

Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury to Host “Silver Second Saturdays” Concerts

As part of its continuing 25th anniversary celebration, Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury is sponsoring a series of musical events this fall on the second Saturday of each month from September through November. The “Silver Second Saturdays” concert series will feature regional artists and highlight a variety of musical genres.

“We thought that offering a concert series would add a real touch of class to our 25th anniversary celebration,” said Amy Lewis, Senior Resident Life Coordinator at RWC. “Our residents are eclectic in their musical tastes and are sure to enjoy the wide range of talent we’re bringing to campus.

RWC’s vice president for development, Whiz Harris, is pleased that two of the concerts will be open to the public. “We know that many in the local community will enjoy hearing some of these nationally acclaimed performers who have roots in our region.”

The September 11 performance will feature the Tidewater Guitar Orchestra. The TGO, one of the first of its kind in the United States, is an ensemble of more than a dozen accomplished guitarists who use the lush timbral resources of an orchestra of guitars of different sizes to explore a rich repertoire ranging from Bach to Bartok and specializing in music of the Americas. The TGO has made numerous appearances in the region and represented the United States at the International Guitar Festival in Costa Rica in October of 1999.

The Brass 5 will entertain RWC residents and their invited guests on October 9. The Roanoke-based group has performed in the Mid-Atlantic States and in Europe, entertaining audiences with a repertoire that spans the musical spectrum from Renaissance to classical, Dixieland to contemporary jazz, rock to country. Their program is sure to include something for everyone. The group has been called energetic, exciting, and captivating. Commenting on a recent performance, Shonna Lee Powers of the Buchanan, Virginia Arts Council said “They dazzled the audience.”

On November 13, nationally renowned soprano Risa Renae Harman, a long-time Richmond resident who now lives and works in New York City, will perform the final concert in the series. Harman has appeared New York, at the Kennedy Center and National Cathedral in Washington, DC and in venues across the country. A *Washington Post* critic described her voice as “luminous” and “outstanding,” and the *New York Times* called her “a rare creature among singers, a really good recitalist.”

“We’re always delighted when we can offer our residents and the local community the chance to experience high-quality cultural events right at home,” said Stuart Bunting, president and CEO of RWC. “We’re certain this series will be a highlight of our anniversary year.”

The September and October concerts are being partially supported by funding from the Virginia Commission for the Arts. The public is invited to join RWC residents for the September and November performances. The November performance will be a benefit to support the RWC Foundation’s Fellowship Fund. All events will be held on the campus at RWC, 132 Lancaster

Drive just outside the village of Irvington. A pre-concert reception will begin at 6:00 p.m., followed by the performance at 7:00 p.m. Details about reservations and ticket information for the November event will be published at a later date.