

KIDS ART CLASSES AT FULLER LODGE

10/19 HALLOWEEN FUN!

Dina Alexander (4-6 year olds)

We will use feathers, buttons, glitter, wood and vintage images to create fun, colorful Halloween crafts, including masks, ornaments, and more.
\$18. | 1:00-2:30pm

10/19 FUN WITH AUTUMN LEAVES

Dee Homans (Grades 1-6)

Drawing and collage with pressed autumn leaves (optional: collect and bring in leaves to use!)
\$30. | 1:00-4:00pm

10/19 FUN WITH CALLIGRAPHY

Thelma Hahn (Grades 4-6)

Learn to use pen holders and nibs, calligraphy markers, and brushes to create beautiful writing and make writing fun!
\$30. | 1:00-4:00pm

10/26 WOOD WORLDS

Dee Homans (Grades 1-6)

Create sculpture with scrap wood and glue- let your imagination run wild!
\$30. | 1:00-4:00pm

10/26 WHAT CAN WE USE TO PAINT A PICTURE?

Thelma Hahn (Grades 1-3)

Use unusual materials to paint a picture.
\$30. | 1:00-4:00pm

10/15 FACE PAINTING

Alison Chilen (Grade 3 - Adult)

Learn face painting techniques from a master make-up and special effects artist. Get a chance to troubleshoot the perfect costume before Halloween. Perfect family class!
\$35 | 1:00-4:00pm

Ursonate—A Total Experience

by Sue Ellen Hains

People often ask my husband and me why we retired to Los Alamos. Our answer: we love the scenery, the culture, the proximity to Santa Fe. What we failed to take into account was that we weren't scientists; my husband was a social studies teacher and I was an artist. There have been times that we wondered ourselves, what really brought us here?

On September 17, 2011, we found out. We saw Los Alamos at its best. History, art, and science came together at the Bradbury Museum during the performance of *Ursonate*, by Kristin Loree and Jack Ox. It was an immersion into sound and image, that kept us mesmerized for over an hour. "Ursonate" means a sonata in primal sounds. As these sounds grew, tension built; then they would shift to something softer, pleasant, and we relaxed, only to have it build again. Simultaneously images flashed on the screen—some abstract, others hinting at a landscape or a figure. Gradually our brains began to recognize what sound matched which image and we could anticipate what would come next.

Whether or not Kurt Schwitters (1887-1948) had this in mind when he composed *Ursonate*, a tone poem, in the

1930s, I'm not sure. I suspect he would have been happily surprised by this performance—a masterful collaboration between Kristin Loree, a post-modern performance artist, and Jack Ox, a visual artist. In 1993, Kristin Loree created an 800 square foot visualization of *Ursonate* from the original recording she discovered of one of Schwitters performances.

Kurt Schwitters was a German artist who experimented in many forms of art. An exhibit of his collages at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City showed me that I could approach art in a different way. I was aware of his tone poems but never had the opportunity to attend a performance. This one exceeded my expectations. I hope that Ox and Loree will return for a repeat performance. The visualization by Ox is on display at the Mesa Public Library through October 27. Don't miss it!

Artists—Donate your Work for a Good Cause

Los Cumbres Community Services is hosting a special Holiday event, "All the Trimmings," December 2-4. Artists are asked to donate their art. Proceeds benefit children and families in our community who face development and emotional challenges.

Contact Alex Shapiro at (505) 955-0410 ext. 110

ART
ON
THE HILL

October 2011, Issue 4



You may have noticed that this issue is twice as long as the last three. That's because it would be impossible to squeeze two weeks worth of art, music, and culture into one page. I am very proud to expand this newsletter!

Art on the Hill is not just getting bigger, it's getting better. We're adding reviews, interviews, professional photography, and an online presence. I want to thank our readers for their encouragement, and the business community for supporting us (and the arts) by advertising.

Mandy Marksteiner, Editor
www.mandymarksteiner.com

Piffaro

The Los Alamos Concert Association continues its 65th anniversary season on October 16th with Piffaro, the Renaissance Band, at Duane Smith Auditorium.

Piffaro was founded in 1980 and performs music of the late Medieval and Renaissance periods on a variety of early wind instruments, augmented by percussion and strings. Their ever-expanding instrumentarium includes shawms, sackbuts, recorders, krumhorns, bagpipes, lutes, guitars, harps, and a variety of percussion—all careful reconstructions of instruments from the period. Piffaro's directors are very involved in researching model historic instruments and working with the finest instrument makers to realize beautiful and accurate reproductions that give way to authentic Renaissance sounds. Piffaro recreates the rustic music of the peasantry, as well as the elegant sounds of the professional wind bands of the late Medieval and Renaissance periods. The group is modeled after the civic, chapel and court bands that were the premier professional ensembles from the 14th into the early 17th centuries.



and Toledo, of Salamanca and Madrid, of Lisbon and Évora. As more composers came to live in the New World, influence of the indigenous population began to express itself in their music. Piffaro has a reputation for engaging its audiences and reminding them that there were no sit-down formal concerts in the 17th Century.

▲ See www.losalamosconcert.org
Tickets are available online or may be purchased in advance for \$30 at Otowi Station Book Store and CB Fox Department Store, in White Rock at Smith's, and in Santa Fe at Nicholas Potter Bookseller and the Lensic. Tickets may also be purchased at the door for \$35.

The Los Alamos concert will explore the musical traditions brought to the Americas by the Spanish during the 16th and 17th centuries. The music that resounded within the fresh mission churches of Central and South America was, for the most part, that which echoed in the great cathedrals of Seville

UPCOMING
EVENTS

October 15, at 6:00 p.m.

Rumelia
Balkan Folk Music
Pyramid Cafe

October 21, 7:00 p.m.

Los Alamos Symphony Orchestra
will perform at Crossroads Bible
Church.Robert Marcus, a clarinet soloist from
Santa Fe, will perform the Mozart
Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra.
LASO will perform the Dvořák
Symphony #5. Ivan Shulman is the
conductor.

October 22

Deadline for the Los Alamos
Arts Council's annual Scarecrow
Contest.Bring scarecrow to the LA Chamber
of Commerce Office between 10:00
a.m. and 1:00 p.m. \$10 entry fee.
Questions? Call Marlane Hamilton at
663-0477.

October 28, 4:00-6:30 p.m.

Trick or Treat on Mainstreet

October 29, 4:00 p.m.

Student Massquerade Recital
At Fuller Lodge

October 29 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Pumpkin Glow

October 28 & 29, 7:30 p.m.

"Nostalgia Ain't What it Used to Be."

Presented by Lads of Enchantment
United Church of Los Alamos.Buy advance tickets at
www.ladsofenchantment.com

October 28 & 29, 7:30 p.m.

October 30, Matinee 2:00 p.m.

November 4th & 5th, 7:30 p.m.

"Into the Woods"

Presented by Los Alamos Light Opera
Duane Smith AuditoriumTickets: \$15 Adults, \$10 for Kids &
Seniors

Memorable Recital by Eliot Fisk

Sunday September 26th, classical guitarist Eliot Fisk gave a memorable recital in Los Alamos at Duane Smith Auditorium. For three decades Fisk has enjoyed a reputation as being a guitarist's guitarist—a player of exceptional power and technical mastery—and he did not fail to live up to his reputation.

Fisk began the program with a less familiar work by a well-known composer to fans of guitar music, *Un Sueño en la Floresta* by Augustin Barrios. The work contains two large sections of right hand tremolo, a technique peculiar to classical guitar, and Fisk made these passages sparkle.

While most guitarists would consider Fisk's transcriptions of seven harpsichord sonatas by Domenico Scarlatti unplayable, Fisk played them with jaw-dropping speed and incredible technique.

Fisk rounded out the first half of the program with his own arrangement of the familiar *Ciaccona, BWV 1004*, by J. S. Bach. The *Ciaccona* was originally written for violin, but has been in the concert guitarist's repertoire for decades. It is possibly the single most difficult piece in the classical guitar repertoire, and Fisk delivered it with power and great vitality.

The bulk of the second half of the program was the U.S. premier of *Ein Kleines Requiem, Op. 97*, by Kurt Schwertsik. The program described the work as being "written for and with Eliot Fisk" and as being "the product of a multi-year collaboration between Schwertsik and Fisk beginning 2002." Schwertsik's monumental 14 movement work contains moments of angst, pathos, sorrow, and heart achingly beautiful music. While the work's hefty nature may preclude many full performances, I suspect excerpts will become common fare for guitarists within the next few years.

Fisk's transcriptions of four *Caprices*, by Niccolò Paganini originally written for violin, would seem to be unplayable by anybody other than Fisk. He played two encores by Albeniz and Bach that were in keeping the fiery bravura nature of the entire recital.

Dr. Greg Schneider teaches music at UNM-LA, owns Music Together of Los Alamos, and gives private guitar, bass, and composition lessons. He may be reached at 920-0851 or at gas@swcp.com

For the most complete events
calendar in Los Alamos, visit

Los Alamos Art Exhibits
Contrast Life and Death

by Kate Ramsey



Los Alamos is currently home to two thought provoking community art exhibits at the Fuller Lodge Art Center and Karen Wray Fine Art Gallery and Studio, where both newcomers and experienced artists alike can find meaning. Each of the two galleries exhibits pieces worth staring at for hours, thanks to their underlying messages, beauty, and power. The *Muerto* exhibit at Fuller Lodge can be seen through November 12, while *A Walk in the Woods* at Karen Wray will stay on exhibit through October 21.

Muerto is host to a variety of deep works concerning death—a subject not easily contemplated and often avoided. *Muerto* brings death to the forefront, but in a manner that actually provides Fuller Lodge a sense of contentment and tranquility. For example, Rebecca Schneider's colorful skeleton pieces—in particular one titled "Bone Dog Boogie"—immediately suggests a sense of humor, and the feeling that death does not necessarily have to be completely gloom and doom.

Muerto does not exclusively focus on a positive outlook concerning death and includes several interpretations of the topic, from religious to rational to terrifying. For example, a photograph by Matt Courtney is reminiscent of a classic horror film and is a friendly yet starkly realistic

reminder that death is not always pretty. The observer is left with a choice regarding how to confront a sometimes terrifying reality: should one futilely attempt to run or bravely embrace the horror with open arms?

At the Karen Wray Fine Art Gallery and Studio, Tim Althaus's *A Walk in the Woods* stands in stark contrast to *Muerto* and immediately comes off as larger than life. At times, it seems that everyone has struggled with "doing justice" to their vacations and other experiences

through photographs or other media. Althaus, however, has flawlessly translated real life experience into a series of mesmerizing, magnificently realistic aspen tree paintings. Locals desiring a refreshing awakening from the events of the Las Conchas fire need go no further than Althaus's work, which places an observer in the midst of a breathtaking forest looking upwards. Althaus explains that his work was actually inspired and created during the Las Conchas fire: during a time when most were feeling desperation and fear, Althaus found beauty and life in nature.

Muerto and *A Walk in the Woods* are more than just local art exhibits. Each gallery is sure to be memorable as a life experience or turning point for any viewer, a notion that is only reinforced by the strong attendance at each gallery's opening. With the community's continuing recovery from the Las Conchas fire progressing and as the Day of the Dead approaches, those fortunate enough to view these two galleries will not only have an opportunity to take in many stunning works of art but also contemplate personal views on life and death. With the help of these galleries, a typical day can become an emotional awakening—truly an accomplishment for each artist, and a chance for many quality works of art to stand alone.