



Fairfield Arts Council

# ArtVoice

Spring 2005 Vol.6 No.2

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Arts Groups  
Join FAC**



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Clockwise from top left: Students in Shakespeare Ventures at Fairfield University, the Bacon Brothers perform at the Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts, and Theatre Fairfield at Fairfield University performs "She Stoops to Conquer."

## ArtVoice

### Vol.6 No:2

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## A Note

In the midst of a very long and snowy winter, a sweep of saffron orange swept across the landscape of Central Park in New York City. It was an event – a place where one was compelled to be, even if you had to take the train in from Connecticut. Christo and Jean Claude opened The Gates and the people flooded into the park. I “had to be there” on the first day, so a writer friend and I made the journey. Now, with all the hype, the discussion and the criticism, we have our license to engage – whether in a laugh over an email Gates spoof, or in a conversation with someone outraged by the 23 million dollar cost of the project.

Great art should surprise us and make us see something in a new way, or at least encourage us to connect with our feelings. Maybe it takes a lot to surprise people these days. Maybe it takes \$23 million and coverage in Newsweek magazine to get the public’s attention. For the first time in my life, my 85-year old Dad started our weekly phone conversation with the desire to discuss a work of art. Whether you loved The Gates or hated it, it did create community engagement. I loved it for that – as well as for the aesthetic billowy swath it cut across the park.

That day in Central Park has stuck with me. Not because of the hype, but because it did bring people together on a wintry day and made them feel so at ease that conversations developed easily between strangers, and the hectic pace of the city was slowed. Art can do that. Make us stop, reflect and engage.

But it doesn’t have to be a project that costs \$23 million. It can be a concert or a play or a trip to a museum. Take a chance...CHOOSE ART. Visit our arts calendar at [www.fairfieldartscouncil.org](http://www.fairfieldartscouncil.org) for help in finding your time to reflect.

—Ryan Odinak, Executive Director

## Volunteer Focus – Dorothy Straub

As a music coordinator for the Fairfield Public Schools years ago, Dorothy Straub saw the need for an organization to keep the public aware of the vital role arts play in the community and in the education of children. That sentiment moved her to become a founding member of FAC, and she has volunteered her time ever since. “I just served in whatever capacity they needed,” said Straub, who has been a Vice President of the council and is now its Secretary.

Straub no longer works or lives in Fairfield, but her dedication to FAC is as strong as ever. That may be because she has seen the Arts Council’s successes in creating synergies with local arts organizations that she supports. As assistant music director and conductor of the concert orchestra for the Greater Bridgeport Youth Orchestra, Straub proudly watched the group perform at an Artist of the Year event. And she was delighted to read the FAC newsletter profile on the Fairfield County Children’s Choir; Straub serves on its board. Now Music for Youth Inc., for which Straub is a vice president, is looking into doing a shared benefit with FAC. “It’s raised awareness of those organizations,” Straub said of FAC, and “the organizations themselves are more aware of how they fit into the whole of the arts community.”



## An Artist’s Tribute to the Donnellys

Following the tragic deaths of Fairfield residents Tim and Kim Donnelly, the Fairfield Arts Council arranged for an artistic tribute to the beloved couple, to be placed in their downtown storefront window. Fairfield artist Finn Winterson created an original design based on the Celtic Tree of Life. Many thanks to Finn for his beautiful work, as well as to American Signs and Designs of Fairfield and Triumph Graphics of New York City for covering production and printing costs. ■

## Five Vibrant Fairfield University Arts Groups Align with FAC

Five of Fairfield University's arts groups have joined the Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts in becoming members of the Fairfield Arts Council. Theatre Fairfield, Shakespeare Ventures, The Fairfield University Orchestra, The Fairfield University Jazz Ensemble and The Fairfield University Glee Club have all signed on to support arts in the community and increase awareness of the diverse range of arts being offered at Fairfield University.

•**The Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts** embraces the power of the arts by presenting an array of internationally and nationally acclaimed performers and performances in a variety of genres and disciplines. Music concerts range from classical, chamber, jazz, folk, and pop. Dance events have brought the world's greatest companies and choreographers. The Center produces a diverse set of theater events, and the young people performances cater to all ages. Other events at the Center include community rentals, and University presentations of professional and student programs. The Quick Center houses the 750-seat Kelley Theatre, the Lawrence A. Wien Experimental Theater and the 2,200-square-foot Thomas J. Walsh Art Gallery.

•**Theatre Fairfield's** mission is to provide a well-rounded, fully participatory theatre experience for the University community. This goal is demonstrated through such recently captivating works as a dramatization of Tim Robbins' play "Dead Man Walking," as well as classic works such as Aristophanes' Greek comedy, "The Birds" and the world English language premiere of the award-winning Japanese play, "Tokyo Notes." Also included each season are performances of student-written, directed, and designed plays; performances by On the Spot and In the Spit, the resident improv companies; as well as Director's Cut and a Class Act, which features the work of advanced directing and acting students.

•**Shakespeare Ventures** is a burgeoning professional theater company, which brings the modern wit and wisdom of "the great bard" alive to audiences, classrooms and young people. The group approaches Shakespeare's work in a way that emphasizes contemporary relevance. Through both productions and educational programs, the company strives to generate discussion and make Shakespeare's plays and other classic works more accessible, illuminating and

downright fun for both audiences and actors. Shakespeare Ventures also offers school outreach, summer acting workshops for young actors, and professional performances.

•For nearly 15 years, the **Fairfield University Orchestra** invites both students and community members to perform. Conducted by Laura Nash, Ph.D, director of classical music at Fairfield, the Orchestra performs concerts in December and April at the Quick Center. This spring's performance, on Sunday, April 24, at 4 p.m., features Dvorak's Symphony 9, the New World Symphony, Rimsky Korsakov's Capriccio Espagnol, and an arrangement of Copland's most loved themes.

•Brian Torff, renowned jazz musician and director of **The Fairfield University Jazz Ensemble**, helps guide a student group of eight to 10 members to perform at their best. The group performs a wide variety of jazz from traditional to modern, as well as blues, rock, and world music. Concerts include demonstrations in improvisation and some background about the history of jazz as taught by Torff, who is also a professor of music at the University. Each concert also provides a big name guest to add to the fun.

•**The members of The Fairfield University Glee Club**, under the direction of Dr. Carole Ann Maxwell, share a deep love for music and a common desire to excel. In fact, the Glee Club is now celebrating its 58th season of extraordinary choral performances. Numbering more than 100 undergraduate and graduate singers, the chorus is the parent organization of four additional choral ensembles: the acclaimed Chamber Singers; the Sine Nomine Singers; the Men's Ensemble, and Sweet Harmony.

"FAC is thrilled to welcome Fairfield University's talented arts groups to our growing family," said Ryan Odinak, director of FAC. "Their programs display a strong dedication and passion for the arts, which we find exceptional. The Quick Center is one of the region's best performing arts centers and is located in our community."

For ticket information, contact the Quick Center box office at 203-254-4010 or 1-877-ARTS-396. For information on the arts at Fairfield University, visit [www.fairfield.edu](http://www.fairfield.edu) and click on Arts and Enrichment.

## Business Members

Boston Billiard Club  
Carew Travel Consultants  
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Dunlap Hibbs Real Estate, Inc.  
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The Westport Inn  
The Writers Workshop of Fairfield  
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Zera Musicland

## Not-for-profit member organizations

Art/Place  
Connecticut Audubon  
Birdcraft Museum  
Connecticut Dance School  
Connectivity  
Easton Arts Council  
Edgerton Center for the Performing Arts at Sacred Heart University  
Fairfield County Arts Association  
Fairfield County Children's Choir  
Fairfield County Chorale  
Fairfield Historical Society  
Fairfield Public Library  
Fairfield Theatre Company  
Fairfield University Glee Club  
Fairfield University Jazz Ensemble  
Fairfield University Orchestra  
Gallery of Contemporary Art at Sacred Heart University  
Greater Bridgeport Youth Orchestra  
International Performing Arts, Inc.  
Klein Auditorium  
Meetinghouse Civic Orchestra  
Music for Youth, Inc.  
Playhouse on the Green  
Quick Center for the Arts at Fairfield University  
Shakespeare Ventures at Fairfield University  
Suzuki Music School of Westport  
Theatre Fairfield at Fairfield University  
Wednesday Afternoon Musical Club  
Westport Arts Center



## Student Art Rocks

A number of students from Fairfield Warde High School's Senior Studio Art Class hang their artwork for an exhibit that opened on March 13th at the CT Audubon Birdcraft Museum, 314 Unquowa Rd. Fairfield. The exhibition, co-sponsored by FAC, was open to the public and ran through March 31st. Pictured from left to right are: Sally Klann, Jessie Novik, Mell Scalzi, Haylie Johnston, Alex Parisi, and Christine Quinn. Participating students not shown, Courtney Jones, Tavia Odinak, Katie Ratcliffe, Katie Selbert, Janna Ubrich, and Julianne Wilson.

## Arts Calendar

FAC invites representatives from not-for-profit arts organizations in Fairfield, Westport, Bridgeport, Easton and Trumbull to submit events to FAC's new web-based arts calendar. Please call FAC at (203) 319-1419 or e-mail for more information.

Support  
the **arts**  
in Fairfield

**Become a  
member**

For more  
information  
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Visit our website: [fairfieldarts council.org](http://fairfieldarts council.org)



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