

SPAE QUARTERLY

Good fortune, good future through arts and education

Winter 2024

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

Jil Chambless will be performing this Saturday, February 3, 2024 at the Focal Point. She will be joined by guitarist Scooter Muse. Also in the concerts will be singers from her local SPAE workshops and fiddle players from Brian McNeill's workshops from last fall. The students are from the STEAM Academy and Berkely McCluer High School in the Ferguson-Florissant School District and St. Margaret of Scotland.

Visit our redesigned website at www.stlspae.org.

President's Message

by Michael Herron

Welcome back to our SPAE Quarterly newsletter. Our new board member, Heather Day, has graciously agreed to become the editor of this newsletter. We had some great classes with Brian McNeill this past fall and look forward to Jil Chambless returning shortly to teach Scots Song. We will host a performance of Jil and some of the students on February 3rd at the Focal Point. Our partnership with Urbstetiks will continue as we place poets into local schools this Spring. As always, we look forward to Give STL Day on May 9, 2024 which is our biggest fundraiser of the year. Finally, come out and see us at the St.

Louis Scottish Games on May 11th. We are sponsoring all of the local music performers for the games. We hope to see you there!



Michael Herron

Michael Herron
President & Treasurer, SPAE

Notes from the Artistic Director

by Diane McCullough

Dear Friends,

After three years of adjusting to the concerns of the COVID pandemic, SPAE is back in full-gear for the 2023-2024 school year. We are presenting all of the ongoing curricula as well as bringing back Scots Song and sponsoring local bands in Scottish music at the revived St. Louis Scottish Games. However, it is important that you know about how we continued to offer artist in residence opportunities and professional development for teachers all throughout those pandemic years. Powerpoint and zoom came to the rescue so that we could continue initially with our poetry workshop in partnership with MK Stallings and Urbarts (now Urbstetiks). Our work at St. Gabriel the Archangel opened in the fall of 2020 making it possible for us to provide virtual workshops in poetry. They stayed with us throughout the pandemic and last January 2023 we were there live with St. Louis poets MK Stallings and Gregory Maurice. This is our "Connections: Robert Burns and Paul Laurence Dunbar – Voices of the People" curriculum. After studying about these poets and looking at some of their poems, the students are guided to write their own poetry as voices of their generation. SPAE then publishes a book of their work and each student receives a copy. In 2022 we added Camp Flourish to our roster of workshops on poetry. This camp is the creation of the Third Presbyterian Church in St. Louis County. Our fiddler, Brian McNeill, also worked with us virtually and we were able

St. Gabriel the Archangel

Maggie

Kwansaba:

We've been judged
We've been touched
We've been shoved
We've had enough
They told us not to be the best
Told us men could take the rest
See, us women have had enough

Our Purpose

What is our purpose
Now that is a question to ask
Humans strive to be the best
To be on top, and never stop
But is that really our purpose
Our purpose is to share our love,
Thought, things, that's all we
really need

Jack

Kwansaba

I have faith in my friends
I'll trust them until the world
ends
I know they will never betray me
With them I can be free
They are pretty cool
Most of them I know from school
None of them are cruel

to continue Scottish Fiddle workshops in four schools throughout the pandemic. The process of getting visas has become more and more difficult and expensive so we are continuing the fiddle workshops virtually with Brian again in four schools this year.

Professional Development for teachers surged during these years, again thanks to technology. Our (science, technology engineering, arts, mathematics) curriculum, "The Art and Science of Felting," has been presented twice to the Missouri Art Educators Association (MAEA) – first virtually and then in person. In addition, work was done to create lesson plans to accompany the research I have done for two papers – "Fiddlin' Around – the Diverse Heritage of USA Strings Traditions" and "Voices Lifted – Two Centuries of Black Composers of Opera." Currently practicing teachers were hired to create lesson plans for use in middle and high school general music, orchestra and vocal music classes. These studies show the connections between Celtic and West African musical heritages that have contributed to the foundations of our American music in all genres. Both of these curricula have been presented as professional development for teachers in partnership with Missouri Alliance of Arts Educators (MAAE), Missouri Music Educators Association (MMEA), and Missouri Choral Directors Association (MCDA). General adult education has been addressed, using Fiddlin' Around and Voices Lifted, through partnerships with Opera Theatre of St. Louis and the Presbytery of Giddings Lovejoy. SPAE continued its partnership with The Focal Point to present Scots singers Jim and Susie Malcolm in concert in 2022 and they will return in November 2024. Our Scots singer, Jil Chambless will be at The Focal Point on February 3, 2024 with Scooter Muse. The Scots song students will perform with them as well as one of our Scottish fiddle schools.

We are so grateful for your continued support. Please visit our website at www.stlspa.org to see our curricula in full and watch the videos of our students playing Scottish music.



Peace and All the Best,
Diane
January 2024

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Diane McCallough".

FY23 Student Poetry Highlights

St. Gabriel the Archangel

Ava

The sound of the ball swishing through the net
The loud squeaks of the shoes on your feet
The sound of your lungs gasping for air
This is basketball whether you love it or not this is basketball

Tying your hair up in a tight ponytail
The coach screaming at you from the bench
The fans cheering for you from the bleachers
This is basketball whether you love it or not this is basketball

FY23 Student Poetry Highlights

St. Gabriel the Archangel – 7th grade ELA Class

EMMA: HAIKUS

Swallows without weight
Fly free through the English sky
No questions to ask

Once you start a streak
You can't forget any days
Or the owl will come

GERMANY

A land of beauty and strength
The rains battering softly against the plains
Trees tower above, forests of any length
Winding streets, cobblestone lanes

Towering castles showing their grace
Aged and weathered, yet still standing
Tight rows of houses are not out of place
The great wealth of a nation ever expanding

Cars race down roads, aspirin fixes the sick
Yet their origins are forgotten somehow
These things are German, that's not a trick
History is in the past, the future is now

Each day is a chance, a new dawn
People come and go but legacy lives on

HENRY SOMETHING YOU LOVE

I love you, basketball, you're my favorite sport
I love the ball, the hoop, the old, wooden court
I love the way you make me smile
You let me walk around in style
I love my coach, my team
When I play, this is the dream
You give me direction
A trophy collection
Thank you, basketball
You are my all



Kwansaba

The mind of a person is strange
People claim they work the same
They don't
Color, light, sound, objects
All blend in the mind's eye
Making a new result each time
Another person takes a look

VILLANELLE

You are my favorite, my only brother Jake
You have shown me, given me control
You work so hard, just for my sake

I know I'm annoying, sometimes
I make you break
But you can take it, your patient soul
You are my favorite, my only brother Jake

You save me from your past mistake
When I'm sad, you will console
You work so hard, just for my sake

When I'm tired, you keep me awake
You grab me, help me towards my goal
You are my favorite, my only brother Jake

You save me from the break
Though some may call you Sugar-bowl
You work so hard, just for my sake

Thank you, though sometimes
I make you ache
Thank you, thank you Sugar-bowl
You are my favorite, my only brother Jake
You work so hard, just for my sake

FY23 Student Poetry Highlights

Flourish Summer Camp

SPAE returned to Flourish for the second year. The vision of Flourish is to remove barriers that prevent the community from thriving. Flourish Summer Camp is an eight week camp for students in kindergarten to eighth grade in inner North St. Louis County.

**THOMAS: 4TH GRADE
KWANSABA:**

.....
Life is good, I'm sure you know
Music is real, I'm sure you know
Sports are great, I'm sure you know
Schools are needed, I'm sure you know
Family is great, I'm sure you know
Parties are fun, I'm sure you know
But how could you do that dead?

**MALEK: 4TH GRADE
GRATEFUL**

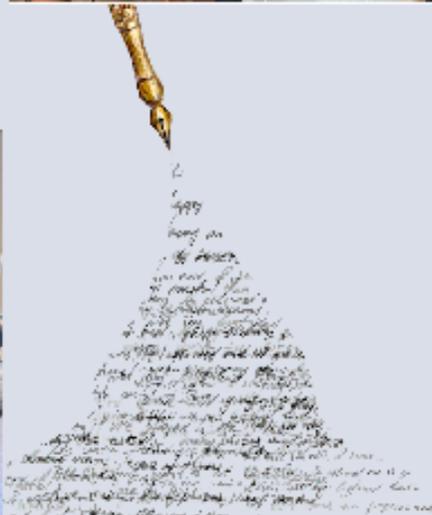
I HAVE A ROOF OVER THE HEAD
AND FOOD AND FAMILY AND FRIENDS
GRATEFUL IN PEOPLE IN MY LIFE
AND TO BE ALIVE.

FREEDOM
FREEDOM TO ME IS BEING ABLE
TO PLAY ON
A BASKETBALL COURT.

TERCET:

YOU MAY KNOW ME
BUT YOU DON'T KNOW
WHO I AM

FREEDOM -
RUN UP THE COURT GOING BETWEEN THE
LEGS
DOING A SPIN MOVE THEN GOING TO THE
HOLE
HITTING A BEHIND THE BACK
COACH DOESN'T EVEN CARE.
SCRIMMAGING



FY23 Student Poetry Highlights

Flourish Summer Camp

**JELANI: 16 YEAR OLD URBSTETIKS INTERN
ASSISTING AT CAMP FLOURISH**

HAIKUS:

The sun shines, again
And grins at my plight, the light
Blinds my eyes, again.

Gunshots shock the peace
Blood wasted on pavement seeps
A boy sleeps again

My hair won't sit still
It folds, a river unstopped
Never flowing straight

The concrete jungle
Has monkeys with banana Clips.
They split each head.

One Piece is the best
Work of fiction of all time!
Read One Piece right now!



Villanelle:

The boy left the shack
To think and roam
And didn't come back

Reminded of the things that lack
From insults to his dome
The boy left the shack

From it all, he turned his back
He took his words, his tome
And didn't come back

Inside of him lied a crack
A shredded poem
The boy left the shack

An officer saw him and grabbed the pack
The boy cursed his home
And didn't come back

At some point, the officer's justice
lost track Unsheathing his chrome
The boy left the shack
And didn't come back

SPAЕ Board of Directors

Michael Herron,
President/Treasurer/
Secretary

Diane McCullough,
Artistic Director/
Founding Director

Carolyn Peters,
Director

Beverly Whittington,
Director

Lorine Pattin,
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Kimberly McAllister,
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Administrator

Heather Day,
Director

Alex Sutherland,
In-Memorium

THE ART AND SCIENCE OF FELTING

Flourish Summer Camp

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 Heather Day.



SPAЕ Advisory Board

Robert Nordman,
Chairman of the
Music Department
and Chair of the
E. Desmond Lee
Professor of Music
Education, UM-SL

Mark Clark,
Music Teacher,
Guitarist, Composer

Marie Brown,
Violin, Viola Teacher

SPAE
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Concerts

[Jil Chambless](#)

Saturday, February 3, 2024
8:00 PM

SPAE Benefit for [Focal Point](#)

[giveSTLday](#)

Wednesday, May 9, 2024

[St. Louis Scottish Games](#)

Saturday, May 11, 2024

[Jim Malcolm](#)

Friday, November 1, 2024
8:00 PM

SPAE Benefit for [Focal Point](#)

Other St. Louis Scottish Organizations

St. Andrew Society of St. Louis

<http://www.stlandrews.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, cultural, charitable, and philanthropic. The organizational 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 heritage 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 background. 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.

