

# CENTER STAGE

Newsletter for the Sandler Center for the Performing Arts Foundation



Winter  
2010



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## Winter at the Sandler Center is Hot, Hot, Hot!

When spring seems far away, you'll find plenty of great performances to light up your winter nights at the Sandler Center! February is the busiest month the Center has seen since its opening, with multiple performances to choose from every week, so get out your calendar and get out and go! Here's a sampler of the entertainment in store for you: Grammy winner **Marc Cohn** topped the charts with his soulful "Walking in Memphis"—discover the many voices of this gifted singer-songwriter, February 13. The classic musical **Camelot** retells the ultimate romance of King Arthur, Guinevere, and Lancelot in timeless songs by Lerner and Loewe, February 16; American Idol finalist, **Bo Bice** brings a bit of Alabama with songs that span styles from Southern rock to funk and soul, February 17; Grammy, Emmy, and Tony Award winning crooner **Harry Connick, Jr.** swings with his band, February 19; Ballet **Folklorico de México** fills the

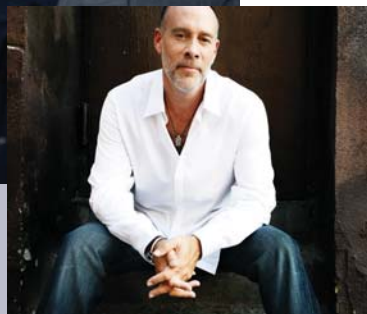
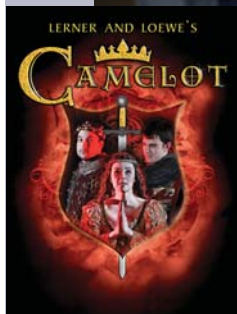
stage with swirling color in traditionally costumed folk dances, February 23; **Monterey Jazz Festival on Tour** brings a stunning combination of critically acclaimed jazz legends, with pianist Kenny Barron, violinist Regina Carter, singer Kurt Elling, and guitarist Russell Malone, February 24; and the hilarious **Menopause the Musical** celebrates women in five sure-to-sell-out performances, February 25 through 28.

March brings singer-songwriter **Suzanne Vega**, direct from her sold-out show in Lincoln Center's "American Songbook" series, with songs from her newest album, *Close Up: Love Songs*, March 11; and country's favorite balladeer **Randy Travis** lends his bronzed baritone to traditional country and gospel favorites, March 26.

The warm spring air in April brings six-time Grammy Award nominee **Joan Osborne** with her smash hit "One of Us" on April 9; and the razor-sharp wit of standup comedian **Paula Poundstone** on April 10.

Tickets will fly for these shows as they have for this season's earlier sold-out successes, Frankie Valli, Michael McDonald, Natalie Cole, and Bryan Adams—so be sure to order yours now!

Visit [sandlercenter.org](http://sandlercenter.org) for a complete calendar of events. For tickets, call 1-888-326-9849 or order online at [CoxTix.com](http://CoxTix.com). Tickets also available at the Sandler Center box office.



**Did You Know?**  
You can become a friend of the Sandler Center on Facebook.

You can follow the Sandler Center on Twitter.



## Message from the new President

I have so many reasons to be excited about my new position as President of the Sandler Center Foundation. I am following in the footsteps of some truly talented people. Linwood Branch and Dot Wood have been inspired leaders for the Sandler Center in its first years, and I look forward to building on their beginnings. Thanks to them, and to our wonderfully collaborative Board of Directors, and to the City of Virginia Beach, whose support has been so vital, the Sandler Center is financially stable, it has broad community support, and it has a bright future.

I believe deeply in the power of the arts, and I am a passionate supporter of the Sandler Center's mission: to enrich the lives of our residents and visitors, to offer our young people opportunities to experience and learn from great performances, and to make the arts available to all. I am honored that the Board has confidence in me to lead, and I am looking forward to working with our dedicated staff and volunteers to continue to make the Sandler Center a world-class home for the arts.

Please join us! Together, we can fund and create more educational programs for young people, attract audiences from every part of our region, and make every person's experience at the Center, whether he or she is an artist, a volunteer, a staff member or an audience participant, the very best experience it can be.

*Annie Sandler*  
Annie Sandler  
President



## Sandler Center Goes to School

In these days of economic pressures, arts education is all too often a casualty of tightened school budgets—but thanks to the Sandler Center, Virginia Beach school children can still enjoy the many benefits the arts bring to the classroom. The Sandler Center's student matinees, teaching tools, master classes, and in-school performances give thousands of area school children opportunities to experience great music, theatre, and dance, study alongside world-renowned artists, and discover new ways of learning through the arts.



The Center's most recent student matinee, *Tomie DePaola's Strega Nona: The Musical*, sold out, filling the hall with elementary school students delighted by the staging of this classic children's story. Back in the classroom, their teachers used the free Comprehensive Study Guide provided by the Sandler Center to incorporate the experience into the curriculum, with writing assignments about the play designed to refine the students' critical thinking skills, social studies explorations of world cultures like Strega Nona's small town in Italy, and even math problems that draw from events in the play. All of the assignments are aligned with the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOLs).

But students don't always have to come to the Sandler Center to benefit from its education programs. Through in-school artist residencies, the Center brings artists directly to the students. This winter, for the second year in a row, the critically acclaimed Boston Brass performed in area elementary, middle and high schools. Known for their "astounding talent and A-plus performances" (*Utah Daily Chronicle*), the ensemble played a mix of classical, jazz, and pop music, giving many area students a taste of music they had never heard before, and the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the music and the performers. It was an unforgettable experience for student musicians and teachers, and one the kids look forward to each year. **For more information on Sandler Center education programs, visit [www.sandlercenter.org](http://www.sandlercenter.org) or call Megan DiPaolo at (757) 282-2817.**



## Upcoming events

### February

Virginia Musical Theatre,  
"Stand By Your Man," Feb. 5, 6, 7  
The Ultimate Elvis: Tribute Artists Tour,  
Feb. 11  
Marc Cohn, Feb. 13  
Virginia Symphony Orchestra,  
"My Classic Valentine," Feb. 14

Camelot, Feb. 16  
Bo Bice, Feb. 17  
Harry Connick, Jr., Feb. 19  
Symphonicity, "War and Peace," Feb. 21  
Ballét Folklorico de México, Feb. 23  
Monterey Jazz Festival Tour, Feb. 24  
Menopause the Musical, Feb. 25-28

# Sandler Center Trailblazers: Linwood Branch and Dorothy Wood



When the Sandler Center for the Performing Arts was still just a dream, Linwood Branch and Dot Wood were there. Both were pressed into service before the Center's plans were constructed, serving on the Citizen's Advisory Committee as part of the "founding fifty" to garner support to bring the world-class performing arts center to the City of Virginia Beach. City Manager Jim Spore praised their energy and dedication: "Linwood and Dot were the perfect advocates for the Sandler Center; they could see what a beautiful performing arts center would do for our city's economy and quality of life—and they had the passion to go out and convince people to support it."

That "volunteer job" quickly turned into a consuming passion. Linwood and Dot then

accepted the volunteer job of President and Vice President of the Virginia Beach Performing Arts Center Foundation, which was formed in 2005 to raise the private donations required to fully fund the city's performing arts center. Together, they set the tone for the Center's Capital

Campaign, inspiring respect and admiration throughout the community, and encouraging civic and business leaders to support the Center by raising funds. Together, with the Foundation's Board of Directors, they surpassed the Capital Campaign goal of \$12.5 million, raising nearly \$15 million to set the Center on a firm foundation, and establishing endowments to ensure the quality of the Center's presentations for generations to come. Their performance has won rave reviews throughout the community. Virginia Beach Mayor Will Sessoms expressed the city's gratitude.

Now it is time for them to take a bow. Linwood Branch and Dorothy Wood will continue to serve as ex officio members of the Sandler Center Board of Directors, where their advice and experience will be a boon to the Center's new President, Annie Sandler, and Vice President, Vincent Olivieri.

As one of the Center's founders, major supporter and board member Art Sandler has said "We are so proud that our family name is part of this beautiful home for the arts and Linwood and Dot were instrumental in building that home, and opening its doors to welcome everyone. We cannot thank them enough for all that they have done for the Sandler Center and this community." Bravo to both! And heartfelt thanks from the Board, staff, and supporters of the Sandler Center.

"Under the leadership of Linwood Branch and Dorothy Wood, the Sandler Center has raised the profile of our great city, making Virginia Beach a center of arts and culture. The success of the Foundation's vision under their leadership will be felt in this community for generations to come."

—Virginia Beach Mayor Will Sessoms



## March

Suzanne Vega, March 11  
Virginia Musical Theatre, "The Civil War,"  
March 19, 20, 21  
Randy Travis, March 26  
Symphonicity, "All Beethoven, All the  
Time," March 28

## April

Ballet Virginia International,  
"Twelve Dancing Princesses," April 2, 3  
Joan Osborne, April 9  
Paula Poundstone, April 10  
Virginia Symphony Orchestra,  
"Mahler's Fourth," April 11

Virginia Musical Theatre,  
"The Sound of Music," April 16, 17, 18  
Virginia Beach Forum,  
"Dee Dee Myers," April 21  
Symphonicity, "Goldfingers and the  
Silver Screen," April 25

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## The Arts Mean BIG Business in Virginia Beach **Help Us Spread the Word!**

The City of Virginia Beach Office of Cultural Affairs recently announced the results of a year-long study by Americans for the Arts on the Economic Impact of the Arts in Virginia Beach. These local findings provide compelling evidence that the nonprofit arts and cultural organizations are a significant industry with total expenditures exceeding \$56.6 million, including:

- 1,411 full-time equivalent jobs
- \$27.8 million in resident household income
- \$5.9 million in local and state government revenue

Total Impact of the Nonprofit Arts and Culture Industry (Expenditures by both organizations and audiences)	
Total Expenditures	\$56,823,167
Full-Time Equivalent Jobs	1,411
Resident Household Income	\$27,782,000
Local Government Revenue	\$2,349,000
State Government Revenue	\$3,599,000

The study also found that the arts and culture audiences in Virginia Beach spend \$43.3

million in ancillary spending, excluding the cost of admission. That is an average of \$30.44 per person and event. This is spending that pumps vital revenue into the local restaurants, hotels, retail stores, parking garages and other businesses.

“This economic impact study sends a strong signal that when we support the arts, we not only enhance our quality of life, but we also invest in the City of Virginia Beach’s economic well-being,” said Emily Spruill, Director of the City of Virginia Beach’s Office of Cultural Affairs. “A vibrant arts and culture industry helps local businesses thrive—the arts mean BIG business in Virginia Beach.” We need your help to spread the word.

Nationally, the nonprofit arts industry generates 5.7 million jobs and \$166.2 billion in total economic activity every year, resulting in \$29.6 billion in federal, state, and local government revenues.

### FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### FOUNDATION STAFF

Emily Spruill, *Director*  
 Michele Catalano, *Development Specialist*



**FIND EXCITING EVENTS  
 & ORDER YOUR TICKETS  
 NOW FOR UPCOMING  
 PERFORMANCES!**

