

# ArtsPaper

Winter 23/24

News &  
Information on  
the Arts from the  
Huntingdon County  
Arts Council

## The Arts Council Gears Up for 2024

### More art, music, and events

Since we purchased the former Methodist church on 12th Street in 2022 and turned it into an **Arts Center**, we have used our building as a venue for numerous artistic and cultural events. We have learned a great deal in this short time, and we are drawing on our experiences to make 2024 our best year ever.

We already have scheduled a year's worth of art exhibits at our gallery, starting in January with an exhibit from the Huntingdon Chapter of the Embroiderers' Guild of America. Subsequent exhibits will include our annual Spring Thaw, which features the art of Huntingdon County school students, as well as a subsequent exhibit of art from Huntingdon County art teachers and staff. We also will have an exhibit of artfully decorated chairs that will be auctioned as a fundraiser for the Arts Council. (A separate article on this topic appears elsewhere in this newsletter.)



Part of our expanded programming, our Summer Arts Camp for Kids was a big success.

Planning is underway for our monthly concert series. Since our first concert in 2022, we have catered for a variety of musical tastes, including classical, folk, Celtic, jazz, Dixieland, pop, and ragtime music. Our musical offerings in 2024 will be equally diverse. Our first concert, scheduled for January 27, will feature ragtime musician Andrew Greene, who will provide live piano accompaniment to several classic silent films. (A longer item on this concert appears later in this newsletter.)

The Art Cat Jazz Club, located in the basement of the **Arts Center**, has proved to be popular, and we will bring it back regularly in 2024. We recently expanded the size of the club, so patrons have more room to move about or even get up and dance! We also plan to vary the type of music, so you can expect some evenings featuring blues and rock music in addition to jazz. Stay tuned for more about this.

We will continue to offer workshops in the coming

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## HOLIDAY SHOPPE

### The Art Shoppe Expands

With the holiday season close at hand, The Art Shoppe at the **Arts Center** is expanding into "The Holiday Shoppe." Starting on November 8 and continuing through December 29, we will be open seven days a week, Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

In addition to longer hours, we will have an enlarged range of items for sale. These offerings will spill over from the current room to fill the entire exhibit space in the mezzanine level in the **Arts Center**.

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### Time to Renew Memberships

Arts Council memberships run on a calendar-year basis, beginning on January 1 of each year and continuing through the end of December. So now is the time to renew your membership for 2024. If you are not a member, this is an excellent time to join.

What are the benefits of membership?

- Discounts on Arts Council concerts
- Discounts at The Art Shoppe and The Holiday Shoppe
- Discounts on workshops and classes
- Discounts on Juniata Presents events
- A quarterly 12-page newsletter that keeps you informed about the arts
- Weekly emails about upcoming arts-related events in our area

And, of course, you can take pride in supporting the

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Memberships and contributions help us fulfill our mission to provide opportunities to experience the arts.

**ArtsPaper  
Editor & Writer**  
Paul Amato

**Layout & Design**  
John Kearns



**Executive Director**  
John Kearns

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# Executive Director

## Dear Member:

A lot has changed, and many opportunities have presented themselves since we purchased the former 12th Street Methodist Church in April 2022. So, the Huntingdon County Arts Council has been in the process of crafting a new strategic plan for the organization (thanks to the expert guidance of Pat Shope). The strategic plan is helping to create a vision of our future direction to be a vital and sustainable nonprofit arts organization for Huntingdon County.

We have crafted a new vision: "To be the HEART of a thriving arts community in Huntingdon County." Plus, we have updated our mission: "To enrich Huntingdon County through the encouragement, support and promotion of the arts."

As we move towards closing out 2023, we hope that you have had the opportunity to be encouraged and supported, and that you have availed yourself of some of the many arts opportunities we have had the pleasure of offering, from art exhibits, concerts, classes and workshops, and our festivals.

Your support is key to keeping this mission alive, and

## Council Notes

### Arts Council Goes Plastic Free

As part of our efforts to make the Arts Council plastic free, we no longer will be distributing plastic water bottles at events. Instead, water will be available from a new glass dispenser and ceramic cups made by board member. When you attend one of our events now, you can drink cold water from an original handmade work of art, although we admit that the ceramic skills of our board members are modest, to say the least. We also make regular efforts to recycle cardboard, paper, glass, and other materials, and to serve foods that produce lower carbon emissions. Although we still are figuring out ways to be more environmentally responsible as an organization, every little step helps.



### Annual General Meeting

The Art's Council's Annual General Meeting will be held on December 13 at 7 p.m. in the **Huntingdon County Arts Center**. Our executive director and treasurer will give brief presentations about Arts Council activities during the previous year, our current plans, and our future directions. Complimentary refreshments will be served as well.

This is an opportunity to ask questions, meet board members, and mingle with other Arts Council members.

we thank you. Through December 29, our Holiday Shoppe is full of a wonderful variety of works from local and regional artists. Your purchase supports both the artists and the Arts Council. Plus, we hope you continue your support by renewing your memberships for the 2024 calendar year.

Stay tuned for a full range of arts activities already being planned for 2024. Thanks for being part of this journey through the arts.

We hope to see you at an arts event soon.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Kearns".

John Kearns  
Executive Director



In addition, people attending will receive a one-time, 20% discount at the Holiday Shoppe on that night. There also will be a prize for the winner of our local art quiz. So drop in and find out a little more about what is happening with your Arts Council.

### Mail Campaign a Success

Every summer the Arts Council mails letters to people in our community asking for donations. Due to the generosity of our supporters, the mail campaign this year exceeded our expectations. Donations are one of our most important sources of revenue. They allow us to offer art exhibits, concerts, art camps for kids, and other special events throughout the year. And they help us to keep the heat and lights on in our new Art Center. We sincerely thank all the people who sent a donation our way this summer.



The masthead background on page 1 is an original painting by Tammy Ash. Used by permission.

## Attend an Exhibit Reception

If you have never been to a reception for an art exhibit, but are curious about what happens at one, drop in sometime at the **Arts Center**. We start every new art exhibit with a Friday reception that runs from 6 to 8 p.m. Everyone is welcome at these receptions. You don't have to be an Arts Council member, there are no tickets, and there is no charge to attend.

Once at the reception, you will be among the first to see the new exhibit. You can take a program and spend a little time looking at each of the art works. At some point, usually between 6:30 and 7 p.m., the artists give a brief talk and answer questions.

If you like, you can meet the artists, and you will find that they are eager to talk about their work. Board members and our executive director also are there and are always happy to meet the public. Just introduce yourself and say "hello."

Refreshments are served at each reception, including red and white wine, non-alcoholic beverages, and light snacks. There is no charge. Just grab a glass and a small plate and help yourself.

Our next reception will be on Friday, January 5. The exhibit features work from the Huntingdon County Embroiderer's Guild, *Threading the Needle*. Feel free to come by and check it out. Remember: You are always welcome.

## Did You Know?

**A**lthough one of the greatest artists of all time, Leonardo da Vinci's output was small. There are only 20 surviving paintings that can definitively be attributed to him, and several were unfinished at the time of his death. He was notoriously slow in completing his projects, and he spent several years working on the Mona Lisa.

Vincent Van Gogh created nearly 900 paintings, but he sold only a handful in his lifetime. In fact, he often traded paintings for food or painting supplies. Today his works are among the most expensive of any artist. One painting, *Wooden Cabin among the Olive Trees and Cypresses*, was sold in 2021 for \$81 million dollars.

Frida Kahlo is one of the most famous of all Mexican artists. She contracted polio as a child, which left her with a life-long limp. She later suffered a near-fatal bus

accident as a teenager that left her with severe injuries and chronic pain. Her life-long health problems influenced her self-portraits, which often involved surrealistic depictions of internal organs, open wounds, blood, skeletons, wounded animals, and other disturbing images. She was remarkable for turning personal suffering into great art.



## Chris Shook: Painter and Conservationist

**C**hris Shook was a talented painter who regularly contributed to our call-for-entries shows. She also helped to organize the excellent exhibit on Old Crow Wetlands at the **Arts Center** earlier this year. Chris enjoyed painting colorful scenes from nature and was a long-time member of the Standing Stone Art League.

Chris had a productive career as a forester, and she recently retired after working for 16 years for the Natural Resource Conservation Service in the United States Department of Agriculture. She was a strong conservationist and made many important contributions locally, including designing the pollinator garden at Old Crow Wetlands. She also was involved in the Penn State Master Gardener Program.

Her work as a conservationist, and as an artist, will not be forgotten. Thank you, Chris.

## Capital Campaign Update

Here is an update on our two big Capital Campaign projects. We are currently soliciting bids for roof repairs and eventual replacement. The roof is over 25 years old and is showing its age. We also received an architectural plan for adding a lift to ensure accessibility throughout our building for everyone. It is an expensive project at \$272,000! We will continue to solicit contributions to our Capital Campaign for these projects, although we also will be applying for grants.

We thank the following people who donated to our

Capital Campaign since the last newsletter. We greatly welcome your donations to make capital improvements to the **Huntingdon County Arts Center**.

**\$5,000 - \$9,999**

Dr. Winfried Berger

**\$1,500 - \$2,499**

Ed & Judy Hoffman

**\$500 - \$1,499**

James & Susan Dilling



313 12th Street  
Huntingdon, PA  
16652

814-643-6220

info@huntingdon-  
countyarts.com

www.huntingdon-  
countyarts.com

www.Facebook.com/  
HuntingdonCounty-  
Arts Council



*The Huntingdon County Arts Council is supported in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts for our 2023 Folk College.*

*The Huntingdon County Arts Council receives state arts funding support through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.*



**Arts Center  
Regular Hours**

Tuesday  
through Saturday  
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

# Recent Events

Since the last newsletter, the Arts Council has been busy with concerts, exhibits, workshops, and other events. Here is a quick recap on what we have been up to during the last three months.

## Concerts

### The Deacons of Dixieland

The Deacons of Dixieland brought their toe-tapping tunes to the Arts Center on

July 16. Dixieland music—an early forerunner of jazz—emerged in New Orleans in the early years of the 20th century, and the Deacons are doing an excellent job of keep this quintessentially American form of music alive and well. Audience members enjoyed hearing old fashioned songs, like *When the Saints Go Marching In*, that never go out of style.



*The Deacons of Dixieland brought a taste of old New Orleans to the Arts Center in July.*

### Allegria String Quartet

The sonorous sounds of Mozart, Beethoven, and Dvorak filled the Art Center on August 13 when the Allegria String Quartet took the stage. Along with works by the great classical composers, the program included two songs by Cole Porter and a selection of Nordic folk melodies.



*The Allegria String Quartet filled the Arts Center with glorious music in August.*

These top-notch, professional musicians wowed the audience with their skill and received a well-deserved standing ovation at the conclusion. If you weren't there, you missed an opportunity to hear some unusually sophisticated—and delightful—music.

### Ragtime Kick-Off Concert

The opening concert for the Central Pennsylvania Ragtime & American Music Festival took place at the Arts Center on September 21. Some of the best ragtime musicians in the country entertained our audience with lively music performed on pia-



*Andrew Greene (left), Adam Swanson, Dan Levinson, and T. J. Muller perform at the Ragtime Festival Kick-Off concert.*

no, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, banjo, and standup bass. Our concert area was filled to capacity, and the audience gave the performers an enthusiastic standing ovation at the end. As one audience member asked afterward, “Why should we go all the way to New York City when we can hear music this good right here in Huntingdon?” A special thanks goes out to Andrew Greene for organizing an outstanding festival this year.

### Eric Ian Farmer

Eric Ian Farmer performed at the Arts Center on October 8, with Mare Cleary and Elizabeth Webb on backing vocals. Their concert was an eclectic mix of pop, folk, and soul, featuring some of Eric's originals and covers of songs by the Beatles, Fleetwood Mac, and other popular artists. Their resonant three-part harmonies filled our concert area with good vibrations.



*Elizabeth Webb (left), Mare Cleary, and Eric Ian Farmer*

### Van Wagner

After climbing the tallest tree he could find in Centre County, Van Wagner arrived safely at the Arts Center, where he delivered a delightful program of music inspired by the people, land, trees, and animals of Pennsylvania. Born and raised in Pennsylvania, Van spent time working as a logger, a coal miner, a forester, and an arborist—a varied background that gives his songs about rural life an authenticity that is difficult for most artists to attain.

During the concert, Van accompanied himself on guitar, banjo, and Appalachian mouth bow—an unusual instrument that few people have mastered or even seen. People in the audience not only were entertained, but also learned some interesting facts about Pennsylvania history.

We wish Van Wagner well on his continuing project to climb the tallest tree on the tallest mountain in every county in Pennsylvania.



*Van Wagner sings about the people, land, and history of Pennsylvania.*

# Recent Events

## Exhibits

### Canvas Photography

Amy Bomboy, a native and long-term resident of Huntingdon County, brought her ultra close-up images of flowers to the **Arts Center** in August. Amy is a registered nurse at Penn Highlands Hospital with a gift for capturing the small details of nature in her large-scale canvas photographs. Her selection of images also included mountains, waterfalls, animals, buildings, and our own East Broad Top Railroad. The exhibit ran from August 18 through September 9.



*Amy Bomboy (left) and Angela Niman (right)*

### Blooming Flowers

The Queen of the Night is a night-blooming cactus with dramatic flowers that appear only once a year. Angela Niman recently had an opportunity to photograph these flowers, and her collection of 12 intriguing images was on display at the **Arts Center** in August. The flowers are beautiful yet curious, and a naïve viewer might mistake images of them for strange deep-sea creatures or life forms from another planet. The exhibit ran from August 18 through September 9.

### Rural Musings

Jennifer Harzler's paintings of rural life filled our exhibit area in September. The exhibit featured 23 hyper-realistic images of people, farm buildings, animals, clothing, and flowers. Jennifer has a BFA in Fine Art Painting from Rochester Institute of Technology and has been making art since she was a child. She is a native of Central Pennsylvania and an art teacher at a local high school. The exhibit ran from September 15 through October 7.



*Covered in Love, by Jennifer Hartzler,*

### Oh, Shoot!

Our October exhibit featured photographs from our very own Camera Club. The annual show provides club members with an opportunity to display some of their best recent work. A total of 11 photographers participated in this year's exhibition. A regular feature of the show is a display of the club's monthly photo contest winners. Larry Closz, a dedicated photographer and Arts Council board member, is the hard-working coordinator of the group. The exhibit ran from October 13 through November 4.



*Gloria Johnson displayed her photographs at the Camera Club exhibit in October.*

## Special Events

### Greenwood Furnace Folk Gathering

Our annual folk music gathering at Greenwood Furnace State Park took place on September 8-10. As in previous years, the event provided an opportunity for people to hear and share all kinds of folk music. Workshops this year provided instruction on guitar, fiddle, banjo, mandolin, harmonica, bowed psaltery, percussion, and singing. Jam sessions, dances, and concerts rounded out the weekend. Every year a *heritage musician* is honored, and this year the award went to Alan "Scott" Krug for his many contributions to bluegrass music in Pennsylvania.



*Sarah Gowan of Box & String Trio demonstrated her "crankie" at the Greenwood music festival.*

### Fiber ArtsFest

Our annual celebration of the fiber arts took place on September 29th and 30th at the Huntingdon County Fairgrounds. Classes on Friday (some at the **Arts Center**) focused on a variety of fiber-related skills, such as quilting and knitting. The Saturday marketplace included vendors, demonstrations, live alpacas, and "make & takes." Steve Dixon, Grace Fala, Paul Amato, and Dylan Miller performed live music all afternoon, despite the presence of some pesky eye gnats and bees.



KARI ROSLUND

People at the event also had an opportunity to visit the Farm Museum at the fairgrounds. The warm fall weather made it a perfect day for sitting outside, eating, and listening to live music.

*Decorate a sheep was one of the activities at Fiber ArtsFest*

### Art Walk

Art Walk activities are held at the **Arts Center** on the third Thursday of each month. In October, for example, Board Members Susan Wentzel and Barbara Sanchez led a well-attended session on pumpkin painting. Art Walk activities are free and open to everyone, children as well as adults.



*No Filter Jazz at the Art Cat Jazz Club in October*

### The Art Cat Jazz Club

People enjoyed a taste of New York City right here in Huntingdon when the Art Cat Jazz Club returned to the *continued on Page 9*

# Upcoming Events

## Christmas Concert, December 10

Anne Sullivan and Joan Marsh will bring a program of Christmas music to the **Arts Center** on December 10. This festive, family-friendly concert will feature the magical sounds of the flute and harp together in a program of holiday favorites, new and old. The program will include traditional seasonal melodies from Bach and Vaughan Williams, along with selections from Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite*. The program also will include the duo's versions of hits by the Trans-Siberian Orchestra and Mannheim Steamroller.

A special portion of the concert is a multimedia presentation of *The Christmas Truce*, a story of the 1914 Christmas ceasefire between German and English troops on the battlefields of World War I. This powerful story is told through a fictional letter from an English soldier written to his family, drawn from actual firsthand accounts in real letters and diaries. The letter and the accompanying visual and musical presentation serve as a call for peace in a warring world.

The concert will end with an opportunity to sing along to some seasonal favorites. What a great way to get some Christmas spirit! Tickets are \$20 general admission and \$16 for Arts Council members and students with ID. Admission is free for children 12 and under.



Joan Marsh (left) and Anne Sullivan

## Silent Films with Live Music, January 27

An unforgettable evening will take place at the **Arts Center** on Saturday, January 27, when Andrew Greene provides live piano music to accompany several short, classic silent films. Andrew is one of the country's leading authorities on silent film accompaniment. He also is an incredibly talented pianist who specializes in ragtime and early American music. (See the article about him elsewhere in this newsletter.)



Buster Keaton in *Cops*, 1922

The evening of film and music will include three classic, well-loved comedies: Buster Keaton's *Cops* (1922), Charlie Chaplin's *The Rink* (1916), and Harold Lloyd's *Get Out and Get Under* (1920). You won't want to miss this unique evening of music and humor. The event starts at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 general admission and \$16 for Arts Council members and students (with ID). Admission is free for children 12 and under.



An Artfully Decorated Chair from the Mount Union Art Guild

## Sitting Pretty: Artfully Decorated Chair Auction, March 2

Join us for an evening where creativity meets comfort, all for a great cause. On Saturday, March 2, the Huntingdon County Arts Council will auction chairs transformed into works of art by local artists. The auction will serve as a fundraiser for the Arts Council and will provide an opportunity to showcase the many talents of our local community of artists.

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## We Need Your Help!

*We need chairs!* If you have an old chair at home that you no longer need, consider donating it to the Arts Council. You can drop off the chair at the **Arts Center** during our usual hours (Tuesday through Saturday, 10 to 5 p.m.) through the end of the year. Chairs should be made of wood, metal, or other material that can be painted. Chairs covered with fabric are not appropriate.

*We need artists!* If you are an artist and would like to transform an old chair into a masterpiece, let us know. You are welcome to use a chair or your own or pick one up from the Arts Council. Get in touch with Paul Amato at paulamato00@gmail.com if you are interested or have any questions.

Our concert series  
is underwritten by a  
generous grant from



# Upcoming Events

## **Sitting Pretty: Artfully Decorated Chair Auction, March 2** continued from page 6

The artistically renovated chairs will be on display in the exhibit area of the **Huntingdon County Arts Center**, starting on February 9. This will give you an opportunity to view the chairs up close prior to the auction. You may see one you would like to bid on and chair-ish forever!

The event will run from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and include live music, wine, nonalcoholic beverages, and snacks. Come and see the exhibit, mingle with friends, enjoy a beverage, make a bid, and perhaps take home a unique work of art. What a great way to support the Arts Council!

## **Community Ceramics Classes**

Community members can enroll for ceramics classes at the Southern Huntingdon County High School, beginning in January. Classes will meet in the Art Room, where pottery wheels and a kiln are available for use. Participants will work with clay to make wheel-thrown and hand-built vessels and sculptures. Participants will learn how to glaze, use various clay tools, and use the four basic methods of building pottery: wheel-throwing, pinch, coil, and slab building.



The first class will be on Thursday, January 4. Subsequent classes will be held every Tuesday and Thursday through February 8 (11 class sessions in total). Each class will run from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$200 (\$180 for current Arts Council members). For more information and to enroll, visit our website at [huntingdoncountyarts.com](http://huntingdoncountyarts.com) and go to Programs>Classes & Workshops.

## **Time to Renew Memberships** continued from page 1

arts and enriching the quality of life here in Huntingdon County.

Memberships are one of the most important sources of support for the Arts Council. We receive only a small amount of funding each year from state and local governments, so we are dependent on people like you for our continuing existence.

We hope that you will continue to support our efforts to bring art and culture to our community. Please renew your membership now by using the membership form that you will receive in the mail. You also can renew your membership, or become a new member, online at [huntingdoncountyarts.com](http://huntingdoncountyarts.com), or at the **Arts Center** during our regular opening hours.

## **The Benefits of Art for Children**

Academic research has shown that children who have frequent experiences with art and music:

- are more likely to be engaged with school.
- have higher levels of academic achievement.
- are better able to deal with stress.
- more readily accept constructive criticism.
- have improved focus and concentration.
- have stronger interpersonal skills.
- have higher self-esteem.
- are more likely to graduate from high school.

Art is good for kids—and for adults too. Try to find ways to add more art and music to your family life. It pays off!

*Source: U.S. News & World Report, August 30, 2022*

## **Arts Center 2024 Exhibits**

**January 5 - February 3**  
**Embroiderer's Guild**

**February 9 - March 2**  
**J.E. Crum**

**March 8 - 30**  
**Spring Thaw:**  
**Youth Art & Writing Exhibition**

**April 5 - May 4**  
**County Teachers & Staff**

**May 10 - June 8**  
**Call for Entries:**  
**50 Years of Lake Raystown**

**June 14 - July 13**  
**Pride Artists**

**July 19 - August 10**  
**TBD**

**August 16 - September 7**  
**Steve Torok**

**September 13 - October 5**  
**Barn Door Artisans: Jake Ricci,**  
**Tony Ricci & Becky Smith**

**October 10 - November 2**  
**Camera Club**

**November 6 - December 28**  
**Holiday Shoppe**

## **Arts Council Gears Up for 2024** continued from page 1

year. If you would like to attend a workshop on a particular topic, or if you would like to offer a workshop through the Arts Council, just let us know.

In addition to activities at the **Arts Center**, events that occur elsewhere in the community, such as Folk College, The Greenwood Furnace Folk Gathering, and our Concerts on the Quad series, will return in 2024. We also will be looking for new ways to reach out more broadly to bring art and culture to different parts of our county.

Keep in mind that we are always on the lookout for volunteers. If you would like to serve in our Art Shoppe, join a working committee, or be involved with the Arts Council in some other way, give us a call at (814) 643-6220. And feel free to contact us at any time with suggestions for programming.

We hope to see you at one of our events in the coming year.

## What Kind of Jazz is That?

Jazz is America's classical music, but it is not a single genre. Jazz includes a variety of forms that evolved during the 20th century and continue to change and develop today. Each style has its own distinctive characteristics that contribute to jazz's diversity and cultural significance. This article describes some of the most prominent types of jazz in rough historical order.

Traditional jazz, also known as **Dixieland**, is where it all began. Arising in New Orleans in the early 20th century, it drew on existing forms of music, including ragtime, blues, and brass band marches. Dixieland is usually played in small ensembles with a trumpet (or cornet), a trombone, a clarinet, and a rhythm section with a string bass or tuba, a guitar or banjo, and drums. One instrument usually plays the central melody while other instruments improvise around the melody, generally with a lively, upbeat feel. Louis Armstrong is the most well known musician to emerge from the Dixieland era, and his profound influence on jazz continued for many decades.



Louis Armstrong

**Swing jazz** emerged in the 1930s and 1940s and featured big bands with horn sections, pianos, and rhythm sections. Compared with Dixieland, swing relied less on improvisation and more on fixed, written scores. Known for its strong rhythms, prominent melodies, and danceable tunes, swing became immensely popular and commercially successful. Perhaps as a reaction to the austerity of the Great Depression, forms of swing dancing, like the jitterbug and the Lindy



The Glenn Miller Band



Charlie Parker

Hop, became national crazes. Musicians associated with this era include Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Benny Goodman, and Glenn Miller.

**Bebop**, which developed in the 1940s, marked a shift away from dance music towards faster tempos, more complex harmonies, and extensive improvisation. Musicians like Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie were two of the most important contributors to this new form. They wanted to free jazz from the constraints of fixed scores and allow more opportunities for instrumentalists to demonstrate their virtuoso skills through prolonged solos. Small combos, rather than large orchestras, performed this music, and it was intended more for thoughtful listening than dancing.

**Cool jazz**, associated with artists like Miles Davis and Chet Baker, emerged in the late 1940s and 1950s. Compared with bebop, it features slower tempos and a more relaxed, mellow sound. Elements of classical

music sometimes appear in this music. This form of jazz is associated with the West Coast of the U.S., where it largely developed. "Time Out," by the Dave Brubeck Quartet, is a classic 1959 recording from this era.



Miles Davis

**Hard bop**, sometimes known as soul jazz, evolved in the late 1950s and became popular during the 1960s. More rhythmic than cool jazz, it incorporated a variety of Afrocentric musical forms, including blues, rhythm and blues, and gospel music. Soul jazz, in particular, often featured the Hammond organ—an instrument not commonly used in jazz before this time. Jimmy Smith was one of the best-known organists working in this genre. Other notable hard bop figures include Art Blakey, Charlie Mingus, Thelonious Monk, and Horace Silver. Sonny Rollins album, "Saxophone Colossus," is a popular example from this era.



John Coltrane

**Modal Jazz** was pioneered by Miles Davis with his album "Kind of Blue," the best-selling jazz record of all time. This form of jazz uses relatively few chord changes and relies instead on specific modes (sequences of notes) that form the basis of prolonged instrumental improvisations. This form of jazz tends to produce a spacious and contemplative sound. John Coltrane, one of the great jazz saxophonists, also is associated with this type of jazz. His album, "A Love Supreme," is a classic example of this genre.

**Free Jazz** emerged during the 1960s and 1970s and was experimental and avant-garde in its approach. Musicians like Ornette Coleman and John Coltrane pushed the boundaries of jazz by abandoning traditional chord structures, key signatures, and tempos. With the old rules tossed out, musicians could express themselves through unique, extended free-form improvisations. Free

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## What Kind of Jazz is That?

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jazz definitely was not dance music, and many in the mainstream rejected it. But in many ways it reflected the turbulent changes that were occurring in the larger society during this era. Sun Ra's album, "Atlantis," is an example of free jazz.

**Fusion jazz**, which became popular in the 1970s, blended jazz with elements of rock, funk, and electronic music. Miles Davis helped to originate this style, which was further developed by musicians like Jon McLaughlin, Herbie Hancock and Chick Corea. This music featured electric guitars, electric basses, and synthesizers, and is usually played at an amplified, loud volume. Fusion can be quite complex, with elaborate chord progressions and unconventional time signatures. Herbie Hancock's album, "Headhunters," is a classic example of this style.

Trying to categorize jazz is difficult, because the various styles tend to overlap and blend together. And many prominent musicians, such as Miles Davis and John Coltrane, made important contributions to multiple styles over the decades. Although this continuing evolution and multiplicity of forms can be confusing, it is also one of the major reasons for jazz's continuing popularity.

Although jazz originated in the United States, it is popular around the world, especially in Latin America, where **Latin Jazz** has become an important genre in its own right. Overall, whether you love it or hate it, jazz is America's greatest contribution to the world's musical arts.

## Art Shoppe Expands

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The Holiday Shoppe sells handmade art and craft items designed and created by Huntingdon County artists (or people with close ties to our county). Shoppers will find jewelry, pottery, paintings, prints, small sculptures, quilts, knitted items, woodcarvings, stained glass, music CDs, and other items—all at reasonable prices.

Instead of buying gifts online or from big chain stores that sell products made overseas, consider doing some of your holiday shopping with us. Your purchases not only support local artists and craftspeople, but also help the Arts Council. And it's good to know that your money stays right here in Huntingdon County.

Don't forget that Arts Council members receive discounts on all purchases. So drop in soon and have a look.

The Holiday Shoppe is located in the **Huntingdon County Arts Center** at 313 12th Street in Huntingdon.

## Recent Events

continued from page 5

**Arts Center** last October. *No Filter Jazz* entertained the audience with their swinging renditions of jazz classics. Food, a cash bar, a raffle, and door prizes rounded out the evening. Patrons noticed that the club area had been expanded, so there was plenty of room for everyone to move about and enjoy themselves. In the words of one jazz fan, the evening was "absolutely purr-fect." Stay tuned in the coming year for more entertainment at the Art Cat.

## Halloween Parade

The Arts Council participated in the Halloween Parade in Huntingdon this year with a "dead artists" themed float. The float featured tombstones of various artists and musicians, accompanied by costumed Arts Council board members portraying the same deceased individuals. The float received a



*The Arts Council's Halloween float featured dead musicians and artists*

third-place prize. The simulated tombstones were later displayed in the gardens around the Art Center—a macabre but suitable decoration for this time of year.

## Workshops

Two artists from the *Dream & Myth* exhibit in July taught workshops at the **Arts Center** on October 7. Joanne Landis taught a drawing workshop, "Storytelling with the Human Figure." Jim Bright taught a workshop on "3-D Wax Casting." In addition, Prudence Ingerman taught a 6-week Creative Writing Class that began on October 4.



## WHAT TO DO WITH TREES AND ROCKS

Greenwood Furnace, 1840:  
men chopped down trees,  
mined under roots,  
hauled trees and rocks to furnaces.  
The trees burned, the rocks melted,  
and iron poured from the furnace.  
Trains took the iron to Pittsburgh  
where men hammered it into railroads,  
and bridges, and America.

An acre of trees  
went up in smoke every day.  
By 1905 the trees were gone.  
"Brush Ridge" was a better name  
than Greenwood.  
Then saplings in a nursery  
drank dead trees' minerals  
from charcoal ashes in the soil  
for ninety years.

Where mules pulled carts of iron ore  
now we walk Brush Ridge trail,  
past gulleys and mounds of earth  
made by the furious energy of those men.  
Now the iron rocks sleep,  
ferns and slender maples  
heal mine scars, and  
we travel by iron railroad  
to find quiet at Greenwood.

*Claire Holzner*

# Artist Spotlight

## Andrew Greene: Ragtime and Railroads in Rockhill

Andrew Greene fell in love with ragtime music when he was only 10 years old. His piano teacher noticed that Andrew was losing interest in classical music, so he suggested a new piece to work on: Scott Joplin's Maple Leaf Rag—a ragtime classic. Andrew was immediately drawn to the piece's syncopation, rhythm, and upbeat feel. As he said, "I knew then that I wanted to do something with this music throughout my life."

While in high school, Andrew heard a ragtime ensemble perform as part of a local concert series. Intrigued by the discovery that this type of music is not limited to solo piano, he wanted to learn more about the orchestral possibilities. He reached out to more experienced ragtime musicians who provided him with original music scores, general advice, and encouragement. Andrew absorbed these lessons and, while still in high school, founded his own ragtime ensemble.



Andrew Greene performing at the Arts Center

widely across the United States, including shows at The Library of Congress, The American Film Institute, and The Kennedy Center. In a review of one performance, the Washington Post referred to the group as "the premier American Ragtime ensemble,"—a heady endorsement! In addition to their concerts, the orchestra has recorded multiple albums and released a variety of videos on YouTube. Not surprisingly, their albums are available, not only as CDs, but also in 33, 45, and 78 rpm vinyl formats.

As Andrew explained, "We perform America's first popular music form, Ragtime, alongside theater music, dance music, and underscore classic silent films using the original, historic orchestral scores and period instruments. Our biggest focus is to entertain and educate audiences on the history of American music during its infancy—celebrating composers of all races, genders, and backgrounds. We do this through our public programs, recordings, video presentations, and lectures or master classes."

Through years of study and experience, Andrew has become one of the leading authorities in the United States on orchestral ragtime and silent film accompaniment. In addition to conducting and directing the Peacherine Ragtime Society Orchestra, he is the curator of several ragtime orchestra collections. He also maintains a personal collection of ragtime orchestrations and recordings. Taken together, these collections involve over 15,000 musical items (from 1882 to 1940), all of which he keeps safely in his home!

In addition to being a musician and scholar, Andrew is a lifelong railroad buff—an

Andrew later attended the University of Maryland, but he was unable to major in music because the music department there could not accommodate his interests in ragtime. Undeterred by the lack of an institutional path, he formed his own musical ensemble: The Peacherine Ragtime Society Orchestra, which had its first rehearsal in the basement of a dorm hall. (He wound up majoring in economics.)

The ensemble grew, performed several times, and recorded their first CD in 2011. Since then, the group has performed



Peacherine Ragtime Orchestra

interest he picked up from his grandfather. His grandfather not only had an impressive model train collection, but also took Andrew on annual trips to see and ride on steam trains.

Andrew learned about the East Broad Top (EBT) Railroad in 2007 and began to visit it regularly, leaving Maryland on Fridays at 10 a.m. and arriving in Rockhill in time for the 1 p.m. train. His frequent visits came to an end when the railroad shut down in 2011. When it came back in 2020, Andrew volunteered for monthly work sessions where, usefully, he got to know everyone involved. Andrew had been working in a music store in Maryland, but when he was furloughed, he used the opportunity to get a part-time job as a brakeman with the railroad. In 2022, he was offered a full-time position as Station Operations Manager—the person in charge of the day-to-day visitor experience.

In 2021, Andrew became the Director of the Central Pennsylvania Ragtime & American Music Festival. The annual festival, which takes place in Rockhill and Orbisonia, began in 2009, and since then has become one of the premier ragtime festivals in the United States. (The kick-off concert for this musical weekend has been held in the **Huntingdon County Arts Center** for the last two years.) Andrew had performed at the Festival several times in the past, both as a solo artist and with his orchestra, so taking on the role of Festival Director was an obvious move.

Andrew currently resides in Three Springs, and we are lucky to have someone with his formidable talent and expertise right here in Huntingdon County. Andrew has performed at the **Huntingdon County Arts Center** on several occasions during the last two years, and in January of 2024, he will return to provide ragtime piano accompaniment to several classic silent films. (See the article on coming events elsewhere in this issue.)

For those who would like more information, Andrew's personal webpage is [www.greeneragtime.com](http://www.greeneragtime.com) and his orchestra's website is [www.peacherineragtime.com](http://www.peacherineragtime.com).

# ArtsCalendar

The Huntingdon County Arts Council is the hub for local arts and cultural activities. Check here to see what's coming up. Have an art activity? Send details and we will put it on our website arts calendar. Send to [info@huntingdoncountyarts.com](mailto:info@huntingdoncountyarts.com).

**Bold** = Huntingdon County Arts Council activity

December 2023–February 2024

<i>When</i>	<i>What</i>	<i>Where</i>	<i>Details</i>
Through Saturday, December 9	Raystown at 50	Juniata College Museum of Art	Marking the 50th anniversary of Raystown Lake
Through December 29, Monday-Saturday 10-6 p.m., Sunday 10-4 p.m.	<b>Holiday Shoppe</b>	Huntingdon County Arts Center	Arts and crafts from Huntingdon County artists on sale
Friday, December 1 & Saturday, December 2, 10-5 p.m.	Victorian Christmas in Huntingdon	Huntingdon County Historical Society and Huntingdon County Library	Hosted by the Standing Stone Garden Club
Saturday, December 2, 1-7 p.m.	Christmas Open House	Woods-Brown Mansion 1001 Washington Street	Historic mansion circa 1874, by donation
Monday, December 4, 7 p.m.	<b>Acoustic Music Jam</b>	Huntingdon County Arts Center	Open to all, featuring seasonal music.
Friday, December 8 & Saturday, December 9, 7 p.m.	The Nutcracker Ballet	Huntingdon Area High School Auditorium	The Huntingdon Regional Ballet's annual Nutcracker performance
Sunday, December 10, 2 p.m.	<b>Christmas Show with Anne Sullivan &amp; Joan Marsh</b>	Huntingdon County Arts Center	See page 6 for details
Wednesday, December 13, 7 p.m.	<b>Annual General Meeting, Huntingdon County Arts Council</b>	Huntingdon County Arts Center	Presentations and refreshments. All are welcome.
Thursday, December 21, 5-8 p.m.	Art Walk Huntingdon	Various locations in borough	Art activities for all ages
Sunday, December 17, 4 p.m.	Annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols	Zion Lutheran Church, Petersburg	Diverse selection of regional musicians.
Thursday, December 21, 7 p.m.	<b>Camera Club Meeting</b>	Huntingdon County Arts Center	Meets on the 4th Thursday of each month, and the 3rd Thursday in Nov. and Dec.
Thursday, January 4, 3:30-5:30 p.m.	<b>Community Ceramics Classes</b>	Southern Huntingdon County High School	Every Tuesday and Thursday through February 8.
Monday, January 8, 7 p.m.	<b>Acoustic Music Jam</b>	Huntingdon County Arts Center	Open to all.
Friday, January 5 to Saturday, February 3	<b>Threading the Needle: Embroiderers' Guild Exhibit</b>	Huntingdon County Arts Center	Reception on Friday, January 5 at 6 p.m.
Thursday, January 25, 7 p.m.	<b>Camera Club Meeting</b>	Huntingdon County Arts Center	Open to all
Saturday, January 27, 7 p.m.	<b>Silent Film Night with Live Piano Accompaniment by Andrew Greene</b>	Huntingdon County Arts Center	See page 6 for details.
Monday, February 5, 7 p.m.	<b>Acoustic Music Jam</b>	Huntingdon County Arts Center	Open to all.
Thursday, February 8, 7:30 p.m.	The Canadian Brass	Rosenberger Auditorium, Juniata College	Juniata Presents (discount for Arts Counsel members).
Friday, February 9 to Saturday, March 2	<b>J.E Crum Exhibit</b>	Huntingdon County Arts Center	Reception on Friday, February 9 at 6 p.m.
Wednesday, February 14 to Wednesday, March 30	On Display: The Art, Science, and Significance of Specimens	Juniata College Museum of Art	Scientific significance specimens in natural history museums and collections
Thursday, February 22, 7 p.m.	<b>Camera Club Meeting</b>	Huntingdon County Arts Center	Open to all
Saturday, March 2, 6:30 p.m.	<b>Sitting Pretty: Artfully Decorated Chair Auction</b>	Huntingdon County Arts Center	See pages 7-8 for details.



313 12th Street  
Huntingdon, PA 16652  
814-643-6220

info@huntingdoncountyarts.com  
www.huntingdoncountyarts.com

## CHECK OUT THE ARTS CALENDAR ON OUR WEBSITE



Address Service Requested

### MUSIC FILLS THE SOUL

It has been a dreary January.  
But today a light covering of whiteness covers the trees and  
mountains  
Cheering up the landscape for a short while.  
The kind of day for listening to Ragtime and Gershwin as one goes  
about daily chores.  
The music lifts spirits and energizes both body and soul.  
Quietness has its place,  
but music fills the entire being in time of need.

*Susan Rumpf*

### What is Art?

*Art is not what you see, but what you make others see.* Edgar Degas

*Art is a mediator of the unspeakable.* Johann von Goethe

*Art is a mad search for individualism.* Paul Gauguin

*Art is the signature of civilization.* Jean Sibelius

*Art is anything you can get away with.* Andy Warhol

### WALKING THROUGH THE SNOW

Walking through the snow  
The starkness of winter  
making itself apparent  
with icy needles of cold  
stabbing my flesh  
The living world in its crystalline slumber  
makes way for the inanimate  
Spirals of snow translate the wind  
into a life of its own  
Dancing,  
leaving its language  
in scribbles on the snow  
Sometimes I can read its language  
and hear it and see it  
Then I realize I am it  
A swirling mass of particles  
like everything else  
The nonliving shows me its aliveness:  
my breath leaving my body, condensing  
Sculptures of snow  
made by the hands of the wind  
pile up in snowdrifts  
Knowing that in death  
I will still be alive.

*Nick Miller*