makeshift communities are on view in Someone Else's Country, Photographs by Jo Ractliffe beginning October 11, 2014.

The artist traveled with veterans who were returning to battle sites in the southern part of the country. The exhibition title is drawn from a South African colonel who observed, "If you're going to have a war, best to do it in someone else's country." As a South African, Ractliffe recalls how in the 1970s and early 1980s, most of her contemporaries viewed Angola abstractly as "the border," a secret, unspoken location where brothers and boyfriends were sent as part of their military service. The unsettling tales that filtered back starkly contrasted the sanitized narrative put forward by the South African government.

As an outsider -- connected to, yet unfamiliar with this landscape -- Ractliffe patiently uses her camera to document battle scars, fading signs of colonial histories and the aftermath of Cold War ideologies that fueled Angola's violence.

Trevor Smith, PEM's Curator of the Present Tense, notes: "Ractliffe's photographs can be spare but



they are never empty. Each image can be understood as her attempt to orient herself in what she calls 'a landscape of leftovers.' Reverberating with loss and disorientation, her photographs also hint at how life moves forward after trauma."

Ractliffe's close looking allows us to understand things that may not be initially visible. She has said, "I feel as if I am in a place that has abandoned itself, is indifferent to the collapsing of time and history. Sometimes these remains are so actively present, their event so precisely articulated, that it feels as if the moment has only just passed."

Jo Ractliffe was born in 1961 in Cape Town and lives in Johannesburg. In 2010 she was a Writing Fellow at the Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research (WISER), Johannesburg, and an invited artist at Phillips Exeter Academy, New Hampshire. Ractliffe was nominated for the 2011 Discovery Prize at the Rencontres d'Arles photography festival and her work as Terras do Fim do Mundo was nominated as best photobook of 2010 at the International Photobook Festival.

HOURS: Open Tuesday-Sunday, 10 am-5 pm and the third Thursday of every month until 9 pm. Closed Mondays (except holidays), Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. ADMISSION: Adults \$18; seniors \$15; students \$10. INFO: Call 866-745-1876 or visit pem.org

Transformations: New England Wax Exhibition Opens at Sharon Arts Center Gallery

Kaveh Mojtabai of Artscope Magazine joins as exhibition juror

PETERBOROUGH -- The New Hampshire Institute of Art's Sharon Arts Center will host Transformations: New England Wax, a juried exhibition displaying the ancient medium of encaustic, or hot wax painting, September 5 through November 1, 2014.

The exhibition will feature artists from New England Wax, a professional organization of artists who work in encaustic as well as promote and educate the public and art world about this versatile method of painting. The technique dates back to the fifth century B.C. and used as a contemporary medium, involves painting with a beeswax-based paint and a heated palette. The exhibition allows these artists to work toward their personal vision as they explore and challenge the boundaries of message, metaphor and materiality.

Artists participating in the exhibition include Corina Alvarezdelugo, Dawna Bemis, Debra Claffey, Pamala Crabb, Angel Dean, Pamela Doris Dejong, Heather Douglas, Soosen Dunholter, Pat Girkin, Kay Hartung, Sue Katz, Dietlind Vander Schaaf, Donna Hamil Talman, Wil-

la Vennema, Julie Vohs, Catherine Weber, Kellie Weeks, Lelia Weinstein, and Charyl Weissbach.

The exhibition will be judged by Kaveh Mojtabai, founder and publisher of Artscope Magazine, a media company in its ninth year that reviews art exhibits, covers cultural events, connects artists with their audience and creates access to the arts. Kaveh has worked internationally with Fortune 500 clients at a "Big Four" global consulting firm to develop client performance through strategic, operational, and financial processes. He graduated with two degrees, a BA in Astrophysics and a BSBA in Business Administration from Boston University. Kaveh's previous work includes astronomy research at the Harvard Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics under the direction of a Nobel Astrophysics Prize winner.

The gallery is open Monday to Saturday from 10 am to 6 pm and Sunday from 11 am to 4 pm. For more information about hours and the event, please contact the Sharon Arts Center at 603.924.7256 or visit sharonarts.org.

PEM's Art & Nature Center Presents New Exhibition Inspired By The Forest

ON VIEW SEPTEMBER 27, 2014 - SEPTEMBER 20, 2015

SALEM, MA -- The Peabody Essex Museum (PEM) presents Branching Out: Trees as Art, an exhibition in the museum's Art & Nature Center that explores the often unexpected ways in which contemporary artists use trees as an inspiration and a medium. Made from bark, wood, roots, seedpods, leaves, fossilized resin (amber) and biosignals, more than 35 varied works and a selection of hands-on interactive opportunities ask us to consider our relationship with trees as a vital natural force. Branching Out is on view September 27, 2014 to September 20, 2015.

"I still remember being awed by certain old trees as a kid and my frustration at trying to draw their complex forms," said Jane Winchell, The Sarah Fraser Robbins Director of the Art & Nature Center at PEM. "We share a special bond with trees. We've built homes from them, burned them for heat and discovered life-saving medicines in their bark and leaves. It's little surprise that trees have become a universal symbol of life and the source of inspiration for many artists working

today."

Branching Out features an array of inspiring artworks by contemporary artists who work directly with live trees or creatively engage with tree materials. The works are as diverse as they are unusual. Artist David Yann Robert recorded the bioelectrical signals in a beech tree using an acupuncture needle. With the help of a sophisticated computer program, he converted the tree's biosystem activity into a drawing, a process captured in a 17-minute time-lapse video and sound piece called Bokträd (beech tree).

Another equally engaging work is a photograph by James Balog of a 242-foot, 2,000-year-old giant sequoia named Stagg. Considered the world's fifth largest tree, it was captured in segments by Balog, who rappelled down a neighboring tree while shooting more than 400 photographs that he later stitched together digitally to create a 93-inch tall vertical panoramic composite. Two climbers, appearing as red specks in the photograph, help the viewer grasp the tree's immense scale.

For her site-specific installation in the Atrium, Falling leaves, artist Joan Backes displays hundreds of leaves she gathered from locations around the world, while artist Beth Galston created a 300-foot-long rope with acorn caps she collected from under a single red oak in Boston's Arnold Arboretum.

Branching Out is the second exhibition in PEM's redesigned and expanded Art & Nature Center. Featuring fresh exhibition spaces, art studios, interactive stations and amenities for young families, the Art & Nature Center attracts adult and children audiences alike with an ever-rotating roster of programs, activity stations, multimedia elements and annual exhibitions that highlight the vital connections between human creativity and the natural world.

HOURS: Open Tuesday-Sunday, 10 am-5 pm, and the third Thursday of every month until 9 pm. Closed Mondays, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. ADMISSION: Adults \$18; seniors \$15; students \$10. INFO: Call 866-745-1876 or visit pem.org