

# Creative Living

celebrating all good things

## Celebrate the arts and help local groups weather the storm

by Kate Goldsmith

The tagline of our Creative Living section is “celebrating all good things.” That’s easier said than done these days. What’s to celebrate about a global pandemic?

One of this newspaper’s most important missions is to let the public know what’s happening in the region, so when nearly nothing is happening, our mission becomes informing the public about the devastating way the novel coronavirus is affecting life as we’ve known it. For Creative Living, that’s the events/entertainment sector. From concerts, art exhibitions and theatrical performances to church events and fundraisers for community organizations – and everything in between – it’s hard to imagine just how much the sudden, albeit necessary, shutdown of normal life will reverberate for weeks, months and probably years to come.

People are resourceful, and will come up with innovative ways to connect during this difficult time – technology can help in that area, with live-streamed performances, workshops and seminars conducted via Skype, etc. But in practical terms, it’s looking like the pandemic is truly an existential threat to many entertainment businesses.

On its Facebook page, The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck referenced the dilemma facing not only local theater companies but also Broadway – which is shut down at least through April 12, as per New York’s State of Emergency – and beyond.

“The resulting cancellation of various public events will have very real financial consequences for theatres and theatre artists. Nationwide, thousands of theatre professionals’ jobs and healthcare are at stake,” it said. “Transferring your ticket to a

donation or credit supports The Center during these uncertain times and we appreciate your consideration.”

The Bardavon organization announced last week that the Bardavon Opera House in Poughkeepsie and Ulster Performing Arts Center in Kingston will be closed at least 30 days, resulting in several postponed events.

A message on its Facebook page noted, “We are actively formulating plans for next steps, rescheduling concert and event dates and communicating with all our patrons. As this issue unfolds we will continue to evaluate the situation and communicate our plans.”

Of course, the arts are not the only sector that is suffering the effects of the pandemic. In other sections of this paper, you’ll find articles about how other businesses as well as local schools and colleges are dealing with it. But in this space, we’d like to

highlight some of the Hudson Valley’s arts organizations, the ones that aren’t becoming millionaires from what they do – but they do it with a love and passion that is inspiring. In this and future issues, we’ll include short blurbs about some of the organizations who enhance our lives with art, dancing, music, poetry, prose, theater and more.

May they all weather this storm, and let’s all do what we can to help them.

For artists: Buy their work, whether it’s an album, a painting, book, video or other creation.

For venues: In lieu of requesting a refund for a show that’s been postponed, take a credit for a future show (most venues are offering this option). For the nonprofits, turn the price of a ticket into a donation.

Be safe. Be well. Keep on living creatively.

### The Stissing Center postpones Spring Series in support of national effort to confront coronavirus

Construction on building ‘full speed ahead,’ says Keeler

The Board of Directors and staff of The Stissing Center (TSC) have announced the postponement of their planned Spring Series of events due to the recent spread of the coronavirus. TSC cited its concern for the health and safety of the audiences, performers, volunteers, staff and the entire community as the driving force behind the decision.

“Needless to say, we are all disappointed in the short term,” said TSC Board Chair, Jack Banning. “But after careful consideration, internal discussions and examining WHO and CDC guidelines, we all feel this is the right move at this time.”

“We were in the final stages of putting together an exciting, diverse series of events that we were sure everyone would enjoy,” said TSC Executive Director, Brian Keeler. “We’d planned on announcing the series this week, with performances to begin in late April. We will now look to book this series for a later time. We’ll continue to reassess over the coming months and plan accordingly.”

During this pause in programming, TSC

will continue with necessary construction and renovation in preparation for year-round programming.

“We are presently busy constructing a second space for performances and meetings in the lower level of the building called ‘The Cellar at the Center,’” Keeler said. “That work won’t stop. Also, we’ll continue to fundraise and work on bringing HVAC to the larger auditorium. Although we are hitting the pause button on performances, it’s full speed ahead on the construction.”

“These actions are in support of the larger, national effort to tackle this vexing problem,” Keeler added. “Hopefully it will help ‘flatten the curve,’ which is a process of slowing the advance and lowering the peak level of the virus, an action advocated by healthcare experts and infectious disease professionals.”

Banning cited TSC’s larger vision: “This decision fits with our mission of supporting the community’s well being. In this case, with so many unknowns, it is through actions like this that we can help protect public health.” ❖

### ‘Bridge Music’ listening stations reopen on Mid-Hudson span



The “Bridge Music” listening stations have reopened for the season on the Mid-Hudson Bridge. The composition by Beacon composer Joseph Bertolozzi was created using sampled sounds from the bridge itself. Photo by Ed Thompson

Joseph Bertolozzi’s “Bridge Music” listening stations have returned to the Mid-Hudson Bridge for the 11th season a couple weeks early, thanks to the recent mild weather.

“Bridge Music” is free and open to the public from dawn to dusk through October at the listening stations on the towers of the north pedestrian sidewalk of the Mid-Hudson Bridge. “Bridge Music” can also be heard on 95.3FM year-round over park radios installed at Waryas Park in Poughkeepsie and Johnson-Iorio Park in Highland.

“Bridge Music” was composed using sounds sampled from the bridge itself. This unique sound-art installation opened to great acclaim in 2009, and has been the subject of several documentaries, articles and travel guides. Its 10th anniversary last year was marked with a day-long series of events, culminating in a light show synchronized to a broadcast of the entire

“Bridge Music” album on iHeart Radio’s 92.1FM, Q92 (WRNQ).

Tara Sullivan, acting executive director for New York State Bridge Authority, said: “The New York State Bridge Authority is thrilled to mark the second decade of Joseph Bertolozzi’s ‘Bridge Music’ in 2020, as we also mark nine decades since the Mid-Hudson Bridge opened in 1930. Thanks to the graceful designs of 20th century engineer Ralph Modjeski and the unique vision of 21st-century composer Joseph Bertolozzi, the Mid-Hudson Bridge remains a stunning and ever-evolving work of art.”

“Bridge Music” is an official destination on the Walkway Trail Loop. The Trail Loop takes hikers, bikers and walkers from the Mid Hudson Bridge to the Walkway Over the Hudson State Park in a scenic route through the City of Poughkeepsie and the Town of Lloyd.

For more information, go to <http://bridgemusic.info>. ❖

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