

ART FOR MERIDIAN GALA EVENT!

Live Auction, Silent Auction, Fabulous Dinner

FEBRUARY 19, 2010

Northwood Country Club

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!



New Year, New Look

Another new year has arrived and the Meridian Council for the Arts is putting on a new face!

We are so excited to debut our new logo as we move into a new decade. We wanted something colorful and fun using eye-catching geometric designs and I think the designers at Ad Astra LLC hit the mark! You'll be seeing more of this new look in the future.

Now, back to the 2010 calendar. This year promises to be packed with arts events both familiar and new to our community. You'll find in this newsletter more information about the Threefoot Art Festival, and on our website the updated artist application is now available. There will be more details in the February newsletter, so keep watching, but make sure to save the date – April 3.



YPOP Brings Inspiration

The brainchild of William Myles, Young People of Praise (YPOP) has become an arts outlet for youth who might not otherwise be exposed to the wide variety of cultural experiences available in their community and beyond.

Will himself was a member of the Boys and Girls Club Choir when he was a teen-ager, but as he and his peers grew older, they were reluctant to leave behind the passion they found in music. Ricky Hood, executive director of the Club, encouraged Will to form another group that would allow that passion to continue.

“There was so much talent and real aspiration in those kids, but there were no avenues for that energy,” Will said. “We had a tremendous response to our casting call, and from 70 we chose 27 to continue.” That number now tops 30.

The members are not only from Meridian, but Jackson, Quitman and other communities around the area and ages range from 14 to 36. In their performances – not only around the state but around the nation – the mission is clear, according to Will.

“First and foremost is to spread the gospel, but secondly, it is to inspire other kids to seek opportunities in the

I am excited to share information about a new event, the **Art for Meridian dinner and auction, coming February 19 at Northwood Country Club.** This event will include a preview party (February 12) at one of Meridian's finest homes — location to be announced soon! Tickets for this live auction, silent auction and dinner are \$125 each and \$250 per couple. If you chose not to go to the preview party, then tickets are \$100 each. Seating is LIMITED and the artwork is a must-have. For further information, call me at 601-917-4664 or Connie Royal, our executive director, at 601-485-1944. We'll be posting more information on our website in the days to come.

There is so much to celebrate in the arts and we are looking forward to another year of wonderful opportunities to showcase and experience local, regional, national and international cultural arts programs.

Finally, if you haven't taken the time to do so, please visit our website at www.artsmeridian.org. We are very proud of this new site, which is a true clearinghouse for arts and cultural events not only in Lauderdale County, but throughout the Southeast. You can also find more information about how to join the Meridian Council for the Arts and help make all of these wonderful events possible.

The very best New Year to all of you,
—**Debbie Martin, President, Meridian Council for the Arts**

Artists, Vendors

Sign Up for Threefoot

Artist entry forms and vendor sign-up forms are now available for the 2010 Threefoot Art Festival, set for April 3 in Meridian, Mississippi.

arts, whatever those arts might be. In our community we see the 'hip-hop' culture or an emphasis on athleticism; we don't see authors, dancers, painters, poets. We want all kids to know that they have an outlet for their creativity. That they can find a passion in the arts.”

The arts also provide a culture of learning and Will said the results are evident. “We see grades improve, behavior improve. There is no doubt the joy that comes from this music translates into other areas of their lives.”

And 2010 looks to be a busy year for YPOP. In addition to performances across the country, including Nashville, Tenn., and Indianapolis, Ind., the group has been invited to participate on a tour in London.

Also beginning next month, Will is forming a new group, Risk Takers. Members must conform to certain academic and moral standards in order to become members. “It's about teaching and learning life lessons and being exposed to all mediums of the arts. It's a risk because it may challenge them to go against some of the norms in their peer groups or communities. But that is a life lesson in itself.”

For more information about YPOP, contact Will Myles at mylesypop@yahoo.com or 601-938-9643.

Don't Miss These Events!

JANUARY 16, 2010 – NASHVILLE SONGWRITERS NIGHT

Top Nashville songwriters play their hits sung by the artist you know. Held each third Saturday of the month from 7 to 10 p.m. at Temple Theater. Tickets \$10. 601.693.5353.

JANUARY 16, 2010 – FRAN MCKENDREE CONCERT

Singer, songwriter and performer Fran McKendree brings his unique style to St. Paul's Episcopal Church for a concert. 7 p.m., 1116 23rd Avenue. \$10 donation suggested; coffee and desserts served. 601-693-2502.

JANUARY 19, 2010 – GOLDEN DRAGON ACROBATS

Presented as part of Meridian Community College's Arts and Letter Series. 7 p.m. at McCain Theatre on MCC's campus. 601.484.8696.

JANUARY 22, 2010 – JUNIE B. JONES, THE MUSICAL

Based on four volumes in Barbara Park's Junie B. Jones

Last year's event — in its new downtown location — drew more than 10,000 people who were ready and willing to buy art and eat the great food during this day-long festivity.

This year's event will be even bigger and better, with a children's hands-on area, non-stop entertainment and the famous Threefoot Bloody Marys.

Booth space for artists is limited, as for food vendors, so we urge you to sign up as soon as possible.

Download the forms at www.artsmeridian.org or call our office at 601-485-1944 to have one sent to you in the mail.

See you there!

*Funding provided by:
National Endowment
for the Arts
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Commission*

Don't miss the great happenings in the Arts in Meridian!

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book series, this new musical is produced by America's largest and most prolific professional not-for-profit theatre company for young and family audiences, Theatreworks USA. Fo7:30 p.m. at MSU's Riley Center. Visit www.msurileycenter.com or 601.696.2200. Tickets: Adults, \$18; Children, \$10.

JANUARY 23, 2010 – LOS LOBOS IN CONCERT
One of America's musical treasures is back on the road playing acoustic shows. 7:30 p.m. at MSU's Riley Center. Visit www.msurileycenter.com or 601.696.2200. Tickets: \$39, \$33.

JANUARY 30, 2010 – THE AMERICAN SPIRITUAL ENSEMBLE IN CONCERT
Some of today's finest vocalists in the United States will be performing a broad repertoire from spirituals to classical to Broadway and dance. 7:30 p.m. at MSU's Riley Center. Visit www.msurileycenter.com or 601.696.2200. Tickets: \$28, \$22.

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