

# centerstage

Newsletter of the Sandler Center for the Performing Arts Foundation

## \* making spirits bright \*

The magic of the season comes to life on the Sandler Center stage with music and dance guaranteed to put you in the mood for merriment. From the elegance of the ballet to the big sounds of Broadway, we've got just the thing to make your holiday spirits bright.



Hampton Roads' own **Virginia Musical Theatre** kicks off the festivities with *Holiday Melody: The New Edition*, Dec. 3-5, the all-singing, all-dancing tribute to the most festive time of year. **Ballet Virginia International** takes you on a trip to the Land of Sweets with performances of the beloved classic, *The Nutcracker*, as well as *Nutcracker "Tea Parties"* where young fans can get up close and personal with Clara and her friends, Dec. 11-12. **Tidewater Winds**

**Concert Band** presents *Songs of the Season*, Dec. 14. And **The Moscow Ballet** brings its own spectacular version of the *Great Russian Nutcracker*, Dec. 15-16, complete with original costumes, and more than 40 Russian dancers.

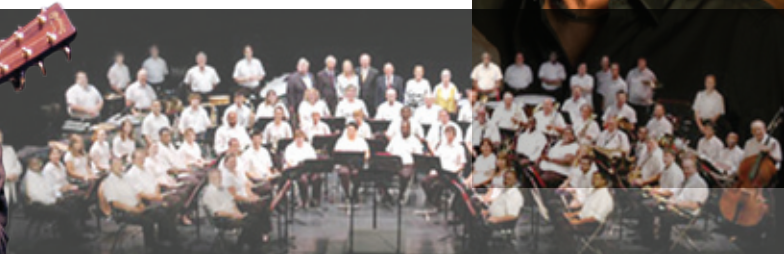
The hills will be alive with *The Sound of Christmas*, Dec. 17, as acclaimed vocalist **Elisabeth von Trapp** joins **Empire Brass** for a holiday celebration worthy of legend. **Virginia Symphony Orchestra**, under the baton of Robert Shoup, offers **Holiday Pops**, Dec. 18, featuring 79 musicians, the Virginia Symphony Chorus and special guests playing the seasonal carols and tunes you know and love.

The **Virginia Beach Chorale**, featuring harp soloist Hye-Yun Bennett and the Salem High School Handbell Choir, serenades you with musical selections in honor of *The Most Wonderful Time of the Year*, Dec. 19. Country music icon **Kenny Rogers** brings the down-home cheer with his *Holiday Show*, Dec. 21. And finally, Virginia Beach's **Symphonicity** will have you making a joyous noise with their *28th Annual Messiah Singalong*, Dec. 23.

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Find a complete calendar of events at [Sandlercenter.org](http://Sandlercenter.org). For tickets, call 757-385-ARTS, go to [CoxTix.com](http://CoxTix.com) or visit the Sandler Center Box Office.



## message from the president



*As we move into the light of the holiday season, I'm struck by the goodwill and passion of the Hampton Roads community. People's inner spirit burns more brightly with the desire to help others, Hannukah lights shine brightly on Mount Trashmore, the entire area is aglow with the tradition of giving.*

*At the Sandler Center for the Performing Arts, we are excited to present a series of wonderful holiday programs perfect for igniting that spirit in arts lovers of all ages. From the classic beauty of **The Nutcracker** to the celebratory sounds of the **Empire Brass**, we hope you will join us in the audience for one or more of these crowd-pleasing events.*

*Also, I encourage you to consider a gift of the arts on your holiday giving list this year. Many options are available from naming rights for pavers and seats, to tickets and gift certificates for shows at the Sandler Center. Your support is the key to this invaluable cultural resource we all share.*

*Beyond the New Year, we are looking forward to even more amazing performances from the spectacular **Aluminum Show** to the thrilling **Parsons Dance** company. We hope you'll be there with us.*

*Wishing you and your family the very best during this most wonderful time of the year,*

Annie Sandler, President

## give the gift of the arts

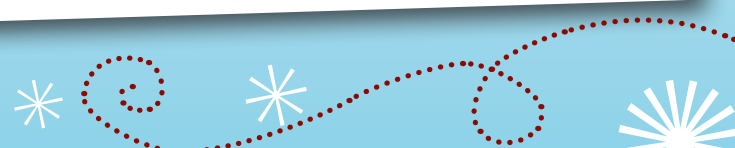
Shiny new gadgets are nice. Jewelry is just fine. But what about a gift that gives back? The Sandler Center offers many opportunities for giving this holiday season. What more fitting gesture for the arts lover than a gift in his or her name or perhaps tickets to an upcoming show?



Our seats and pavers make great gift ideas with a personalized touch. Brick pavers, located on our outdoor plaza, can be engraved with a name of your choosing for \$200 (4x8) or \$300 (8x8). Funds from the sale of pavers go directly to an endowment used to support the Sandler Center's partnership with the Virginia

Beach Public School system and our goal of reaching every school-aged child in Virginia Beach with the arts every year.

Similarly, seats inside the Sandler Center can be purchased and engraved with any name for \$500-\$1000. Proceeds from seats go toward our Great Performer's Endowment Fund, committed to bringing the best artists from around the world to the Sandler Center stage. Gifts of any denomination may also be made in someone's honor. Make a statement about your commitment, or the commitment of your family, colleagues or friends, to the arts by putting one of these gifts on your holiday list this year.



Tickets for performances and gift certificates also make great gift ideas. Thrill the dance aficionado in your life with a pair of tickets to see *Savion Glover: SoLo in TiMe* (Feb. 17, 2011) or surprise the Broadway lover with great seats for *Neil Berg's 101 Years of Broadway* (March 10, 2011). Check our complete events calendar for other ideas!

For information about ways to give, contact Development Specialist Michele Catalano at 757-385-0227 or [mcatalan@vbgov.com](mailto:mcatalan@vbgov.com).



## alive with the sound of christmas



Combine North America's finest brass quintet with an enthralling voice worthy of its legendary name, and you have the makings of a joyous, uplifting ode to the holiday season.

The Empire Brass comes to the Sandler Center Dec. 17 along with acclaimed vocalist **Elisabeth Von Trapp**—granddaughter of Maria and Baron George Von Trapp, whose real-life story inspired *The Sound of Music*—in a special production called *The Sound of Christmas*.

Under the leadership of founder and trumpet player Rolf Smedvig, the Empire Brass has earned an international reputation for versatility and virtuosity, captivating live audiences as well as listeners around the world with their best-selling recordings on the Telarc label. At home with Bach and Broadway and

everything in between, the Empire Brass features five musicians, all of whom have played for major American orchestras, and performs more than 100 concerts a year in cities from New York to Tokyo.

Elisabeth Von Trapp was born into a musical name, but she has distinguished herself with an astoundingly expressive voice, as warm and soothing as it is otherworldly. *The Sound of Christmas* beautifully entwines the brass quintet with Von Trapp's enchanting singing, creating a fabric of Christmas favorites as delightful as it is diverse. The evening culminates with a medley of tunes from Rodgers and Hammerstein's *The Sound of Music*, including *Edelweiss* and *Stille Nacht*.

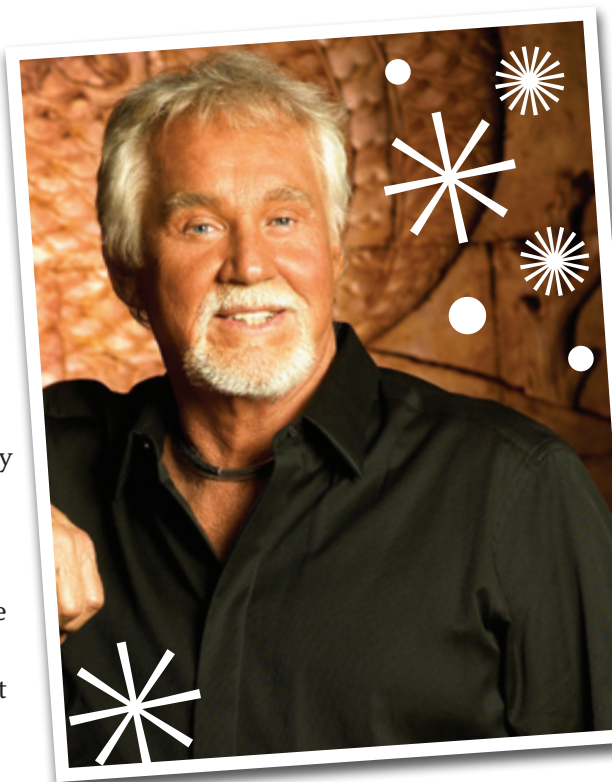


## celebrate the holidays with an icon

You know the hits: *Lady*, *Ruby Don't Take Your Love to Town*, *The Gambler*, *Islands in the Stream*, *We've Got Tonight*. Kenny Rogers is an icon of American music with more than 100 million records sold and countless awards to his credit. What you may not know is that this country music and crossover giant is celebrating 50 years in the entertainment business, and that during that time his beloved "Christmas and Hits" tours have become the stuff of legend themselves.

A treat for the whole family, **Kenny Rogers Holiday Show**, coming to the Sandler Center Dec. 21, spreads the cheer with an array of heart-warming seasonal favorites like *Let It Snow*, *White Christmas*, and *O Holy Night*, many of which can be heard on Rogers' popular holiday recordings. Rogers delivers the festive songs you know and love as well as some of his original compositions in his signature smooth crooning style. In addition to the holiday music, the show incorporates some of Rogers' most popular tracks spanning his remarkable career.

One of the top-selling male artists of all time, Rogers' awards shelf boasts three Grammys, five Country Music Association Awards, 18 American Music Awards, eight Academy of Country Music Awards and 11 People's Choice Awards. Don't miss out on the chance to get in the holiday spirit with a true living legend.



## parsons dance brings memorable movement

Sleek, sharp and sexy, **Parsons Dance** is among the hottest tickets in contemporary American dance. Choreographer David Parsons, a former leading dancer in the Paul Taylor Dance Company, has created a dynamic repertory of over 70 works that showcase the precision and athleticism of his fulltime company of 10 professional dancers as well as his penchant for ingenious stagecraft and witty, audience-pleasing movement in the modern dance tradition. One of his most popular signature works, *Caught*, marries movement and lighting in a gravity-defying arrangement in which a solo dancer appears to fly around the stage.

*Remember Me*, the most ambitious undertaking in Parsons Dance's 22-year history, is a "rock dance opera," a unique collaboration with the Grammy-nominated East Village Opera Company featuring dance, live and recorded music, video projections, elaborate digital lighting and state-of-the-art visual effects. Premiered in 2009, it is Parsons' first full evening-length dance work.

Audiences will be immersed in a classic tale of tragic love as told through a high-energy blend of movement, visuals and sound including soaring vocals from the stars of the East Village Opera Company. Costumes by Project Runway designer Austin Scarlett and breathtaking lighting by Tony Award-winning designer Howell Binkley take this production over the top.

Don't miss Parsons Dance when *Remember Me* comes to the Sandler Center on Jan. 11, 2011.



## sandler center spotlight deck the walls



The Sandler Center recently got a brilliant dose of color in the form of a brand new art installation featuring 14 large-scale paintings by local artist Brock Childress. Childress, who was born and raised in Virginia Beach and currently resides at the Oceanfront, creates his work exclusively for the joy of it.



The paintings are displayed in The Cheryl & Wayne McLeskey Gallery on the Mezzanine level and The David L. Levine Terrace on the Balcony level of the Sandler Center. With their vibrant palette, striking black backgrounds and eye-popping abstract elements, the paintings are sure to get noticed.

For an up-close look at this bold burst of color and design, visit the Sandler Center during regular business hours (10 a.m.-6 p.m., Mon.-Fri.) or take them in while attending an upcoming show or event. Childress' paintings will be on exhibit through early January, 2011, but they are not for sale.

# upcoming events

december	sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday	
	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	
	5 Virginia Musical Theatre, "Holiday Melody: The New Edition," 2pm	6			8	9	10	11 Ballet Virginia International, "The Nutcracker," 2pm & 7:30pm*
	12 Ballet Virginia International, "The Nutcracker," 2pm*	13	14	15 Moscow Ballet, 7pm	16 Moscow Ballet, 7pm	17 Empire Brass in "The Sound of Christmas," 7:30pm	18 Virginia Symphony Orchestra, "Holiday Pops," 8pm	18
	19	20	21 Kenny Rogers Holiday Show, 7:30pm	22	23 Symphonicity, "8th Annual Messiah Sing-Along," 8pm			25
26	27	28	29	30			1	

\*The Nutcracker Tea Party at 12 pm Dec. 11 and 12.

january	sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
	2			5	6	7	8
	9 	10	11 Parsons Dance and East Village Opera Company: <b>Remember Me</b> , 7:30pm	12 Virginia Beach Forum: <b>Nancy Giles</b> , 7:45pm	13	14	15 12th Annual Lollipop Concert for Children, 3pm
	17  If You Give a Cat a Cupcake, 10am & 12pm	18 The Aluminum Show, 7:30pm	19 	20	21	22	23 Virginia Symphony Orchestra: <b>Carmina Burana</b> , 2:30pm
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	

february	sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday	
	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	
	6			8	9	10 	11 Virginia Musical Theatre: <b>OKLAHOMA!</b> 8pm	12 Virginia Musical Theatre: <b>OKLAHOMA!</b> 2pm & 8pm
	13 Virginia Musical Theatre: <b>OKLAHOMA!</b> 2pm	14 The Temptations & The Four Tops, 7:30pm	15	16 	17 Savion Glover: <b>SoLo iN TiME</b> , 7:30pm	18 Mad Science presents: <b>Star Trek Live!</b> 10:30am and 7pm	19 Jim Brickman: <b>An Evening of Romance</b> , 8pm	
	20	21	22	23	24	25 	26	
27 Symphonicity, <b>Ode To Joy</b> , 3pm	28							



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## another accolade for the **sandler center**

We know the Sandler Center for the Performing Arts as a cultural and architectural jewel in the heart of our wonderful city of Virginia Beach. But once again, our fabulous facility has been recognized as such on a national level.

This time, The Sandler Center for the Performing Arts has been honored by the Design-Build Institute of America as one of the 2010 National Design-Build Award winners. This award was given for the method of project delivery in which one entity—the design-build team—worked under a single contract with the City of Virginia Beach to provide design and construction services.

The Sandler Center was recognized in the category of “Public Sector \$25-\$50 Million Projects.” The national Design Excellence award recognized the Center’s superior level of aesthetic and acoustical quality, as well as its location in the Arts and Entertainment District located in the emerging downtown of Virginia Beach.

The Design-Build Institute of America’s website notes that the Sandler Center complex is “designed to welcome people of all ages, economic means and cultures to a state-of-the-art performance, educational and community facility” and features “the highest level of aesthetic and acoustical quality.”

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**ORDER YOUR TICKETS NOW FOR UPCOMING PERFORMANCES!**  
**VISIT [www.sandlercenter.org](http://www.sandlercenter.org)**