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Skidmore College announces series of music, arts events



The Stephen Petronio Company will be part of the Stewart's Signature Series at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs. Photo provided

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The Manhattan Transfer will perform during the Stewart's Signature Series at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs. Photo provided

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. >> With the help of a local company, Skidmore College has announced a new series of music and arts events to be held this summer.

Beginning in May, the Stewart's Signature Series will feature a series of world-class performances by internationally known musicians and artists held on the Skidmore campus in Saratoga Springs.

It will start with a concert by American a cappella, jazz fusion/pop music group The Manhattan Transfer at 8 p.m. on Saturday, May 13 at the Arthur Zankel Music Center's Ladd Hall. Founded in 1969, this group has received accolades and awards, and has almost 30 albums. Tickets to this

performance are \$55 or \$45, available at skidmore.edu/zankel.

Then at 7:30 p.m. on June 2 and 3 in the Bernhard Theater, Suzuki Company of Toga, Japan, will present The Trojan Women. Named for its founder, Tadashi Suzuki, the Suzuki Company of Toga marked its 50th anniversary in 2015. Since their first overseas performance at the Théâtre des Nations Festival in Paris in 1972, the company has performed in more than 84 cities and 31 countries. Tadashi Suzuki was the founder of Japan's first international theater festival (Toga Festival), and the creator of the Suzuki Method of actor training. He and Anne Bogart co-founded the SITI Company, originally known as the Saratoga International Theater Company, which will hold its 25th annual summer workshop to coincide with the Suzuki Company of Toga performances.

Following this will be a special performance by Stephen Petronio Company at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 15 at the Arthur Zankel Music Center's Ladd Hall. Acclaimed by audiences and critics alike, Petronio is widely regarded as one of the leading dance-makers of his generation. New music, visual art and fashion collide in Petronio's dances, and he has built a body of work with composers and artists in the world. Founded in 1984, the company has performed in 26 countries around the globe. Petronio's accolades include a Guggenheim Fellowship, an American Choreographer Award, and a New York Dance and Performance "Bessie" Award. Petronio and visual artist Janine Antoni are in residence at Skidmore College as the 2016-17 Don a McCormack Endowed Visiting Artist-Scholars. Their exhibit, Entangle, is currently at the Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery.

The recent event announcements concluded with Selected Shorts performed live at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday at Arthur Zankel Music Center on the Skidmore campus. Described as "spellbinding short stories by established and emerging writers which take on a new life when they are performed by stars of the stage and screen," the weekly radio program is broadcast on over 150 public radio stations to over 300,000 listeners. Each episode represents a unique theme, featuring stories that are fictional, sometimes classic, sometimes new, but always performed by great actors from stage, screen and television who bring the short stories to life. Evenings are often co-hosted by writers, literary producers and other interesting characters. This program coincides with the New York State Summer Writers Institute held at Skidmore.

These performances are made possible through a generous grant from Stewart's Shops and the Dake family.

"Saratoga Springs is blessed with a wide array of live interactive entertainment, making our community truly unique in a world where so many are limiting their attention to their screens. We are proud to support the Stewart's Signature Series at Skidmore which will bring exceptional performers to our community while reinforcing Skidmore as a cultural resource for everyone," said Susan Law Dake, Skidmore Class of '71 and president of the Stewart's Foundation, in a press release.

Bill Dake, chairman of the board at Stewart's Shops, continued, "Stewart's and the Dake family are proud to support Skidmore's contribution to Saratoga's arts community. Saratoga's eclectic mix of live events from horse racing and polo, theater and opera, to dance and music of all kinds makes our city unique, and Stewart's Signature Series will be a major part of the summer experience in Saratoga Springs this year. We strongly encourage Saratogians, and residents of the greater Capital Region, to seize the opportunity to attend these unique arts performances at Skidmore."

Additional events and ticketing information for 2017 events will be announced in the coming weeks.

For more information visit www.skidmore.edu/zankel, www.skidmore.edu/summertheater or call 518-580-5321.

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