



WINTER NEWSLETTER

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photo by Alan Fischer

DANCE

The GSA Dance Department is just coming off our performance of the Winter Dance Concert. Congratulations to the dancers, choreographers, and production crew who helped make this concert a memorable evening of dance.

Just around the corner is our yearly collaboration with the Virginia Arts Festival's Rhythm Project and our production of Rhythm Live, a celebration of Black History Month, February 17, 2017 at the Harrison Opera House. This is a special collaboration with not only the musicians of the Rhythm Project, but also with our GSA African drumming musicians. This is a vibrant and fun show that shows off the talents of so many youth performing together!

GSA will host the 12th Regional High School Dance Festival with over a thousand dancers from fifty-eight high schools from around the country. These high school dancers will be together for a weekend of inspiring classes, workshops and performances. Forty-six colleges will also attend to recruit and host a dance college fair.

The Dance Department will participate in a week long Gaga method residency with artists from Gaga USA. Made possible in part by generous grants from the Chesapeake Fine Arts Commission, the Portsmouth Fine Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts, this week long workshop will offer both our dance and theater students a look into a new approach to finding movement and motivation for performance.

We have an amazing relationship with the Virginia Arts Festival and are so fortunate to have the opportunity for our students to rehearse and perform in the Royal Winnipeg Ballet's production of *Swan Lake* at Chrysler Hall. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for our students to dance with a professional company of such a high caliber. The highlight of our spring performance season will be our Spring Dance Concert, May 11-13, 2017 at the Roper PAC. We will be collaborating with the Vocal Music Department in a production of Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*.



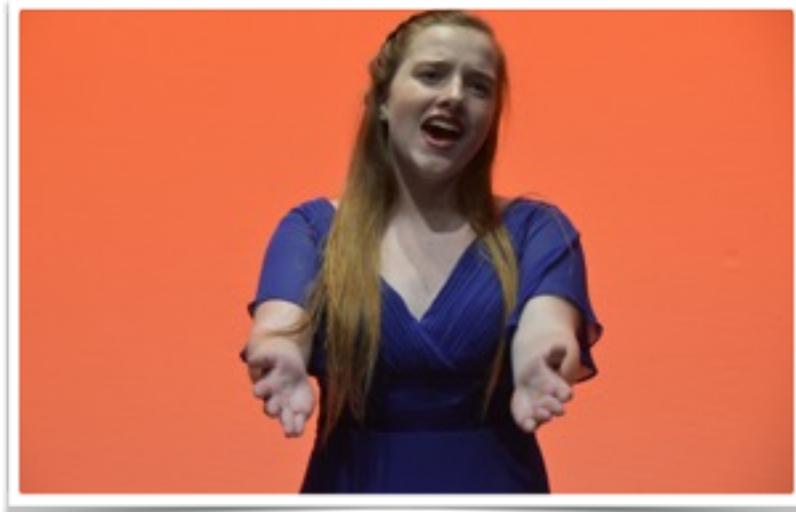
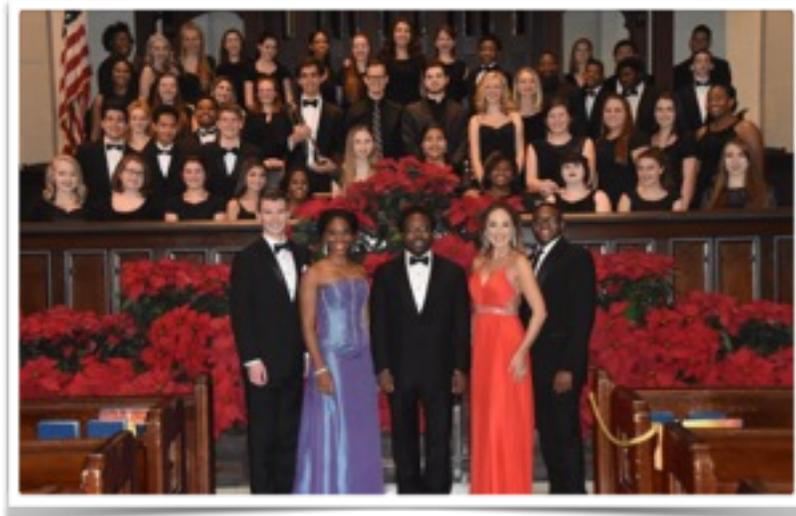
MUSICAL THEATRE

Part of the GSA mission is to provide opportunities for students to use their talents in service to others and to collaborate with the rich resources of superior arts organizations and venues in our community. This past semester Jack Whitelaw, Brigit Davidson & Kyle Lutes performed with Zeiders American Dream Theatre in *Rhyme & Punishment* and Dylan Cavazos, Alexandra Pouloutides, Kathlene Sheets & Sidney Wilson were soloists with Symphonicity in A Royal Musical Adventure: The 18th Annual Lollipop Concert at the Sandler Center for the Performing Arts. And GSA Musical Theatre senior Andrew Nelin has been cast as the lead in Virginia Musical Theatre's upcoming production of *How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying* at the Sandler Center April 21-23, 2017.

It's always exciting for our current students to hear about the careers of our alumni. It's even more exciting to have them come visit and teach! This winter, Musical Theatre alumnus **Van Hughes**, class of 2002, will be back to teach the students in a week long workshop about singing, performing and auditioning. Van has been seen in the movies, *Sex in the City*, *Rachel Getting Married* and *Sex in the City 2* and in television shows including, *General Hospital*, *Royal Pains*, *Are you Joking?*, *Law & Order*, among others. He starred in the Broadway shows *American Idiot*, *Hairspray*, *Spring Awakening* and *9 to 5*. Van also has his own band in New York and writes his own compositions.



The Musical Theatre Department is excited to return to the Wells Theatre for the first time in 12 years for their up coming production of *Crazy For You* which will run May 19-21, 2017. We will be recreating the original Susan Stroman choreography. Jason Amato, the area's newest lighting designer will be our designer. Jason's credits include Off-Broadway, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Lincoln Center Out of Doors, the Smithsonian and the National Theatre in Taipei, Taiwan. Tickets are available at www.showtix4u.com



VOCAL MUSIC

Vocal Music has been busy this fall! Our Liederabend concert was themed around songs relating to Halloween, and our Cabaret concert featured the music of Richard Rodgers. Our singers have been studying movement and dance as we develop this part of the curriculum, and they did a beautiful job of integrating movement into their singing. Special thanks to dance instructor Lauren Sinclair!

Our first ever Messiah Sing a Long was a sold out concert and featured some wonderful alumni, including Tiffany Haas (*Wicked*, Broadway), Will Liverman (recently starred in Virginia Opera) and Chrystal Williams (*Yardbirds*) among others. It is always a thrill to have alumni return home and give back to GSA.

In November, 25 members of the department traveled to NYC for our yearly trip to attend three performances at the Metropolitan Opera as well as a Broadway musical. We went backstage to see GSA alumnus Ryan Speedo Green after his performance as Colline in *La Bohème* and met with the entire cast. Also on that trip were two master classes with members of the professional teaching and management community which all the students participated in.

Soprano Shannon Crowley was a featured soloist with Instrumental music in concerts in November and December singing Bach's *Cantata 51*.

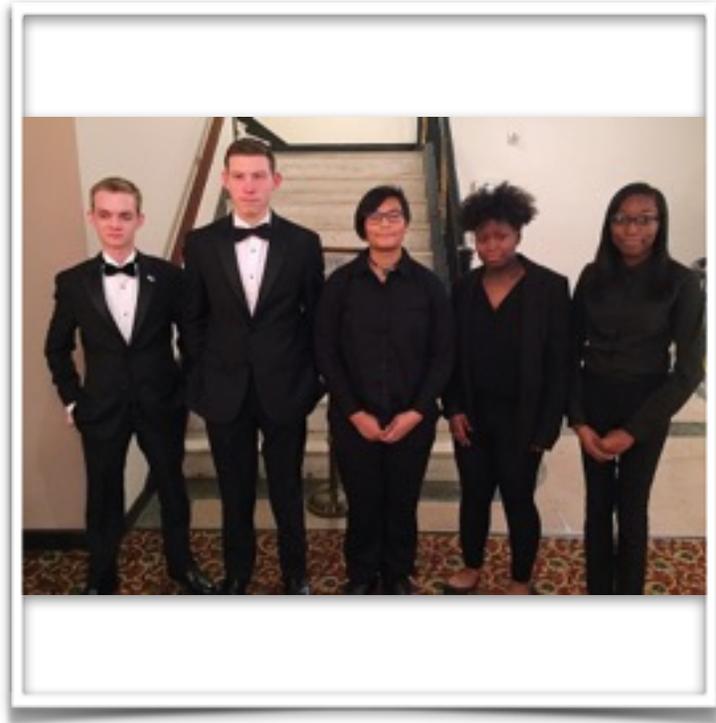
Currently, Vocal music is in rehearsal fully staged opera production of *Hansel and Gretel* in March, and a co-production of *Carmina Burana* with the Dance Department in May.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

The Instrumental Music Department had a rewarding first semester of concerts and opportunities: Home Alone with the Virginia Symphony Orchestra, gave our students a unique experience performing side by side with the professional musicians playing the live soundtrack to the movie at Chrysler Hall.

We traveled to New York City where we saw performances and participated in master classes of the highest caliber, and collaborated with the Vocal Music, Visual Arts, and Dance departments. These collaborative performances are so enriching to all of the students involved and reinforces community building.

The Instrumental Music department looks forward to its Japan preview concert with Musical Theater at the Sandler Center, Rhythm Live at the Harrison Opera House, travel to Germany, master classes with guests from the Virginia Symphony Orchestra and the Virginia Arts Festival, performances for Sentara Music and Medicine, jazz concerts, senior recitals, and a final GSA Orchestra concert featuring music of Elgar, Martin, and Stravinsky.



Photos by Carmen Staicer

VISUAL ARTS

We headed to the oceanfront in Virginia Beach to participate in the Neptune Festival Youth Boardwalk Art Show, and won 3rd Place in the Sand Sculpture Competition! Students also participated in the Ocean View Art Show and Stockley Gardens Arts Festival. Our beautiful gallery ORIGIN hosted an exciting exhibit celebrating Bra-Ha-Ha. The first juried show of the school year was Playthings which opened at ORIGIN on Nov. 17. GSA collected new toys at this reception and donated them to Norfolk's organization ForKids. Our Visual artists attended National Portfolio Day on Nov. 19 in DC. It was a successful field trip where students received valuable feedback from colleges on their portfolios and visited museums. During December, ORIGIN hosted the first ever Alumni Art exhibit. The reception was well attended and we had record sales on the opening night! On December 15, our artists responded to the exhibit *Branding the American West* for our third Wearable Arts Fashion Show at the Chrysler Museum of Art, followed by an installation created by the Public Art class at the museum. The show hits the runway again on March 4, 2017 at the Center Court in MacArthur Center. Join us as our students strut their stuff and show off their talents with Wearable Art! This event is always a collaboration with the GSA Jazz musicians and the Dance department.



Upcoming events include:

Our Spring Juried Exhibition opens at ORIGIN on April 27 and a Senior Group Exhibition on May 18. Artists have the opportunity to visit the Big Apple over Memorial Day weekend for trips to the Met, MOMA, and the Whitney. Our year will end with an amazing neon installation unveiling and participating in the international Glass Art Society conference. Stay tuned!

THEATRE & FILM

The Department of Theatre & Film had a wonderful first semester! Our coproduction of *Oliver Twist* with the Virginia Stage Company was a huge success and featured 18 GSA students in a number of roles. Our production of *Don't Tell Me I Can't Fly* was also a terrific success in our Black Box theatre in January. We had visiting artists for master classes in stage combat and filmmaking as well. The second semester promises to be incredibly exciting! We kick it off with artist-in-residence Nephrii Amenii from New York City. She will be conducting a week-long intensive in puppetry.

In March, we will hold special master classes with the renown movement training group, Gaga. This workshop, made possible in part by generous grants from the Chesapeake Fine Arts Commission, the Portsmouth Fine Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts, will give students new tools to explore movement.

Filmmaker Roger Richards whose new documentary film, *SARAJEVO ROSES* will be featured in a number of film festivals joins our faculty in the film department and Ron Newman, Education Director at VSC joins our theatre faculty. We are excited to have them both!

We have LOTS of productions planned for the semester as well! First up in February is our annual 24-Hour Theatre. Students write, direct, rehearse and perform a series of short plays all within one 24-hour period. Don't miss the performance on February 12 at 7 pm in our Dalis Black Box Theatre.

Night Train to Bolina by Nilo Cruz and directed by Ricardo Melendez is next opening March 9 and playing through the 12th. After that is our annual Student Directed One Acts on April 5 followed by our final live performance of the season, *Masquerade* at O.D.U.'s University Theatre May 12-14, 2017.

Last, but certainly not least, our young filmmakers will share their work at our 3rd annual Student Film Festival in our Dalis Black Box on My 31, 2017.



CALENDAR

Upcoming Events - visit our online calendar for complete listings at www.gsarts.net

THEATRE: Night Train to Bolina: Directed by Ricardo Melendez
March 9 @ 7 pm, March 10-11 @ 8 pm, March 12 @ 2 pm
Dalís Black Box Theatre at GSA, tickets: showtix4u.com

VOCAL MUSIC: Humperdinck: Hansel & Gretel
March 10 -11 @ 7:30 pm and March 12 @ 2:30 pm
ODU University Theatre, 4608 Hampton Blvd, tickets: showtix4u.com

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC: Chamber Music: March 25 @ 7 pm
Hermitage Museum & Gardens, 7637 N. Shore Road
tickets: thehermitagemuseum.org

MUSICAL THEATRE & INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC: Hooray for Hollywood
Music from the movies with the GSA Orchestra, March 29 @ 7:30 pm
Sandler Center for the Performing Arts, Virginia Beach, tickets: showtix4u.com

VISUAL ARTS: 29th Juried Spring Art Show: April 27 @ 6 pm - 8 pm
Origin Gallery @ MacArthur Center, 2nd Level, FREE Admission

DANCE: Spring Dance Concert featuring Carmina Burana with Vocal Music
May 11-13 @ 8pm, Roper Performing Arts Center, tickets: tccropercenter.org

THEATRE: Maskerade: by Terry Pratchett, Directed by Steve J. Earle
May 12 -13 @ 8 pm, May 14 @ 2 pm
ODU University Theatre, 4608 Hampton Blvd, tickets: showtix4u.com

VISUAL ARTS: Senior Exhibitions: May 18 @ 6 - 8 pm
ORIGIN art Gallery in MacArthur Center, 2nd level, FREE Admission

MUSICAL THEATRE: Crazy for You, Directed by Chip Gallagher
May 19 -20 @ 8 pm, May 20 -21 @ 2 pm
The Wells Theatre, tickets: showtix4u.com

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC: Orchestra Concert- music of Stravinsky
June 1-2 @ 7:30 pm- Roper Performing Arts Center, tickets: tccropercenter.org

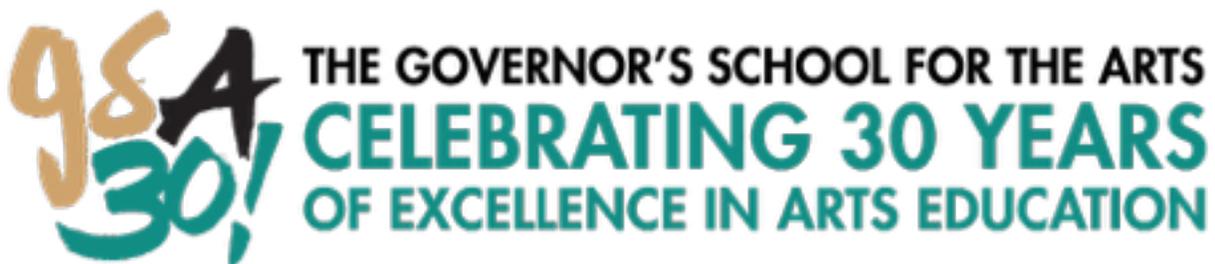
WE ARE ON THE MOVE!

GSA is expanding! This Spring we will kick off a campaign to expand our programs, develop new curriculum and have more physical space.

Keep your eyes peeled for ways you can help GSA grow and grow and grow!

Save the date for our 30th Anniversary
Celebration!

March 24, 2018 at The Main



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