



SPAE QUARTERLY

Good fortune, good future through arts and education

Summer 2020

Scottish Partnership for Arts and Education

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SPAE Mission Statement

Scottish Partnership for Arts and Education, a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation, believes that the historic connections between Scotland, countries of West Africa, and the United States provide an educational foundation which broadens perspectives and understanding, creating mutual respect and unity.

Announcements

Our proposed schedule for the 2020 season is listed on the last page of this newsletter. Please be aware that, unless otherwise announced, ALL OF THESE EVENTS WILL BE CANCELLED. We are officially awaiting word about one of our grants and, of course, keeping track of the current pandemic. At this time, we believe that our schools will not be allowing guests into the buildings (and our traveling artists might not be able to travel). Some of our artists might present to schools via teleconference, but those details will come at a later date.

Notes from the Artistic Director

by Diane McCullough

I am writing this article on June 21, 2020. Friday was Juneteenth and this weekend has been The Poor People's Campaign Virtual March. We are in our fourth month of COVID-19 quarantine and have witnessed the cruelty of the killings of unarmed Black Americans by those who are supposed to serve and protect us. We are all impacted from and by these events. We can each find ways of truthfully addressing the injustices we witness. SPAE is doing this through arts education.

As the artistic director of SPAE, one of my responsibilities and definitely one of my passions, is to write curriculum that tells an honest story of our history in the United States as it is revealed in our artistic culture. The basic principle is that our artistic traditions, particularly music but not just music, originate from the coming together of Celtic and West African cultures. Although we think of fiddle music as a strictly white and Celtic tradition, it turns out that bowed, strummed and plucked stringed instruments are also traditional in the West African countries from which most African Americans' ancestors were taken – Ghana, Senegal, Mali, The Gambia, Benin, Cameroon and more.

A more specific example of a tradition that the Celtic and West African cultures have in common is that of the musician as historian to the chief. Among the Gaelic speaking clans of Scotland and Ireland and the empires of Mali and the Senegambia regions of West Africa, history was passed down orally by musicians who spent their lives studying and memorizing hundreds of years of history. These men were harp players. In Mali and the Senegambia, they play a lute harp called a kora.¹

The confluence of these traditions, because of the slave trade, is evident from the very beginnings of the settlements of Jamestown and Williamsburg, Virginia. The restored village, "Old Williamsburg" has published some musical manuscripts that are replicas of "tune books" from the 17th and 18th centuries. In them, we find that most of the music being played for dances and entertainment was Scottish. As we know, Robert Burns and other poets and folklore loving Scots had begun collecting the poetry and song of their oral traditions and, by the late 17th century, these tunes were being published both in Scotland and England. Many of these publications have been found in Old Williamsburg and are listed in the replica manuscripts. Also found in the replicas is the mention that most of the fiddlers at the dances were Black². Black fiddlers were both enslaved people and freed people.

¹To hear the kora visit Youtube: "Toumani & Sidiki Diabate – Lampedusa-Festival Mantras, Madrid Feb. 19,2015" or Ballake Sissoko at Ethno Port Poznan Festival July 21, 2017, or a kora/cello duo with Sissoko and Vincent Segal on NPR Music Tiny Desk 2011.

²Music books at Old Williamsburg, VA: The Tin Whistle Book, A Little Keyboard Book, and Colonial Keyboard Book

Join Us

SPAE is growing more opportunities for our students. With this growth comes a need to increase our Board membership and occasional volunteer base. Our Board Members are involved in all aspects of our program. We are a diversified group working on new ideas and funding. Fall is our busiest time with our mentors coming into the schools, concerts and the Scottish Games. We participate in other events throughout the year. The Board meets monthly. If you are interested in a Board position or as a volunteer please contact Diane Betts at littlebetsyriver@yahoo.com or call 314-737-6053.

Madison- St. Gabriel the Archangel
To me freedom is something that is limitless. With freedom you can fly like a bird through the air. Freedom lets you talk however you want to talk, lets you be whoever you want to be, lets you love whoever you want to love, lets you do whatever you want to do. Your freedom is controlled by you and no one else. It is something that should be very important to you always, and should never be taken away, because it is yours and no one else's.
Some people may think that people of different races, beliefs, lifestyles, may not be entitled to the same rights as others. But freedom is entitled to everyone. We may all be different in looks, how we talk, how we act, but we aren't any different in value. In the end, I think that freedom is something that is due to every human being in this world.

Musicians exchange music whenever they get together – especially folk musicians. This happened in several different ways in the antebellum South. Enslaved and bonded field workers were thrown together in close quarters and heard each other's music, even played together. In the plantation houses, even the patriarchs were playing the Scottish tunes – remember the manuscripts. Any enslaved people working in the houses would have heard the music being played there. With a good ear, the tunes would be picked up. The thing is, the patriarchs thought it beneath themselves to play for dances or even in concert (at that time musicians were considered servants) so it fell to the enslaved and bonded musicians to play. Being a musician was a skill that provided a bit of freedom to enslaved musicians and a bit of income to freed Black musicians. Enslaved musicians were “rented out” and most of the money they earned went to the white enslaver. There are many stories, however, of freedom being bought by these musicians after years of saving the small wages they may have received.

As people moved west, both black and white musicians carried the music via the Ohio River Valley³ and into Missouri and the Missouri River plantations.⁴ Black fiddlers were still playing for both black and white dance parties all over Missouri as late as the 1940s and 50s. Bill Driver and Bill Katon are two examples whose music can be found on recordings. It was the recording industry that greatly influenced our concepts of who played this music. Marketing strategies separated “race music” from old-time and later Country and Bluegrass. Recording companies were willing to record Black musicians who played the blues but, increasingly less willing to present them playing other forms of popular music.

This brings us to the question of the music of Appalachia which has been portrayed as a strictly Anglo and Scots-Irish phenomenon. This notion was introduced in the late 19th century by several early ethno-musicologists that visited Appalachia with the newly invented recording machines they brought to document their work. This was at the beginning of Jim Crow laws that codified racial segregation and these writers played right into that mentality. Recent research is slowly disproving this monochromatic view. A terrific source of information can be found in Phil Jamison's book, “Hoedowns, Reels and Frolics: Roots and Branches of Southern Appalachian Dance.” Concentrating on specific dance formations and steps, Jamison credits modern forms of folkdance in the USA to three groups: white people of Scots-Irish and Anglo heritage, African Americans, and Indigenous Americans. This book is fascinating and, besides going into great detail about the dances, Jamison has found pictures from each period of actual dances showing both dancers and musicians. Phil Jamison, himself, is a flat foot step dancer and banjo player as well as being a math professor at Warren Wilson College in North Carolina.

There is much more that could be said about this heritage. I hope your curiosity has been peeked and that you will take some time to look into this subject and these resources. You can also visit our website: www.stlspae.org to view past programs. I

³Popular Music of Cincinnati & The Ohio River Frontier from 1788 to 1825, Sara L. Johnson, 1998 Hidden Valley Lane, Cincinnati OH 45215

⁴African-American Fiddlers in Central Missouri, Missouri Traditional Fiddle & Dance Network, December 18, 2013

Terriel - Gateway Middle

!What Freedom Means To Me!
Freedom means being able to experience things other people don't have a chance to. Plenty of people don't have an opportunity to go to school. We have the opportunity to learn and get an education. We should take advantage of it. We can go far in life if we try to succeed. If you ever want to have your dream job, you need to be willing to do your best. We're not going to be kids forever, so we need to start while we're young.

Kids in this era learn the wrong things off of television and phones which is very horrible. Phones are not used for learning like they could be. The internet could be used for amazing things. Grades are only important if you learn the skills to achieve that grade.

Shaniah - Gateway Middle

What is freedom?
What does it mean to me?
It means to be able
It means to be free.
What is freedom like?
Will we ever know?
I think I saw it once.
I saw it even though
I'm just a bird in a cage.
A bird alone in the dark,
Though when I finally saw it
My heart began to spark.

Hannah - Gateway Middle Society

Welcome to society, I hope you stay.
We tell you what you want every single day.
We tear you into pieces and we leave you on the ground.
We hope you can help us and change lives around

recommend "The Line Connecting Gaelic Psalm Singing and American Music", a seminar presented in April 2015 at Webster Groves Presbyterian Church.

In this newsletter you can find a new marketing flyer that describes our three main curricula. There are also examples of student writing on freedom from our CONNECTIONS: ROBERT BURNS AND PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR – VOICES OF THE PEOPLE residencies in 2019 with seventh grade students at Gateway Middle School (on north Jefferson) and St. Gabriel the Archangel School (at Tamm & Nottingham), both in St. Louis City. Part of this residency includes our STEAM project "The Art and Science of Felting." We have included some pictures of this work here as well. ENJOY!!

Supporting our programs means that you can also be part of the solution. Thank you for your continued support and for all you have already done for SPAE and the students we serve.

THE ART AND SCIENCE OF FELTING

This program is part of the CONNECTIONS: ROBERT BURNS AND PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR – VOICES OF THE PEOPLE residency and is also offered as a professional development workshop for teachers. Photos courtesy of Diane McCullough

Students working in science class at Gateway Middle School, artist Jessi Cerutti (right photo)



Exhibit of student work at St. Gabriel the Archangel



Sean - Gateway Middle

I believe freedom means being able to make choices on your own. Freedom doesn't make someone feel forced or trapped. Freedom allows a human to think for themselves. Personally, I believe freedom makes humans, allows humans, even animals, to live an at least decent life. Freedom is not about forcefully making someone do something. It's about feeling like your own person.

BrenDelle-Gateway Middle

Two Kwansabas
Life, life is soft, life is long
Live your life like you've never lived
Before, life is awesome life is a
Thrill, don't worry about life just go
And live, life is so crazy life is so amazing it goes on and on and then you die.

Life is crazy life is devastating
Sit back enjoy it while you can
Lives are going fast
Better watch you're back
Before you see
A devastating crack, crack, crack
Better watch your back.

Dion - Gateway Middle

Can't wear hoodies
Can't eat goodies
Can't wear a hat like Toy Story Woodie
Forced to wear uniform
Like we're forced to perform
On the stage sing that song
But wanna sing mine along

Paul - St. Gabriel the Archangel

Freedom. It's a word that we hear all the time, whether it's in history, books, movies, the list goes on. It's a powerful and important word that has made a big impact on society. So, what does it mean to me?

When I hear the word freedom, so many thoughts rush into my mind. The abolishment of slavery, the destruction of the Berlin wall, and the end to World War II are just some of the things I'm reminded of. But it can be simpler than that, too. It can just be a relaxing day at the pool. It could be time with family. A cool breeze. A smile. A little time alone, quiet. Or even a loud party filled to the brim with people. It could be as simple as the feeling of the last rays of sun fading away into darkness. Whatever freedom is, it's always beautiful.

My vision of freedom is, to me, simple, yet powerful. I see my own freedom everywhere, from the sunlight in the trees to being with my friends. I imagine freedom like a bird, soaring through the clouds, spiraling and gliding as it pleases. To me, freedom is the choice to choose what controls me and what affects me. It's the feeling of independence when I make my own choices. So, for now, I'll just keep flying.

Emma - St. Gabriel the Archangel

What does freedom mean to me? Freedom can have many different meanings to many different people but this is my take on it. Freedom can be as simple as being able to walk and go where ever you want or it can go back to the times when people of different race and color had to fight for their freedom to do what they wanted. Freedom is something that is just not handed to you on a silver platter, it has to be earned. And no, I don't mean that right now you aren't free where ever you may be in this world. I am just saying your parents wouldn't let you go where ever you wanted at the age of 2. When you grow up your parents start

giving you little freedoms until you're 18 and can make your own decisions for you and eventually your family.

The other kind of freedom can just be respect. I think that respect is one of the biggest freedoms you could earn. Back when times were different Caucasians were just handed respect because of the color of their skin. People of color and different races had to gain that respect through movements and I personally think that what people of color did was amazing. They didn't just sit around and wait for change. They got up and did something about it. That is what freedom means to me.

Genevieve - St. Gabriel the Archangel

Freedom is an idea that everyone has a choice in life. Everyone on this earth deserves freedom. Freedom is being bold and using what you have to make the world a better place. Not everyone in the world has freedom, but we can use our own to help others. Some people think that freedom is not being controlled by anyone. Really, we will always have someone controlling us. The true meaning of freedom is that we make our own choices for the good of others and we speak up for ourselves. We all deserve freedom. And in using our freedom together, we can make the world a better place.

Brandon - Gateway Middle School

Freedom means to me that you have ability to be what you want to be, without anybody saying you're not allowed to because you are African-American. When I play my video games, I feel like I'm in my own zone, because I feel very comfortable. When I play basketball, I feel free because it is as if I was meant to play it and be happy. Freedom to me is a great feeling when you look back at how our race was treated.

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SPAЕ
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Concerts

[The Focal Point](#) - 2720 Sutton
Blvd. Mapelwood 63143

[Brian McNeill](#)

Friday, October 3, 2020
8:00 PM

[Jil Chambless](#)

Saturday, October 17, 2020
8:00 PM

[Jim Malcolm](#)

Friday, October 23, 2020
8:00 PM
SPAЕ Benefit for Focal Point

School Concert

McCluer North High School -
705 Waterford, Florissant, MO
63033

McCluer North and McCluer High
Schools in Concert with Brian McNeill
October 2, 2020
7:00 PM

**Artists in Residence
Workshops**

**Scottish Traditional Fiddle
with Brian McNeill**

September 28-October 9, 2020
McCluer, McCluer North & Ritenour
High Schools, Pattonville Heights &
Remington Middle Schools

Scots Song with Jil Chambless

October 5-16, 2020
Ursuline Academy, Gateway Middle
School, St. Margaret of Scotland,

**Interdisciplinary Project—
Connections: Robert Burns
and Paul Laurence Dunbar—
Voices of the People—poetry,
Scots song, history, art -[MK
Stallings](#), William Ray,
Diane McCullough and
Jil Chambless.**

August 24-October 16, 2020
St. Gabriel the Archangel (7th grade)
St. Margaret of Scotland (7th grade),
Gateway MS (7th grade),

Other St. Louis Scottish Organizations

St. Andrew Society of St. Louis

<http://www.stlstandrews.org/>

A not-for-profit organization dedicated to
cultural interchange between Scotland and the
St. Louis area.

The Focal Point

<http://www.thefocalpoint.org/>

Focal Point is a not-for-profit educational
corporation dedicated to the promotion of
folk music and other musical forms which
have come from folk music, as well as other
associated traditional art forms like dance,
storytelling, etc...

St. Louis Scottish Games

<http://www.stlouis-scottishgames.com/>

The purposes of SLSG are educational, cultur-
al, charitable, and philanthropic. The organi-
zational objectives are to foster and encourage
open exchange of cultural, educational, and
recreational concepts and pursuits between
those with an interest in the culture and heri-
tage of Scotland and others in the Greater St.
Louis area.

Highland Mist Scottish Country Dancers

<http://www.highlandmistdancers.org/>

Highland Mist welcomes beginners at every
class - no prior dance experience is needed -
and you may come with or without a partner.
And you don't need to have a Scottish back-
ground. Just wear comfortable clothing, and
dance or athletic shoes.

Dance Caledonia of St. Louis

<https://www.facebook.com/DanceCaledonia>

Visit the facebook page of Dance Caledonia,
which specializes in Highland dancing.

Scan the QR code below to visit our website.



Fife

