

Two Baroque Organizations To Merge

Two respected local music organizations are merging, reports the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review's* Mark Kanny.

Renaissance & Baroque presents performances of the music of the Middle Ages, Renaissance, Baroque and Early Classical periods and fosters a broader understanding and appreciation of the music, arts and culture of the times. It was established in 1969 under the guidance of music educator and scholar Colin Sterne (1921 – 2008) under the name Renaissance & Baroque Society

Chatham Baroque is a non-profit ensemble formed in 1990 to perform music of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries using instruments of the period.

The road to merger began last December when Renaissance & Baroque (A&B) needed administrative help after the sudden departure of their executive director. They turned to Chatham Baroque.

"We thought, if at all possible, the best situation for us was to share resources managing our concerts," Kanny quotes A&B board



member Richard Stern. "We knew our executive director position was a less than full time, full salary job. When we looked at local organizations to seek alliances, some kind of joint operating structure, Chatham Baroque was far and away the best. We went to them and are grateful and relieved that they took over the second half of our season because we

were in the lurch. We had concerts that needed publicity and mechanics to be handled. We are pleased with what they accomplished."

By working closely together, the two organizations began to realize how symbiotic they are, with Chatham Baroque's board chairman Bill Semins telling Kanny "we thought, 'what a great match'."

Details have not been announced. Read Kanny's full article at <http://triblive.com/aande/music/13575874-74/baroque-organizations-merge-to-continue-to-make-beautiful-music-in-pittsburgh>

Mural Artist Sues City & Property Owners

The artist behind the **Moving the Lives of Kids Community Mural Project** is suing the city and a group of other parties, reports Matthew Santoni for the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*.

Moving the Lives of Kids Community Mural Project (MLK) was founded in 2002 by artist, muralist and Wilksburg native Kyle Holbrook. The organization has grown quickly, with thousands of young artists creating murals in at least ten states and some foreign countries.

On April 27, Holbrook and MLK filed the suit citing the destruction of at least eight

murals as part of renovation projects. The suit says that these actions violate the contracts that were signed with MLK as well as the 1990 Visual Artists Rights Act (VARA).

"Without providing plaintiffs with a reasonable opportunity to protect and preserve their artworks, defendants destroyed, mutilated, modified and defaced the works of art installed by plaintiffs," Santoni quotes Holbrook's lawyers. Among these are three that were

painted over by the property owners --- one of which is the Port Authority of Allegheny County.

Santoni has posted before-and-after photos with his article at <http://triblive.com/local/allegheny/13598190-74/artist-sues-pittsburgh-developers-over-murals-destroyed-by-construction>

Sinclair News Scandal Still Simmers

The fallout continues for the **Sinclair Broadcast Group** (SBG) since the privately owned company ordered its stations' newscasters to read on air a controversial statement regarding fake news.



Sinclair owns two Pittsburgh television stations and has for years faced claims of a right-wing bias.

Deans from more than a dozen journalism schools sent a joint letter to SBG chief David Smith. TheWrap.com's Jon Levin reported that the letter read, in part, that a "line was crossed by Sinclair . . . [whose] use of news personnel to deliver commentary --- not identified as such --- may further erode what has traditionally been one of the strongest allegiances in the news landscape, the trust that viewers put in their local television stations."

The **National Press Photographers Association** (NPPA) has issued a statement of condemnation.

The performers union **SAG-AFTRA** --- which maintains a full-time office in downtown Pittsburgh and whose members include newscasters --- has joined the chorus of critics. Dave McNary writes in *Variety* that the union has issued a statement about they've addressed the issue. "SAG-AFTRA has been in contact with Sinclair to express our concerns with this campaign," the union explains, "and we stand with our members and journalists everywhere in challenging corporate directives that call into question the journalistic integrity of the news presented to the public."

SBG is responding in full force, which includes rescinding a promised \$25,000 donation to NPPA. The company's senior political analyst --- and former Trump campaign staffer --- Boris

Epshteyn has also been criticized for his alleged pro-Trump bias. He went on the air April 4 with this rebuttal: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BrFElmhY2I4>

In early April, the British newspaper *The Guardian* quoted SBG's David Smith defending his company. He insisted that the stations' news coverage does not have a right-wing bias. "If anybody can show me otherwise, in the context of any local news that works for me, then show me," he said.

Donald Trump has also defended Sinclair, which may or may not help the company on this issue. "So funny to watch Fake News Networks, among the most dishonest groups of people I have ever dealt with, criticize Sinclair Broadcasting for being biased," the President tweeted on April 2. "Sinclair is far superior to CNN and even more Fake NBC, which is a total joke."

KDKA's GM Pike To Retire

The general manager of Pittsburgh's TV stations KDKA and WPCW has opted to retire, reports John Eggerton in *Broadcasting & Cable*.



Both stations are owned by the **CBS Corporation**.

Pike has been in the broadcasting industry for nearly four decades. He has been with CBS since 2004.

"Under Chris's leadership, KDKA has consistently been the market leader in Pittsburgh and one of the truly great TV stations in the country," Eggerton quotes CBS' Peter Dunn. "We are proud to have KDKA as one of the crown jewels of our station group and thankful for everything Chris

has done to build on the station's status as a legacy broadcaster while also growing our business on the digital platforms that will ensure the station's continuing success."

Pike steps down in mind-May.

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Prof's New Take On Sexual Harassment

An art professor at **Carnegie Mellon University** (CMU) has created a video game that addresses an issue that's not typical in gaming --- sexual harassment.

Carnegie Mellon University

Professor Angela Washko has used dating books, videos and web sites to create the choose-your-own-adventure "The Game: The Game." It casts the player as a woman waiting in a bar when six men individually make passes at you.

A university press release explains: "Using a first-person perspective, players navigate the

crowded bar, choosing to spurn the advances of pick-up artists or to engage with them. The video game is made from Washko's handmade and digitally altered cyanotypes, combined with a pulsing soundtrack by experimental noise band Xiu Xiu that heightens the sense of anxiety and gives the project an intense, claustrophobic feel."

The game will eventually be available online.

In related news, CMU has revoked Bill Cosby's 2007 honorary degree. A press release explains that "the university will not tolerate sexual violence, intimate part-

ner violence, stalking or sexual harassment. These acts are against the law and violate our core values."



SAG-AFTRA Takes On Sexual Harassment

As part of their continuing support of the Me Too Movement, officials at **SAG-AFTRA** have issued an addition to their Code of Conduct.



The performers union has hundreds of members in the Pittsburgh area and maintains a full-time office in downtown Pittsburgh.

In February, SAG-AFTRA issues a Code of Conduct as guidelines to help prevent future instances of sexual harassment and exploitation. It was amended last month with a call for an end to the prac-

tice of holding professional meetings in private hotel rooms or residences.

Since the start of the Harvey Weinstein and related scandals, more stories have become public about people in power using places with few or no witnesses under the guise of a "professional meeting" to commit violations.

"We are committed to addressing the scenario that has allowed predators to exploit performers behind closed doors under the guise of a professional meeting," said SAG-AFTRA President Gabrielle Carteris in a press release.

Read the first Code of Conduct guideline by clicking https://www.sagaftra.org/files/sag-aftra_guideline1.pdf

In other news, SAG-AFTRA has approved proposals for the upcoming Network Code negotiations. The current contract, formally known as the National Code of Fair Practice for Network Television Broadcasting, covers syndicated and non-primetime dramatic programs, daytime serials, promotional announcements, variety, quiz, game, reality, talk, news and sports, and other non-dramatic programs. The current code expires June 30.



Billboard Art Project Causes A Stir

A recent piece created by artist Alisha Wormsley for **The Last Billboard** has raised questions about artistic expression, race and public appropriateness.

The Last Billboard is an outdoor art project funded by the Pittsburgh Foundation. It is a 36-foot-long billboard sitting on the roof of an East Liberty building owned by **We Do Property, Inc.** Each month, a different uses as a medium of expression. Details are available at www.thelastbillboard.com. Although the project has been around since 2010, it has received little attention until now. (However, the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review's* Rachel Weaver wrote an extensive article in 2014 which can be read at <http://triblive.com/lifestyles/morelifestyles/6300368-74/billboard-rubin-says>)

Wormsley's message is "There are Black People in the Fu-

ture." It's an extension of her work in Afrofuturism, a movement that addresses themes and concerns of the African diaspora through a technoculture and science fiction lens. However, many people who saw the billboard didn't know of the artist's intent and complained to We Do Property that it was too racially charged. But when the company removed the message, more people complained resulting in considerable news coverage. The story was even picked up nationally in media like ArtNet.

Wormsley explained her intent in a blog post. "It started out as a black nerd sci-fi joke," she writes. "A response to the absence of non-white faces in science fiction films and TV. Read it at <http://www.alishabwormsley.com/blog-1/2018/4/6/there-are-black-people-in-the-future-on-the-last-billboard>

A community meeting was held on April 18 at the Kelly-Strayhorn Theater. Approximately 150 people attended, reports WESA-FM's Bill O'Driscoll. At the meeting, The Last Billboard's Jon Rubin read aloud an email he received from an unnamed local developer: "From my standpoint, the sign plays into the same narrative of blacks versus whites, us versus them, and only helps the extreme elements of our community that are doing everything they can to divide and fractionalize us."

For details on the meeting, read O'Driscoll's article at <http://wesa.fm/post/forum-removed-billboard-art-generates-protest-gentrification-and-racism#stream/0>

Rapper Pras Launches New Project

Rapper, record producer, songwriter and actor Prakazrel Michél --- better known by his stage name, Pras --- has chosen Pittsburgh as the location to launch his **Blacture** project.

A press release describes Blacture as "a multifaceted tech platform designed to jumpstart a new era of black renaissance Blacture is unlike any entity or organization -- it aspires to be the epicenter of Black culture and a hub for innovation created by Black people worldwide."

Pras will formally introduce the project at a **University of Pittsburgh** event at 2:00 p.m. in the university's Alumni Hall.

The release explains: "Michél ultimately chose [Pittsburgh] for Blacture's launch because, as the rust belt faced decline, Pittsburgh actively invested in education and technology as a way to re-invent itself. However, although the city is 26% Black, it is slowly losing its Black population. Blacture and the University of Pittsburgh will

work together to retain the city's best and brightest and help Black tech flourish."

More information is available at www.blacture.com/



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Carnegie International Curator Talks

With the next Carnegie International coming in October, curator Ingrid Schaffner offered some insights to ArtNet's Sarah Cascone.



The Carnegie International was first staged in 1896 and is the nation's oldest (and the world's second oldest) exhibition of contemporary art.

Schaffner describes her three-year effort as starting with months of travel. "I took five big trips to parts of the world I had never visited before." She also wanted the participating artists to embrace the city. "After we explored Pittsburgh with each artist for a few days, it was time to pop the question, 'are you in?'" Schaffner recalled. "All of the people we went on first dates with said yes!"

A list of participating artists is available at <http://press.cmoa.org/news-releases/>

The majority of the works will be brand new and created specifically for the International. Some will be inspired by Pittsburgh and the International's history. Read Cascone's full article at <https://news.artnet.com/exhibitions/2018-carnegie-international-artist-list-1263287>

PSO Hires Earl Lee

Earl Lee has been named by the **Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra** (PSO) as their new associate conductor, reports the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.

The Asian-Canadian artist studied at the **Manhattan School of Music** and is currently with the **Toronto Symphony Orchestra**.



"The PSO is such a great organization for me to work with and absorb their style of music-making," the *Post-Gazette* quotes Lee, who assumes his new post in September.

Warhol Names New Chair

Local businessman Demetrios T. Patrinos has been named the new board chair of The Andy Warhol Museum.



One of the four **Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh**, The Andy Warhol Museum is the largest museum in the United States dedicated to a single artist, Pittsburgh native Andy Warhol (1928-1987).

Patrinos owns **Patrinos Painting and Contracting Company**. He is currently a trustee of Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh and a member of its Executive Committee.

"Jim Patrinos will be an ideal board chair," says the Warhol's Patrick Moore in a press release. "The Patrinos family has a long connection to The Andy Warhol Museum and Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh as philanthropists, volunteers and board members. Jim's acumen as a business person will serve The Warhol well as we work toward achieving the goals in our strategic plan, and his many relationships in Pittsburgh will be invaluable as we reinforce the museum's relevance to the community we serve."



Opera & CMU To Launch Inside Track

Part of a \$1.2 million grant is being awarded to the **Pittsburgh Opera**.

The gift is part of a program of **OPERA America**, an organization established in 1970 to lead and serve the entire opera community which includes supporting the creation, presentation and enjoyment of opera. The organization's Innovation Grants support exceptional projects that have the capacity to strengthen the field's most important areas of practice, including artistic vitality, audience experience, organizational effectiveness and community connections.

In a press release, the Pittsburgh Opera explains that they will

"oversee the development and implementation of a mobile app experience, tentatively named Inside Track, to provide unique simultaneous engagement experiences for its audiences in the theater."

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Through a potential mix of live and prerecorded narration or other types of streamed content, Inside Track will create a user-centered experience that offers interpretive assistance to help patrons explore the themes of an opera production intellectually and connect with it emotionally."

Inside Track will be developed in partnership with the Entertainment Technology Center, a program of **Carnegie Mellon University**.

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Comcast Aims For The Sky

Media conglomerate **Comcast** has made a bid to acquire **Sky PLC**, reports Tony Maglio for TheWrap.com.



Comcast owns NBC-Universal and operates Pittsburgh cable television franchise. Sky is a London-based European satellite broadcaster that launched in 1990. Over the years, it has become the continent's largest media company.

Rupert Murdoch --- the international media mogul that controls the Fox television network --- had been trying to buy Sky but had trouble satisfying regulators over competition concerns.

It is believed that Comcast has a good shot at making the deal. The company apparently won't face the same regulatory concerns. Moreover, its \$31 billion offer is 16% higher than that of Murdoch's company.

Hulu Adds Stations

The streaming service **Hulu** --- which began as a strictly on-demand service in 2007 --- has increased its "Live TV" service to include nearly 600 local television stations.



Interestingly, one of Hulu's owners is **Comcast** (through their NBC-Universal division). Comcast operates cable television franchises including Pittsburgh. The other stakeholders are the **Walt Disney Company** (owner of ABC-TV), **21st Century Fox** (owner of the Fox network) and **Time-Warner** (owner of CNN). Disney is in the process of acquiring Fox's shares, which give them 60% of the company.

Hulu began offering local stations in May 2017. It now "provides 51 national cable channels and 593 local TV affiliates --- all while maintaining the same \$39.99 per month launch price," writes *Variety's* Todd Spangler. This includes six Pittsburgh television stations.

"Hulu hasn't disclosed how many subscribers it has for the over-the-top live TV package," Spangler adds. "The company said it ended 2017 with more than 17 million paying subs, which includes both live TV and standalone subscription [video-on-demand]."

Spangler has posted the full list of stations at <http://variety.com/2018/digital/news/hulu-live-tv-full-lineup-national-local-networks-1202790336/>

Wilson House

Organizers have set September 2019 as the target to open the **August Wilson House**, reports WESA-FM's Adelina Lancianese.

Acclaimed playwright August Wilson (1945-2005) received two Pulitzer Prizes for his groundbreaking "Pittsburgh Cycle" of ten plays.

Wilson spent his childhood in the simple red brick structure, which had a store on the first floor with a small apartment above. It often provided Wilson with inspiration while writing his plays. His nephew, Paul Ellis, is spearheading the effort to adapt the building into a museum and art center.

The renovated house will feature galleries, studios and historical exhibits including a detailed recreation of Wilson's childhood residence. A backyard amphitheater will also be constructed.

Plans were made public at a community meeting on April 27 that included Mayor Bill Peduto. "This isn't brick and mortar. This is blood and bone," Lancianese quotes Peduto. "The work of August Wilson symbolizes a humanity that cannot be forgotten and cannot be lost,"

Read Lancianese's full story by clicking <http://wesa.fm/post/august-wilson-house-anticipates-2019-grand-opening-museum-and-art-center>



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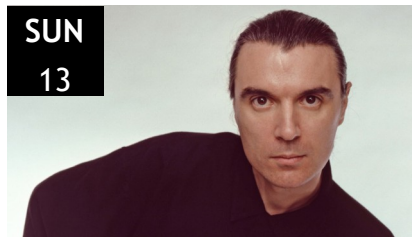
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Opportunities

Applications are now being accepted by the **Directors Guild of America** (DGA) for their annual DGA Student Film Awards. The awards are designed to honor, encourage and bring attention to exceptional direction by diverse student filmmakers in film schools and select universities across the country. The deadline is October 5, 2018. For details, click <https://www.dga.org/Awards/Students.aspx>

Various paid and unpaid opportunities for actors and crews are available at <https://setreel.com/>

Support positions at two branches of the **Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh** are available. See more at <https://www.carnegielibrary.org/careers-at-clp/current-opportunities/>

Those with digital media skills and love of sports should consider a newly created position at **Duquesne University**. The Assistant Director of Creative Media & Production will be responsible for enhancing the Duquesne Athletics' brand in the digital media realm, creating creative content that showcases the athletic department, its student-athletes, and supports its strategic plan. This individual will also assist in live event production, including in-game entertainment and Internet broadcasts. Details are at <http://www.duq.edu/x157359.xml>

WTAE-TV, the **Hearst Communications** station in Pittsburgh, is seeking people for various production and sales positions. These include a full-time writer/producer. See the full list by clicking <https://hearst.referrals.selectminds.com/television/jobs/search/597568>

Positions available at the **Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh** include a new Director of Corporate Relations. Search for this and others at <https://carnegiemuseums.org/opportunities/search-careers/>

Submissions are now being accepted by the **Walt Disney Company's** ABC television network for their annual ABC Discovers Talent Showcase. This is a one-night event produced by the ABC Casting Department to showcase new talent to an invited industry audience. Experience in writing for television, film or theater is strongly recommended, but not required. To learn more, click https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HKIgjXz7iSPThlZ7kl7aAgoua1fgsSDa/view?can_id=5e3951fdd02fd4bbcd1dfec4a5f30963d&email_referrer&source=email-2018-abc-discovers-ny-la-talent-showcase-original-scene-submissions-wga-east&email_subject=2018-abc-discovers-ny-la-talent-showcase-original-scene-submissions-wga-east&link_id=2

Local public broadcaster **WQED Pittsburgh** is looking for an account executive and an administrative assistant. Details at <https://www.wqed.org/careers>

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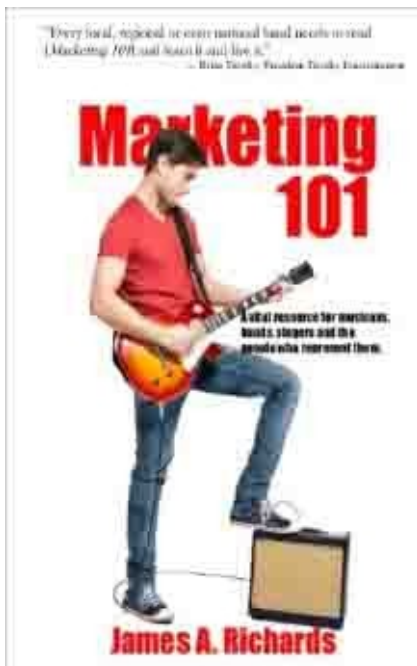
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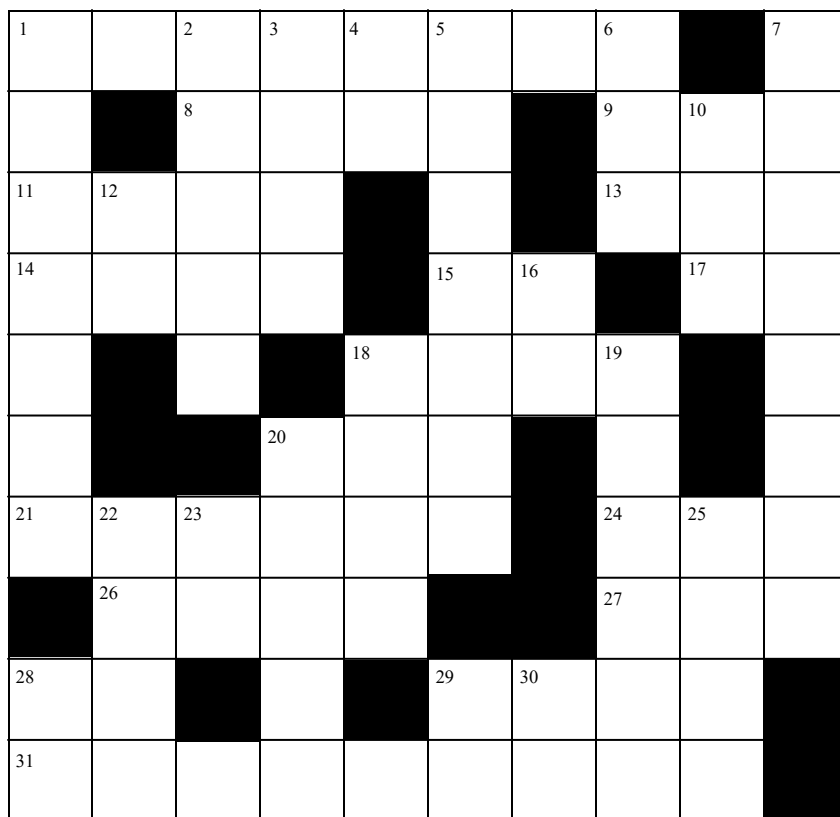
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1. Name on many Pittsburgh institutions
8. Chaplin's last wife, to pals
9. "Knots Landing" star Michelle
11. Its chemical symbol is Fe
13. Her big day is May 13
14. Spreadable meat dish
15. He famously wanted to "phone home"
17. English word for nyet
18. Q-Tip, for example
20. Pampering place
21. He asked us to "believe it or not"
24. Civilized drink
26. Property paper
27. Mr. Brooks, to pals
28. Pittsburgh-based clothier, briefly
29. Distribute the cards
31. Funny cheapskate seen every Monday night on Channel Pittsburgh



Down

1. See 5-Down
2. Famous 1970's TV miniseries
3. What remains when all is gone
4. Em's partner
5. Take 13-Across on a special cruise with these folks (with 1-Down)
6. Common tree or street name
7. The sober, important Day falling this year on May 28
10. A short word for a really, really, really long time
12. College dorm person, briefly
16. Israel's second largest city, initially
18. Drove fast
19. Adam West and Christian Bale both portrayed this hero
20. Shiny and slender
22. Creative start
23. Sweaty school class, commonly
25. Long and slippery
28. "Criminal Minds" co-star Cook, to pals
29. Postal code for Dover's state
30. Repeat the letters in 4-Down

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