



Mercer County Cultural and Heritage Commission is 40!

The arts, culture and history enrich our lives and grow our understanding of our community and the world around us. As New Jersey's capital county, Mercer County is a center for commerce, culture, and history in the Garden State. Located midway between New York City and Philadelphia in New Jersey's center, Mercer County's 13 municipalities are home to more than 350,000 people in 226 square miles in the heart of region with 10% of the U.S. population all within a 75-mile radius.

At the same time, the culture and heritage sector has a major economic and employment presence in Mercer County. Inclusive of non-profit and for-profit employment, it is likely that well over 4,000 individuals make their living in Mercer County through wage-earning jobs in the arts and

related creative fields, and approximately 1,350 additional individuals are engaged in some aspect of the arts. Many of these organizations are supported through funding and services from Mercer County Cultural and Heritage Commission.

The Commission was created on March 17, 1970 by the Board of Chosen Freeholders to serve as an advisory board to the Division of Culture and Heritage. The Commission is composed of nine volunteer citizens appointed for five-year terms by the County Executive. The Commission and the Division share in the responsibility of actively sponsoring musical performances as well as annual art and photography exhibitions. Both support a wide range of artistic activities and projects within the County through financial grants to local arts agen-

cies and organizations.

Shortly after the creation of the Commission, the Mercer County Artists exhibition was organized for anyone who lives, works or attends school in Mercer County. Trenton State College hosted the exhibits until 2005, when they were moved to the Gallery at Mercer County Community College. Purchase awards at both of these exhibits have become part of an extensive County Art Collection.

To celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the Commission, ArtWorks will host an exhibit of selections from the Collection. An opening reception is planned for July 9 at 6 pm in Artworks at 19 Everetts Alley in Trenton. The exhibit will be on display through July 30. For more gallery hours, please call 394-9436 or visit www.artworkstrenton.org.

The Golandsky Institute

Entering its seventh year this July, the Golandsky Institute will present the Summer Symposium and International Piano Festival at Princeton University. Here, pianists, teachers, and students will experience the works of great composers and deepen their understanding of the art of piano playing.

The Golandsky Institute was established in 2003 by Edna Golandsky, John Bloomfield, Robert Durso and Mary Moran to bring high-level training in the Taubman Approach to the musical community. This approach is highly effective in the resolution of technical limitations and playing-related injuries. The aim of the Institute is to provide musicians with a foundation that allows for full artistic expression and the development of virtuosic technical ability.

The work of the Golandsky Institute is presented internationally through private instruction, lectures, masterclasses, performances, and symposia by a team of expertly trained faculty members and teachers who are all highly regarded in their own right.

This summer's educational work will feature intensive study of the Taubman technique at the piano, masterclasses by artistic director, Edna Golandsky, lectures by former New York Times and Washington Post music critic, Tim Page, and evening recitals by Ilya Itin, Josu de Salaun, Spain's rising star pianist, and young jazz sensations from the Berklee College Global Jazz Institute.

On July 11 at 8 pm, Internationally acclaimed piano virtuoso, Gulsin Onay will perform.

On July 12 at 8 pm, Josu De Solaun Soto, Winner, Jose Iturbi International Piano Competition and the European Union International Competition will present Scriabin's *Sonata in F-sharp Minor, Op. 23*, *Schéherazade*, and Chopin's *Sonata in B Minor*.

On July 13 at 8 pm, Thomas Bagwell, world-renowned collaborative pianist and Christopher Dylan Herbert, Young Star Baritone will perform J.S. Bach: *Three Preludes and Fugues* and Robert Schumann: *Selections from Liederkreis, Op. 39*.

On July 15 at 8 pm, Bach expert and distinguished artist Sean Dugan will play Bach: *The Little Catechism*, Liszt: *Harmonies poetiques et religieuses* and Messiaen: *Vingt regards sur l'enfant Jesus*.

On July 16 at 8 pm, Ilya Itin, Leeds International Piano Competition Gold Medalist will perform Schubert and Rachmaninoff.

The Festival will conclude on July 17 at 8 pm with Takeshi Ohbayashi and Christian Li, the Berklee School of Music's Global Jazz Institute, performing with the Institute's managing director, Marco Pignataro.

Concerts will be held at Princeton University's Taplin Auditorium off Washington Road. Tickets are \$25 and are available at the door or online at www.golandskyinstitute.org. (wv)

C & H is Going Green!

This year marks the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. Started in 1970 by former Wisconsin senator, Gaylord Nelson, who believed that all people, regardless of race, gender, income, or geography, have a moral right to a healthy, sustainable environment. Earth Day Network continues his idea to broaden and diversify the environmental movement worldwide, and to mobilize it as the most effective vehicle for promoting a healthy, sustainable environment through a combination of education, public policy, and activism campaigns.

For the past few years Brian M. Hughes has championed the movement by enacting sustainability policies. In honoring these efforts C&H will only mail a limited quantity of the *Culture and Heritage News Update*. If you wish to receive a mailed copy of the *Update* please call 989-6899. The *Update* is available for download in PDF format at www.mercercounty.org/commissions/cultural/newsletter.html.

A Calendar of Events is available online at www.nj.gov/counties/mercer/commissions/cultural/calendar.html. Late-breaking news about local events and activities that arrived too late for the online calendar is emailed weekly via a **FYI** notice. To receive these blasts, please email mrunyon@mercercounty.org. The **FYI** will also have a link to the latest version of *Update*.