

THE
ART OF

HEALING

February 11, 2020, 5:30 p.m.

Sponsored by Massey Law Group
Presented by Florida CraftArt

Florida CraftArt and St Petersburg's Celebration of the Arts presents an evening of four ten-minute performances featuring themes of tolerance and acceptance expressed through the lenses of acting, dance, poetry, and music.

Welcome

Katie Deits and Tyler Jones

Introduction

Tammy Briant Spratling
Executive Director
Community Tampa Bay

“Waiting on the Green Bench”

Performed by Mimi Rice and Stephanie Roberts
Written by Kubby and Katie Deits

“Between Us”

Created and performed by: Helen French and Charlotte Johnson
Music by: Jóhann Jóhannsson and Nils Frahm

Poetry on Tolerance and Acceptance

Read by Denzel Johnson-Green and Maureen McDole

“Olam Chesed Yibaneh” (“I will fill this world with love”)

Written by Menachem Creditor
Performed by Barbara Mazer Gross

“A Change is Gonna Come”

Written by Sam Cooke
Performed by Alex Harris

“Amazing Grace”

Written by John Newton
Performed by Barbara Mazer Gross and Alex Harris

Tonight's performance is part of programming for the exhibition *“Inside the world of Public Art”* that was made possible with funding from AARP Tampa Bay, City of St. Petersburg, Creative Pinellas, Duke Energy, Kathryn Howd and Edward Rucks, Massey Law Group, David and Becky Ramsey, and State of Florida Division of Cultural Affairs.



Mimi Rice currently calls Radio Theatre Project at Studio @620 her theatrical home. It is an ensemble she co-founded and has performed with since 2009. Her most recent stage performance was at freeFall Theatre in the premier of Natalie Symons' *The Buffalo Kings* followed by a staged reading of *Lark Eden*, also by Natalie Symons, at American Stage. St. Pete audiences have seen Ms. Rice in previous American Stage venues – on Central Avenue in *The Glass Menagerie* and later she played Amanda for AS at TPAC, and on 3rd St S, she appeared in award winning performances of *Death of a Salesman*, *Steel Magnolias*, and *Over the River and Through the Woods*. She has appeared locally at Stageworks and Tampa Players and has appeared on stages throughout the country. Ms. Rice can be seen on screen in *Misconceptions* and *Turtle Tale*, both filmed in St. Petersburg.



Stephanie Roberts is currently enjoying an entertainment career that combines traveling and performing, often as a Show and Band Vocalist, as well as a Musical and Radio Theater performer locally and abroad. Roberts considers herself fortunate to be a resident and a contributor to the Tampa Bay Arts scene.

Helen Hansen French is a local of St. Petersburg and a Pinellas County Center for the Arts alumna. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts from The Juilliard School and her Master of Fine Arts from Hollins University. Mrs. French joined Buglisi Dance Theatre in 2001, and she has toured both nationally and internationally. She has been awarded a 2015, 2016, and 2017 Individual Artist Grant from the City of St. Petersburg and was a 2016 Creative Pinellas Artist Fellow. Mrs. French is a founding member of the St. Petersburg Dance Alliance, serves on the board of the St.



Petersburg Arts Alliance, and co-produces *Beacon*: a performance series for St. Pete which takes place annually at The Palladium in St. Petersburg. She is a certified Alexander Technique teacher and has served on the dance faculties at George Mason University, The Juilliard School, The Neighborhood Playhouse, John Hopkins Middle School, St. Petersburg College, PCCA, and Hillsborough Community College.



Charlotte Johnson is a native of St Petersburg. She began her dance training at the early age of seven, attending the Academy of Ballet Arts. She later went on to attend the rigorous Pinellas County Center for the Arts at Gibbs High School, graduating in 2002, and The Juilliard School, graduating in 2006. She also apprenticed with the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company from 2007 to 2008. She was featured in the 2008 Puma commercial and print campaigns and worked as a freelance dancer for Ballet Noir and Trainor Dance in New York City. Ms. Johnson returned to Florida in 2011 to teach full time at John Hopkins Middle School Center for the Arts and to start a family. In the summer of 2014, she returned to the stage, performing in many local dance projects in St Petersburg before being asked to perform as a project-based dancer with Sarasota Contemporary Dance in May 2017. In January 2019, Ms. Johnson was awarded the Creative Pinellas Professional Artist Grant in the category of Dance Performance.



Denzel Johnson-Green was raised in Eagle River, Alaska. He studied biology at the University of South Florida in St. Petersburg in 2013 and started studying and writing poetry on his own at the Studio@620 through Keep St. Pete Lit's Poetry Open Mic in 2017. Since then, Mr. Green has been featured in seven shows of poetry at the Studio@620 and Florida CraftArt, including performances with Florida Poet Laureate Peter Meinke and St. Petersburg Poet Laureate Helen Pruitt Wallace.

His poems have been featured in *Creative Pinellas' ArtCoast Journal* and he has performed poetry in Straub Park for First Night and for the 2019 Exquisite Corpse Games. As of September 2019, Green has been hosting weekly poetry gatherings at Black Crow Coffee in the Grand Central Arts District and has hosted poetry for the Friends of the Jack Kerouac House Literary Festival. He is also working on his first collection of poetry. Mr. Green finds a fascination in history, futurism, and biology.

Maureen McDole was born in St. Petersburg. Her first book of poems, *Exploring My Options*, was published in 2006 and her second poetry book, *Longing for the Deep End*, was released in December 2011. She is in the process of finishing her third collection of poems. Ms. McDole earned her Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from the University



of South Florida St. Petersburg and a certificate in Arts and Culture Strategy from University of Pennsylvania. Her poetry has been set in a variety of different ways, including film, dance, spoken word, art installations, Sprechstimme, and traditional vocal works. She is an Associate Editor of Creative Pinellas Magazine and the President of Friends of the Mirror Lake Library, and she was the recipient of St. Petersburg Art Alliance's 2016 MUSE Award for Literary Arts. Ms. McDole has been

leading workshops and speaking about creativity for over 15 years. She founded the literary arts organization Keep St. Pete Lit in 2013 because she believes wholeheartedly in the power of literature to change the world.



Dr. Alex Harris is an academic, humanitarian, singer/songwriter and a Cross the Line Music/SONY-Orchard recording artist. Beyond his billboard hits, four number one singles, and traveling the world, Dr. Harris is also a co-founder of the Arts Conservatory for Teens (ACT), which utilizes the performing and visual arts to empower and enrich the lives of youth, especially disadvantaged and 'high-risk' youth. After graduating high school, Dr. Harris enrolled into LaGrange College, where

he earned his Bachelor of Arts in Human Services and Psychology. He then went on to receive his Master's in Theology and Social Work from Boston University, an extended graduate study in Adolescent Counseling at Harvard University, and his doctoral degree in Organizational Leadership and Curriculum Development at Nova Southeastern University.



Barbara Mazer Gross is a classically trained soloist, song leader, music teacher and choir director. Ms. Gross began her musical training in her hometown of Nashville, Tennessee, where she studied classical voice and contemporary Jewish music. While living in St. Louis, Missouri, she sang, played guitar, and wrote music with Root of a Sunshine Rose, a folk-acoustic band, alongside singer/songwriter Celia Rose. Upon moving to Florida in 2002, she focused entirely on Jewish music for two

years, and continues to perform monthly at Temple Beth El with the Jammin' Jews. Ms. Gross serves as faculty at URJ Camp Coleman and

in 2019 was the Music Director for second session. Currently she sings contemporary, pop, folk and jazz with The Palm Trio, in addition to her ongoing role as a Jewish music professional. When she is not performing, she is the Director of Institutional Advancement for The Florida Orchestra and is the mother to two wonderful children.



Kubby was born in Saint Petersburg and is an emerging filmmaker and an established freelance writer. She is currently the owner of her own wellness blog named *MyConversationPeace.com* where she explores subjects in consciousness, her favorite books, and spiritual concepts. *“Waiting on the Green Bench”* was written alongside Katie Deits and is her first play. Kubby is in the beginning stages of filming her first documentary on her first ayahuasca experience set for presentation in summer 2020. She is happy to have contributed to this experience and she looks forward to bringing forth more meaningful conversations in her community.



Katie Deits is an award-winning artist, Master Photographer, writer and a Certified Fund Raising Executive whose expertise includes public relations and organizational leadership. She is the executive director of Florida CraftArt, a statewide nonprofit headquartered in St. Petersburg representing Florida’s fine craft artists. She writes about art for newspapers and magazines and is a member of the International Association of Art Critics. She earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of South Florida. She has served on the faculties of Barry University, Palm Beach State College and The Society of the Four Arts and lectures on art, fundraising and organizational leadership. *“Waiting on the Green Bench”* is her first play and was a very meaningful experience, as she grew up in the South and creates artwork related to human rights.

Florida CraftArt is a statewide nonprofit organization headquartered in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Our mission is to grow the statewide creative economy by engaging the community and advancing Florida's fine craft artists and their work.

Florida CraftArt (FCA) is a member-supported, statewide nonprofit organization headquartered in the heart of downtown St. Petersburg's art and culture district. Fine craft art is presented in the 2,500-square-foot retail gallery and in the adjacent Exhibition Gallery that features curated exhibitions and programming.

FCA's goal is to elevate fine craft as a recognized economic generator for Florida, nurture emerging artists, exhibit and promote fine craft artists, provide high-quality exhibitions and broaden educational programming for the community.

Florida CraftArt's life-changing influence is evidenced in the tremendous impact it has made in the lives of Florida artists helping to make it possible for them to make a living in the profession. It is the only statewide organization offering Florida's fine craft artists the opportunity to show and sell their work in an attractive gallery set in a popular area for tourists, locals, and art lovers. Art careers have been made possible because of financial support from sales, business guidance and mentoring from FCA staff. Artists are encouraged and challenged to create new work for the retail gallery and calls to artists for various themed exhibitions.

The second floor of Florida CraftArt's 100-year-old building houses ArtLofts, which features 20 artists' studios and the Creative Loft where workshops and lectures are held. Florida CraftArt is open and free to the public every day (except major holidays) from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and noon to 5 p.m. on Sundays. Every second Saturday, FCA and the ArtLofts are open until 9 p.m. for the St. Petersburg Arts Alliance ArtWalk. FCA is a destination for locals and tourists alike.

Support from generous individuals, businesses, and foundations make exhibitions and educational programming possible, please see Rhonda Sanborn for sponsorship opportunities.

"Inside the World of Public Art" exhibition and educational programming are made possible by our sponsors:



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Diversity: the art of thinking independently together.

~ *Malcolm Forbes*



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