

“Brazilian Groove” Brings International Flair

SU hosted a number of top international artists as part of its “Brazilian Groove” fall cultural events series, including several Grammy-nominees and a pair of artists the *New York Times* hailed as “performance virtuosity.”

Minas, one of the most popular Brazilian bands in the United States, performed to an enraptured crowd in SU’s Red Square in September. Featuring guitarist Orlando Haddad and pianist Patricia King, the Grammy Award-nominated group has appeared at prestigious venues including the Lincoln Center and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

In November, the popular Peter and Judy Jackson Chamber Music Series presented *Canções and Lendas Brasileiras* in Holloway Hall Auditorium. Comprised of countertenor José Lemos, guitarist Marco Sartor and percussionist Danny Mallon, the group presented an evening of stirring music crafted exclusively for SU. The program included classical selections “Lendas Amazonicas” and “Suite Popular Brasileira.”

Lemos, a member of the Baltimore Consort, has received critical acclaim at venues throughout North America and Europe, including Carnegie Hall, London’s Barbican Hall and Paris’ Théâtre de Champs Elysée. His recorded works include a production of Lully’s *Psyche*, which was nominated for a 2009 Grammy Award. Sartor has performed in North America and Europe, as well as his native South America, and was featured on Marc Regnier’s Grammy-nominated album *Radamés Gnattali: Solo and Chamber Works for Guitar*. Mallon has recorded with musicians including Liza Minnelli and Maureen McGovern.

The series also included the intriguing McLean Mix multimedia rainforest installation in the Wicomico Room of the Guerrieri University Center in November. The installation, which earned raves from the *New York Times*, brought a portable audio-visual-environmental interactive exhibit that allowed participants to reproduce the captivating sounds of the rainforest using recordings and instruments, while viewing a slide presentation of rainforests around the world. The McLeans recorded rainforest sounds from locations including Peru, Hawaii, Australia, Borneo and Puerto Rico.



From Jazz to Opera: SU Entertained by Musical Diversity

The 15-piece jazz, blues and funk ensemble Rhythm in Blue rocked the house, while the Salisbury Symphony Orchestra (SSO) showed off its versatility.

The Rhythm in Blue Jazz Ensemble of the U.S. Air Force Heritage of America Band performed swinging hits from the big band era by Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman, Ella Fitzgerald and Sarah Vaughn at a concert in October. Led by MSgt. John Cisar, Rhythm in Blue has earned worldwide acclaim, performing at ceremonies for U.S. presidents and foreign heads of state including the Queen of England.



The SSO entertained crowds at two performances – the annual Children’s Concert “In the Beginning” in October and the annual Holiday Concert “Opera Classics and Broadway Favorites” in December. Dr. Jeffrey Schoyen conducted the festive Holiday Concert, featuring guest tenor Dominic Armstrong, a graduate of the Curtis Institute and the Juilliard School. Armstrong has performed with Deutsche Oper Berlin, Opera Regio Torino and the New York City Opera.

“In the Beginning” featured the Alaskan Native American myth of “Raven and Ganook,” about a plucky Raven who delivered food and water to the people of the world. Dr. Jackie Chooi-Theng Lew of SU’s Department of Music narrated, with full orchestral accompaniment. The SSO also performed selections from Mussorgsky’s “Pictures at an Exhibition” and Rossini’s “William Tell Overture.”

SU Travels to Camelot

The Bobbi Biron Theatre Program, led by a talented cast that drew equally from the acting and music programs at SU, presented Lerner and Loewe's beloved epic musical *Camelot* in March.

Dr. T. Paul Pfeiffer, chair of the Theatre and Dance Department, directed the play with musical direction by Dr. William Folger, chair of the Music Department. The production represented a homecoming of sorts for Pfeiffer. A longtime fan of the work, he portrayed King Arthur in a production of *Camelot* as a senior in high school.

Pfeiffer compared the play to another popular love triangle. "It's not 'Team Arthur' or 'Team Lancelot,'" he said, referencing the allegiances built around the romantic leads in the popular *Twilight* book and film series. The crux of the play, he insisted, is much deeper. "It's about thinking things through and working out problems by using your head instead of force or intuition or emotion."



Holocaust Survivor and Pulitzer-Winning Author Give Lectures

Two powerful speakers appeared at SU.

Martin Weiss, a survivor volunteer at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, gave the lecture "Life in the Holocaust: Memories of a Survivor" in November as part of the SU Center for Conflict Resolution's "One Person Can Make a Difference" series.

Born in 1929 in Polana, Czechoslovakia, Weiss was present when Germany occupied the country in 1939. Five years later hundreds of thousands of Hungarian Jews, including the Weisses, were arrested and deported to the Munkacs Ghetto and forced to perform slave labor at a brick factory. Within the next three months, the Weisses were deported from Hungary to Auschwitz-Birkenau. Weiss, his brother Moshe, his sister Cilia and his father Jacob were selected for slave labor. The rest of the family was killed upon arrival.

As the Allies advanced into Germany in spring 1945, Weiss and the other inmates were marched to Gunskirchen, where the U.S. Army eventually liberated them. Weiss immigrated to the U.S. in 1946, serving in the Korean War before entering the grocery business in 1955 and starting a family. He began volunteering with the Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1998.

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Edward P. Jones read from his works as part of the Writers-on-the-Shore series in October.

Jones won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction for his 2003 *New York Times* bestseller *The Known World*. The book also earned the National Book Critics Circle Award, International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award and Lannan Literary Award.

Also known for his compilations of short stories, Jones' first collection, *Lost in the City*, won the PEN/Hemingway Award and was nominated for the National Book Award. His second, *All Aunt Hagar's Children*, was a finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Award.



Holocaust survivor
Martin Weiss



Pulitzer Prize winner
Edward P. Jones

University Art Galleries Expands to Downtown Salisbury

SU joined the city's growing downtown arts community, opening a striking 2,000 square foot multi-room gallery space there in April.

The opening of the SU Art Galleries — Downtown Campus coincided with the city's annual Salisbury Festival.

"The University is excited by the potential of such a presence," said SU President Janet Dudley-Eshbach. "We hope the art exhibits will attract more students and other visitors, who, in turn, will explore the neighborhood and enjoy what downtown businesses, shops and other artists have to offer. A vital, attractive and prosperous downtown benefits us all."

The first two exhibits were held May 17-June 29. "Young Philly," a group show, showed off the impressive range of several emerging artists currently living and working in Philadelphia. Exhibiting concurrently was "The Immortals," a bold solo show of contemporary portraiture by Jessica Cross Davis, who teaches painting, drawing, design and printmaking in SU's Art Department. Dr. Maarten Pereboom, dean of the Fulton School of Liberal Arts, lauded the benefits of University arts programs on urban revitalization. "A synergy develops when the arts are concentrated in a downtown neighborhood," he said.

