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FLY Dance Co. THE GENTLEMAN OF HIP HOP

Brown to Michael Jackson — a variety of music."

Known as the "Gentlemen of Hip-Hop," Fly Dance Company features an all-male dance crew mixing it up with bits of athletic movements, vaudeville and even some comedy influenced from the Marx Brothers.

CVC (3 DIGIT CODE ON BACK OF CARD)

BILLING ADDRESS SAME AS ABOVE? \_\_ Yes \_\_ No

"It will be more than they expect to see," said Jorge Casco, FLY's executive director, in an interview from his home in Texas. "They might be expecting to see a hip-hop dance company dancing to hip-hop music, but it's more than that."

"You're going to see some slapstick comedy," Casco said. "And you'll see one guy spinning on his head for a very long time. We dance to music by Nat King Cole to James

education programs across the County, artist promotion via print ART magazine and online campaigns, free artist webpages, artist resources, professional development and artist networking

Support of ARTS AND COMMUNITY

**ORGANIZATIONS** through promotion across North Central Washington, free webpages, a new resource center in Twisp, 20-page printed ART Magazine with 3,500 mailed copies to subscribers, training/consultation for organizations (marketing, capacity building, funding sources, grant writing and more), vigorous advocacy and leadership.

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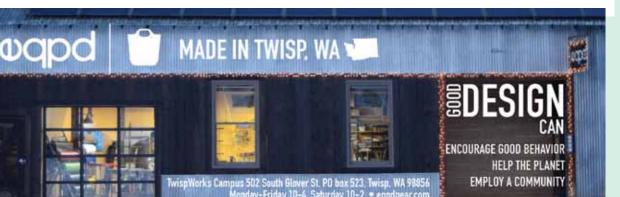












**METHOW** Methow Arts Alliance

109 Second Avenue, PO Box 723 Twisp, WA 98856

MAGAZINE connects audiences with the work of our many resident and visiting artists and the organizations that provide a breadth of arts programming. Our magazine is a celebration of the vision, genius and creativity that abound in the Methow Valley and beyond. Please become a member of our organization to receive a copy and we will mail you a copy quarterly. Thank you for supporting a diverse and plentiful arts community.

METHOW ARTS ALLIANCE is a non profit organization founded in 1983 that enriches the lives of our community through a variety of diverse art programs throughout NCW.

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Published and designed by Methow Arts Alliance info@methowartsalliance.org - 509.997.4004

**FEATURE PHOTOGRAPHY: Sol Gutierrez** 

**FEATURE ARTICLE:** 

Marcy Stamper

**CONTRIBUTORS** 



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**DESIGN/LAYOUT/EDITING**: Methow Arts Alliance Subscribe: info@methowartsalliance.org

www.MethowArts.org #accesstoimagination #methowarts Casco considers the movements to be universal. "If you take the music away and put some hip-hop music behind it, it's more hip-hop than hip-hop itself," he said. "We try to present our concert in a way that's acceptable to everybody, from 8 years old to 80." "With formal ballet, they are very strict on where your positions should be," he said. "First position, second position. We respect that and it's a very hard discipline. With hip-hop, it's the opposite of that. It's sort of

what modern is to ballet. With us, it's all about the feeling and how the music moves you."

Like all dancers, performers of Fly Dance use technique and movement vocabulary. "But it's like a raw essence of it," Casco said. "If you're conditioned to move in a certain way, it's hard to find that natural, raw look. For somebody who doesn't have a lot of experience and gets into the groove of hip hop or house or break dancing, there's an ascetic of dancing that you lose if you come with a dancer's background." Casco

constantly encourages his dancers to find new ways to express themselves. "If they do a move this week, they don't want to do the same move next week," he said. "There's a foundation that everyone builds off of, but then we want to keep evolving the movement. You want to create your own step. Originality is something that our artists really crave because you don't want to dance like another guy." That leads the dancers to always search for an individual style, including bits of acting, personality and other aspects.

"Come with an open mind," Casco said. "If you have any stereotypes on what hip hop is, we're going to shatter all of that. We want to let the audience know that you won't be offended. You'll be at the edge of your seat."

DATE: Sat, Feb 9, 7pm, 2019. LOCATION: Winthrop Barn, Winthrop, WA. TICKETS: \$25/reserved, \$10/kids, \$16/adults, \$19/adults at door. brownpapertickets.com, Methow Arts office in Twisp, WA and Riverside Printing in Winthrop, WA.



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Happy Holidays! ~Methow Arts

## calendar

**EVENTS/CLASSES/EXHIBITS** 

## december

#### Something for Everyone:

The Holiday Gift Show Through Jan 3

Holiday art and gifts. See article pg. 6. At Winthrop Gallery, 237 Riverside Ave, 509.996.3925, winthropgallery.com

#### **Mistletoe Madness**

Thurs, Dec 6, 4-7pm Shop in Twisp. Discounts, warming fires, sleigh rides and santa. All around Twisp, WA.

#### **Gear Up for the Holidays**

Thurs, Dec 6, 4-7pm Music. Food. Holiday Cheer. Shop local at the TwispWorks Studios. Article pg. 6. twispworks.org, 509-997-3300.

#### **A Seussified Christmas Carol**

Dec 7-16, Thurs-Sat 7pm; Sun, 2pm \$16-\$18 adults, \$5-\$7 youth. See article pg. 7. The Merc Playhouse, Twisp, WA. mercplayhouse. org, 509-997-7529

#### Sip & Shop at Confluence Gallery

Dec 8, 4-7pm Confluence Gallery, Twisp. confluencegallery.com,

#### Valley Goods Gift Shoop & Holiday Emporium

Dec 7-24. Grand opening Dec 6, 4-7pm Inspired gift giving on the TwispWorks Campus. Article pg. 8. TwispWorks campus, building #9.



(Featured artist Danbert Nobacon, ART magazine cover, 2013.)

**Annual Cascadia Holiday Concert** 

Two nights of live music with Cascadia's Chorale

Methow Valley Community Center, Twisp, WA.

anuary

Tamera Abate, The Nature of Things.

Sun, Dec 16, 6:30pm; Mon, Dec 17, 4pm

**Watercolor Open Studio: Paula Christen** 

mercplayhouse.org, 509-997-7529

Dec 22 and 23, 11am-5pm

A Reader's Theater Production:

Love, Loss and What I Wore

house.org, 509-997-7529

WA. paulachristen.com

Jan 11 and 12, 7pm

**Auditions for Charlotte's Web** 

Exhibit Curator, Theresa Miller. Community Gallery:

Confluence Gallery, Twisp. confluencegallery.com,

A Tom Zbyszewski Children's Theater Production

Children ages 8 and up invited to audition. See

article pg. 12. The Merc Playhouse, Twisp, WA.

Paula Christen Studio, 447 Wister Way, Winthrop,

\$10/adult, free/youth 18 and under. See article

pg. 15. The Merc Playhouse, Twisp, WA. mercplay-

and Pipestone Orchestra. See article pg. 7.

Dec 11, 12

cascadiamusic.org

**Cabin Couture** 

Through Jan 5

509-997-2787

#### **Weathering Change**

Jan 12- Feb 23; Opening reception Jan 12, 5-7pm Exhibit Curator: Caryl Campbell. Community Gallery: Michael Azzano. See article pg. 18. Confluence Gallery, Twisp. confluencegallery.com, 509-997-2787

#### **Third Annual William Stafford Birthday Reading** Wed, Jan 16, 7pm

Local students, poets read in celebration of William Stafford. Article pg 14. At Confluence Gallery, Twisp, WA. Info, cindy@grito-poetry.com, methowarts.org

#### **Watercolor Open Studio: Paula Christen**

Jan 19 and 20, 11am-5pm Paula Christen Studio, 447 Wister Way, Winthrop, WA. paulachristen.com

## february

#### **Wayne Horvitz in Concert**

509-997-7529

Sat, Feb 2, 7pm Composer, pianist, electronic musician. See article pg 19. The Merc Playhouse, Twisp, WA. www. cascadiamusic.org

#### A Reader's Theater Production: The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time

Feb 8 and 9, 7pm \$10/adult, free/youth 18 and under. The Merc Playhouse, Twisp, WA. mercplayhouse.org,

#### **FLY Dance Company**

Sat, Feb 9, 7pm.

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All-male hip hop dance company from Houston integrates a variety of modern music and genres. See article pg. 3. info@methowartsalliance.org, at The Barn, Winthrop, WA. methowarts.org/FLY-

#### **Watercolor Open Studio: Paula Christen**

Feb 16 and 17, 11am-5pm Paula Christen Studio, 447 Wister Way, Winthrop, WA. paulachristen.com

## march

#### **Seamus Egan with Moira Smiley**

Fri, Mar 1, 7pm

Legendary artist and founder of SOLAS, Seamus Egan brings Irish and Americana music to Winthrop. Methow Valley-favorite Moira Smiley joins the tour. See article pg. 20. info@methowartsalliance.org, At The Barn, Winthrop, WA. methowarts.org/seamus-egan-project/

#### Art and Jewelry Show at Culler Studio

Mar 15, 3-8pm; Mar 16, 10-5pm. Join Grace Ashford and Sara Ashford on the Twisp-Works Campus. See article pg. 9. TwispWorks, 502 S. Glover Street, Twisp, WA. 509-997-3300

#### The Hunts

Sat, Mar 23, 7pm

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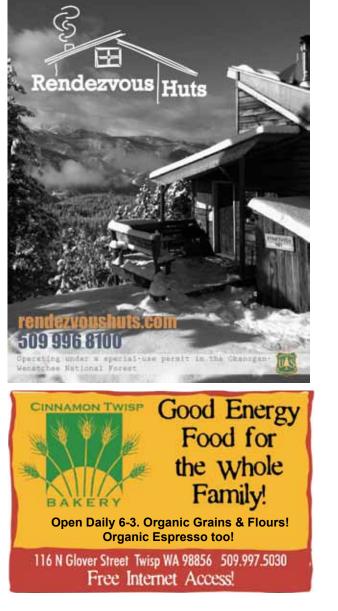
Indie-alternative-folk band from Virginia, made up of 7 brothers and sisters. See article pg. 20. Tickets on sale. At The Barn, Winthrop, WA. methowarts. org/the-hunts/

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## Reflected Light Photography

events, dogs, fine art photos by Teri J Pieper member of The Winthrop Gallery www.teripieper.com

tjpieper@gmail.com | 509.630.6224







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## Something for Everyone: The Holiday Gift Show

The artists of the Winthrop Gallery cooperative have created gifts for everyone on your list. From jewelry and ceramics to scarves and hats, be sure to check out the selection at their gift show. In addition to offerings from cooperative member artists, there's a carefully juried and selected group of guest artists to choose from.

DATES: Nov 14-Jan 3. LOCATION: The Winthrop Gallery, 237 Riverside, Winthrop, WA. HOURS: fall/winter, daily 10am to 5pm, Thurs-Mon.; closed on Tues and Wed. INFO: 509-996-3925, winthropgallery.com.



(Winthrop Gallery's Gift Show brings a variety of locally crafted artwork. Clockwise from top left: Winter Calls, Paula Christen; Scarf, Susan Snover; Winter Aspens, Patty Yates.)











## Gear Up for the Holidays @ TwispWorks

Mark your calendars for Thursday, December 6th from 4-7pm and get on down to Gear Up for the Holidays @ TwispWorks! Shop and visit with local artists at the studios of TwispWorks partners and fill your sack with for local, unique holiday gifts and Methow Made products at the grand opening of Valley Goods - the magical holiday gift emporium in Your Space@TwispWorks.

Get a winter-time FORK fix. Steve and Nancy of the iconic Fork food truck will be operating a pop-up restaurant out of Kathy B's Kitchen. Plus, live music throughout the campus and tasty adult libations at the OSB Taproom.

A horse drawn carriage will be running from the TwispWorks campus to stops on Glover Street and beyond so you can enjoy all the fun of Mistletoe Madness in Twisp and support your local artists, shops and businesses this holiday season.

DATE: Thurs, Dec 6, 4-7pm. LOCATION: TwispWorks. INFO: www.twispworks.org, 509-997-3300









FEATURING THE GALLERY

Enjoy stunning panoramic views of the Methow Valley, amazing food and wine, beautiful rooms, fabulous service, soothing spa treatments, and activities for everyone. Plus, experience AAA Four Diamond award-winning fine dining featuring fresh, local, and regional ingredients, and a fabulous wine cellar. Sun Mountain Lodge is perfect for weddings, groups and meetings too!

While you're here, visit **The Gallery**, showcasing the best of local artists. Call the Gift Shop for details at 800-572-0493 or 509-996-2211.

Luxurious Rooms Romantic Getaway Fine Dining XC Skiing The Gallery Snowshoeing

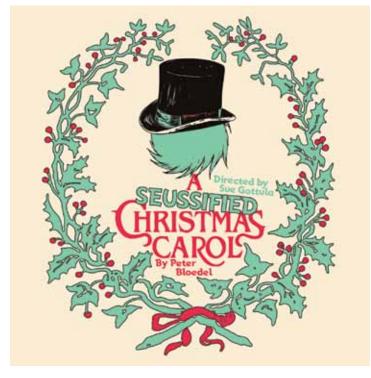
604 Patterson Lake Road, Winthrop, WA 98862 | 800.572.0493 | sunmountainlodge.com

[THE MERC PLAYHOUSE]

## A Seussified Christmas Carol

This holiday season, come enjoy a whimsical mash-up of Dickens' most beloved Christmas story---with a few Seuss-style characters thrown in. From zoot-fruited juices and binka bird geese to Bed-Headed Fred and Timmy Loo Hoo, this tale of holiday cheer is similar to something Dr. Seuss might have come up with if he had his way with the story! Directed by Sue Gottula, this all-local cast of characters is sure to charm audiences and get folks of all ages into the holiday spirit.

DATES: Dec 7-16, Fri-Sun, 7pm; Sun, 2pm; Thurs, Dec 13 is Pay What You Can Night at 7pm. TICKETS: \$5-\$7/children; \$16-\$18/adults. Purchase at mercplayhouse.org or at the door. Doors open 30 minutes prior to show time. LOCATION: The Merc Playhouse, Twisp, WA. INFO: 509-997-7529







[CASCADIA MUSIC]

## **Annual Holiday** Concerts

Cascadia Chorale and Pipestone Orchestra join forces again to Celebrate the Holiday Spirit this year, with beloved favorites and some lesser known pieces with a 20th Century Theme. Save the dates so you can join us in a Winter Wonderland of Holiday Fun. Cascadia Chorale, conducted by Dana Stromberger and the Pipestone Orchestra, Matthew Erik Armbrust conducting.

DATES: December 11 and 12, 7pm. LOCATION: Methow Valley Community Center, Twisp. INFO/CONTACT: For more information, or for reserved seating, cascadiamv@gmail.com







Laura Aspenwall Ouzel Glassworks 227 Wolf Creek Road, Winthrop (509) 996-3316 www.ouzelglass.com







## Valley Goods Gift Shop and Holiday Emporium

Inspired gift giving is easy at Valley Goods, the pop-up holiday gift shop celebrating its grand opening on December 6th during Gear Up @ TwispWorks.

From December 6th through December 24th you can find the best of the Methow Valley's bounty all in one place! Featuring goodies from over thirty local vendors and staffed by local artists, Valley Goods is sure to make ticking off your holiday gift list a treat this season.

Valley Goods is brought to you by Methow Made, a marketing program that gives Methow Valley artists, makers, producers and micro-manufacturers exposure to customers who love the Methow Valley and want to support our local economy.

DATES: Mon-Fri. Dec 7-24, 11-6:30pm, and Sat and Sun. 11-3pm, Grand Opening. Thurs, Dec 6, 4-7pm. LOCATION: TwispWorks campus, building #9. INFO: www. twispworks.org

#### [WINTHROP GALLERY]

## Marcia Ives: The Heat of the Kiln

The Winthrop Gallery cooperative welcomes Marcia Ives, a new ceramic artist

Ives is an innovative potter—not totally experimental, although there is much experimentation in her process—and not quite a production potter either. She often creates a line of pottery if she likes what the kiln has revealed. Her productions vary from dark, almost encrusted bowls and platters alive with bicycles, wheat heads or abstract patterns, or light pottery drinking glasses and bowls with swirling blue glazes. She uses porcelain and Oregon red (terra cotta) with design inspirations from patterns she creates or finds in nature.

"The best part about being a potter," Ives explains, "is opening the kiln." She experiences both excitement and anxiety in seeing what happened to her creations during the heat of the kiln cycle.

Ives began making pottery in earnest about nine years ago, after she took a class at the Kirkland Art Center. She had made pottery before, when she was in her twenties and thirties. She always knew she would go back to it. She took her first pottery class at Whitefish Mountain Community College in Montana.

She recently visited a friend who took that original class with her, and her friend showed her a butter dish that Marcia made back then in that first class about 30 years ago. Ives saved her original potting tools through 27 moves. These original tools are now put to work in her newly built studio next to her home.

LOCATION: The Winthrop Gallery, 237 Riverside, Winthrop, WA. HOURS: fall/winter, daily 10am to 5pm, Thurs-Mon; closed on Tues and Wed. INFO/CONTACT: 509-996-3925, www.winthropgallery.com.





(Marcia Ives, a new ceramic artist, is the Winthro Gallery's newest member artist. Visit the Gallery to view her pottery in Winthrop.)

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# SHOP LOCAL AT THE TWISPWORKS STUDIOS **GRAND OPENING OF VALLEY GOODS GIFT EMPORIUM**

## Art and Jewelry Show at Culler Studio

Join Grace Ashford and Sara Ashford at Culler Studio on the TwispWorks Campus for a first look at new work, light refreshments and to try on new pieces.

Sara's paintings and wearable art celebrate the colors of the world by highlighting the natural color palette of the Methow Valley. She uses earth pigments, locally grown plant dyes and natural ochers to bring the beautiful colors of nature to life in her work.

Grace creates unique mixed-metal jewelry inspired by nature, architecture and symbolism. Her work features intricate piercework; riveted layers of silver, copper and bronze, and the incorporation of precious and semi-precious stones.

DATES: Mar 15, 3pm-8pm; Mar 16, 10am-5pm. LOCATION: TwispWorks, 502 S. Glover Street, Twisp, WA. INFO/CONTACT: 509-997-3300, twispworks.org.







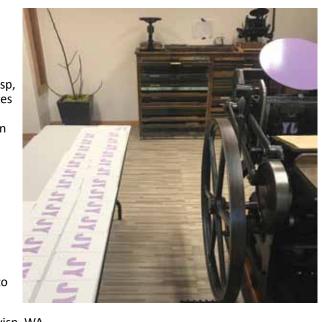
## New Studio Expands Art Destinations in Twisp

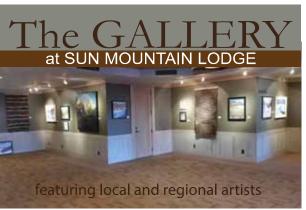
Robin Doggett invites the public to visit her new print and design studio located near the Methow Valley Community Center in Twisp, Washington. The studio, which opened in November, 2018, creates an additional destination for viewing local artwork in Twisp, as well as a place to purchase local, handmade items with a focus on stationery and printed work.

"I'm just getting settled, so I will have a few seasonal designs available for the holidays," says Doggett, "along with books, gift items and printed work made by other artists."

"I've focused on creating gift card designs that use antique metal type and images that originated from collections acquired from the old Lake Chelan Mirror and Quad City Herald newspaper businesses," says Doggett. "They have a wonderful, historic feel to

HOURS: 10am-4pm; Wed-Sat. LOCATION: 117 W. 2nd Avenue, Twisp, WA.



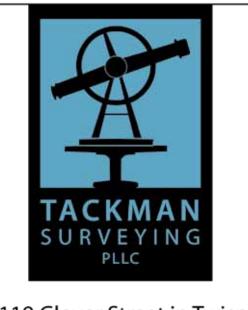




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# Peter Donahue Living History

#### By Marcy Stamper

PHOTOGRAPHS BY SOL GUTIERREZ

Peter Donahue writes about ordinary people — as he puts it, "people who have to live their lives under the pressure of big, historic forces." His characters — aspiring actors, old Merchant Marines, junkies — often struggle against these forces as they come to terms with their lives

But there's nothing ordinary about Donahue's prose. In his most recent book, Three Sides Water, Donahue writes about "a short fellow with stocky arms and legs and a chest like a pickle barrel that stretched his red suspenders. He had a dirty gray beard that looked like a tuft of tree lichen and wore a brown felt hat with a brim that extended out to his shoulders." Not only does the language capture the character, but it also evokes the story's moody setting on the Olympic Peninsula.

In an era where genre and fantasy fiction are so popular, Donahue calls himself "an unrepentant realist." His first novel, Madison House, is about the people who refused to move when the city of Seattle

reshaped its downtown by leveling the steep hill

near the waterfront, a project known as the Denny

Regrade. Donahue was struck by photos of isolated

houses perched atop miniature buttes, with all the

"They were called spite mounds," said Donahue.

Donahue was intrigued by these people and by what

surrounding land already excavated.

the regrade meant for the once thriving, working-class neighborhood. "I couldn't let it go."

Madison House is based on one of these holdouts, a woman who ran a boarding house, which Donahue populated with a microcosm of neighborhood

"What I like about historical fiction – at least the type I'm writing – is finding those gaps in the historical record. No one had written about the Denny Regrade. No one knew what was lost," he said.

Donahue's short-story collection, The Cornelius Arms, is based on the neighbors in his first apartment in downtown Seattle, at a time when you could still find a funky, rundown building with a great view of the Olympic Mountains. They were such characters that "there was not a lot of need to embellish," he said.

His books also weave in autobiographical elements and real historic figures. His second novel, Clara and Merritt. is a 'Romeo and Juliet' tale about

love between people from two powerful, feuding labor unions in Seattle during the Depression, the Teamsters and the Longshoremen. The characters are also loosely based on Donahue's parents, a union arbitrator and an illustrator.

Donahue's career as a writer has always been combined with teaching, inspired by a formative experience in his own life. "It's always been my thing, to write,"

said Donahue. "It starts with Don Delo, my ninth-grade English teacher. He set my head on fire with literature

Delo gave Donahue a notebook so he could keep a journal, a practice Donahue has continued – for 43 years. Delo also kept a wide variety of literature on a

bookshelf in the classroom, where Donahue discovered Northwest writers like Ken Kesey and Tom Robbins.

In fact, all Donahue wanted to do was read. At 15, he dropped out of high school. "The school wasn't doing it for me – it was too constrictive, too confining. I just wanted to read what I wanted to read – which was all good stuff," he said.

After dropping out, he made his first visit to Seattle with a friend. "I remember sitting under the viaduct in the rain, watching the ferries come and go. The city spoke to me," he said. Three years later, he filled his orange backpack and moved to Seattle.

Despite dropping out of high school, Donahue always wanted to go back to school. He studied literature and writing at Seattle Central Community College and then enrolled at the University of Washington, where he got encouragement for his fiction.

After graduation, he and his wife, Susan, moved to Virginia. Donahue got a master's degree and began publishing short stories. He followed that up with a PhD in literature and creative writing. They ended up spending more than two decades in the Southeast, in Oklahoma, East Texas, and Alabama.

Although they weren't Southerners, Donahue and his wife both thrived in Alabama. "It was a Southern odyssey, but I always wanted to come back to the Northwest," he said. When a teaching job at Wenatchee Valley College in Omak opened up nine years ago, it was the right time for a move. "One reason I came here to teach is because community college saved me," he said.

"Teaching goes hand in hand with writing," said Donahue. It all comes back to Don Delo and the influence a teacher can have on someone's life, he said. "It's rewarding. People start to discover they can articulate stuff that really matters."

Donahue admits that he's never far from his students' struggles. "The only difference is I've been doing it longer and have more tools," he said.

#### SERENDIPITY

Donahue's stories are characterized by a commanding sense of place, even though he often writes them at some remove from the setting. While he was in the Southeast, most of his writing still looked towards the opposite corner of the country.

The idea for one of the stories in Three Sides Water was planted when Donahue was visiting Rialto Beach on the Olympic Peninsula with his students from Alabama. A forest ranger casually mentioned a magician and mentalist who lived on the beach. "It just blew my mind – I knew I had to find out about this guy," said Donahue.

At Fort Worden in Port Townsend, Donahue stumbled across an unobtrusive plaque commemorating the period, from the late 1950s to early '70s, when the fort served as a juvenile-detention center. Donahue tracked down an oral history of staff at the facility and even ran into a former inmate. It grew into a story about a young man who served time there, and who, like Donahue, found salvation in reading.

The third story in Three Sides Water grew out of Donahue's interest in the old mill town of Shelton and in Bing Crosby, whose links to the Northwest have always fascinated him. The ideas converged in a character who moonlights as a Bing Crosby tribute singer.

Donahue conceived the book as a sort of trilogy representing the Olympic Peninsula. In fact, he saw the short novels that make up the book as peninsulas themselves – not really islands or mainland, and not entirely separate or attached.

The stories encompass three eras on the Peninsula – 1925, 1970, and 2015. "The more I worked with them as a group, the more they seemed to coalesce.

The characters are all looking back, reckoning with something, coming to terms, finding accountability, asserting independence to move on with their lives. They're coming-of-age stories," he said.

"Once I start to immerse myself in the project, the process becomes very generative," said Donahue. Donahue uses a working notebook to try out plot turns or have characters cross paths – and then to see where it leads.

"Sometimes it's more like diary writing," he said – a place to explore questions like "Why am I writing this? Who cares? Why do I care?"

#### CHAMPIONING NORTHWEST WRITERS

In addition to his own fiction, Donahue is committed to publicizing books – fiction, nonfiction memoirs, and poetry – by Northwest authors who have been eclipsed by history. "These writers recognized the intersection of landscape and history. They're all about place, but also history –which combined is very formative in Northwest identity," said Donahue.

"They're writers no one remembers, but they're damn good writers. I just feel their books need to be recognized," said Donahue. He set about doing that, first in a series of articles for the journal of the Washington State Historical Society. He told the editors he was confident he could find three or four writers worthy of attention. Ultimately, he featured 55. "It was one of the best projects of my life — I just kept discovering stuff," he said.

Donahue is now finishing a collection of his articles on of his best discoveries, with profiles of the writers, reappraisals of their books, and excerpts from those books. It has a tantalizing title adapted from one of the books – Salmon Eaters, Apple Knockers,

Sagebrushers, and Rain Worshippers: Washington's Lost Literary Legacy.

Donahue is also working on a collaboration with Robin Nelson Wicks, who taught art at Liberty Bell High School until last year. "Miscellaneous Friends" pairs Nelson Wicks' portraits with Donahue's written sketches of characters they invented independently – but that matched up seamlessly.

Several of the sketches have been published in the Los Angeles-based magazine Forth. Donahue and Nelson Wicks are working on 50 literary/art portraits for a book

As he wraps up these projects, Donahue is looking towards his next novel. He's nursing several ideas, including one about Okanogan County. "The county fascinates me – how big it is, how diverse it is. I imagine something that could capture this valley – with a historic but fantastical element," he said.

He's also contemplating a novel based on the life of one of the Washington authors he's profiled, an accomplished writer who was murdered by her second husband.

The stories could lead anywhere. "The more you write, the more ideas come to you – you never drain yourself," he said.

Donahue is the author of The Cornelius Arms, a short story collection; the novels Madison House and Clara and Merritt; and Three Sides Water, a collection of short novels. He is the co-editor of Seven Years on the Pacific Slope, a memoir by Mrs. Hugh Fraser about her life in the Methow Valley in the early 20th century; and of two literary anthologies, Reading Portland: The City in Prose and Reading Seattle: The City in Prose. Excerpts of his work are on his website at www.peterdonahue.org.









[THE MERC PLAYHOUSE]

# Announcing Auditions for Charlotte's Web

Adapted by Joseph Robinette

Based on the book by E.B. White

The Merc Playhouse is calling all young thespians ages eight and up. The Tom Zbyszewski Children's Theater at The Merc Playhouse announces auditions for the beloved children's classic, Charlotte's Web.

Director Jane Orme will coordinate auditions for parts for all of the characters recalled from the story: Wilbur, the irresistible young pig who desperately wants to avoid the butcher; Fern, a girl who understands what animals say to each other; Templeton, the gluttonous rat who can occasionally be talked into a good deed; the Zuckerman family; the Arables; and of course, the extraordinary spider, Charlotte.

A beautiful play about friendship, Charlotte's Web will give young actors an enriching opportunity on The Merc stage. No experience and no prepared readings necessary.

A beautiful play about friendship, Charlotte's Web will give young actors an enriching opportunity on The Merc stage. No experience and no prepared readings necessary Must be eight years old on or before December 16, 2018, in order to audition. Pages of script will be handed out at auditions. Bring your calendar to auditions and be prepared to list rehearsal conflicts. Rehearsals begin in early January and performances run March 15-24.

AUDITION DATES: Dec 16, 6:30pm; Dec 17, 4pm. LOCATION: The Merc Playhouse, Twisp, WA. INFO: 509-997-7529, info@mercplayhouse.org.

[WINTHROP GALLERY]

#### OVERCOMING ISOLATION AS AN ARTIST

Artists often spend many hours creating art in solitude, which can be relaxing and meditative, but after a few one-sided conversations in the studio with the dog or cat, an artist realizes how important it is to nourish relationships with fellow human beings.

Attending art openings at local galleries is one way to connect with fellow artists and art enthusiasts, as well as a chance to release your inner social butterfly and hone your "art-speak" skills, an essential skill if landing gallery representation is your path. Attending events presented by Methow Arts is another way to stay connected and experience diverse forms of art through dance, music and poetry.

Some artists attend art-related conferences or are involved with painting groups that meet regularly. Some participate in farmers markets, while others paint plein air in the park and enjoy conversations with curious people passing by. There are many ways to stay engaged, but almost all of them take some effort on the artist's part.



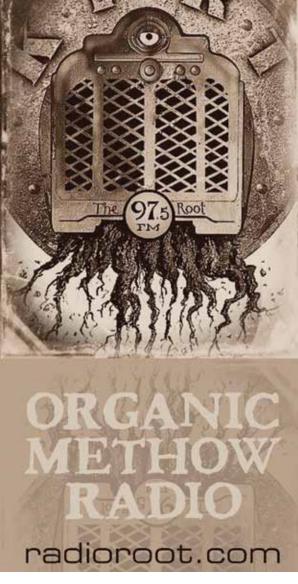
Working shifts in a co-op gallery provides the opportunity to strike up a friendly conversation with visitors. Artists often relish the opportunity to have a day in the studio now and then to talk about their art, the community or the weather.

Members of a co-op gallery have many opportunities to socialize and work as a team with fellow artists through committee meetings, planning sessions, brainstorming and preparing for exhibition openings. Most artists would agree that it's important to connect with others for their own well-being. That's why they make art: to express their emotions and feelings, and to tell a story. Story written by Winthrop Gallery, www.winthropgallery.com.



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AND MORE EVENT LISTINGS AT
METHOWARTS.ORG







Chamber Music Festival

Shifts to June

[METHOW VALLEY CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL]

After 23 years of providing chamber music at the peak of the summer, the Methow Valley Chamber Music Festival is switching to dates earlier in the season.

In 2019, the festival will run from June 20 to 29, taking advantage of the fresh air and flower-studded hillsides of early summer—and avoiding the chance of the smoke and fire danger that have plagued the festival in recent years.

Music lovers will still find the same impeccable musicianship and riveting programming they've come to expect. In 2019, there will be four Center Stage concerts in the Signal Hill barn, on Thursday and Saturday nights, plus many informal concerts around the valley over the course of the two weeks.

Everyone will still be invited to listen in on free open rehearsals every concert day, and to mingle with friends and the musicians on the festival grounds after each concert.

Artistic Director, Kevin Krentz, is programming a different group of musicians for each week, giving audiences a chance to experience a range of talents, and to benefit from individual artists' special interests and activities in the world of music. Some musicians, including Kevin and fellow cellist and composer Paul Wiancko, will be on hand for the entire festival

The festival has always counted on the generosity of community members to make it a success. Volunteers help with everything from setting up chairs and taking tickets, to housing musicians, to donating art for sale on the Art Wall during the concerts. Volunteers can also learn what goes on behind the scenes at a concert by helping out backstage.

The festival will feel the loss of long-time and tireless volunteer John Ehrenberg, who passed away in August after a brief battle with pancreatic cancer. John contributed in many ways—by serving on the board and as treasurer, by fundraising, and by his enthusiasm for bringing the best chamber music to the Methow Valley.

DATES/INFO: Tickets for the festival go on sale in April, 2019. Visit methowmusicfestival.org for information on volunteering, to buy tickets and to see detailed program and artist information as it becomes available.







("Almost Home II" Tamera Abate's solo show The Nature of Things will be featured in the Confluence Community Gallery through anuary 5.)

wax and heat."

[CONFLUENCE GALLERY]

# Tamera Abate Solo Show: The Nature of Things

The Confluence Gallery and Art Center will feature Tamera Abate's solo art show, The Nature of Things, in the Community Gallery.

Born and raised in Washington State, Abate settled and began working as an artist in Winthrop. She has been featured in several galleries, and her work is held in private collections around the world. She has also been published in books and magazines.

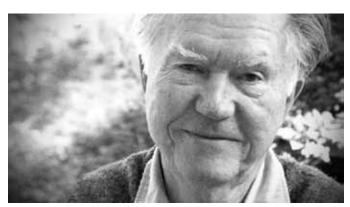
The Nature of Things highlights Abate's relationship with the natural world. "My subject matter is nature," she says. "Whether it's a landscape, seascape, a horse or a bird my paintings are about the beauty of the natural world and the way that I see myself moving through it. As I continue my examination of the interconnectedness of nature and art, I understand more deeply that the feeling of being fully connected to nature as well as expressing that feeling through art is essential to my wellbeing."

Though Abate works in many different mediums, The Nature of Things is an encaustic show. Encaustic is the process of combining beeswax, damar resin (tree sap) and pigment powder to create paintings on wood. Encaustic has been used for over 2,000 years, primarily in Egypt and Greece.

Abate says, "Each painting's manifestation is captured in the spontaneous dance and movement of liquid

DATES: Through Jan 5. Starting Dec 3, extended holiday hours: Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm. LOCATION: Confluence Gallery, 104 N Glover Street, Twisp, WA. INFO/CONTACT: 509-997-2787, confluencegallery.com.

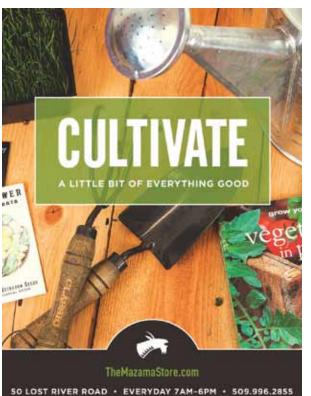
## Third-Annual William Stafford Birthday Reading



The Third-Annual William Stafford Birthday Reading will be held on Wednesday, January 16 at 7pm at the Confluence Gallery in Twisp. Featured readers include members of the Confluence Poets: Subhaga Crystal Bacon, Vicky Douxmont, Cindy Williams Gutiérrez, Christine Kendall, Kelleigh McMillan, Sam Owen, Hannah Viano, and Greg Wright, along with Liberty Bell High School students Lazo Gitchos and Leo Shaw. The featured readers will read one Stafford poem and a poem of their own inspired by the Stafford poem.

Following the featured readers, Amanda Jackson Mott, Executive Director of Methow Arts Alliance, will speak about the William Stafford Methow River Poems project which is currently under way to install more plaques inscribed with Stafford poems throughout the Valley. Audience members will also be invited to share their favorite Stafford poem or a personal story about William Stafford. Please join us in this communal tribute to poet William Stafford remembered for his deep connection to the land and his love of the Methow Valley. Bring your favorite Stafford poem or tale to share.

DATE: Wed, Jan 16, 7pm. LOCATION: Confluence Gallery, Twisp, WA. CONTACT: Cindy@grito-poetry.com







[THE MERC PLAYHOUSE]

## The Return of Reader's Theater

The Merc Playhouse is bringing back "reader's theater" productions to the 2019 season. Reader's theater is a scaled-down production in which cast members read from scripts onstage with no staging and minimal costumes or set, allowing an intimate look at the ideas and themes contained within the literature of a script. It provides the opportunity to work with plays that may have limitations like set requirements or high budget items that would typically hinder production at The Merc. With a much smaller rehearsal commitment, it brings actors and directors to the stage that may not ordinarily be able to participate.

In January there will be a direct a reading of Love, Loss and What I Wore by Nora Ephron and Delia Ephron, based on the book by Ilene Beckerman. Described by The New York Times as "a scrapbook of stories about unfortunate prom dresses, the traumatic lighting in fitting rooms, high heels, short skirts and the existential state of having nothing to wear," the comic—and sometimes sentimental—stories are accessorized by the mothers who disapprove, the men who disappear, and the sisters who've got your back.

In February, Missi Smith will direct a teen cast in a reading of The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time, based on the novel by Mark Haddon and adapted by Simon Stephens. A Tony Award winner, the play tells the story of 15-year-old Christopher who has an extraordinary brain. He is exceptionally intelligent but ill-equipped to interpret everyday life. When he falls under suspicion for killing his neighbor's dog, he sets out to identify the true culprit, which leads to an earth-shattering discovery and a journey that will change his life forever.

DATES: Love, Loss and What I Wore: Jan 11 and 12, 7pm; The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time: Feb 8 and 9, 7pm. TICKETS: \$10/adults; free/youth 18 and under. All seats are general admission and available at the door only. Doors open 30 minutes prior to show time. LOCATION: The Merc Playhouse, Twisp, WA. INFO: 509-997-7529, mercplayhouse.org.

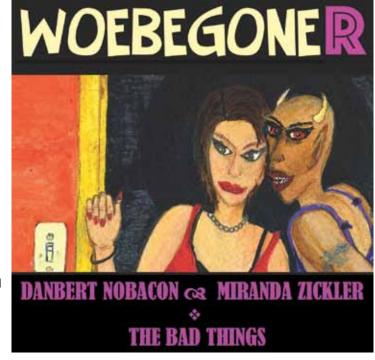
## NEW CD - WOEBEGONER

#### by Danbert Nobacon, Miranda Zickler and The Bad Things

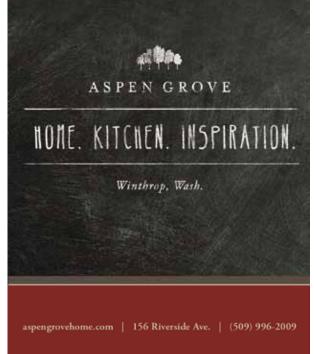
Woebegoner is a remixed and reimagined 2018 version of the original Woebegone album (2010). On the original album, Johnny Woebegone, played by Danbert Nobacon, was carrying shrapnel wedged in his vocal chords from a bomb blast that should have ended his life.

In the 2018 version, with the shrapnel finally removed, and his vocal chords nearly healed, Johnny teams up with the audacious Lilithiana Red (played by Kuinka's Miranda Zickler) to retell the first parts of their story of love, loss and time travel from the base point of the decaying world of the early- to mid-21st century; always under the watchful eye of the privatized intel "inner surveillance" team of Wade (played by Kira Wood Cramer) and Ross (played by Johnny Watson). The CD features musical support from Seattle's, The Bad Things, and studio magic by Mell Dettmer.

DATE: Coming December 2018 on Verbal Burlesque Records, Twisp, WA. CONTACT/INFO: danbertnobacon.com









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## artist spotlights .....

# Dan Brown:



## SHAPE AND MOTION

For an artist, finding inspiration in everything can be a bit of a problem. "You can only work so fast, and many ideas go unexplored before you finish what you are working on," says artist Dan Brown. Brown finds inspiration in many things, including, but not limited to: the seasons, fish, animals, the work of other artists, graffiti and color combinations.

However, Brown can pinpoint his biggest inspirations: shapes and movement. "Some objects just have pleasing shapes," he says, "and seeing them makes me want to use the shape." He's attracted to the juxtaposition of positive and negative spaces. "I love the idea that "nothing"—for example, a hole—can be as interesting as a positive object."

Brown, who frequently works with metal as his medium, always makes sure "there is beautiful motion" in his sculptures. "We are all meant to move, and nature is more interesting when it's moving," he says. Metal speaks to Brown, especially repurposed pieces. "For good or for bad, I can see something in almost all cast-off metal," he says. "Sometimes the vision and time work out perfectly and the work flows into creation."

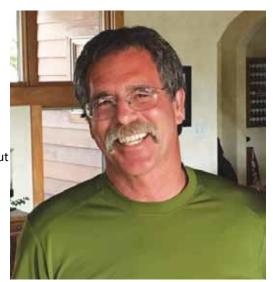
Working with metal, however, is not without its difficulties, especially when dealing with the large sculptural pieces Brown tends to create. Making a sculpture that, "can be displayed inside a gallery and then outside," is a challenge, he says.

"I make my work in pieces," he says, so it can fit inside the gallery door and underneath the ceiling. When pieces are sold, they are often installed as part of owners' landscaping. "Someone will find the perfect spot for it," Brown says, "and if they don't like it, I will like it in my yard."

A full-time middle and high school art teacher in the Okanogan County School District—and Washington State 2001 High School Art Teacher of the Year—Brown has guided many students to awards in regional and state art competitions in a variety of mediums. He's known for inspiring both independence and perseverance in his students.

"I think it's important to let the students have ownership of the assignments and don't let them stop working until they have made it the best they can," he says. "I give assignments, but encourage the students to put their own twist on it." As a working artist, Brown understands that much of creation is timing. "When a student is working on something that is very good, I let them finish it. I prefer a few excellent pieces completed in a quarter as opposed to 10 shoddy works," he says. "As a professional artist, I realize a school quarter isn't that long; it boils down to about one week of full-time work. It is easy to spend that much time on an artwork." Learn more about Dan Brown at www.danbrownartwork.com and methowarts.org/dan-brown2018





# Cheryl Wrangle:



## THE ARTS AS COMMON GROUND

Methow Valley artist, Cheryl Wrangle, sees the arts as a way to bring people and communities together. "We live in a divided world," Wrangle says. "Divisions are often encouraged. This keeps us from coming together when trying to solve problems and prevents our full appreciation of each other as the problems become more important than the people."

"In divided times," Wrangle says, "we find ourselves separated by ideas, words, opinions and beliefs, with no common ground."

But the arts, Wrangle believes, can bring people back together. "The arts are common ground, a place that welcomes—in fact champions—diversity," she says. "We can all enjoy the arts together and see that our common humanity is more important than our beliefs or opinions. We are all connected."

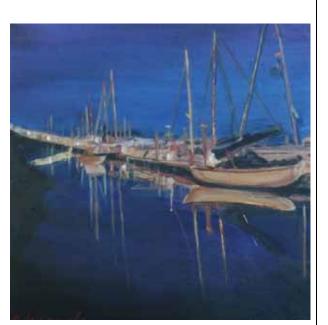
Like her assessment of the current socio-political climate, Wrangle's artwork is introspective and spiritual. Through her work, she aims to reveal the inner response we have when we view the material world. This inner response of "appreciation of beauty or horror at atrocity," says Wrangle, must be communicated with others, in order to "share a vision" and "challenge others to believe in and find their own equally valid inner knowledge and intuition."

As a former teaching artist for Methow Arts, Wrangle has spent many hours creating art with students. "Children are very connected to their vulnerable inner spirit," says Wrangle, but become disconnected from it by the material world. She believes that making and appreciating art can keep children connected to their "naturally creative, loving, trusting and self-respected selves."

"It's rewarding to teach art to kids," Wrangle says, "because they have so much to teach us about self-expression. The arts are a validating and encouraging antidote for kids to appreciate that inner life of feeling, creating, and valuing who they are."

Learn more about Cheryl Wrangle at www.methowarts.org/artists/Cheryl-Wrangle

(Artwork top, Marina by Cheryl Wrangle: Bottom, Morning Channel.)





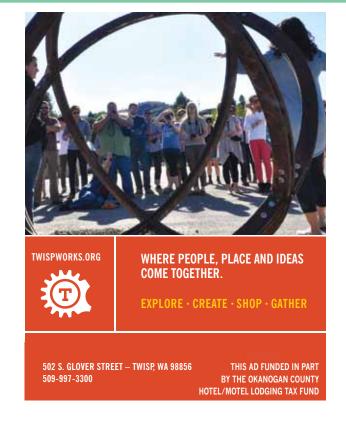
# The BARNYARD =CINEMA=

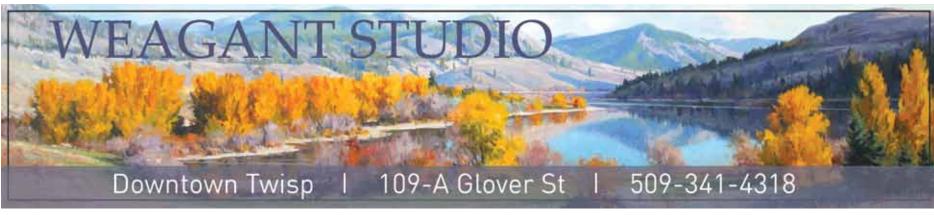
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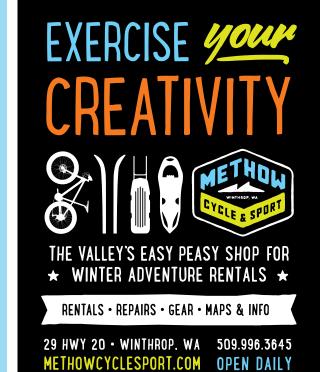




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### CONFLUENCE GALLERY EXHIBITS - JAN 12-FEB 23



### Michael Azzano in the Community Gallery

Michael Azzano will open his first a solo show in the Confluence Community Gallery on January 12.

Azzano is an artist living and working in Omak, Washington. While primarily a printmaker, Michael's work encompasses painting, drawing, sculpture and a variety of "mark making." Azzano's work has been showcased throughout Washington State and nationally; he holds a BFA from Washington State University.

DATES: Opening reception, Jan 12, 5pm-7pm. LOCATION: Confluence Gallery, 104 N. Glover Street, Twisp, WA. INFO/CONTACT: 509-997-2787, confluencegallery.com.

(Michael Azzano's solo show opens January 12 in the Confluence Community Gallery. Shown is Michael's collage "Untitled.")

## Weathering Change

Confluence Gallery opens its 2019 exhibit season with Weathering Change, an exhibit which addresses the physical and emotional tax that climate change has on humans.

As an artist and a scientist, show curator Caryl Campbell sees the opportunity for art to communicate the critical issue of climate change to the world. Campbell asked her artists to think about how to express their feelings about the changes they are experiencing.

"How do we adapt to our burned environment," Campbell wrote in her curator's statement, "of living with smoke for four months? How do we find hope and beauty in a destroyed environment? Is the world we see becoming a dystopia or are there areas where beauty lives on?"

These adaptive moments are the ones that Campbell wants to look at closely through the eyes of many artists. In the Methow Valley, we've experienced significant change over the last few years. "After another summer of heat, smoke, fire, drought and stress," says Campbell, "we can't pretend that we're not in a time of change."

DATES: Opening reception, Jan 12, 5pm-7pm. Exhibit: Jan 12-Feb 23. LOCATION: Confluence Gallery, 104 N Glover Street, Twisp, WA. INFO/CONTACT: 509-997-2787, confluencegallery.

(Curator Caryl Campbell (as shown in her work "Able Creek") asks how climate change affects the environment and psyche alike in her show Weathering Change.)



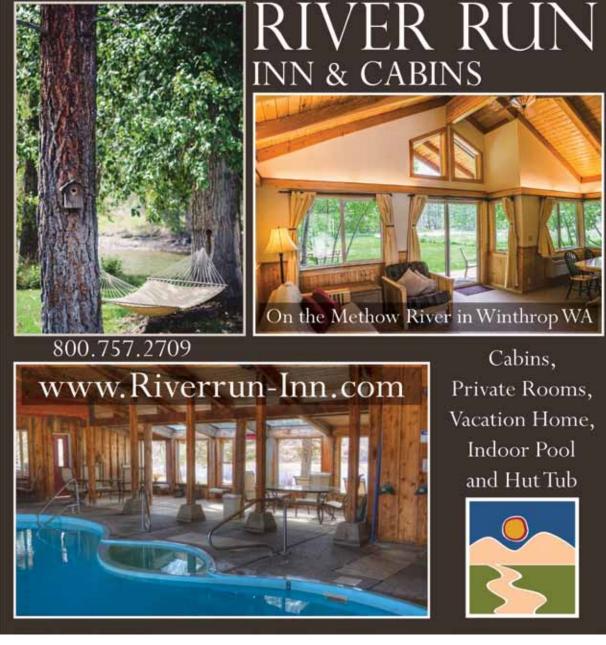


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## CASCADIA: WAYNE HORVITZ

Dear Friends of Cascadia Music,

There's an upcoming performance that you can't miss. The first time I heard one of Wayne Horvitz's compositions I was so incredibly moved. The Westerlies were playing Sweeter than the Day. The overwhelming feeling was that there was nothing sweeter than this day, this moment. Something shifted. Something lifted.

I encourage you to learn more about this artist, look up Sweeter than the Day and listen. Look up some of the names of the people with whom he's collaborated. This is more than just a performance to entertain. This is art. This is a gift.

I hope to see all of you there soaking up the inspiration, taking in the sound pictures and feeling yourselves transported.

-Rebecca Gallivan, Executive Director for Cascadia Music

Wayne Horvitz is a composer, pianist and electronic musician who has performed extensively throughout Europe, Asia, Australia, and North America. He is the leader of the Gravitas Quartet, Sweeter Than the Day, Zony Mash, The Four plus One Ensemble and co-founder of the New York Composers Orchestra. He has performed and collaborated with Bill Frisell, Butch Morris, John Zorn, George Lewis, Robin Holcomb, Fred Frith, Julian Priester, Michael Shrieve and Carla Bley, among others. Commissioners include the NEA, Meet

the Composer, Kronos String Quartet, Seattle Chamber Players, BAM, and Earshot Jazz. Collaborators include Paul Taylor, Liz Lerman, Bill Irwin and Gus Van Sant. He has been the recipient of numerous awards including two MAP grants and the NEA American Masterpiece award. Recent compositions include The Heartsong of Charging Elk based on the novel by James Welch and 55: Music and Dance in Concrete: a site-specific collaboration with dancer Yukio Suzuki and video artist Yohei Saito. He is the music programmer for The Royal Room, a performance venue in Seattle, and a professor of composition at the Cornish College of the Arts.

DATE: Feb 2, 7pm. LOCATION: The Merc Playhouse, Twisp, WA. TICKETS: brownpapertickets.com CONTACT: www.cascadiamusic.org



TWISPWORKS]

## Gather at TwispWorks

Not only is TwispWorks a great place to explore and shop for unique local art and goods, it's also a great place to hold your next gathering. Whether you are looking for the perfect spot for your next workshop, board meeting or office holiday party, TwispWorks offers an assortment of event spaces.

Your Space @ TwispWorks comfortably seats 40 peoplke and has easy access to bathrooms, a kitchen, front and back decks, and projector and screen.

The Gateway Conference Room is ideal for your next committee or board meeting. The room easily seats 12-16 people around a large board table; a projector and screen are available for use.

TwispWorks also offers a number of outdoor spaces and amenities for next year's picnic, performance or wedding rehearsal, including the 14,000-square-foot Plaza@TwispWorks. INFO: TwispWorks.org, 509-997-3300.







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## SEAMUS EGAN



It's hard to think of an artist in traditional Irish music that is more influential than Seamus Egan. From his beginnings as a teen prodigy, to his founding of the Irish-American powerhouse band Solas, to his current project touring with friends and musical guests, Egan has helped define the sound of Irish music today. Music comes naturally to Seamus Egan, a master of the Irish flute, tenor banjo, guitar, mandolin and tin whistle, among others. As a composer, he was behind the soundtrack for the award-winning film, Brothers McMullen and co-wrote Sarah McLachlan's breakout hit, "Weep Not for the Memories." Explore the vast beauty of the Irish

Joining the Seamus Egan Project on tour in 2018:

Moira Smiley – a singer/composer who creates and performs new work for voices. A musical polyglot, and vocal shape-shifter, her voice - and composing - are heard on feature films, BBC & PBS television programs, NPR, and on more than 60 albums.

Kyle Sanna – a composer, producer, guitarist, and improviser who has collaborated with and performed alongside many of today's virtuosos, including Yo-Yo Ma, Edgar Meyer, and Chris Thile, and with some of the greatest living interpreters of Irish music.

Owen Marshall – "A guitar/mandolin/banjo player rivaled in character only by the occasional three-pronged carrot" (Vogue 2009).

CASH/CHECK ONLY at event for concessions. DATE: Fri, Mar 1, 7pm, 2019. TICKETS: \$25/Reserved floor and limited balcony reserved seating, \$17/Adults advance purchase, \$7/Kids 5-18yrs, \$19/Door. LOCATION: The Winthrop Red Barn, Winthrop, WA. CONTACT: Methow Arts, info@methowartsalliance.org DOORS OPEN at 6:15 for ticket holders and at 6:30 for sales. CONCESSIONS: Beer, wine, cocktails, soda, coffee available for purchase. Bring ID.

METHOW ARTS PRESENTS

## The Hunts

Known for their harmony-laced take on alt-folk, The Hunts are a Chesapeake, Virginia-based band of seven siblings who've been playing music together almost their entire lives. Twin sisters Jessi and Jenni and five brothers Josh, Jonathan, Jordan, Justin, and Jamison, now ranging in age from 28 down to 19, learned to sing and play violin as young kids and spent much of their childhood performing in their community. After widening their following and playing at theaters, festivals and universities around the country—and teaching themselves to play instruments like mandolin, piano, ukulele, banjo, and drums—The Hunts started experimenting with songwriting and have quickly honed their sound, crafting positive songs that move audiences. Their songs are full of joy, and powerful uplifting themes, and great to sing along to whether you're seeing them live or road trippin' with the music blaring and

the windows rolled down.



CASH/CHECK ONLY at event for concessions. DATE: Sat, Mar 23, 7pm, 2019. TICKETS: \$25/Reserved floor and limited balcony reserved seating, \$17/Adults advance purchase, \$7/Kids 5-18yrs, \$19/Adults door. LOCATION: The

