

## ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT



"Bigelow Peaks" at Sunset by Melanie Farmer.

## Local artist Melanie Farmer to exhibit

FARMINGTON — SugarWood Gallery in downtown Farmington will host local artist Melanie Farmer at an Open House Reception Friday, Nov. 6, 2009 from 4 to 7 p.m.

Farmer has been painting and drawing since she was a very young child growing up on a small farm in the western shadow of Mt. Spec, with the attention of a very competent teacher in a one-room school house. She paints the length and breadth of the State of Maine, the countryside that she knows and loves best. In the years of her youth, it was a peaceful escape from the hectic life of a large family.

Farmer now lives on the shore of a very pristine, quiet and peaceful pond in Western Maine where wildlife abounds. This provides a wonderful inspiration for many of her paintings, from sunsets, night scenes, water scenes, an occasional fisherman passing by or her own gardens.

Viewers will see her paintings changing with the seasons and events but always reflecting the flavor of her beloved state of Maine, now or in the historic past. According to gallery staff, her paintings will remind you of places you have been and some of the special times you may have experienced in Maine, whether native or visitor.

Collectors of Farmer's work include many prominent names in Maine. One has most of her well-known collection on loan to the Portland Museum of Art. Many doctors, judges and lawyers are enjoying her paintings in their homes, camps, condos and offices. Familiar paintings of hers can be found around town, such as the large mural in Franklin Savings Bank in Farmington.

Her recent oil paintings are done primarily on gessoed panel. She often uses only a palette knife to apply the paint, which gives a sculptural texture to the painting. Her watercolors are spontaneous, yet bold.

Farmer's work will remain on exhibit for the month of November and will be available for sale to the public. SugarWood is open Monday thru Friday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information, call SugarWood Gallery at 778-9105.

## Curtain Raisers return

FARMINGTON — It's a whole new season of laughter as The Mt. Blue Curtain Raisers Improv Comedy Troupe celebrates new members and returning veterans with two nights of improvised shenanigans, Thursday and Friday, Nov. 5 and 6, at 7:30 p.m. in the Mt. Blue High School auditorium.

Based on just a few audience suggestions and their own creative energy, the Curtain Raisers deliver comedic skits, scenes, songs and storylines. And it is all made up right then and there. While it may be difficult to explain, it is easy to enjoy and even easier to get involved in the crowd participation portion of the program.

With the departure of last year's senior class, Curtain Raisers experienced an exodus of veteran talent.

However, audiences should not fret for long. Alex Allen, Anthea Fletcher, Jessica Baxter, and Morgan Spenser bring their improvised skills back to the Curtain Raisers stage. Meanwhile, they welcome a new batch of comic talent to the ranks including Kelton Cullenberg, John Evans, Laurel Fraley, Cat Goding, Colton Hall, Josh Hiltz, Hannah Senecal and Andreas Wyder. Curtain Raisers will never be the same again — which is really the whole point of improv comedy in the first place.

Admission is only \$3. For more information, contact Mt. Blue Curtain Raisers Comedy Troupe Artistic Director, Dan Ryder, at dryder@msad9.org or 778-03561.

## Pianist Dr. Laura Kargul to perform

FARMINGTON — On Saturday, Nov. 14 at 7:30 p.m., University of Maine-Farmington Nordica Auditorium, The Arts Institute of Western Maine will present internationally renowned pianist Dr. Laura Kargul USM in recital.

The unique feature of the program will be the American premiere of the Cesar Franck piano composition "Souvenirs d'Aix-la-Chapelle," recently discovered and now available to the public. A unique work, even to Franck devotees, it is based on variation technique, chorale tunes and pedal points, and shows not only the influence of such virtuosic writing as in the works of Liszt, but also anticipates the colorful "impressionist" direction of Debussy and Ravel 50 years later.

Additionally the program will be devoted to the genius

of variation technique in transcribing operatic themes for the piano. The Wolfgang Mozart 10-variation composition on the Gluck aria "Unser dumme Pöbel meint" show him at his dazzling keyboard best, while the Franz Liszt transcription of themes from Bellini's "Norma" represents the absolute pinnacle of technical virtuosity in piano writing. The remainder of the program will pay tribute to this year's 200th anniversary of the birth of Felix Mendelssohn.

Nordica Auditorium is in Merrill Hall, Main and Academy Streets in Farmington. No advance ticket sales; cash admission at the door: adults \$8, seniors \$7, free for children under 16 and UMF students. For further information, call: 491-0768.

## A+E to play at Mt. Abram

SALEM — A+E's Hill Country Music will play Mt. Abram High School on Sunday Nov. 8, from 1 to 3 p.m. in a "Salute to Veterans Past and Present through Music."

The group comprises Lew and Linda Lyman, Wilford Dunham and Austin and Elaine Marden.

Sponsored by the Salem Fire Department, donations will be accepted at the door.

Refreshments will be provided by the Strong 8th grade class; proceeds from these sales benefit their class trip.

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Le Vent du Nord will perform at Skye Theatre Performing Arts Center Wednesday, Nov. 4.

(Pierre Crépo photo)

## Le Vent du Nord to perform at Skye

SOUTH CARTHAGE — Canada's highly acclaimed Quebec band, Le Vent du Nord will perform at Skye Theatre Performing Arts Center Wednesday, Nov. 4. There is a pre-show jam beginning at 6:15 p.m. Audience members are encouraged to bring their instruments and play for a few minutes with the artists.

Since its inception in 2002, Le Vent du Nord has exploded onto the folk music scene. The group's first recording, "Maudite moisson!" was awarded the Juno for traditional album of the year in 2004 and was nominated for the same award by ADISQ. Their second album, "Les amants du Saint-Laurent," was also nominated by ADISQ in 2005 in addition to being chosen album of the year at the Canadian Folk Music Awards.

Le Vent du Nord has toured extensively across the U.S., Canada, Quebec and in Europe (Finland Denmark, Sweden, Italy, Spain, France, UK and Norway). They

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