

*Music at the Academy*

**An Exciting Concert Series Makes Its Debut**

Roots & Shoots blends folk traditions and modern influences



**Kevin McKrell**  
celtic folk songwriter

**Brian Melick**  
drummer/percussionist

**SATURDAY, MARCH 9**  
**8:00PM**

Roots & Shoots, an exciting new concert series, will debut at the Spencertown Academy this spring, featuring artists who reach back to earlier musical traditions (Americana, jazz, blues, rock, and world music) for inspiration while incorporating present-day forms and influences.

The series opens on Saturday, March 9 at 8pm with celebrated Celtic singer-songwriter **Kevin McKrell** and accompanist **Brian Melick**. McKrell has headlined at major Celtic, folk,

and bluegrass festivals around the world, as well as at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and other renowned venues. His songs have been performed and recorded by the Kingston Trio, Bob Shane, Scottish folk band North Sea Gas, Woods Tea Company, and many others.

Next up is folk singer-songwriter **Ana Egge** with **Alec Spiegelman** on Saturday, March 30 at 8pm. Egge recorded her first album, *River Under the Road* with the western swing band, Asleep At The Wheel, in 1997; her 10th album, *White Tiger*, was released last year. Alec Spiegelman will accompany her with backing vocals and on keyboards and bass clarinet.

For more than 20 years, Capital District-based **Mark Gamsjager** and **The Lustre Kings** have kept the sound of early rockabilly alive—in the region, across the U.S., and around the world. The group draws from a deeper well than most roots rock acts, giving their music a breadth and depth while still keeping the bar hopping and the dance floor filled. They'll perform Saturday, April 13 at 8pm.

**The Chapin Sisters**, who will perform on Saturday, May 4, at 8pm, have garnered critical acclaim with their distinctive blend of folk music roots and modernist sensibilities. Siblings Abigail and Lily carry on a proud family musical legacy: their father, Tom Chapin, is a Grammy-winning singer/songwriter; their uncle, Harry Chapin, was an artist and activist best known for his 1974 hit "Cat's in the Cradle;" grandfather Jim Chapin was an esteemed jazz drummer. The two have recorded seven albums. Their latest, *Ferry Boat*, will be issued by Loantaka Records on April 30.

Tickets to Roots & Shoots concerts (\$20 public, \$15 Academy members, \$10 students) may be purchased at the door or in advance at [spencertownacademy.org](http://spencertownacademy.org). Additional concerts will be scheduled for the second half of the year.



*what's coming up*

 **MUSIC AT THE ACADEMY**

**Kevin McKrell & Brian Melick**

Celtic/Irish folk songs  
Saturday, March 9, 8pm  
Tickets: \$20/\$15 members/\$10 students

*conversations with neighbors*

**Talkin' Trees**

A Conversation Between an Arborist and a Landscape Architect  
Sunday, March 17, 2pm  
Tickets: \$20/\$15 members/\$10 students

 **MUSIC AT THE ACADEMY**

**Ana Egge & Alec Spiegelman**

Saturday, March 30, 8pm  
Tickets: \$20/\$15 members/\$10 students

 **THE GALLERY**

**4th Annual Members Art Show**

Works in multiple media by Academy member artists.  
April 13-May 5  
Opening reception: Saturday, April 13, 4-6pm

 **MUSIC AT THE ACADEMY**

**Swing Dance with the Lustre Kings**

Saturday, April 13  
Dance lesson at 7pm, concert to follow  
Tickets: \$20/\$15 members/\$10 students

**The Chapin Sisters**

Saturday, May 4, 8pm  
Tickets: \$20/\$15 members/\$10 students

 **WorkShop**

**Creative Writing Workshop**

with Jamie Cat Callan  
Five Saturdays, May 4-June 1, 10am-1pm  
Registration fee: \$265

 **THE GALLERY**

**Gardens of Delight**

The Academy's Spring Show  
May 18-June 16  
Opening reception: Saturday, May 18, 4-6pm

 **MUSIC AT THE ACADEMY**

**Bend the Knotted Oak**

Chamber music concert  
Sunday, May 26, 3pm  
Tickets: Adults \$25, under 18 - free admission

## A Place for All Seasons If winter comes...



The sky is the color of sheetrock as I write this and there is an icy crust of snow on the ground, with another dusting forecast over the next few days. On the calendar, spring is still several weeks away.

But here's the thing: Throughout the year, planning for the Academy's signature events typically starts months in advance—which means that if you're involved in the planning, you're always thinking a season ahead. A case in point: our annual Hidden Gardens Tour takes place in mid-June, but preparations have already begun, the mere act of thinking and talking about things like planting and mulching somehow makes the winter a bit more bearable and summer a little closer.

But this isn't to rush the season or to downplay the special pleasures of winter in the Hudson Valley, for outdoors types and homebodies alike. Indeed, this winter in particular has been one of the most vibrant and exciting the Academy has seen in years, with a packed and varied schedule of events.

Though I've said it before, it bears repeating that none of the concerts, gallery shows, workshops and signature events would be possible without the commitment and tireless effort of our volunteers.

As busy as this winter has been so far, there's a lot more to come before the weather turns warmer. Please check out the What's Coming Up column on page 1 of our newsletter—or the Calendar page at [spencertownacademy.org](http://spencertownacademy.org).

*Nick Van Alstine*

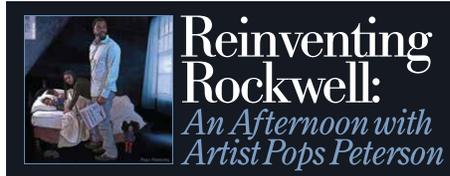
## January-February recap



### What Winter Doldrums? The Academy has been a busy place this year

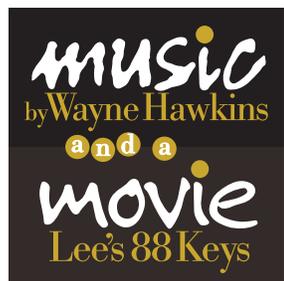
While much of the world hibernated throughout January and February, the Spencertown Academy was a blizzard of activity. Here's how the cultural calendar shaped up:

**January 12**—Lee's 88 Keys, a documentary about legendary jazz pianist Lee Shaw, was screened at the Academy. Lee, who died in 2015, lived in Albany and was known worldwide as the First Lady of Jazz. Filmmaker Susan Robbins introduced the film and pianist Wayne Hawkins performed some of Lee's music.



**February 3**—"Reinventing Rockwell" was the latest installment in the Conversations with Neighbors series.

The presenter was Stockbridge artist-activist-writer Pops Peterson, who's best known for his freedom/civil-rights-themed works, including a bold reimagining of Norman Rockwell's paintings.



**January 26**—The turnout was strong for Revels, the Academy's long-standing midwinter moveable feast. As always, the evening began with a cocktail reception at the Academy—this year with a Caribbean theme—followed by elegant and intimate dinner parties hosted by friends of the Academy.

**February 9**—Lincoln Mayorga and Rob Fisch performed jazz classics by Jerome Kern, Cole Porter, George Gershwin and others. Also appearing were Capital District favorites Rich Syracuse on bass and Gene Garone on drums.



**February 2**—Back by popular demand, Martha Belardo of Hudson Valley Fiber Arts offered a needle felting workshop for enthusiastic crafters.



Best of all, the pace of activity shows no sign of slowing, with a full calendar of concerts, gallery shows and other events in the coming months—so watch your email for details!

## the Academy

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### MEMBERSHIP

*Are you a current member of the Spencertown Academy?*  
Visit our website to sign up or to renew your membership today!  
*We thank you for your support.*

### PLEASE VISIT

[spencertownacademy.org](http://spencertownacademy.org)  
for information on programs, artsVOYAGE, membership, and volunteer opportunities or to subscribe to our e-blast list.



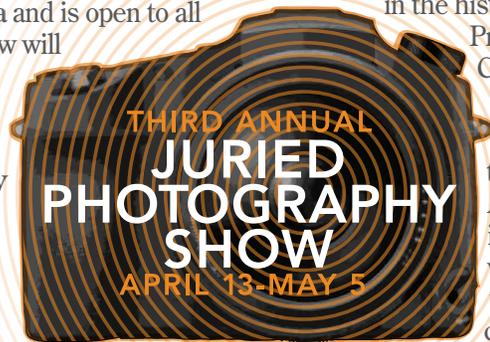
## Call for Artists X 2

Two of the Academy's most popular repeating art shows are coming up soon and artists are welcome to submit their work.

Back by popular demand, the Fourth Annual Members Art Show will feature works in all media and is open to all Academy member artists. The show will run from April 13-May 5.

"This is not a juried show, but a 'thank you' to members and a chance to show the world what they can do," says the show's coordinator, Leslie Gabosh. "We'll do our best to include up to pieces from each artist," she adds, "but we can't guarantee it and space is limited."

The deadline for submissions is Friday, March 8 and entrants' membership must be current by March 1. Submission guidelines are available at [spencertownacademy.org/fourth-annual-members-art-show-submission-guidelines](http://spencertownacademy.org/fourth-annual-members-art-show-submission-guidelines).



The Academy's Third Annual Juried Photography show will open June 22 and run through July 14. The exhibit will be curated by Bonnie Yochelson, an art historian specializing in the history of photography and former Curator of Prints and Photographs at the Museum of the City of New York.

"For the first time in three years, photographers will not need to abide by a preconceived theme," says Lynn Rothenberg, member of the Academy Gallery Committee, who is coordinating this exhibit. "Based on past shows, it's clear we have a talented pool of photographers, and we want to attract as many as we can by not constricting creative vision."

The submission deadline is Saturday March 30 and guidelines are available at [spencertownacademy.org/gallery/juried-photography-show-guidelines](http://spencertownacademy.org/gallery/juried-photography-show-guidelines).

## Conversations with Neighbors



### The Subject Is Trees

An arborist and a landscape architect discuss the current state of trees—in forests and backyards

Two regional arboreal experts will talk about trees—how to identify and nurture them, why they're endangered and how to save them—in the next installment of the Academy's Conversations with Neighbors series. Their discussion,

"Talkin' Trees: A Conversation Between a Certified Arborist and a Landscape Architect," takes place on Sunday, March 17 at 2pm.

Berkshire County arborist Tom Ingersoll will open the program with an illustrated talk

on tree identification, selection, planting, and pruning techniques and his holistic approach to tree care. Landscape architect David Dew Bruner will then join him to discuss current environmental stresses on trees and the state of arboriculture in the region. Both will take questions from the audience. Refreshments will be served.

#### Trees in trouble

"We all have trees growing around our homes, and coniferous, hardwood and wetland forests surround us in our beautiful region," says Madaline Sparks, a landscape designer and member of the Conversations with Neighbors Committee. "We tend to take them for granted, but many trees are in trouble and being lost to bad horticultural practices, insect invasions, diseases, and climate change. Tree preservation is a topic that everyone can relate to and needs expert advice about."

A Sheffield, MA, native, Ingersoll returned to the family landscape contracting and tree care business after college,

becoming a certified arborist and accredited organic land care professional. Over the past 25 years he has led and supervised crews of arborists, horticulturalists, stonemasons, and plant health care technicians in a broad range of projects. His

company, Ingersoll Landcare, has worked on hundreds of private, commercial, municipal, institutional and museum properties.

#### Wide-ranging experience

David Dew Bruner is an award-winning landscape architect and nationally exhibited artist with over 35

years' experience ranging from Deputy Administrator of New York City's Riverside Park, to amusement park design and historical restoration. He has held teaching positions at New York Botanical Garden and Columbia University and currently teaches at Berkshire Botanical Garden, and maintains a residential design practice in the Hudson Valley.

Conversations with Neighbors is an occasional series designed to spark neighbor-to-neighbor conversations and celebrate the richness and diversity of the Columbia County community.

Admission is \$20 general admission, \$15 for members, and \$10 students. Tickets are available at [spencertownacademy.org](http://spencertownacademy.org) (advance purchase recommended).



*building community through the arts*



15th Annual

# Hidden Gardens Tour

Saturday, June 15

Garden Market: 9am-3pm - Self-guided tour: 10am-4pm



## *Hidden Gardens 2019*

### Prologue to June The Academy plans its 15<sup>th</sup> annual summer kickoff



If you look beyond the snow drifts and really focus, you can just make out the first signs of milder days to come. And that means that the Academy's 15th annual run-up to summer, Hidden Gardens, isn't so far away.

The festivities begin on Friday, June 14, with the always well-attended Twilight in the Garden party, featuring cocktails, sparkling beverages and a light buffet dinner supper served amid a bucolic setting.

The following morning, featured speaker Jenny Elliot, of Tiny Hearts Farm in Hillsdale, will offer tips for growing annuals and foraging natural materials to create

PURPLE CLEMATIS ON TRELIS - Mary Ellen Riell

original floral designs. She'll also share the story of how she and her husband, Luke Franco, two musicians without so much as a shovel, came to be organic flower farmers in the Hudson Valley.

The lecture is set for Saturday, June 15, from 9-10am; doors open at 8:30 for continental breakfast. The self-guided garden tour will take place from 10am-4pm and wind through a variety of private gardens in the local area. Also on Saturday, garden enthusiasts can check out the plants, gardenware, home furnishings and other items at the Garden Market on the Green.

Watch for further details as we get closer to June.



## *the rewards of volunteering*

### Be a Joiner!

#### Volunteer at the Academy

If you're thinking of volunteering at the Academy, your timing is impeccable. Our calendar for the next few months includes a full slate of gallery shows and concerts—and, looking ahead a bit, Hidden Gardens.

Anyone who has helped out at past Academy events or behind the scenes will tell you that volunteering is rewarding, fun and a great way to connect with friends and neighbors. And, of

course, there's the satisfaction that comes from knowing you're having a positive impact on your community.

As an all-volunteer organization, the Academy depends on the active and enthusiastic participation of our friends and neighbors. So please join us! We warmly welcome your ideas, your enthusiasm and your company.

For more information, visit [spencertownacademy.org](http://spencertownacademy.org), or email us at [volunteer@spencertownacademy.org](mailto:volunteer@spencertownacademy.org).

