

CULTURE FROM PAGE E 1

Autumn promises bounty of music, dance, theater and art

a board of directors.

Tentative dates for upcoming concerts are under discussion. So is growth. With "Philharmonic" in the title, the group can't stay chamber-sized (as it was at its debut last month) for too long.

Otherwise, the season hits the road at a canter, with back-to-back sopranos in separate programs. On Sept. 17, **Pamela Wood**, longtime program co-director of music at Sacred Heart R.C. Church, will sing "Dieci," a benefit program of 10 arias (of operatic heroines, naturally).

The show is operationally elaborate: It has a video backdrop, two related exhibitions and two receptions (wine/cheese and dessert/coffee). Proceeds will put new hymn books in the pews.

THE TALK OF ST. LOUIS

The following afternoon soprano **Kristen Reiersen**, a St. George resident whose "Lucia di Lammermoor" was great news in St. Louis this past June (one critic raved: "If you want to learn the true meaning of the term coloratura you have but to listen to the dancing, dazzling soprano of Kristen Reiersen in the title role") will perform in recital in Christ Church at 3 p.m. in a concert sponsored by the parish's **Serenade** series.

The smart and youthful

year-old **Musical Chairs** ensemble ("reshaping all you thought you knew about classical music") will divide its five-concert 2005-2006 season between the **Staten Island Museum** and **Julia Music**, the school in West Brighton.

Philip Glass Ensemble member **Andrew Sterman** is the group's composer-in-residence this season. Visit mcensemble.org for updates.

Music at St. Albans ordinarily brings classical performances to an out-of-the-way South Shore performance site, namely the historic St. Albans Episcopal Church in Eltingville. It will open its season Sept. 25 at 3:30 with soprano **Kimilee Bryant**, pianist **Jason Andrews** and others in "Broadway Extravaganza."

For tickets (\$20) call (718) 984-7756 or visit MusicatSaintAlbans.org.

Another new group, the jazz ensemble **WaFoo**, will appear with the **Richmond County Orchestra** on Oct. 9 with a new piece "WaFoo Suite." A few weeks later look for WaFoo in its own program in St. Peter's Church in New Brighton.

The 32nd season of the borough's pre-eminent professional group, the **Staten Island Chamber Music Players** will start Nov. 20 with the String Quartet (Mozart, Tchaikovsky and Vivaldi's "Autumn.")

Having done brilliantly last spring with the difficult "Carmena Burana," what's left for **Richmond Choral Society** to conquer? What else but Handel's "Messiah?"

Once-a-week rehearsals for "Mostly Messiah" program (in December) begin Sept. 12 at the Noble Maritime Museum. As always, participating singers need not be professionals. For information, call (718) 447-3656 or visit richmondchoral.com.

ART/EXHIBITIONS

Momentous anniversaries: The **College of Staten Island**, which maintains academic ties to counterparts in China, will mark the 100th anniversary of filmmaking in China (1905-2005) with screenings and symposia, and "Heavenly Visions," a show of previously unseen paintings by the late painter **Baiyou Han**.

The China-born Han (1938-1998) was a leading scholar and artist before being "disciplined" during the Cultural Revolution. He spent the last eight years of his life in Meiers Corners, becoming a citizen in 1994.

The show, opening Sept. 21 in the on-campus gallery, is being curated by **Lowery Sims**, executive director of the **Studio Museum in Harlem**. Another centenary, that

of the Staten Island Ferry (there were earlier ferries but they predated the consolidation of the city) informs much of fall at the **Staten Island Museum**, where an anniversary exhibition "Staten Island Ferry: The First 100 Years." has been developed. "Griselda Healy: Images From the Staten Ferry" opens Sept. 9.

At **Snug Harbor's Newhouse Center for Contemporary Art**, "Sylvia Sleight: Portraits" concludes early next month, followed by portrait paintings of a different ilk since the subjects are performers in the Coney Island Sideshow. The featured artist, **Marie Roberts**, paints banners that are part icon, part showcard.

Sculptor **Janice Patrignani**, who works in clay, opens the season with "Sound Waves" at the **Art Lab**. Her one-woman show continues through the end of this month. In the **Visitors Center** at Snug Harbor (the old Building C) look for a new exhibition by **George Way**, the Silver Lake-based collector of Dutch and English 16th and 17th-Century art and furniture.

THEATER/DANCE

Shakespeare's all over the local boards in one guise or another. "West Side Story," that New Yorkified "Romeo

and Juliet" launches the **Wagner College Theater** season on Sept. 28. (The most appetizing season in years, it continues with "You Can't Take It With You," "Into the Woods" and "Hair!")

Then, the following night (Sept. 29), catch all of Shakespeare — sort of — with "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)" a motor-mouth romp that was a hit in London. It's at the College of Staten Island's Center for the Arts.

The **St. George Theatre** is booking all sorts of things, from this past summer's "Beatlemania Now" to **Don "American Pie" McLean** on Oct. 14. (see StGeorgeTheatre.com for more).

Sea View Playwrights will open an evening of one-acts by **William Inge** and **Tennessee Williams** on Oct. 7. Call (718) 351-6147 for information.

The very much invigorated performing arts program at Snug Harbor will mount "The Mystery of Edwin Drood" (Oct. 14-23) with more **Dickens** to come in an ambitious winter ("A Christmas Carol") festival. Look for another edition of ferry plays in the new year from **Sundog Theater**.

Staten Island Ballet's "Nutcracker" will dance its fantastic Tchaikovsky magic

Dec. 16-18 at the Staten Island's Center for the Arts. **Alvin Ailey** apprentice ensemble **Ailey America Theater**, comes to the George Theater Oct.

OTHER GENRES

Words: Staten Island. **LOUD**, the spoken-word community activists, will Sept. 11 weekend Sept. 11 weekend Sept. 11 p.m. with "A F Word," a performance will combine the baritone **Anthony** choreographer **Mimi** and violinist **Sanrow**.

FESTIVALS, FUNDS

The small **Marchais Museum of Art** has a problem of being too big for its size. Much of the annual Tibetan festival music, chanting and things to buy — will be at the Church of St. in nearby Richmond with shuttles taking back and forth to the

The **John A. Noble Time Museum** will have a most lavish sale of local artists, will Nov. 18. Visit www.time.org for more information.

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