HopStops Hop to Claremont!


Claremont, NH, 9/11/14—The popular HopStop Family Series—entertaining, hands-on, free programs introducing the youngest audiences to the wonders of the performing arts—is expanding to Claremont this season in a pilot program that's part of the Hop's Community Venture Initiative (CVI).

Starting Saturday, November 22, in addition to performing at the series' usual location in the Hop's Alumni Hall in Hanover, NH, at 11 a.m., HopStop artists will head south to Claremont for a 3 pm performance at the Claremont Savings Bank Community Center, 152 South St., Claremont. Subsequent shows take place monthly, January through May.

Like the Hanover shows, the Claremont HopStops invite audience members to sit up close to the performers on the carpeted floor (with chairs provided for those who prefer them), participate in the performance, and get to know the performers and see their instruments, props and costumes up close in informal post-show meet-and-greets. Shows last one hour, are geared for children ages 3 and up with an accompanying adult, and are free and open to the public; no ticket or registration is required. The doors open at 2:30 pm.

The Claremont performances are at 3 pm, at the CSB Community Center, on the following Saturdays:

**November 22 - Rick Goldin:** Original and familiar songs, puppets, movement, participation and lots of silliness and fun for all ages by this nationally known, Massachusetts-based performer—whose latest recording received a Parents' Choice Recommended Award. Wiggle, dance and jump along with Rick and his puppet friends as they sing about everything from the ABCs to the wheels on the bus.

**January 17 - The Tanglewood Marionettes in Sleeping Beauty:** These marvelous Massachusetts-based puppeteers retell a beloved fairy tale with lavishly costumed puppets—as well as a few silly surprises. Portraying enchanted Princess Aurora, the wicked witch and others, each marionette is manipulated with precision and grace. Performance is followed by a "backstage" tour!
February 28 – Jazzy Fairy Tales and More, by the Fred Haas Jazz Quintet: Local musician and Dartmouth professor Fred Haas, along with his wife Sabrina Brown and their band of talented musicians, lead the audience on a jazzy journey introducing the very young to this great American art form. Familiar fairy tales get refitted with infectious music that swings; The Three Little Pigs will never be the same!

March 28 - Jeh Kulu Dance and Drum Theater: Experience a taste of West African culture through dance and music. Both are part of daily life there, used to celebrate birth, death, marriage, the harvest and other rites of passage. Based in Burlington, VT, Jeh Kulu seeks to re-create this community experience and foster insight into a different and fascinating culture. Following tradition, the audience is welcome to participate in the dancing, singing and music.

April 18 – River Songs, by The Nile Project: Ethiopian-American singer Meklit Hadero is joined by traditional musicians from the Nile Basin in a thrilling exploration of the music and culture of the 11 diverse countries touched by that 4,200-mile-long river. Also part of the Hop's Visiting Performing Artist series, this world-touring ensemble sings in multiple languages and plays a menagerie of wind, string and percussion instruments.

May 23 – Vanessa Trien and The Jumping Monkeys: Boston-based singer-songwriter Vanessa Trien and her band The Jumping Monkeys will light up the room with music from their albums Hot Air Balloon, Carnival Day and Bubble Ride. This super-fun show features a mix of blues, pop, bluegrass, folk, country, '50s rock 'n' roll and tropical sounds. Come jump around with Vanessa and her band!

Claremont HopsStops are one of three new CVI programs beginning this fall. Others are the Community Ticket Program, which works with community partners to enable a more diverse group of Upper Valley residents to attend Hop events; and the Halloween-o-thon, a horror film competition for middle and high school students, operated in partnership with White River Junction-based Community Access TV (CATV). Previous CVI projects include last winter and spring's Radical Jewelry Makeover, a "community mining" and sustainable jewelry-making project; and May's Bash the Trash, in which community members of all ages made instruments of recycled materials and performed together in four "trash mob" concerts.

Currently midway through a three-year grant, CVI provides new opportunities for Upper Valley residents of all ages to create, access and explore the arts. CVI projects are pilot programs intended to identify opportunities for future community engagement and partnerships.

CVI builds on the Hop’s commitment, over its 52-year history, to community-oriented programs involving a strong network of local organizational partners, as well as ideas generated by the Hop’s Class Divide Project, a three-year initiative that examined socio-economic class via the arts. The project aims, over three years, to test new ideas for expanding community access to Hop programming and implement the most promising ones on a long-term basis. The project is funded by a challenge grant from Jane’s Trust, with major matching gifts from Jane and Peter McLaughlin, The Jack & Dorothy Byrne Foundation, the Neda Nobari Foundation, Nini and Rob Meyer, Jenny and Stan Williams and Norwich Partners.

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Founded in 1962, the Hopkins Center for the Arts is a multi-disciplinary academic, visual and performing arts center dedicated to uncovering insights, igniting passions, and nurturing talents to help Dartmouth and the surrounding Upper Valley community engage imaginatively and contribute creatively to our world. Each year the Hop presents more than 300 live events and films by visiting artists as well as Dartmouth students and the Dartmouth community, and reaches more than 22,000 Upper Valley residents and students with outreach and arts education programs. After a celebratory 50th-anniversary season in 2012-13, the Hop enters its second half-century with renewed passion for mentoring young artists, supporting the development of new work, and providing a laboratory for participation and experimentation in the arts.