

# MARQUÉE Chandler!



photo by Bob Eddy/First Light Studios

Sell-out crowds attended *The Sound of Music* over the July 4th weekend (see more below)

## Spotlight on 2008—year in review

- Last winter was not for the faint of heart! One of the snowiest winters in recent memory presented challenges on every performance night last winter. Still, hearty patrons braved snow and ice and enjoyed sell-out performances by Arlo Guthrie and Natalie MacMaster last February.

- In the final performance of music commissioned in celebration of Chandler's centennial, the Chiara String Quartet premiered *String Quartet #2* by Erik Nielsen. Later in the program cellist Norman Fischer, father of first violinist Rebecca Fischer, joined the

quartet in a stellar performance of Schubert's *String Quartet in C*.

- Chandler's ambitious Centennial Project got a big boost with the announcement of a \$200,000 challenge grant from Jane's Trust (see article page 3).

- More than 120 youth representing 27 area schools presented *The Sound of Music* to sell-out crowds over the July 4th weekend, celebrating the 10th anniversary of this annual tradition.

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## New website unveiled—tickets available online!

We're pleased to announce the launch of our newly redesigned website: [www.chandler-arts.org](http://www.chandler-arts.org). Chandler staff and volunteers worked closely with Pam Knights Communications and Raven Isle Enterprises to develop a vibrant new site with online ticket purchasing capabilities, in-depth program and organizational information, and increased functionality.

[www.tickets@chandler-arts.org](mailto:www.tickets@chandler-arts.org)

Concurrent with the website launch is the installation of new ticketing software that will also support Chandler's fundraising efforts. These projects have received significant support from a grant award from the Vermont Community Foundation and a Technical Assistance Grant from the Vermont Arts Council which is funded by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Vermont State Legislature.

Celebrate Robert Burns's Birthday with Iain MacHarg & Friends!



Warm a winter's night with piper extraordinaire Iain MacHarg and guests Mary Fran Stafford, Aron Garceau and Dan Houghton. The Travelin' Willy Bs will cater a pre-concert dinner at 6:00 p.m. in Chandler's Upper Gallery. The dinner will feature a delicious Scottish menu and a dramatic reading of Burns's "Ode to a Haggis". The dinner/concert package is available for \$37. Limited seating. *See back page.*

## Auditions!

**Mini Mud auditions** for youth ages 18 and younger:  
Tuesday & Wednesday  
February 10 & 11  
*Performance at 7:00 p.m.*  
*Saturday, March 7*

## 15th annual Mud Season Variety Show!

Auditions:  
Wednesday & Thursday  
March 11 & 12  
*Performances at 7:30 p.m.*  
*Friday & Saturday,*  
*April 17 & 18*

## "The Next Generation"

Auditions for serious music and dance students:  
Wednesday, March 18  
*Performance on Friday, May 1*

## 2008 Youth Musical – The King and I

Audition: Sunday, March 22  
*Performances July 2 through 5*

Contact Betsy Cantlin, 728-9878  
[outreach@chandler-arts.org](mailto:outreach@chandler-arts.org)

**Spotlight**

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- Chandler's 16th annual New World Festival attracted record crowds despite record-high gas prices. It continues to grow as one of the premier small festivals in the region, recognized for its devotion to keeping vital traditions alive for future generations, and was designated

Tim Calabroy/First Light Studios



once again by the Vermont Chamber of Commerce as a Top Ten Event in 2008. The 2009 Festival has earned that distinction as well, and has also been recognized as a Lake Champlain Quadricentennial Event.

- Chandler's Daytime Performance Series (formerly Arts in the School series) received a \$5000 grant from the Vermont Arts Council to support a low-cost series of performances and related arts education activities for youth and senior citizens.

- Thirty area youth presented performances of "Seeds and Stones", an original production under the direction of Patty Akley Warlick and Spencer Lewis.

- On November 15, The Avett Brothers took Chandler Music Hall by storm. Patrons came from every New England state, from parts of Canada, and especially from colleges throughout the Northeast to see this young "grungegrass" band that seems destined for stardom. The band, in turn, was taken by their experience at Chandler. Scott Avett remarked in the artist guest book, "OK, so we love your place."

- In December Chandler launched a dramatically improved new website (see article page 1).



Cherryholmes performs award-winning bluegrass at Chandler in March 2009

## Coming this Spring to Chandler!

Mark your calendars for these great performance opportunities!

### **Coyote Tales, Saturday, March 14 at 11 a.m.**

Paulette Staats will be directing a small adult cast in a performance for children in Chandler's upper gallery.

### **Cherryholmes, Friday, March 27 at 7:30 p.m.**

Before April 1999 this dynamic family band didn't exist, and half its young members hadn't even picked up an instrument. Just five years later, the high energy Nashville-based band was named IBMA's Entertainer of the Year. Now multiple award winners and regular performers at the Grand Ole Opry, their live shows include twin fiddles, Irish step dancing, classic country yodeling, and old-time clawhammer banjo in addition to their dynamic bluegrass.

### **Jesse Cook, Saturday, April 4 at 7:30 p.m.**

An international phenomenon, Canadian Nuevo flamenco guitarist Jesse Cook has garnered awards and critical acclaim. The Toronto-based artist's Latin-jazz fusion has been featured in two Olympic Games and on HBO's hit series, *Sex and the City*.

## Creating a creative community at Chandler Gallery

Put Chandler Gallery on your list of winter activities! There are many opportunities to share your creative endeavors or to view and reflect on the work of others at Chandler!

On exhibit through February 1st is "White: explorations in color and form". Artists have submitted creative interpretations based on their concept of White. When the January landscape is looking a bit monochromatic and daunting, join us for an invigorating view.

"Art Fits Randolph" offers another opportunity to get involved in the creative process. In March Chandler

Gallery will be exhibiting imaginative puzzle pieces as part of the statewide community art project created by the Vermont Arts Council. The pieces are all interlocking to symbolize the strong creative community we have in our state.

Chandler's annual Local Artists Show in April is a popular exhibit with an open call to artists to exhibit their favorite creative endeavors from the past year.

We invite you to join us. Contact Betsy Cantlin at Chandler if you are interested, 728-9878 or outreach@chandler-arts.org.

## A Centennial Project Update— Sharing good news

We have great news about Chandler's Centennial renovation and expansion project which will bring the now 101-year-old Music Hall and Gallery up to safety and accessibility codes; add much-needed restrooms; modernize our presentation facilities for performers and technicians; and create additional downtown spaces for community use.

We are delighted to report that with help from donors across the region and from all over the country, we met the \$200,000 Jane's Trust Challenge! Between June 1st when the Challenge period opened and its close on December 31st, \$325,000 was given or pledged toward the Challenge by 450 businesses and individuals, couples, and families. Jane's Trust will now grant \$200,000 toward the project!

Total commitments to Centennial project funding, including the unprecedented \$750,000 bond that Randolph voters approved in March 2007, now stand at \$2.7 million.

In light of the current financial climate, our technical and planning teams studied the larger components of project design and found that costs could be reduced without compromising project objectives. The teams identified simpler, less-expensive ways to construct the foundation for the addition and to build a stage super-structure to support modern theatrical rigging and lighting. These cost savings will allow us to incorporate additional efficiency improvements, including a foam seal around the interior of the basement foundation and more insulation in the attic over the Music Hall, as well as strengthening roof trusses to support the snow load, all of which will lower our future heating costs.

In January 2006 the project was estimated to cost \$4 million, with a \$1-million adjustment for

materials inflation for a total project cost of \$5 million. We asked the professional cost estimator who analyzed the original design to estimate the revised design in today's construction environment. The high inflation rate in materials prices that was a concern in 2006 has reversed itself, and contractors are likely to be eager for work next spring. The revised total project cost is \$3.7 million. With this in mind, the Chandler Board at its November meeting formally authorized our team of architects and engineers to develop bidding documents and take the project to bid in March. The Board also reaffirmed its plans to break ground in spring 2009 if the bids come in near the estimate and targets for additional income are met.

If all works out well, we hope many Chandler friends and supporters will join Governor Douglas for the celebratory ground-breaking late this spring.

With only \$1 million more to go to fully fund the Centennial Project, the Chandler team is really excited about how close we are to "being what we can be": your regional arts center, better serving people of every age and income level throughout Central Vermont and

the Upper Valley in a fully accessible building brought up to code, with bathrooms for all, facilities which artists from 9 to 90 can revel in, and attractive spaces which will meet a variety of community needs.

Please join the Chandler team: visit [www.chandler-arts.org](http://www.chandler-arts.org) or call the Campaign Office at (802) 728-9878 to make your donation.



The Centennial Project kickoff attended by (l to r) Becky McMeekin, Laura Morris, Mrs. Dorothy Douglas, Tim Branstetter, Governor Jim Douglas, Janet Watton, Sharon Rives, Wink Willett, Linda Morse, and Emily Seiffert.

photo by Bob Eddy/First Light Studios

### New Art for Centennial Project

Last summer a committee of Chandler board members, community members and artists, and moderated by the Vermont Art Council's executive director, Alex Aldrich, convened to study ten finalists' proposals in Chandler's centennial art commission project. The panel was faced with a tremendously difficult choice.

Ultimately the panel decided to fund two proposals, a series of slate panels by Elizabeth Billings and Andrea Wasserman, and a stained glass window by Phil Godenschwager that will grace one of the arched windows at the building's front.

# Chandler! MARQUEE 2009

## **Celtic Music with Iain MacHarg & Friends**

Friday, January 23, 7:30 p.m.

The bagpipe extraordinaire is joined by special guests Mary Fran Stafford on Celtic harp, guitarist Aron Garceau, and Dan Houghton of Cantrip fame on Scottish pipes, flute and bouzuoki.

## **The Calder Quartet • Saturday, January 31, 7:30 p.m.**

The young quartet continues to garner accolades, exploring and pushing the boundaries of chamber music with a keen acumen for combining the best of the traditional and the avant-garde.

## **Mini Mud • Saturday, March 7, 7:00 p.m.**

Young performers strut their stuff in front of their families, friends and neighbors.

## **Simone Dinnerstein • Sunday, March 8, 7:30 p.m.**

The acclaimed pianist presents a solo recital featuring the music of Bach, Schumann, Webern and Phillip Lasser.

## **Celtic Crossroads • Sunday, March 15, 7:00 p.m.**

Critically acclaimed as one of the best live music concerts to come from Ireland in over 20 years.

## **Cherryholmes • Friday, March 27, 7:30 p.m.**

Nominated for two Grammys at this year's Grammy Awards, this family band embodies the American Bluegrass dream.

## **Jesse Cook • Saturday, April 4, 7:30 p.m.**

Passionate guitar work, Intoxicating rumba flamenco, and smoldering on-stage charisma.

## **Mud Season Variety Show**

Friday & Saturday, April 17 & 18, 7:30 p.m.

Chandler's Mud Season Variety Show is a vibrant tradition, often emulated by other communities, but never surpassed.

## **"The Next Generation" • Friday, May 1, 7:30 p.m.**

A showcase of exceptional young talent presented by serious students of classical, folk, or traditional vocal and instrumental music or dance.

## **Cheryl Wheeler & Catie Curtis**

Friday, May 8, 7:30 p.m.

Two gifted singer-songwriters on a double-bill.

**Chandler box office: call 802.728.6464**

*Order your tickets online: [www.tickets@chandler-arts.org](http://www.tickets@chandler-arts.org)*

# Chandler!

Where the arts & community meet

71-73 Main Street  
Randolph, Vermont 05060

*Physically Accessible*

**THANK YOU**  
to all of you who,  
as contributors and patrons,  
keep making our  
programs possible.  
We couldn't do it without you!

Cut out this handy schedule to order your tickets today!