



## Princeton Girlchoir to Perform Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols*

The Princeton Girlchoir's most experienced choral ensembles—the Concert Choir and the Cantores—ring in the season with their 20th annual winter concert, *A Ceremony of Carols and Holiday Favorites*, at 4 p.m. on December 14 at Richardson Auditorium in Alexander Hall on the Princeton University campus.

The Concert Choir, directed by Princeton Girlchoir Founder and Artistic Director Jan Westrick, has 71 choristers in grades seven through nine. The Cantores, under the direction of Raegan Ruiz, includes 29 of the area's most accomplished voices, the majority of whom are Concert Choir graduates. Both choirs will be accompanied by Elizabeth Hartnett. Special guests include flutist Karrin Phillips and harpist Alison Simpson.

The December concert marks a return to a seasonal celebration of song for the Princeton Girlchoir, whose winter concert has been in January for a number of years. "We are pleased to be able to share British composer Benjamin Britten's masterpiece, *A Ceremony of Carols*, with the community," says Jan Westrick. "Britten composed the piece in 1942 while he was at sea. The texts come from the Middle English poem by Gerald Bullett, *The English Galaxy of Shorter Poems*. The girls have been quite dedicated to learning this challenging and exhilarating choral work."

What Jan Westrick started in 1989 as an after-school activity has grown into the area's premier training and performance choir for over 200 choristers. Princeton Girlchoir exposes girls to a variety of musical genres, conductors and composers. While honing their musicianship skills, they be-

friend new girls who sing, enjoy professional performance opportunities, and travel the world.

Princeton Girlchoir includes five auditioned choirs beginning with the youngest preparatory choirs, the Grace Notes and the Semi-Tones. The Concert Choir, its select Ensemble, and the Cantores, are for older, more advanced singers. Choristers from throughout central New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania come together each week from September through May to study and perform choral music. Princeton Girlchoir's alumnae number almost 400 young women, many of whom continue to sing in their schools, churches, communities, and on stages around the world. □□

Members of the Concert Choir have the opportunity to travel each summer to various parts of the United States, Europe and Canada. In the summer of 2009, the Concert Choir Tour Ensemble will travel to Mexico to participate in the Festival Internacional de Coro de Niños.

The Princeton Girlchoir has performed in many cultural venues with notable musicians such as Yo-Yo Ma, The American Boychoir, the Newark Boys Chorus, Princeton Pro Musica, and Les Petits Chanteurs de St. André de Colmar of France. Additionally, the Princeton Girlchoir has performed at the residence of the United States Ambassador to the Czech Republic in Prague and at many community events, including the Arts Council of Princeton's CommUniversity, the Annual Tree Lighting of Palmer Square, the Present Day Club holiday luncheon, and the 10th Anniversary Celebration of the Grounds for Sculpture.

Upcoming performances and appearances include: Grace Notes and Semi-Tones, Dec. 2, 6:30 p.m.; Cantores and Concert Choir, Dec. 3, 6:30 p.m., Barnes & Noble, Princeton Market Fair, 3535 US Route 1. ***A Ceremony of Carols and other Holiday Favorites***, Dec. 14, 4 p.m., Richardson Auditorium. \$12-\$35. ***Songs to Warm the Heart featuring Grace Notes and Semi-Tones***, Feb. 1, 4 p.m., Richardson Auditorium, Alexander Hall, Princeton University. ***Absolutely A Cappella!*** Feb. 7, 7:30 p.m., Princeton High Performing Arts Center, 151 Moore Street. Benefit evening for Princeton Girlchoir.

For more information about Princeton Girlchoir, please call (609) 688-1888 or visit [princetongirlchoir.org](http://princetongirlchoir.org). To purchase tickets, please call (609) 258-5000 or visit [www.princeton.edu/utickets/](http://www.princeton.edu/utickets/).

## Arts Grant Program

Mercer County Executive Brian M. Hughes and the Board of Chosen Freeholders have made funds available for the support of the Arts through a partnership with The New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

Mercer County-based nonprofit organizations that have been producing public arts programming for at least two years are eligible to apply for funding under one of three categories: General Operating, Special Project support or Technical Assistance.

For more information about the program including deadlines, or to download the Grant Program Guidelines and Application, please visit [www.mercercounty.org](http://www.mercercounty.org). For questions or to have a hard copy of either sent by mail, please call (609) 989-6899.



## Empty Bowls at Silva Gallery to Help T.A.S.K.

Pennington School students hope Empty Bowls will fill hearts and stomachs at the Silva Gallery on December 8–12 and 15–19. Ceramic bowls handmade by Pennington School students, faculty, and staff will be for sale with all proceeds to benefit the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (T.A.S.K.).

The Empty Bowls Project is a nationwide movement to support organizations that fight hunger, one in which The Pennington School has participated since 2001.

The project was developed in the spring of 1990 by Michigan high school art teacher and potter, John Hartom, as a way for students to raise money for a local food drive. He wanted to give his students the means to make a difference in their community.

He and his wife, Lisa Blackburn, challenged his students to make enough ceramic bowls to host a meal for their high school staff. The students enthusiastically agreed, threw 120 bowls, decorated them and assisted with the firings. On the day of the luncheon, the students washed the bowls and set up a beautiful display in the high school media center.

For a small donation, staff members could select one bowl for a simple meal of soup and bread. Students served the soup and helped clean up afterwards. Following the meal, John and Lisa talked about hunger in the community, thanked each person for their cash donation and asked each of them to keep the empty bowl as a reminder of all the empty bowls in the world.

As participants realized the power of the bowls as a metaphor for hunger in the world, the room was filled with emotion. Tears were evident on many faces; bowls were clutched to chests—the arts had served as a powerful tool to transform a simple concept into a project with a remarkably profound impact.

What John and Lisa thought would be a one-time event appeared to hold great potential. They developed and distributed an information packet about The Empty Bowls Project with the goal of raising \$1 million by World Food Day, October 16. Through Oxfam America a bowl and an information packet was presented to every member of Congress and a Hunger Banquet was served at the United Nations.

One year later, the Imagine/RENDER Group, a 501(c)3 organization, was created

to promote the project. The Empty Bowls objectives are to: Raise as much money as possible to feed the world's hungry people; Increase awareness of hunger and related issues through education, awareness, and action; and Advocate for Arts Education. Nurturing the creative process through the arts enhances the possibility of finding new solutions to old problems.

As success of Empty Bowls Project spread, the originators continued their mission to create positive and lasting social change through the arts, education and community building projects. Their initiatives have expanded to include Garden Projects.

Empty Bowls Gardens is a program where food producers contribute to emergency food providers (i.e., Master Gardeners contribute food to a Food Bank). Kitchen Gardens is a collaboration with Habitat for Humanity to help families establish household gardens.

Through Imagine/RENDER workshops people are engaged in direct hands-on activities in the arts, gardening practicum and teaching seminars. Seminars feature national and international specialists in areas such as sustainable and extended season gardening and social justice through the arts.

For more information about the Empty Bowls Project and how to receive an information packet, as well as information about the other Imagine/RENDER programs, please write to Empty Bowls, P.O. Box 1689, Burnsville, NC 28714, or visit [www.emptybowls.net](http://www.emptybowls.net).

While Pennington students do not offer a meal as part of their observance, they do honor the original Empty Bowls Project model, whereby potters volunteer their time, talent, and materials to make the bowls. Students also honor the project principles by donating all proceeds from the sale of their ceramic bowls to T.A.S.K., and present educational programs about local, national and world hunger.

Empty Bowls will be available in the Silva Gallery at the Pennington School, 112 West Delaware Avenue on December 8–12 and 15–19 from noon to 3 p.m. Admission is free and all donations benefit Trenton Area Soup Kitchen. Seven years of sixth-grade “story quilts” will also be on display. For more information, please call (609) 737-1838, ext. 317 or visit [www.pennington.org](http://www.pennington.org).

## Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey

On January 25, Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey (YOCJ) will present its winter concert at Richardson Auditorium, with performances at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. The afternoon concert will feature the String Preparatory Orchestra, the Pro Arte Orchestra, the Woodwind Choir, Saxophone Ensemble and Wind Symphony playing selections by Mozart, Copland, Debussy and Sousa. The evening concert will present the Symphonic Orchestra, the Brass Choir, Saxophone Choir and Percussion Ensemble playing music by Liszt, Goldmark, Piazzolla and Debussy.

After celebrating its 30th anniversary last season YOCJ begins this season with 175 young musicians representing several school districts from Mercer County and surrounding areas. YOCJ was founded in 1978 by the late Portia Sonnenfeld as The String Training Ensemble, which served as a preparatory orchestra for the Mercer County Symphonic Orchestra (later renamed the Greater Princeton Youth Orchestra). Mrs. Sonnenfeld conducted the group for eight years and shaped the ensemble into a group capable of performing standard literature and twentieth century works.

Today the Orchestra continues to thrive under the direction of John Enz, who has been the directing YOCJ for 23 years. Conducting staff includes Philip Pugh, Brian Woodward, Richard Hodges, Ivy Haga, and newest member Peter Saleh.

The current YOCJ roster includes students from the fourth grade through high school. Most string players start in the String Preparatory Orchestra or Pro Arte Orchestra. The Symphonic Orchestra presents senior string players combined with students from the woodwind, brass, and percussion groups. There is also a Wind Symphony and Saxophone Choir.

Tickets for the January 25 Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey concert in Richardson Auditorium, Alexander Hall on the Princeton University campus are \$10 and can be purchased at the box office or online at [www.princeton.edu/richaud/tickets](http://www.princeton.edu/richaud/tickets). Performances are at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

YOCJ provides a unique opportunity for young musicians to expand their musical capabilities, in a stimulating and collegial environment. In addition to their usual annual events, they plan to offer master classes and opportunities for participation in chamber ensembles. Auditions for YOCJ are held in January, June and September. For more information about YOCJ, including audition dates and requirements, please visit [www.yocj.org](http://www.yocj.org) or email [info@yocj.org](mailto:info@yocj.org).

## NJ State Museum Gets New Look and Director

After four years of extensive renovation to bring the 44-year-old New Jersey State Museum up to code, the main building and auditorium are open and welcome visitors to experience an extensive slate of programming. From hands-on activities with master and apprentice artists in traditional folk arts to music, dance and performing arts demonstrations to lectures about creating art, identifying fossils, and the changing eating habits of Americans, the museum will entertain, delight, amuse, and educate visitors of all ages.

Secretary of State Nina Mitchell Wells recently named Eric Pryor, noted artist and educator, curator, and director of multidisciplinary arts and cultural centers, Executive Director of the museum.

He will oversee one of the nation's first state museums founded in 1895 with an educational mission. Today, that mission comes alive across four distinct subject areas – Archaeology/Ethnology, Cultural History, Fine Art and Natural History – with exhibits drawn from the over 2 million pieces of artistic, historic, and scientific objects, artifacts and specimens which are held in public trust by the State Museum.

The New Jersey State Museum is located at 205 West State Street in Trenton. For more information in a recorded message, please call (609) 292-6464. To download a 48-page program guide, please visit [www.newjerseystatemuseum.org](http://www.newjerseystatemuseum.org).

## Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. recognized the power of service to strengthen communities and achieve common goals and became the chief spokesman of the nonviolent civil rights movement, which successfully protested racial discrimination in federal and state law.

Just over ten years after Rev. King's assassination, Rep. John Conyers introduced a bill in Congress to make Rev. King's birthday a national holiday. In 1983, President Ronald Reagan signed a bill creating a federal holiday to honor Rev. King. It was observed for the first time on February 20, 1986.

On August 23, 1994, President Bill Clinton signed the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday and Service Act, expanding the mission of the holiday from a commemoration of Rev. King's birthday to a day of community service, interracial cooperation and youth anti-violence initiatives.

For more information about Rev. Dr. Martin Luther, Jr. and King Day of Service, please visit [www.mlkday.gov](http://www.mlkday.gov).

Dear Friends,

Another winter season is approaching and, once again, we in Mercer County are granted the opportunity to experience a wide and exciting array of cultural experiences during the holidays.

In this edition of our Culture & Heritage newsletter, you'll find a rich assortment of cultural events, displays, tours, and crafts happening across the County throughout the winter. Whether these events are themed around the holidays or are simply an enriching arts or cultural experience, I encourage you to join in and enjoy Mercer County's unique offerings.

Each holiday season in Mercer County, our towns display not only nativity scenes for Christmas, but also menorahs for Chanukkah, kinaras for Kwanzaa, bonfires for Hogmanay, dancing dragons for Chinese New Year, and many more expressions of tradition. At this time of year, we are reminded that although our residents represent a number of different backgrounds, cultures, and religions, we are unified in the celebration of holidays and spending time with those closest to us.

The opportunities to celebrate the holidays in new and enlightening ways are bountiful. From traditional favorite winter pastimes such as sleigh rides and re-enactments of Washington crossing the Delaware, to modern interpretations of holiday themes through visual art, music, and theatrical performance, you and your family will find no shortage of ways to make this holiday season joyous and exciting.

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and for a winter filled with new experiences.



Sincerely,  
Brian M. Hughes  
County Executive

## Mercer County Local Arts Program Grant Awards

Mercer County Executive Brian M. Hughes and the Board of Chosen Freeholders have made funds available for support of the Arts through a State/County Block Grant Partnership with the New Jersey State Council on the Arts for County-based nonprofit Arts Organizations and Agencies. The three-year block grant is an essential part of the State arts community and a most effective vehicle through which to promote the local arts programs.

Applications are carefully evaluated to ensure programs of high quality, ethnic diversity and community participation with maximum availability and accessibility to all County residents. The grants are intended to promote the growth and expand the public impact of community arts organizations and community arts projects.

The Division of Culture and Heritage and the Cultural and Heritage Commission are pleased to announce the following county arts organizations will receive 2009 grant funds.

### ArtWorks

Association of Indians in America  
Chin Yun Chorus  
The College of New Jersey Art Gallery  
Community Arts Partnership at the Peddie School  
The Dryden Ensemble  
ECHO, Inc.  
Greater Trenton Choral Society  
Hopewell Valley Children's Theatre  
Hopewell Valley Chorus  
Kidsbridge Children's Museum  
The Latina Women's Council of Mercer County, Inc.  
Le Triomphe de l'amour  
MCCC Aspirations  
MCCC Band  
MCCC Dance Ensemble  
MCCC The Gallery  
MCCC The Kelsey Review  
MCCC Kelsey Theatre

### MCCC Tomato Patch

New Jersey Poetry Society  
Old Barracks Association  
The Pennington Players, Inc.  
People & Stories/Gente y Cuentos  
Princeton Garden Statesmen  
Princeton Summer Chamber Concerts  
Rider University Art Gallery  
Rimon-the Mordecai T. Mezrich Center for Jewish Learning  
Shakespeare '70  
Trenton Artists Workshop Association  
Trenton Community Music School  
Trenton Museum Society  
Trinity Cathedral Arts Series  
Voices, Inc.  
Westminster Conservatory of Rider University  
West Windsor Arts Council  
Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey  
YWCA Dance Project



# Calendar of EVENTS

The Mercer County Culture and Heritage Commission cannot be responsible for errors or omissions. Call ahead to confirm times and prices. For an expanded listing, visit [www.mercercounty.org/CH/nl.htm](http://www.mercercounty.org/CH/nl.htm). Deadline for spring issue, which covers March, April and May is January 9, 2009.

## Art Exhibits

**An Atlas, radical cartography**, thru Dec. 3, TCNJ Art Gallery, 2200 Pennington Road, Ewing. (609) 771-2198; [www.tcnj.edu/~tcag](http://www.tcnj.edu/~tcag). (wv)

**Clay Garden**, Dec. 5-7, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Hopewell Train Station, 1 Railroad Place, Hopewell. (609) 466-2637; [www.theclaygarden.com](http://www.theclaygarden.com).

**Art Station Open House**, Dec. 6, 2-7 p.m., 148 Monmouth Street, Hightstown. (609) 216-4399.

**A Marriage of Two Minds, Rita Baragona & St. Clair Sullivan paintings**, thru Dec. 7, Rider University Art Gallery, Student Center, 2083 Lawrenceville Road. (609) 921-2663; [www.rider.edu/arts](http://www.rider.edu/arts). (wv)

**Princeton Photography Club**, Dec. 10, Jan. 7, Feb. 11, 7:30 p.m., D & R Greenway Land Trust, Johnson Education Center, One Preservation Place, Princeton. Meeting & lecture. (732) 422-3676; [www.princetonphotoclub.org](http://www.princetonphotoclub.org).

**White Cube**, thru Dec. 12, Anne Reid Gallery, Princeton Day School, 650 Great Road. (609) 924-6700, ext. 1772; [www.pds.org](http://www.pds.org).

**Nick Guilbert photos & Jose Ruiz paintings**, Dec. 12-Jan. 3, CAPPs, Mariboe Gallery, Peddie School, Ward Avenue, Hightstown. Opening & gallery talk Dec. 12, 6:30-8 p.m. (609) 490-7550; [www.peddieschool.org](http://www.peddieschool.org). (wv)

**Fay Sciarras paintings**, thru Dec. 19, Gallery at Chapin, 4101 Princeton Pike, Princeton. (609) 924-7206; [www.chapinschool.org](http://www.chapinschool.org). (wv)

**Fall Fine Arts Show**, thru Dec. 28, Straube Center, Route 31, Pennington. Mon-Fri 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sat 12-4 p.m. (908) 319-8957; [www.straube-center.com/art](http://www.straube-center.com/art). (wv)

**Culture in Context: A Tapestry of Expression**, thru Dec. 31, New Jersey State Museum, 205 West State Street, Trenton. (609) 292-6464; [www.newjerseystatemuseum.org](http://www.newjerseystatemuseum.org). (wv)

**William Smith woodturning**, thru Dec. 31, Grounds for Sculpture, Toad Hall Shop & Gallery, 14 Fairgrounds Road, Hamilton. \$6-\$10. (609) 586-0616; [www.groundsforsculpture.org](http://www.groundsforsculpture.org).

**Conflict**, thru Jan. 3, Gallery 125, 125 South Warren Street, Trenton. (609) 989-9119; [www.gallery125.com](http://www.gallery125.com).

**Valerie Young sculpture & Ann Calandro collages**, Jan. 3-30, Gallery at Chapin, 4101 Princeton Pike, Princeton. Reception Jan. 7, 5-7 p.m. (609) 924-7206; [www.chapinschool.org](http://www.chapinschool.org). (wv)

**Beatrice Bork watercolors**, thru Jan.

5, Queenstown Gallery, 24 West Broad Street, Hopewell. (609) 466-0817; [www.thequeenstowngallery.com](http://www.thequeenstowngallery.com).

**Ceramics Exhibition**, Jan 6-30, Anne Reid Gallery, Princeton Day School, 650 Great Road. (609) 924-6700, ext. 1772; [www.pds.org](http://www.pds.org). (wv)

**Anne Elliott conceptual art**, Jan. 9-Feb. 5, Silva Gallery, Pennington School, 112 West Delaware Avenue. Opening Jan. 9, 6-8 p.m. (609) 737-1838, ext. 317; [www.pennington.org](http://www.pennington.org).

**Salon d'Hightstown**, Jan. 9-23, CAPPs, Mariboe Gallery, Peddie School, Ward Avenue, Hightstown. Reception Jan. 9, 6:30-8 p.m. (609) 490-7550; [www.peddieschool.org](http://www.peddieschool.org). (wv)

**A Feast for the Eyes**, Jan 9-March 7, Gallery 125, 125 South Warren Street, Trenton. Reception Jan. 9, 6-9 p.m. (609) 989-9119; [www.gallery125.com](http://www.gallery125.com).

**Picturing Princeton 1783**, thru Jan 11, Morven Museum & Garden, 55 Stockton Street, Princeton. \$4-\$5. (609) 924-8144; [www.morven.org](http://www.morven.org). (wv)

**Garden State Watercolor**, thru Jan. 12, D&R Greenway, Johnson Education Center, Rosedale Road, Princeton. (732) 549-6799; [www.gardenstatewatercolor-society.org](http://www.gardenstatewatercolor-society.org). (wv)

**Wendell Brooks**, Jan. 14-Feb. 11, TCNJ Gallery, 2200 Pennington Road, Ewing. Reception Jan. 21, 5-7 p.m. (609) 771-2198; [www.tcnj.edu/~tcag](http://www.tcnj.edu/~tcag).

**Nancy Harrington acrylics**, Jan 17-March 14, Queenstown Gallery, 24 West Broad Street, Hopewell. Opening Jan. 17, 5:30-8 p.m., (609) 466-0817; [www.thequeenstowngallery.com](http://www.thequeenstowngallery.com).

**Deborah Rosenthal paintings, Barbara Goodstein sculpture**, Jan. 29-March 1, Rider University Art Gallery, Student Center, 2083 Lawrence Road. Reception, artists' talk Feb. 18, 5-8 p.m. (609) 895-5588; [www.rider.edu/arts](http://www.rider.edu/arts). (wv)

**Barbara Bickford photos of Cambodia**, Jan. 30-Feb. 18, CAPPs, Mariboe Gallery, Peddie School, Ward Avenue, Hightstown. Opening, gallery talk Jan 30, 6:30-8 p.m. (609) 490-7550; [www.peddieschool.org](http://www.peddieschool.org). (wv)

**Dan Fernandez, Eva Mantell, Libby Ramage**, Jan. 30-March 13, Considine Gallery, Stuart Country Day School, 1200 Stuart Road, Princeton. (609) 921-2330; [www.stuartschool.org](http://www.stuartschool.org).

**Louis Rossomanno painting**, Jan. 31-March 5, Gallery at Chapin, 4101 Princeton Pike, Princeton. Reception Feb. 4, 5-7 p.m. (609) 924-7206; [www.chapinschool.org](http://www.chapinschool.org). (wv)

**Architecture Exhibition**, Feb. 6-March 6, Anne Reid Gallery, Princeton Day School, 650 Great Road. (609) 924-6700, ext. 1772; [www.pds.org](http://www.pds.org).

**Dreaming Trees, Valerie Pfaff photomontage**, Feb. 13-March 12, Silva Gallery, Pennington School, 112 West Delaware Avenue. Opening Feb. 13, 6-8 p.m. (609) 737-1838, ext. 317; [www.pennington.org](http://www.pennington.org). (wv)

**Landscape Photos**, Feb. 18-March 25, TCNJ Gallery, Holman Hall, 2200 Pennington Road, Ewing. Reception Feb. 18, 5-7 p.m. (609) 771.2198; [www.tcnj.edu/~tcag](http://www.tcnj.edu/~tcag). (wv)

**Student Exhibit**, Feb. 25, 6:30-8 p.m., Swig Arts Center, Peddie School, Ward Avenue, Hightstown. (609) 490-7550; [www.peddieschool.org](http://www.peddieschool.org). (wv)

**Outstanding Student Sculpture**, thru April 26, Grounds for Sculpture, 18 Fairgrounds Road, Hamilton. \$6-\$10. (609) 586-0616; [www.groundsforsculpture.org](http://www.groundsforsculpture.org). (wv)

## Princeton Art Museum

**Docent Tour**, Sat-Sun 2 p.m.

**Chinese Art From the Imperial Palaces**, thru Dec. 14.

**Frank Gehry: On Line**, thru Jan. 4.

**Jasper Johns: Light Bulb**, thru Jan. 4.

**Body Memory**, thru Jan. 4.

**Felix Candela: Engineer, Builder, Structural Artist**, thru Feb. 22. Gallery talk Dec. 5, 12:30 p.m.; Dec. 7, 3 p.m.

**Art for Families: Hey Monet!** Dec. 6; **It's Party Time!** Dec. 13, 10 a.m. \$5. Princeton University Art Museum, McCormick Hall, Princeton University campus. Tue-Sat 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun 1-5 p.m. (609) 258-3788; [www.princetonartmuseum.org](http://www.princetonartmuseum.org). (wv)

## Firestone Library

**Description de l'Égypte**, Main Gallery, Dec. 21-May 10.

**Beauty and Bravado in Japanese Woodblock Prints**, Milberg Gallery, Jan. 18-June 6.

**Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the University Archives**, Mudd Library, Feb. 1-Jan. 30, 2010.

Princeton University Firestone Library, One Washington Road. (609) 258-3000; [www.princeton.edu/~rbsc](http://www.princeton.edu/~rbsc). (wv)

## Benefits

**Drumthwacket Gala**, Dec. 5, 7-10 p.m., \$250. Register (609) 683-0057; [www.drumthwacket.org](http://www.drumthwacket.org). (wv)

**Empty Bowls & Story Quilts**, Dec. 8-12, 15-19, 12-3 p.m., Silva Gallery

of Art, Pennington School, 112 West Delaware Avenue. Benefits Trenton Area Soup Kitchen. (609) 737-1838, ext. 317; [www.pennington.org](http://www.pennington.org). (wv)

**Community Christian Choir**, Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m., St. Anthony RC Church, 626 South Olden Avenue, Trenton. Benefits Mt. Carmel Guild. (609) 587-7076; [www.mountcarmelguild.org](http://www.mountcarmelguild.org).

**Community Christian Choir**, Dec. 14, 3 p.m., Villa Victoria Academy, 376 West Upper Ferry Road, Ewing. Benefits Special Olympics of Mercer County. (609) 587-7076; [www.mercer.sonj.org](http://www.mercer.sonj.org).

**4 Seasons-2 Singers**, Jan. 6, 4 p.m. Benefits the Capital Singers of Trenton; **A Broadway Valentine**, Feb. 1, 8 p.m. Benefits Trenton Community Music School. Stuart Country Day School, 1200 Stuart Road, Princeton. (609) 921-2330; [www.stuartschool.org](http://www.stuartschool.org). (wv)

**Teahouse Pleasures Gala**, Feb. 21, 6-11 p.m., Marriott Lafayette Yard, Lafayette Street, Trenton. Benefits Boheme Opera NJ. (609) 581-9551 Ext. 14; [www.bohemeopera.com](http://www.bohemeopera.com). (wv)

## Dance

**Nutcracker**, Dec. 1, Villa Victoria Theatre, 376 West Upper Ferry Road, Ewing. Roxey Ballet. \$18-\$49. (609) 397-7616; [www.roxeyballet.org](http://www.roxeyballet.org). (wv)

**Dance Performance Workshop**, Dec. 10, 8 p.m., Princeton University, Lewis Center, 185 Nassau Street. (609) 258-8560; [www.princeton.edu](http://www.princeton.edu).

**Dance Improv Live**, Dec. 12, 8 p.m., All Saints Church, 16 All Saints Road, Princeton. \$15. (609) 924-3767; [www.danceimprov.com](http://www.danceimprov.com).

**Nutcracker featuring American Repertory Ballet**, Dec. 13, 2 p.m., Patriots Theatre, War Memorial, Memorial Drive, Trenton. \$20-\$30. (609) 984-8400; [www.arballet.org](http://www.arballet.org). (wv)

**Seventh Principle: Bantaba**, Dec. 13, 1 p.m. & 2:30 p.m., NJ State Museum Auditorium, 205 West State Street, Trenton. (609) 292-6464; [www.njstatemuseum.org](http://www.njstatemuseum.org). (wv)

**Flamenco**, Feb. 28, 8 p.m., CAPPs, Mount-Burke Theatre, Peddie School, Ward Avenue, Hightstown. \$25. (609) 490-7550; [www.peddieschool.org/capps](http://www.peddieschool.org/capps). (wv)

## McCarter Theatre

**Giselle**, Jan 17, 7:30 p.m. \$45-\$54.

**Hubbard Street Dance Chicago**, Feb. 12, 8 p.m. \$41-\$54.

**Mark Morris Dance Group**, Feb. 24, 8 p.m. \$43-\$46.

**Batsheva Dance Company**, Feb. 2, 8 p.m. \$41-\$54.

McCarter Theatre, 91 University Place, Princeton. (609) 258-2787; [www.mccarter.org](http://www.mccarter.org). (wv)

## Dancing

**Scottish Dancing**, Mon, 7:30 p.m., Meadow Lakes, Etra Road, Hightstown. \$3. (609) 584-9764; [www.rscds-nj.org](http://www.rscds-nj.org).

**Princeton Country Dancers, Winter Cotillion**, Dec. 14, 5 p.m.; **Mixed-Age Dance**, Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m.; **Contra Dances**, Wednesday, 8-10:30 p.m., fourth Saturday, 8-11 p.m.; **English Country Dances**, second Saturdays, 8-11 p.m., Suzanne Patterson Center, Monument Drive, Princeton. (609) 924-6763; [www.princetoncountrydancers.org](http://www.princetoncountrydancers.org).

## Film

**Sketches of Frank Gehry**, Dec. 5, 7:30 p.m.; **I. M. Pei: First Person Singular**, Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m., Princeton Arts Council, 102 Witherspoon Street. (609) 924-8777; [www.artscouncilof-princeton.org](http://www.artscouncilof-princeton.org). (wv)

**Environmental Film Festival**, Jan 2-11, Princeton Public Library, 65 Witherspoon Street. (609) 924-9529 ext. 247; [www.princetonlibrary.org](http://www.princetonlibrary.org). (wv)

**Giorni e nuvole** (Days and Clouds), Jan. 25, 3 p.m.; **L'imperatore di Capri**, (The Emperor of Capri), Feb. 22, 3 p.m.; **Lei non sa chi è Totò!**, (You Don't Know Who Totò Is!) Feb. 22 & 27, 6 p.m., Dorothea's House, 120 John Street, Princeton. [www.dorotheashouse.org](http://www.dorotheashouse.org).

## Holiday/Heritage

**Breakfast with Santa**, Dec. 6, 8 a.m., West Windsor Lions, Community Middle School, 55 Grovers Mill Road, Plainsboro; Dec. 7, 8 a.m., Hamilton Knights of Columbus Council 6213, 1451 Klockner Road.

**Craft Show**, Dec. 13, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Colonial Firehouse Ballroom, 801 Kuser Road, Hamilton. (609) 587-3452.

**Kwanzaa Banquet**, Dec. 9, 7:30 p.m., Thomas Grover Middle School, 10 Southfield Road, West Windsor. [www.west-windsorplainsboro.k12.nj.us/aapsg](http://www.west-windsorplainsboro.k12.nj.us/aapsg). (wv)

**African-American History Program**, Feb. 19, 7:30 p.m., WW-P High School South auditorium, 346 Clarksville Road, West Windsor. [www.west-windsorplainsboro.k12.nj.us/aapsg](http://www.west-windsorplainsboro.k12.nj.us/aapsg). (wv)

**McCarter Christmas Carol Bus Trip**, Dec. 7, 4:15 p.m., Robbinsville Senior Center, 56 Robbinsville Allentown Road. \$40-\$45. (609) 918-0002 x120; [www.robbinsville-twp.org](http://www.robbinsville-twp.org).

**Pennington Holiday Walk**, Dec. 5, 6 p.m., Howe Commons, South Main Street, Pennington. (609) 737-7765.

**St. Nicholas Bazaar**, Dec. 5, 7-10 p.m.; Dec. 6, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Trinity Church, 33 Mercer Street, Princeton. (609) 924-2277; [www.trinityprinceton.org](http://www.trinityprinceton.org).

**Christmas on the Farm**, Dec. 6, 10 a.m., Howell Farm, Valley Road, off

Route 29, Titusville. (609) 737-3299; [www.howellfarm.org](http://www.howellfarm.org). (wv)

**Holiday Festivities**, thru Dec. 28, Sat-Sun, 2 p.m., Palmer Square, Nassau Street, Princeton. (609) 921-2333; [www.palmersquare.com](http://www.palmersquare.com).

**Tree of Light**, Dec. 12, 7-9:30 p.m., Lewis School, 53 Bayard Lane, Princeton. (609) 924-8120; [www.lewisschool.org](http://www.lewisschool.org).

**Christmas Caroling**, Dec. 24, 5 p.m., Princeton Arts Council, Palmer Square. Bring flashlight. (609) 924-8777; [www.artscouncilofprinceton.org](http://www.artscouncilofprinceton.org).

**Santa Arrives**, Dec. 24, 11 a.m., Princeton Airport, Route 206. Bring a gift for Mercer County Board of Social Services to distribute. (609) 921-3100; [www.princetonairport.com](http://www.princetonairport.com). (wv)

**Washington's Delaware River Crossing**, Dec. 25, 1 p.m., Washington Crossing State Park, Routes 546, Titusville. (609) 737-0623; [www.state.nj.us/dep/parks](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parks).

**Holiday Workshop**, Dec. 13, 1-3 p.m., Grounds for Sculpture, 18 Fairgrounds Road, Hamilton. \$6-\$10. (609) 586-0616; [www.grounds-forsculpture.org](http://www.grounds-forsculpture.org). (wv)

**Mahamritunjay Jaap and Pooja**, Dec. 30, 10 a.m.-Dec. 31, 10:30 a.m., Om Kriya Yoga Foundation, Durga Mandir, Route 27, Kingston. (609) 936-0263; [www.omkriyayoga.org](http://www.omkriyayoga.org). (wv)

## History Activities

**John Abbott House**, weekends noon-5 p.m., 2200 Kuser Road, Hamilton. (609) 585-1686.

**Drumthwacket Tours**, Wednesdays 11 a.m.-2 p.m., 354 Stockton Street, Princeton. \$5. Register (609) 683-0057; [www.drumthwacket.org](http://www.drumthwacket.org).

**Morven Museum Tea & Tour**, Wednesdays, 1 p.m. \$15. **Festival of Trees**, Dec. 3-Jan. 11, Wed-Fri. 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; Sat-Sun, 12-4 p.m. \$5. 55 Stockton Street, Princeton. (609) 924-8144; [www.morven.org](http://www.morven.org). (wv)

**Docent Tour**, Dec. 6, Jan. 3, Feb. 7, 2 p.m., Princeton Historical Society, Bainbridge House, 158 Nassau Street. (609) 921-6748; [www.princetonhistory.org](http://www.princetonhistory.org).

**Mill Hill House Tours**, Dec. 6, 12-5 p.m., Mill Hill Playhouse, 205 Front Street, Trenton. Benefits Mill Hill historic preservation. \$20. (609) 656-9277; [www.trentonmillhill.org](http://www.trentonmillhill.org).

**Schenck House**, Dec. 14, 1-4 p.m., **Magic Lantern Show**, Jan. 5, 8 p.m.; **Women's Crafts Exhibit**, Feb. 8, West Windsor Historical Society, 50 Southfield Road. (609) 799-1278.

**Patriots' Week Events**, Dec. 26-31, Downtown Trenton. 877-PAT-WEEK; [www.patriotsweek.com](http://www.patriotsweek.com).

**Brearley House tour**, Dec. 6, 10 a.m.-noon; **Hogmanay Bonfire**, Dec. 31, 6 p.m., Meadow Lane, Lawrenceville. Lawrence Historical Society. (609) 895-1728; [www.thelhs.org](http://www.thelhs.org).

**Militia Museum**, Dec. 2, 9 a.m.-3

p.m., 151 Eggerts Crossing Road, Lawrenceville. (609) 530-6802; [www.nj.gov/military/museum](http://www.nj.gov/military/museum).

**David Sarnoff Library & Museum**, 201 Washington Road, Princeton. (609) 734-2636; [www.davidsarnoff.org](http://www.davidsarnoff.org).

**State House Tours**, Mon-Fri 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Sat noon-3 p.m., 125 West State Street, Trenton. (609) 633-2709; [www.njleg.state.nj.us](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us). (wv)

## William Trent House

**Candymaking**, Dec. 6, 2-4 p.m.

**Holiday Open House**, Dec. 7, 1-4 p.m.

**Colonial Kids**, Dec. 13-14, 20-21, 1-3 p.m. 1719 William Trent House Museum, William Trent Place at Market Street, Trenton. (609) 989-3027; [williamtrent-house.org](http://williamtrent-house.org). (wv)

## German-American Club

**Christmas Show**, Dec. 2, 6 p.m., \$16-\$20. (609) 396-8332.

**Gala with Windjammers**, Dec. 31, 7:30 p.m. \$55. Register (609) 758-5272.

**Oldies Dance**, Jan. 24, 9 p.m., \$7. Register (856) 764-3106.

**Mad Hat Dance**, Jan. 31, 8 p.m. \$9. (856) 764-3106.

**Valentine's Dance**, Feb. 14, 8 p.m. \$9. Register (856) 764-3106.

**Soccer Benefit Dance**, Feb. 21, 6 p.m. \$30. Register (609) 581-1423.

*German-American Club, 215 Uncle Pete's Road, Yardville. (609) 585-5200; www.gak.org.*

## Literary Events

**Mercer County Library: Storytime**, Fri. 11 a.m., 61 Scotch Road, Ewing. Ages 4-5. (609) 882-3130; **S4S: Tutoring**, Wed. 5:30 p.m.; **Socrates Café**, Dec. 1, 23, 7 p.m.; **NJ Writers Society**, Dec. 8, 6:30 p.m., 333 North Post Road, Princeton Junction. (609) 799-0462; **Writers Group**, fourth Sat. 2 p.m., 276 Abbington Drive, East Windsor. (609) 443-1880; **Book Discussion**, fourth Thursday, 7 p.m.; third Monday, 10 a.m.; **Delaware Valley Poets Poetry Workshop**, Dec. 17, 7:30 p.m., 2751 Brunswick Pike, Lawrence. Bring 15 copies of your poem. (609) 882-9246; [www.delawarevalleypoets.com](http://www.delawarevalleypoets.com) or (609) 989-6915; [www.mcl.org](http://www.mcl.org). (wv)

**Princeton Public Library: Emma the Reading Therapy Dog with trainer Joe Turner**, Fri. 3:30 p.m.; **Story Times**, Sat. 10:30 a.m.; Sun. 3:30 p.m. Ages 2-8; **Go-Between Club**, Dec. 6, Jan. 10, Feb. 7, 10 a.m.; **Tiger Team Readers**, Dec. 12, 3:30 p.m., 65 Witherspoon Street. Grades 5-7. (609) 924-9529; [www.princeton.lib.nj.us](http://www.princeton.lib.nj.us). (wv)

**Karen Russell, author**, Dec. 4, 4:30 p.m., TCNJ Library, 2000 Pennington Avenue, Ewing. (609) 457 3151; [www.tcnj.edu](http://www.tcnj.edu). (wv)

**Reading Series**, Dec. 10, 4:30 p.m., Princeton University creative writing

program, Lewis Center, 185 Nassau Street. (609) 258-8560; [www.princeton.edu](http://www.princeton.edu).

**Poetry Reading**, Dec. 13, 12-2 p.m., Classics Used and Rare Books, 117 South Warren Street, Trenton. (609) 394-8400.

**Winter Tales read by poet, musician, and artist D.J. Haslett**, Dec. 14 & 21, 1 & 2 p.m., Grounds for Sculpture, 18 Fairgrounds Road, Hamilton. \$6-\$10. (609) 586-0616; [www.groundsforsculpture.org](http://www.groundsforsculpture.org). (wv)

## Princeton University

**Lydia Davis, short story writer, novelist, and translator; Francine Prose, novelist, essayist, and critic**, Dec. 3, 7:30 p.m., Friends Center 101, Olden & William streets.

**Student Reading**, Dec. 10, 4:30 p.m.

**Karen Russell, Nicholson Baker, authors**, Feb. 25, 4:30 p.m.

*Princeton University campus, Stewart Theater, Lewis Center for the Arts, 185 Nassau Street, Princeton. (609) 258-1500; www.princeton.edu/arts.*

## Musical Performances

**Rider Band**, Dec. 1, 7:30 p.m., Yvonne Theater, 2083 Lawrenceville Road. (609) 921-2663; [www.rider.edu](http://www.rider.edu). (wv)

**TCNJ Wind Ensemble & Concert Band**, Dec. 4, 8 p.m., Kendall Hall, 2000 Pennington Road, Ewing. (609) 771-2551; [www.tcnj.edu/~music/](http://www.tcnj.edu/~music/).

**Messiah, Boheme Opera & Greater Trenton Choral Society**, Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m., Immaculate Conception Church, 540 Chestnut Avenue, Trenton. \$20-\$30. (609) 581-7200; [www.bohemeopera.com](http://www.bohemeopera.com).

**Rider Choir**, Dec. 7, 3 p.m., Gill Chapel, Rider University, 2083 Lawrenceville Road. (609) 921-2663; [www.rider.edu](http://www.rider.edu).

**Taione Martinez, organ**, Dec. 6, 31, Feb. 5, 12:15 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 120 East State Street, Trenton. (609) 396-1712; [www.old1712.org](http://www.old1712.org).

**Princeton Symphony String Trio**, Dec. 7, 4:30 p.m., Wolfensohn Hall, Institute for Advanced Study, Einstein Drive, Princeton. (609) 497-0020; [www.princetonsymphony.org](http://www.princetonsymphony.org).

**Advent Lessons and Carols**, Dec. 7, 4:30 p.m., Trinity Cathedral, 33 Mercer Street, Princeton. (609) 924-2277; [www.trinityprinceton.org](http://www.trinityprinceton.org).

**Child's Christmas in Wales, Princeton Singers**, Dec. 13, 6 p.m., Nassau Presbyterian Church, 61 Nassau Street, Princeton. \$15-\$25. (866) 846-7464; [www.princetoningers.org](http://www.princetoningers.org).

**NJ Gay Men's Chorus' Soup to Nuts**, Dec. 14, 4 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton, 50 Cherry Hill Road. \$15-\$25. (609) 396-7774; [www.njgmc.org](http://www.njgmc.org). (wv)

**Opera NJ Holiday Fare**, Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m., Grounds for Sculpture, 18 Fairgrounds Road, Hamilton. (609) 586-0616;

www.groundsfor sculpture.org. (wv)

**Engelchor Consort**, Dec. 14, 1:30 p.m. & 3 p.m., Princeton University Art Museum, McCormick Hall. (609) 258-3788; www.princetonartmuseum.org. (wv)

**Voices' Ceremony of Carols**, Dec. 19, 8 p.m., Pennington Presbyterian Church, 13 South Main Street; Dec. 20, 8 p.m., St. Paul RC Church, 214 Nassau Street, Princeton. \$10-\$18. (609) 737-2976; www.VoicesChorale.org. (wv)

**Candelit service**, Dec. 21, Jan. 18, Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m., Trinity Cathedral, 33 Mercer Street, Princeton. (609) 924-2277; www.trinityprinceton.org.

**American Boychoir Rehearsals**, Jan. 9, 16, Feb. 20, 3 p.m., 19 Lambert Drive, Princeton. (609) 924-5858; www.americanboychoir.org.

**eighth blackbird**, Jan. 9-10, 8 p.m., Wolfensohn Hall, Institute for Advanced Study, Einstein Drive, Princeton. (609) 734-8000; www.ias.edu.

**Dryden Ensemble's Apollo and Dafne**, Jan. 25, 3 p.m., Miller Chapel, Princeton Theological Seminary, 64 Mercer Street. \$15-\$35. (609) 466-8541; www.gemsny.org.

**Nassau at Four**, Jan. 11, Feb. 8, 4 p.m., Nassau Presbyterian Church, 61 Nassau Street, Princeton. (609) 924-0103; www.nassauchurch.org. (wv)

**Steinway Society Musicales**, Jan. 18, Feb. 8, 3 p.m., Jacobs Music, 2540 Brunswick Pike, Lawrenceville. \$18. (609) 434-0222.

**Trenton Community Music School**, Feb. 6, 8 p.m., Stuart Country Day School, 1200 Stuart Road, Princeton. \$35. (609) 249-5820; www.trentoncommunitymusicsschool.com.

**Princeton Singers with Barbara Biggers, harpist**, Feb. 14, 8 p.m., D&R Greenway Land Trust, Rosedale Road, Princeton. \$20-\$30. (609) 896-0374; www.princeton-singers.org. (wv)

**Princeton Symphony String Quartet**, Feb. 22, 4:30 p.m., Wolfensohn Hall, Institute for Advanced Study, Einstein Drive, Princeton. (609) 497-0020; www.princeton-symphony.org.

### Jazz/Blues/Folk/Rock

**Bill Charlap & Renee Rosnes, piano**, Dec. 5, 8 p.m., CAPPs, Mount-Burke Theater, Peddie School, Ward Avenue, Hightstown. \$25. (609) 496-7550; www.peddie.org/capps. (wv)

**Beyond Visible**, rock/metal/alternative, Dec. 5, 9:30 p.m., Mercer County Community College, Studio Theatre, Communications Building, 1200 Old Trenton Road, West Windsor. (609) 570-3524; www.latenightsseries.com. (wv)

**James White blues**, Jan. 9, 7 p.m., Ellarslie, Cadwalader Park, Parkside Avenue, Trenton. \$20. (609) 989-3632; www.ellarslie.org. (wv)

**Student Concert**, Feb. 26, 7:30 p.m., Swig Arts Center, Peddie School, Ward Avenue, Hightstown. (609) 490-7550; www.peddie.org. (wv)

**Jet Weston**, Dec. 10, 6 p.m., Fedora Cafe, 2633 Main Street, Lawrenceville. (609) 895-0844.

**Princeton Folk Music Society, Don White**, Dec. 12; **Bruce Molsky**, Jan. 16; **Anne Hills**, Feb. 20, 8:15 p.m., Christ Congregation Church, 50 Walnut Lane, Princeton. \$15. (609) 799-0944; www.princetonfolk.org. (wv)

### Concerts at the Crossing

**John Gorka**, Dec. 6, 8 p.m. \$25.

**The Kennedys**, Jan. 31, 8 p.m. \$23.

**Ellis Paul & Laura Higgins**, Feb. 14, 8 p.m. \$25.

*Concerts at the Crossing, Unitarian Church at Washington Crossing, 268 Route 546, Titusville. (609) 406-1424; www.crossingconcerts.com.*

### Patriots Theatre

**B.B. King**, Dec. 6, 8 p.m. \$45-\$100.

**Messiah, Princeton ProMusica**, Dec. 14, 3 p.m. \$38-\$45.

**Greater Trenton Symphony Orchestra**, Dec. 31, 8 p.m. \$25-\$65.

**NJ Symphony Orchestra**, Jan. 2, Feb. 20, 7:30 p.m. \$20-\$58.

**Bill Frisell**, Jan. 15, 7 p.m. \$33.

**John Hammond, blues**, Feb. 26, 7 p.m. \$30.

*Patriots Theatre, War Memorial, Memorial Drive, Trenton. (609) 984-8400; www.thewarmemorial.com.*

### Richardson Auditorium

**PU Jazz Ensembles**, Dec. 6, 8 p.m. \$15.

**PU Glee Club**, Dec. 7, 3 p.m.

**Hopkinson Smith, lute**, Dec. 8, 8 p.m.

**PU Sinfonia**, Dec. 11, 8 p.m. \$5.

**Brentano String Quartet**, Dec. 12, 8 p.m.

**Princeton Girlchoir: A Ceremony of Carols**, Dec. 14, 4 p.m. \$12-\$35.

**Princeton Symphony/Princeton High Choir**, Dec. 20, 3 p.m. \$16-\$64.

**American Boychoir: Winter Wonderland**, Dec. 21, 4 p.m. \$20-\$42.

**Colorado String Quartet**, Jan. 15, 8 p.m. \$20-\$40.

**Princeton Symphony**, Jan. 18, 4 p.m. \$16-\$64.

**NJ Symphony Orchestra**, Jan. 30, 8 p.m., \$20

**Princeton Symphony with Barbara Cook**, Feb. 7, 4 p.m. \$16-\$64

**Princeton Symphony**, Feb. 7, 8 p.m. \$25-\$90.

**Louis Schwizgebel-Wang, piano**, Feb. 12, 8 p.m. \$20-\$40.

**Vienna Classic**, Feb. 22, 3 p.m. \$10-\$20.

**PU Jazz**, Feb. 28, 8 p.m. \$15.

*Richardson Auditorium, Alexander Hall, Princeton University Campus. (609) 258-9220; www.princeton.edu/richard.*

### Westminster Choir College

**The Glorious Ones**, Dec. 2, 3 p.m., The Playhouse. \$15.

**Nancy Froyland & James Day**, Dec. 5, 12 p.m., Rider Art Gallery, Student Center, 2083 Lawrenceville Road.

**Phillip Orr, Jerry Rife jazz**, Dec. 5, 8 p.m., Bristol Chapel. \$15-\$20.

**Il Re Pastore**, Dec. 5-6, 8 p.m., The Playhouse. \$15-\$20.

**Concert Bell Choir: Christmas of the Americas**, Dec. 6, 8 p.m.; Dec. 7, 4 p.m., Bristol Chapel. \$15-\$20.

**Community Chorus & Chamber Choir: Nativitas**, Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m., Bristol Chapel. \$10-\$15.

**Conservatory at Nassau**, Jan. 15, Feb. 19, 12:15 p.m. Niles Chapel of Nassau Presbyterian Church, 61 Nassau Street, Princeton.

**Katherine McClure, flute; Esma Pasic-Filipovic, piano**, Jan. 17, 7:30 p.m., Bristol Chapel.

**Conservatory Community Orchestra: National Treasures**, Jan. 17, 8 p.m., Princeton High Performing Arts Center, 151 Moore St, Princeton. \$10-\$15.

**Dauri Shippey, soprano; Kevin Willois, flute; Deborah Gers, clarinet; Kyu-Jung Rhee, piano**, Jan. 18, 3 p.m., Bristol Chapel.

**Nancy Froyland Hoerl & Akiko Hosaki, piano**, Jan. 25, 3 p.m., Bristol Chapel.

**Westminster Kantorei: Membra Jesu nostril**, Jan. 31, 8 p.m., Bristol Chapel. \$15-\$20.

**Music of Andre Jolivet**, Feb. 1, 3 p.m., Bristol Chapel.

**Judith Bettina, soprano; James Goldsworthy, piano**, Feb. 7, 8 p.m., The Playhouse.

**Kaleidoscope Chamber Orchestra**, Feb. 8, 3 p.m., Rider, Gill Memorial Chapel, 2083 Lawrenceville Road.

**Margaret Cusack, J.J. Penna, piano**, Feb. 8, 3 p.m., Bristol Chapel.

**Ken Cowan**, Feb. 11, 7:30 p.m., Bristol Chapel.

**Phillip Orr, jazz**, Feb. 15, 3 p.m., Bristol Chapel.

**Rochelle Ellis, soprano, James Goldsworthy, piano**, Feb. 18, 7:30 p.m., Bristol Chapel.

**I Virtuosi del Seicento**, Feb. 27, 12 p.m., Rider Art Gallery, Student Center, 2083 Lawrenceville Road.

**Chapel Choir: Winter Concert**, Feb. 28, 8 p.m., Bristol Chapel. \$15-\$20.

*Westminster Choir College of Rider University, Bristol Chapel, The Playhouse, 101 Walnut Lane, Princeton. (609) 921-2663; www.rider.edu/arts.*

### Theatre

**Forever Plaid**, Dec. 5-31, Fri-Sat 8 p.m.; Sun 2:30 p.m., Off-Broadstreet Theater, 5 South Greenwood Avenue, Hopewell. \$28-\$30. (609) 466-2766; www.off-broadstreet.com. (wv)

**A Christmas Carol**, Dec. 7-28, McCarter Theatre, 91 University Place, Princeton. \$32-\$55. (609) 258-2787;

www.mccarter.org. (wv)

**Declamation Contest**, Dec. 11, 7:30 p.m., Mount-Burke Theatre, Peddie School, Ward Avenue, Hightstown. (609) 490-7550; www.peddie.org. (wv)

**Arts YOUiversity, All Good Gifts**, Dec. 19-20, 8 p.m.; Dec. 20-21, 3 p.m.; **Romeo and Juliet**, Feb. 13-14, 8 p.m., Feb. 14-15 3 p.m., 4 Tennis Court, Hamilton. (609) 586-3008; www.ArtsYOUiversity.com. (wv)

**Blood: A Comedy**, Jan. 23-25, Passage Theatre, Montgomery & Front streets, Trenton. (609) 392-0766; www.passagetheatre.org. (wv)

**Pillowman**, Feb. 19, 7 p.m.; Feb. 20-21 & 27, 8 p.m. Rider University, Yvonne Theater, 2083 Lawrenceville Road. \$5-\$10. (609) 896-5303. www.rider.edu/arts. (wv)

**Sweet Charity**, Feb. 18-21, 8 p.m., Princeton Day School, 650 Great Road. Upper School production. \$8. (609) 279-2717; www.pds.org.

**Working**, Feb. 19-21, 8 p.m., Mount-Burke Theatre, Peddie School, Ward Avenue, Hightstown. (609) 490-7550; www.peddie.org. (wv)

### Kelsey Theatre

**Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?** Jan. 9-10 & 16-17, 8 p.m.; Jan. 11 & 18, 2 p.m. PinnWorth Productions. \$10-14.

**Man of La Mancha**, Feb. 6-7 & 13-14, 8 p.m.; Feb. 7-8 & 15, 2 p.m. Maurer Productions OnStage. \$12-16.

**The Sunshine Boys**, Feb. 20-21 & 27-28, 8 p.m.; Feb. 22 & Mar. 1, 2 p.m. Pierrot Productions. \$10-14.

### Kelsey Kids

**'Twas The Night Before Christmas**, Dec. 5, 7 p.m.; Dec. 6, 11 a.m.; Dec. 6-7, 2 p.m. & 4 p.m. \$8-10.

**The Nutcracker**, Dec. 12, 7 p.m.; Dec. 13-14, 2 & 4 p.m. \$12.

**Lazer Vaudeville**, Dec. 20, 2 & 4 p.m. \$12

**Rumplestiltskin**, Jan. 23, 7 p.m.; Jan. 24-25, 2 & 4 p.m. \$8-10.

**Russian American Kids Circus**, Jan. 31, 2 & 4 p.m. \$12.

**If You Give a Pig a Pancake**, Feb. 14, 2 & 4 p.m. Theatreworks/USA. \$8-10.

**Striking Viking Story Pirates**, Feb. 28, 2 & 4 p.m. \$8-10.

*Kelsey Theatre, Mercer County Community College, 1200 Old Trenton Road, West Windsor. (609) 570-3333; www.kelseytheatre.net. (wv)*

### Theatre Intime

**Boy Gets Girl**, Dec. 4-6

**Freshman One-Act Festival**, Feb. 5-7

**Metamorphoses**, Feb. 19-21, 26-28 *Theatre Intime, Hamilton Murray Theatre, Murray-Dodge Hall, Princeton University campus. 8 p.m., \$12. (609) 258-1742; www.theatreintime.org. (wv)*

## Geronimo!

Among the more enduring and widespread traditions of the Army paratroopers that has reached far into American culture itself was the use of the jump yell "GERONIMO!" Gerard M. Devlin in his book *Paratrooper!* Tells the story of how this tradition was born. After completing two individual jumps, the members of the Parachute Test Platoon readied for their first mass jump in the summer of 1940. Naturally, they were apprehensive, so Pvts. John Ward, Aubrey Eberhardt, Lester McLaney, and Leo Brown went to post theater to watch Paramount Pictures' *Geronimo* in which the U.S. Cavalry chased the Apache Chief Geronimo and his band all over the screen.

While consuming more than a few beers after the movie and discussing the next day's mass jump, Eberhardt noted he was not concerned about the jump. The others kidded him that he would be so scared that he would not remember his own name. This angered Eberhardt, who was by far the tallest member of the platoon and not someone to anger. He retorted, "All right, dammit! I tell you jokers what I'm gonna do! To prove to you that I'm not scared out of my wits when I jump, I'm going to yell 'Geronimo' loud as hell when I go out that door tomorrow!"

Before the plane carrying Eberhardt and his group of jumpers even got off the ground everyone in the platoon knew of his boast, and they were waiting to see if he carried through on it. Not only did he yell his now legendary "Geronimo!" as he exited



the aircraft, so did all of the other jumpers. Devlin continues the story.

"With jumpers continuing to spill from the plane, a loud "Geronimo!" shout accompanied by an Indian war whoop, could be heard like a clap of thunder. Without knowing it at the time, Private Aubrey Eberhardt had just originated what was to be the jumping yell of the American paratroopers."

"Geronimo" quickly entered the airborne vocabulary and lore. When designing the 501st Parachute Battalion's new insignia and pocket patch, Miley (test platoon commander) incorporated "Geronimo" into both. The 501st Parachute Battalion later assumed "Geronimo" as the unit motto for its insignia and pocket patch, and it remains the regiment's motto on its distinctive unit insignia today. The 509th Parachute Infantry Battalion also incorporated "Geronimo" into its wartime pocket patch.

*Excerpted from: Airborne Forces at War: From Parachute Test Platoon to the 21st Century, by John T. Greenwood, Robert K. Wright, Association of the United States Army, Published by Naval Institute Press, 2007*

## Hogmanay Bonfire

The Great Meadow behind the Brearley House in Lawrence will be the setting for the annual New Year's Eve lighting of the Hogmanay Bonfire. Joe Logan, Lawrence Historical Society's fire master, will light the blaze at 6 p.m. on December 31.

A bagpiper and fiddler will entertain the crowd and the house will be open for tours. Paper and pencils will be available for visitors to write down all the bad things from the previous year (or visitors can bring their list) that they wish to toss into the fire.

The LHS Hogmanay Bonfire began at the suggestion of Joe Logan as a way to showcase the Brearley House while it was being renovated. Joe recalled similar community celebrations in his boyhood home of Savannah, Georgia, to mark the end of the holiday season by burning Christmas trees.

LHS combined Logan's suggestion with Hogmanay, a Scottish New Year's celebration that has its roots in Puritan tradition. The most important aspect of Hogmanay is cleansing for the new year—including paying off old debts, washing the home, and banishing thoughts of bad happenings from the previous year. The banging of pots at midnight to ward off dark spirits, banishing stray dogs to keep evil at bay, and first-footing are other customs. First-footing involves the giving of gifts to friends and neighbors to bring them good luck in the new year.

The Hogmanay Bonfire will be lit at 6 p.m. on December 31 in the Great Meadow behind the Brearley House on Meadow Road off Princeton Pike. For more information, please call (609) 895-1728 or visit [www.thelhs.org](http://www.thelhs.org).

## *A Place in Time* U.S. Army Parachute Test Platoon Marker

This plaque honors and commemorates the U.S. Army Parachute Test Platoon which trained here during the summer of 1940. This training was the beginning of the elite military paratrooper units, including the 82nd Airborne Division, who have served our country proudly in war and in peace.

At the end of World War I, Brig. Gen. William "Billy" Mitchell conceived the first practical plans for employing parachute troops in combat. WWI ended, so did his plans. In the 1930s, large-scale airborne exercises began in the Soviet Union and Germany. Spurred by the success of German parachute troops at the beginning of World War II, the U.S. military began an all-out effort to develop airborne forces.

In April 1940, the War Department approved plans for the formation of a test platoon of Airborne Infantry under the direction and control of the Army's Infantry Board.

First Lieutenant William T. Ryder organized 48 enlisted men from Fort Benning's 29th Infantry Regiment to begin training. Ryder was the first American officer to make a parachute jump under emergency conditions.

Someone remembered a 250-foot parachute tower at the 1939-40 New York World's Fair. The amusement ride was owned by the Safe Parachute Company of Hightstown. After negotiations between the Army and the Company they hosted the Army's test platoon for one-week training on two 150-foot parachute drop towers the company operated in Hightstown.

501st Parachute Infantry Battalion was formed from members of The Parachute Test Platoon in September 1940. These brave men established standards for all who later followed them out the door of an aircraft in flight. Their esprit, willingness to experiment, intense physical conditioning and attention to the mission have inspired



their successors in peace and war in the decades since.

The Parachute Test Platoon Marker is located alongside northbound Route 33/130, just north of Voelbel Road in Hightstown. For information about this and other markers around Mercer County, please visit the Historical Marker Database at [www.hmdb.org](http://www.hmdb.org).



# Culture & HERITAGE NEWS

Mercer County Cultural and Heritage Commission  
640 South Broad Street • Trenton, NJ 08650

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Please refer to this chart for ADA accommodations codes.

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