

Island Arts Centre Society

ARTSPRING  
news

100 Jackson Avenue Salt Spring Island BC V8K 2V8 Phone 537-2125 Ticket Centre 537-2102 tickets@artspring.ca www.artspring.ca PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT No. 40022673



Elina Garanca as Carmen

by George Sipos

Our second season presenting the live HD broadcasts of the Metropolitan Opera series is proving a big success. Average attendance for the Saturday morning events last season was approximately 120; this year we have yet to have an opera with an audience of fewer than 200.

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Despite some technical problems originating in New York for *Turandot*, people are very pleased with the sound quality in our theatre, and of course with the superb production values that the Met lavishes on each opera.

We are grateful to Salt Spring Coffee Co for providing excellent coffee for the performances, and to Christine Godlonton

who caters fine sandwiches and other food at the intermissions to help everyone get through the long performances. Also thanks to Kelly Waters, our ArtSpring volunteer who looks after getting all the food and drink ready.

We are expecting a big demand for *Carmen* on January 16 and so have made arrangements to also show the encore broadcast on March 13. Anyone who already has tickets for Jan 16 and wants to change to March 13 is welcome to make the exchange and we'll waive the customary \$2 ticket exchange fee.

The dates for the 2010–11 Met season have been announced, but not the programmes. We'll have to wait a few months for the list of operas and singers.

## Staff changes

As some of you will have discovered, Rita Gauld left ArtSpring on November 1. For over six years Rita was a key member of our administrative team, looking after many tasks involved with rentals of our building, the logistics of performances, and so on. Many first-time exhibitors will recall her helpful assistance in booking space, organizing receptions, and planning publicity. She has now moved to Victoria where her husband has been working for over a year.

Her departure, however, has coincided with an opportunity for John Wakefield to return to work after his major road accident in November 2006. It has been a long process of recovery and we are delighted that it has progressed sufficiently that John can once again join us in the upstairs office and take over part of Rita's duties.

The rest of Rita's former tasks have been assumed by our other superb administrative team member Meghan Howcroft. Please contact Meghan between Mondays and Thursdays for any matters related to use of the building and she will cheerfully help.

This is perhaps a good time to remind artists and craftspersons that we have several opportunities to show your work either for free or very inexpensively at ArtSpring.

We make the walls of the lobby available to emerging local artists to show their work for a month at a time. This is a free service (except for May, June, July and August when there is a small fee). In addition, we have a nice glass display case in the lobby ideal for displaying smaller objects – pottery, jewellery, glass. This is also available to local artisans on a monthly basis, again for a small charge. Meghan can advise about either of these opportunities.

# A Little Night Music

**G**eorge Ehring's popular music appreciation course returns Monday, January 18 and runs for seven Mondays till March 8.

George has been offering the course for three years at ArtSpring, after several years of presenting it in his home. It started as an introductory course, and then evolved into a course on nationalism in music, and then music centred on specific key dates in history.



This year, George returns to a revised introductory course, with many different musical selections. All of it will be presented with George's patented wit and weirdness:

"You'll learn why Mozart sounds like Mozart, how Haydn lost his head, and what famous composer picked up Beethoven's skull and talked to it."

George describes the course as: "A mix of social and musical history, spiced with irreverence and odd bits, putting music in its context and showing how and why western classical music evolved as it has."

Cost of the course is just \$45 per person, or \$80 for a couple. This includes all seven Monday evening sessions (7:00-10:00pm) as well as light refreshments.

Register through the ArtSpring Ticket Centre – 537-2102.

## Technical upgrades

Many thanks to the **Salt Spring Island Foundation** for a recent grant of \$2,800 to help with technical upgrades to our theatre. After more than ten years of use, many of our microphone stands no longer work, and several hundred feet of audio cabling also needs to be replaced. This generous grant from the Foundation will allow us to make these upgrades shortly.

We also have an application pending to Cultural Spaces Canada for funding assistance to improve our hearing-assist system in the theatre so that more patrons can use earphones that will work better throughout the auditorium. If we are successful, the grant will also provide for new lighting instruments, another ten dimmer circuits, a hand-held cordless microphone, and other useful but more obscure technical items.

# Literary Lineup



**Don McKay**



**Kathy Page**



**Derek Lundy**

**DURING THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS ARTSPRING WILL HOST A NUMBER OF LITERARY EVENTS.**

**1 Thursday, Jan 21 at 7:00pm:** Ottawa poet **David O'Meara** will read from his most recent book *Noble Gas, Penny Black* published by Brick Books. He has been shortlisted for Ontario's prestigious Trillium Prize and is among Canada's best young poetic voices.

**2 Sunday, Feb 14 at 3:00pm:** A double feature with **Don McKay** and **George Sipos**. Don McKay is Canada's most important poet. Winner of a handful of Governor General's Awards and the Griffin Prize, McKay was named to the Order of Canada last year in recognition of his outstanding lifetime achievement and service to the cause of Canadian poetry.

ArtSpring Executive Director George Sipos launches his second collection of poems *The Glassblowers* on the same occasion.

**3 Late April:** SaltSpring novelist **Kathy Page** launches her new novel *The Find*. Her previous fiction has been shortlisted for several prestigious awards, including the Orange Prize for *The Story of My Face* and the Governor General's Award for *Alphabet*.

**4 Also late April:** **George Sipos** launches his second book of the season, *London Landmarks*. This is a prose memoir of coming of age in 1960s London Ontario.

**5 Late May:** Well know Salt Spring writer **Derek Lundy**, author of *The Godforsaken Sea*, *The Way of a Ship*, and *The Bloody Red Hand*, brings us his latest work, *Borderlands: Riding the Edge of America*. The book is a chronicle of his journey by motorcycle along America's Mexican and Canadian borders.

Exact dates for the last three events will be set closer to the day. Check [www.artspring.ca](http://www.artspring.ca) for up-to-date information.


**ARTSPRING**

# what's on now


**GISS Drama presents  
DRACULA**

Jan 13 & 14 – 7:30pm

**Metropolitan Opera  
CARMEN**

Jan 16 – 10:00am

**TRUTH, TRIALS &  
TARSANDS**

Jan 16 – 7:00pm

A post-Copenhagen review featuring:  
**Jack Woodward**, pre-eminent authority on Aboriginal law to talk about Beaver Lake Cree legal action and how it can stop the expansion of the tar sands.

**James Hoggan**, to discuss his book *Climate Cover-Up*

**Alan Bibby**, Salt Spring film-maker premiering excerpts from his documentary *Liquid Truth*.

Admission: \$20 / \$10 (students/seniors)  
Reception to follow with a book signing by Mr Hoggan.


**DUPLEX**

Jan 17 – 2:30pm

Veda Hille and friends present a family concert of rock, pop, jazz and just plain zany songs for young audiences. Note that this is the only performance and there will not be a schools show on Monday, as is often the case with children's programming.

**Island Arts Centre Society  
AGM**

Jan 17 – 5:00pm

**A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC**

Jan 18 – 7:00pm

George Ehring's seven week long music appreciation course begins this evening and runs every Monday through March 8.

**DAVID O'MEARA**

Jan 21 – 7:00pm

Poetry reading in the Guild Room by Ottawa poet David O'Meara. This reading is sponsored by the Canada Council and is hosted by ArtSpring.

**GISS Concert**

Jan 21 & 22 – 7:30pm

GISS Music Programme's January music shoe with first term students. Senior composition with new and exciting original works. The choirs will also perform plus jazz combos as well as a taste of the music squad.

**Wordplay**
**OEDIPUS THE KING**

Jan 23

2 shows at 2:30pm and 7:30pm in the galleries

A reading of the classic tragedy Oedipus the King written by Sophocles. Directed by Betty Maryon. Free admission.

**PAULA KIFFNER &  
FRIENDS**

Jan 24 – 2:30pm

Salt Spring cellist Paula Kiffner is joined by Sharon Stanis from the Lafayette Quartet, Yariv Aloni from the Galinano Ensemble, and Arthur Rowe, head of the piano department at UVic for a chamber music concert including Bach's Goldberg Variations arranged for string trio and Brahms Piano Quartet in C.


**TOKYO STRING QUARTET**

Feb 1 – 8:00pm

Quartets by Haydn, Beethoven and Bartok. The programme is preceded by a wine tasting courtesy of Gary Oaks Winery at 7:00pm

**Metropolitan Opera  
SIMON BOCCANEGRA**

Feb 6 – 10:00am


**LADIES AIRES & DANCES**

Feb 7 – 2:30pm

The Vancouver Historical Performance Ensemble presents an afternoon of authentically reconstructed Baroque dance, with live period music, costumes and explanatory narrative. This is a perfect afternoon for anyone interested in dance, history, costume.

**DON MCKAY &  
GEORGE SIPOS**

Feb 14 – 3:00pm

Poetry reading and book launch.



**Sunday, Feb 14 – 7:30pm**  
**A VERY SPECIAL**  
**VALENTINE'S EVENING**  
**WITH JENN BEAUPRE**

Join one of Canada's fastest rising singer/songwriters for a very special Valentine's performance. Jenn Beaupre burst onto the music scene when she appeared as a contestant on "Canadian Idol." With her powerful, classically trained vocals, combined with humorous storytelling, Jenn's performances are memorable and come straight from her heart. [www.jennbeaupre.com](http://www.jennbeaupre.com). The evening also features Salt Spring's own Gemma G.

Tickets: \$15 advance, \$20 at the door.



**SALT SPRING CHAMBER**  
**PLAYERS**

**Feb 21 – 2:30pm**

Jim and Laurie Stubbs gather some of the best professional musicians from the island and the region for a concert including the Schubert Octet and works by Albinoni and Alexandre Tansman.



**A reminder:**

The Island Arts Centre Society's **Annual General Meeting** will be held on Sunday, January 17 at 5:00pm in the ArtSpring galleries. All current members of the society are welcome to attend and to take part in the business of the meeting. If you are unsure of the status of your membership, or to renew it, please contact the Ticket Centre at 537-2120.

***IACS Board of Directors & ArtSpring Staff***

John Stewart, President; Judy Nurse, Vice-President; Kate Merry, Treasurer; Pip Moore, Secretary; Seth Berkowitz, George Ehring, Lyle Eide, Wendy Herbert, Scott Howe, Mary Rose MacLachlan, Fran McInnich, Kate Merry, Lyle Petch.

George Sipos, Executive Director; John Wakefield, Systems Manager; Meghan Howcroft, Operations Manager; Elizabeth Nolan, Ticket Centre Manager and Manager of Volunteers; Bob Rogers, Building Manager; Susan Worrall, Bookkeeper; Marv Coulthard, Technical Director



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ArtSpring's 2009-2010 Season  
Discover a  
**feast**  
of fresh  
**entertainment**