



### President's Message from Brian McCurdy

It is with regret that I have resigned as President of California Presenters. I have recently accepted a position as Director of The Performing Arts Center at Purchase College, in Westchester New York. Although I am looking forward to my new position at Purchase, I am sorry to be leaving California and California Presenters. To prove that there is cosmic balance in the world, my predecessor at Purchase, Christopher Beach, has become president and artistic director of La Jolla Music Society and an active member of CP.

I would like to thank the entire Board for their support over the past two years of my Presidency. They have worked extremely hard in service of our membership. I would especially like to thank Immediate Past President Kevin O'Connor for the help and guidance he has provided me in conducting the business of the association.

I think that it is fair to say that our 2006 Artist's Information Exchange in beautiful San Diego, had not only our highest attendance ever, but was the most successful CP conference ever. Much of that credit must go to Paul King, who organized extremely stimulating panelists who freely and generously shared their expertise with us. Thanks also to Ruth Rosenberg and Bruce Labadie for their hard work in organizing the conference.

We are also moving ahead with the "California Presenters Tour Support Grant Program". We have assembled \$30,000 to support touring in California and to encourage coordinated booking by presenters within the state.

The objectives of this program are:

1. Stimulate the creation, production and touring of new work in the performing arts.
2. Foster collaboration between presenters in California and the western United States through block booking.
3. Increase access to high quality artists in culturally, economically or geographically underserved communities.
4. Increase community engagement between artists and communities through lecture demonstrations, master classes, and school educational activities involving students with the artists.

Many of you provided helpful feedback from the "New Works" pitch session at our 2006 Artist's Information Exchange. Based on that feedback, we have selected two productions to tour. "Music From the Crooked Road: Mountain Music of Virginia" was selected for the WESTAF \$20,000 touring grant, and Perla Batalla's "Discoteca Batalla" for the \$10,000 California artist tour. The grant application for presenters will be posted shortly on the CP website: [www.CalPresenters.org](http://www.CalPresenters.org).

The California Presenters Tour Support Grant Program initiative has taken a lot of hard work on the part of the CP Board. We hope that the membership will be patient with us as we work our way through the final phases of this granting process. We also hope that the membership will seriously consider applying for grant support for these two tours.

I would like to thank all the CP members who have made me, and my wife Carol Anne Muncaster, feel welcome in California. We wish you the best with your own organizations and encourage you to continue to offer your support to California Presenters.

## Job Listing Sites

Association of Performing Arts Presenters

<http://www.artspresenters.org/networking/jobbank.cfm>

Western Arts Alliance

<http://www.westarts.org/jobs.html>

California Arts Council

<http://www.cac.ca.gov/?id=157>

Arts Northwest

<http://www.artsnw.org/NewJobOpps2004x.htm>

Western States Arts Federation

<https://artjob.com>

International Society for the Performing Arts Foundation

<http://www.ispa.org/jobs/index.html>

Southern Arts Federation

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

*Send your job listings to [admincoordinator@calpresenters.org](mailto:admincoordinator@calpresenters.org) and we'll post them in our email bulletins.*

### California Presenters

P.O. Box 19748  
Sacramento, CA 95819  
[www.calpresenters.org](http://www.calpresenters.org)

#### Board of Directors

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#### Newsletter

Ruth Rosenberg, editor

#### Contributors

Walter Jaffee  
Paul King  
Brian McCurdy  
Ruth Rosenberg  
Chris Wolf



## Employment Opportunities

### THE DA CAMERA SOCIETY OF MOUNT ST. MARY'S COLLEGE, LOS ANGELES, CA

#### Executive Director

The Da Camera Society of Mount St. Mary's College is seeking candidates for an Executive Director to provide leadership for the continued success and growth of the organization.

#### POSITION SPECIFICATIONS

Reporting to the Administrative leadership of Mount St. Mary's College, the Executive Director is responsible for the strategic, hands-on direction of organizational operations and development and oversees a staff of four full-time and two half time employees. The Executive Director has primary responsibility for the Society's financial security and long-term growth.

#### APPLICATION INFORMATION

The Search Committee will begin the review of applicants immediately and continue until the position is filled. For further information on this position, to express interest, or to make a referral, please contact: Terry Monteone, TLM Consulting at (310) 455-0609, [tlmconsult@aol.com](mailto:tlmconsult@aol.com)

To be fully considered, applicants must submit the following: cover letter, resume and salary history via email in confidence to: The Da Camera Society Search Committee c/o Terry Monteone, TLM Consulting E-Mail: [tlmconsult@aol.com](mailto:tlmconsult@aol.com).

### GALLO CENTER FOR THE ARTS, MODESTO, CA

#### Director of Marketing & Communications

**Responsibilities:** Create overall marketing strategy and implementation for performances ranging from pop music, to classical, world, jazz, Broadway, theater, and family entertainment; devise/execute comprehensive marketing campaigns for subscriptions and single ticket sales; and help create and implement an overall image and branding campaign for the Gallo Center for the Arts. **Requirements:** Four to five years of progressive marketing experience and a positive track record in sales; ability to think strategically and react quickly to changing marketplace; and familiarity with data analysis and e-marketing. Email resume and cover letter to Katie Muratore at: [kmuratore@galloarts.org](mailto:kmuratore@galloarts.org). Detailed job description at: [www.galloarts.org/employment](http://www.galloarts.org/employment).

### SHAW CENTER FOR THE ARTS

#### Executive Director

Shaw Center for the Arts, Baton Rouge, LA seeks an Executive Director to implement both strategic and operational plans requiring collaboration among partners and tenants. The ED will oversee the day-to-day operations of the center and support the mission of the center. The Shaw Center, completed in 2005, is an unprecedented partnership between Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge Area Foundation, the City of Baton Rouge and Louisiana State Government.

Reports to: Shaw Center for the Arts Board of Directors. Bachelor's degree required. Minimum ten years of arts administration/management experience in a facility with multiple & diverse tenants. Strong background in building management and familiarity with both the visual and performing arts. Experience with not-for-profit organization or business preferred. Additional background in marketing and fundraising advantageous.

**Submit cover letter, resume, three references and background materials by mail to** Sidney J McQueen, Principal, McQueen & Associates Consultants, 7230 Hunters Branch Dr, Atlanta, GA 30328. Questions: McQueen & Associates Consultants, 770-394-9508 or [mac44@bellsouth.net](mailto:mac44@bellsouth.net)

Complete position description available at <http://www.shawcenter.org>

## California Presenters Membership Meeting At WAA

California Presenters will hold a membership meeting on Wednesday, September 6 at the Western Arts Alliance conference in Long Beach. The meeting will take place at the Hyatt Regency Long Beach.

Join us for lunch at noon in the Hyatt Seaview Ballroom, followed by a brief business meeting from 1:00-1:30. An Update Session on topics including CP's Tour Support Project, a new web-based block booking initiative and the National Dance Project will take place from 1:30-3:00, followed by a presenter-only session until 4pm. CP presenter members will also gather in the Convention Center from 8:00-9:00am on Saturday, September 9 for the California State Consortia meeting.

For more info, contact Ruth at [admincoordinator@calpresenters.org](mailto:admincoordinator@calpresenters.org).

### California Presenters' Statement of Professional Ethics

- Professional ethics should be adhered to by member organizations and their representatives.
- Inherent in the relationship between presenters, artists, and artist management, which form the core professional activities in the presenting field, should be a commitment to honesty and integrity in the performance of one's professional duties.
- Members will conduct their professional activities in good faith.
- Members will not breach professional confidences.
- Members will not abuse their professional affiliation by seeking inappropriate benefits that result in personal gain.
- Members will not engage in or participate in activities where one has a real or perceived conflict of interest.
- Members will conduct their business within the letter and spirit of all applicable laws, and governmental and institutional regulations.

### CP to offer new Web-based Block Booking Tool

How many times have you found yourself trying to fill a date or wondering when an artist was going to be passing through your neck of the woods? If we were to pick up the phone and call all our colleagues in the surrounding areas that would take hours.

In an effort to open the lines of communication for all presenters and to make this type of valuable information readily available, the CP Board reviewed some of the options available. One such option was presented at APAP this year to Brian McCurdy who shared his findings with the Board. The Pennsylvania Presenters website currently has a link on their website that gives its members quick access to tour information. With a click of the mouse, presenters can search by artist, presenter, genre or tour periods.

At the February Board meeting, it was unanimously decided to offer this tool to the California Presenter members. Very soon, the CP website will offer a link to a database that will give you the information you need to see which artists might be available to you.

Details on how the information will be entered and who will have access to the site are still being worked out. However, we hope to be able to present the working model at the upcoming WAA membership meeting. Stay tuned for more details.

### Know someone you think should be a member of CP?

If you know a presenter, artist or agent you think should be a member of CP and isn't, let us know! We'll contact them and tell them all about us.

Send your leads to Ruth at [admincoordinator@calpresenters.org](mailto:admincoordinator@calpresenters.org).

## Add information about the Arts License Plate to your playbills!



Since 1994, the arts license plate fund has collected over \$7 million so that arts organizations and artists can work with school-age children to make theater, dance, music and the visual arts part of

their lives. The California Arts Council, the state agency whose mission is to promote the arts and creativity in California, applies the proceeds from the Arts License Plates to programs like "Youth Education in the Arts!" or "YEA!" program.

To let your patrons know about the license plate, we encourage you to reproduce the logo in your playbills. You can also run an article about the plates, which the CAC has made easy for you by posting 250 and 550 word articles on their website that are available for reproduction. For articles that can be copied and pasted into programs and print pieces: <http://www.cac.ca.gov/?id=109>

To request brochures about the Arts License Plate to distribute to your patrons, go to <http://www.cac.ca.gov/?id=242>

To download images of the Arts License Plate logo for your playbills, go to <http://www.cac.ca.gov/?id=138#2>

## Update from California Arts Advocates

The FY2006-07 State Budget has been passed and signed by the Governor, but there is more work to be done at the State Capitol to serve arts, culture and arts education stakeholders and supporters.

CAA continues to urge Speaker Fabian Núñez to appoint Assembly members to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Arts. Please visit the California Arts Action Center <http://www.capwiz.com/artsusa/ca/state/main/?state=CA> and e-mail your legislators to call upon the Speaker to appoint six Assembly members so a full committee can conduct information hearings about how the Arts serve California in the areas of social services, tourism, education, urban and rural development, health, transportation and parks and recreation.

The California Legislature has less than two weeks left to act on up to 1,500 bills before the session adjourns on August 31. The Governor has September 1 - 30 to sign or veto bills passed by the legislature before September 1. CAA and its lobbyist are continuing to monitor the following bills:

### ACR 142 (Oropeza-D) The Marco Firebaugh Interchange and the Museum of Latin American Art

This measure was introduced in April and would designate the Interstate 5 and Interstate 710 interchange in Los Angeles County as the Marco Firebaugh Interchange and would also designate the presence of the Museum of Latin American Art at specified highway exits on State Highway Routs 405, 605 and 710. Read more... [http://leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/asm/ab\\_0101-0150/acr\\_142\\_bill\\_20060814\\_amended\\_sen.html](http://leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/asm/ab_0101-0150/acr_142_bill_20060814_amended_sen.html) The bill was amended to remove references to the Museum of Latin American Art and the designation of signs because the museum signage is inconsistent with CalTrans sign placement policy that requires a minimum annual attendance of 1 million visitors. The Museum of Latin American Art currently attracts 60,000 visitors per year. Read more... [http://leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/asm/ab\\_0101-0150/acr\\_142\\_cfa\\_20060803\\_155036\\_sen\\_comm.html](http://leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/asm/ab_0101-0150/acr_142_cfa_20060803_155036_sen_comm.html)

**AB 2533 (Leno-D) Public Art tax exemption**  
Provides an exemption from Sales and Use Tax (SUT) to original works of art leased for 35 years or more from one nonprofit organization to another, or leased by a state or local government. Read more... [http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/asm/ab\\_2501-2550/ab\\_2533\\_cfa\\_20060810\\_134254\\_sen\\_floor.html](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/asm/ab_2501-2550/ab_2533_cfa_20060810_134254_sen_floor.html) This bill passed the Senate unanimously on August 16 and is set for enrollment and eventually to the Governor for signature.

### AB 2592 (Leno-D) Travel & Tourism Commission

Modifies the conditions and terms of appointees and elected members to the California Travel and Tourism Commission (CTTC), and broadens industry segments which may voluntarily participate in the program. Read more... [http://leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/asm/ab\\_2551-2600/ab\\_2592\\_cfa\\_20060628\\_095410\\_sen\\_floor.html](http://leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/asm/ab_2551-2600/ab_2592_cfa_20060628_095410_sen_floor.html) This bill is supported by the California Hotel and Lodging Association, California Arts Advocates, California Restaurant Association and the California Travel Industry Association. There is no registered opposition.

### AB 2625 (Pavley-D) California Heritage Corridor Act

This bill establishes an 11-member California Heritage Corridor Committee at the Department of Transportation to designate some street and highway routes, and locations along them, as heritage corridors of cultural or historical significance. Read more... [http://leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/asm/ab\\_2601-2650/ab\\_2625\\_cfa\\_20060626\\_130943\\_sen\\_comm.html](http://leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/asm/ab_2601-2650/ab_2625_cfa_20060626_130943_sen_comm.html) This bill is supported by California Arts Advocates, California Association of Museums, California Travel Industry Association, the US Department of Interior and various convention and visitors bureaus and other tourist and travel industry partners. There is no registered opposition.

### AB 839 (Torrico-D) Gambling Control Act: nonprofit organization fundraisers

This bill would revise the Gambling Control Act to permit a nonprofit organization to conduct fundraisers using controlled games as a funding mechanism to further the purposes and mission of the nonprofit organization. Read more... [http://leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/asm/ab\\_0801-0850/ab\\_839\\_cfa\\_20060814\\_134126\\_sen\\_floor.html](http://leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/asm/ab_0801-0850/ab_839_cfa_20060814_134126_sen_floor.html) California Arts Advocates joins the California Association of Nonprofits in support of this bill. The bill is opposed by gaming and casino interests and the Department of

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# Scenes from the 2006 Artist Information Exchange May 31- June 2, San Diego



## CP thanks its conference sponsors:

Arts for the Schools, North Lake Tahoe  
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 California Arts Council  
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 CarpenterPerforming Arts Center, CSULB  
 Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts  
 Gallo Center for the Performing Arts  
 La Jolla Chamber Music Society  
 Mondavi Center, UC Davis  
 Quebec Government Delegation  
 WESTAF

*See you next year!*

## We have a winner!



Congrats to Glen Williams with Levitt Pavilions for the Performing Arts in Pasadena, who won the drawing for the iPod Nano.

Thanks to USC for donating the iPod.

## Transitions

**Jennifer Bilfield** joins Stanford Lively Arts as Artistic and Executive Director for Stanford Lively Arts. She replaces Lois Wagner who retired in 2005 after 21 years with the organization.

In the music business since 1983, Bilfield specializes in strategic management, promotion and presentation of contemporary music. Bilfield began her career at Boosey & Hawkes in 1994 and held a number of roles before her appointment as President in 2002. During her tenure, Bilfield expanded Boosey & Hawkes's catalog, recently launching a Jazz publishing project, while adhering to the highest standards of artistic quality. She simultaneously conceived new strategies in the areas of promotion and marketing, spearheading initiatives that are emulated throughout the field. As a result, Boosey & Hawkes grew under often challenging economic conditions, and continues to attract leading composers to its roster.

**Brian McCurdy** is stepping down as Executive Director of the Gallo Center for the Arts in Modesto. He and his wife, Carol Anne will both be taking positions with Purchase College, which is part of the State University of New York. A national search for an Executive Director will commence immediately, and the Center has engaged the search firm of Korn/Ferry International to assist in this endeavor.

**Don Roth**, immediate past president of the Aspen Music Festival and former San Francisco Symphony general manager, assumed the position of executive director of the Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts at the University of California, Davis, on June 1. In his new post, Roth will be responsible for setting and implementing an artistic, educational and operational vision that places the Mondavi Center at the forefront of university performance spaces.

A symphony executive for more than 20 years, Roth served as president of the Aspen Music Festival and School from 2001 to 2006, enlarging the festival's programming scope, recruiting outstanding faculty and garnering record-setting grant and philanthropic support.

**Clyde Porter**, 79, founder of West Valley Playhouse in Canoga Park, died this past April of brain cancer. In 2000, the nonprofit foundation he began bought a former Masonic lodge in Canoga Park, renovated it and turned it into a home for community theater. For years, he also helped support free concerts at Warner Center Park in Woodland Hills.

Send your Transitions announcement to [admincoordinator@calpresenters.org](mailto:admincoordinator@calpresenters.org) and we'll put them in our next newsletter.

## OFF TO FRANCE TO SEE DANCE

By Paul King and Walter Jaffe, White Bird Co-Founders

*(This report is posted on the new blog page of the White Bird website [www.whitebird.org](http://www.whitebird.org). Please visit our website to see some photos from the trip.)*



Over the past few years, we have had the great fortune of being invited by certain countries to their dance festivals and to visit many of their companies: Great Britain, Australia, The Netherlands, Israel and Vietnam.

Recently we returned from a 2-week trip to France, supported by the France's Department of Cultural Affairs. This was a unique opportunity to see a broad range of dance by well-known and lesser known French dance artists.

We went to Marseille, Avignon, Arles, and Paris, but we spent most of the time in the beautiful old university town of Montpellier, in southwestern France. Each summer, since 1980, this has been the 2-week home of one of France's most important dance festivals. We saw 18 works, and we have to admit that some of the work was heavy-going. Especially considering that France was stifling hot while we were there—over 90 degrees each day—and some of the theaters had no air-conditioning. One of them, a small studio theater called the Hangar, we dubbed the Sauna!

Nonetheless, it was tremendously rewarding for us to discover new artists, many from Algeria who have no presence at all internationally. Nudity was a common theme—within the space of three days, all but one company had some nudity. In one case, a solo, a man stood in front of us for 15 minutes in the buff staring at the audience.

Highlights of our trip?? Of the French companies, Mathilde Monnier, based in Montpellier and one of France's most respected choreographers, collaborated with a well-known singer Katerine on an ensemble piece where her dancers hilariously mimicked the singer's style of performing. In the stunning medieval city of Avignon, we saw Josef Nadj and his company perform "Asobu"—inspired by the writings and art of Henri Michaux. Nadj is a great theatrical dancer/performer, whose imagery conjures up the grotesque vision of Kafka and the alienation effects of Brecht. To see his work performed on an enormous stage in the courtyard of the dramatic Papal Palace was a rare treat.

## OFF TO FRANCE TO SEE DANCE *continued*

Equally impressive was the Ballet National de Marseille performing “Matapolis II,” by the Belgian choreographer (and current artistic director) Frédéric Flamand—a thrilling full-evening work with a set and costumes designed by the prize-winning architect Zaha Hadid.

We also saw some amazing non-French performances. Above all, we experienced a rare full-evening work by William Forsythe called “Impressing the Czar” by the Royal Ballet of Flanders (Belgium). Many ballet companies have performed the centerpiece of this 2-hour work, “In the Middle, Somewhat Elevated,” a stark piece that is very demanding of the classical technique of the dancers. Surrounding this is a startling first section combining different dance and theatrical forms and a final section that has the entire company of 45 dancers all dressed alike as school girls in wigs and skirts, moving around and across the stage.

A new work by the Belgian choreographer Anne Terese de Keersmaeker was inspired by Nijinsky’s “Afternoon of a Faun” and “Jeux” (“Games”), with her amazingly diverse company sweeping across the stage with great force. The music performed live was by Debussy, Stravinsky and George Benjamin.



We would be thrilled to present the works of Flamand, Forsythe, and Keersmaeker. A US tour would have to develop, and we could then plug ourselves in. Let’s hope we can make at least one of these tours happen.

But let’s not forget Maguy Marin. We presented her company four years ago with a full-evening piece that literally divided our audience between those who loved and those who hated the work. We saw her newest work “Ha!Ha!” and again her audience was split down the middle in its reaction. We don’t have the space here to go into details—but ask us about it when we see you next—most likely at WAA in Long Beach. We’d love to fill you in on the details

We ended our trip in Paris and visited the brand new National Dance Center on the outskirts. France is truly a model of arts funding and has established a large number of choreographic centers throughout the country. By far the jewel is this 2-year Dance Center, comprised of start-of-the art dance studios, performance spaces, and a large multi-media library. This Center welcomes choreographers from all over the country to use the studios at no charge. They are also developing imaginative ways of reaching out to non-traditional audiences, especially in their surrounding, working-class immigrant community.

We came away marveling at the multi-layered support system for dance in this beautiful country. If only the United States could have a tiny bit of the funding that France offers its diverse cultural organizations. We thank the French government enormously for this rare opportunity to experience French dance. We know we will be back to see more.



P.S. One other strong memory of our visit. World Cup madness!! What a time to be in France. The huge TV screens were up in the squares—everyone was fixated on World Cup soccer. At intermission we wondered over to the square in Montpellier to join the crowds and see who was winning (it was the French). And when we arrived in Paris on Sunday evening, July 9, the streets were deserted, because everyone was watching the final match. France lost to Italy—but they were good sports, and when we went out to get something to eat after watching the final moments of the game, there was celebration in the streets in support of the great French team.

*Vive la France!*