

Cascabel Trio kicks off stellar Arts in the Village season

Thursday Posted at 2:01 AM

Arts in the Village opens its 2016-17 season on Sat., Oct. 1 at 7:30 p.m. at Goff Memorial Hall, 124 Bay State Road, Rehoboth, with the Cascabel Trio. Tickets are available at the door, cash or check only. For information visit www.carpentermuseum.org/Arts or call 508-463-5384.

By Keith Powers / Contributing Writer

You may not have heard of Arts in the Village. But if you love chamber music, you've heard of the musicians who play there.

The modest series, which began in 2001, opens its 2016-17 season this Saturday at Goff Memorial Hall in Rehoboth. Opening night features the Cascabel Trio, anchored by pianist Janice Weber, who is well-known to New Bedford area music fans as the director of the South Coast Chamber Music Series. She is also familiar to Boston-area audiences and students as well, as a longtime member of the prestigious piano faculty at Boston Conservatory.

Weber, joined by South Coast Chamber Music Series regulars Piotr Buczek (violin) and Timothy Roberts (cello), will perform demanding trios from Mozart, Dvorak and Brahms.

Arts in the Village artistic director Carolyn Panofsky, new to the position this season, has put together an outstanding season of well known chamber music ensembles and soloists. Additional concerts include the Euclid Quartet (Nov. 5), a young group that has made an early splash with a stellar recording of Bartok (Artek Records) and major competition triumphs.

The early music duo Sarasa — cellists Timothy Merton and Jennifer Morsches — will perform music of Bach, Handel and Vivaldi on Feb. 4. Clarinetist Jonathan Cohler and pianist Rasa Vitkauskaite (March 4) play sonatas by Beethoven and Schumann, along with other arrangements. The season finale (April 8) features pianist Diane Walsh, who will also be performing with the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra this November, giving a solo recital featuring Beethoven's Op. 109 sonata, along with music by other composers influenced by Beethoven.

“Many of our groups are touring New England or New York,” she says, “and they would rather play than not play, so they are willing to come to a small venue like ours. And I think they find our audiences rewarding, and our venue a delight to play in.”

While Panofsky is new to the directorship, she has booked events in the past. “I was working in education, and I just retired from Rhode Island College,” says the former professor. “But before I came to New England, I worked with the Las Vegas, New Mexico arts council. We put on all kinds of events — symphony, children's theatre, dance and soloists of all kinds. So I had done a lot of booking, and budgets for four or five years.

“But that was years ago,” she says, “and even though I felt familiar with the arts, things have changed. The advent of the internet makes it easier to find everyone, and make contact. It's definitely a blessing for us, to have these world-class musicians.”

Goff Memorial Hall is an intimate venue — “last year we averaged about 106 in the audience,” Panofsky says, “and that was the best year we ever had. I think if we really wanted to we could set up the room with 200 chairs.

“Anyone that does discover us,” she says, “finds out that we are a hidden gem.”

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