



2007–08 educational events

## PCA *offstage*

“The visual and performing arts are an essential part of every student’s education. Engagement in the visual and performing arts deepens students’ overall knowledge and skills as well as their social and emotional development. Research shows that students involved in the visual and performing arts are more successful in school, more involved in their communities and perform better on standardized tests.”

*From a proposed revision to the Maine Learning Results,  
Visual and Performing Arts*

PCA Great Performances has collaborated with Maine schools for many years to provide **interactive educational opportunities** for its students and teachers and **discounted tickets** to many of our performances.

Our goal is to assist school districts and other educational organizations in meeting current and

proposed Maine Learning Results Standards in the Visual and Performing Arts. Combined with performance attendance and participation in hands-on workshops, PCA Offstage activities offer opportunities for students and community to engage, connect and learn through the performing arts.

# PCA offstage 2007–08 educational events

## suggested collaborations for authentic learning opportunities

**Moby Dick Rehearsed.** Fees dependent on activities. Grades 8–12. *Moby Dick Rehearsed*, Orson Welles' only stage play, merges Shakespeare's *King Lear* with Melville's *Moby Dick* as it follows a troupe of actors who abandon their rehearsal of Shakespeare and set out to recreate Melville's story instead. PCA will use this production as the springboard for a year-long series of educational and outreach activities for audiences of all ages that investigate the impact of the sea on nineteenth-century literature, and the City of Portland and its evolving maritime history. A study guide specific to New England and Maine maritime culture will be available.

**Henry (Longfellow), Herman (Melville), Nathaniel (Hawthorne) and the Lure of the Sea.** *Lecture series.* March 6, March 20, and April 3, 2008. Free and open to the community. Lectures may also be available in the classroom. Grades 9–college. **Hosted by the Maine Historical Society**, this series explores maritime themes and sea symbolism in literature and the historical, economic, and cultural context in which the authors worked and lived. Lecturers include Dr. Peter Coviello, associate professor of English at Bowdoin College; Dr. Joseph Conforti, professor of American and New England Studies at USM; and Charles Calhoun, author of *Longfellow: A Rediscovered Life*. More information about the individual lectures follows.

**“Moby Dick and Nineteenth-Century American Culture.”** March 6, 2008, 7 pm. *Lecture with Dr. Joseph Conforti.* *Moby Dick* is often described as the great American novel. Dr. Conforti surveys this monumental literary achievement that captures the energy, expansiveness, ferment, and moral contradictions of mid-nineteenth-century America.

**“The Seaside Meets the Fireside: Longfellow as a Maritime Poet.”** March 20, 2008, 7 pm. *Lecture with Charles Calhoun.* Longfellow spent a good deal of his life within sight of the sea. The poet's biographer, Charles Calhoun, draws parallels between some of Longfellow's lesser-known poems and the paintings of Fitzhugh Lane and other American Luminists.

**“Pip's Descent: Freedom and Terror in Moby Dick.”** April 3, 2008, 7 pm. *Lecture with Dr. Peter Coviello.* Melville's expansive novel is not just an archaic “big fish” story with Shakespearean overtones. Among its other challenges and rewards to twenty-first-century readers, *Moby Dick* asks us to consider the nature of American freedom and its sometimes frightening proximity to terror.

**A Day at the Planetarium.** January 2008, date, time and fee TBD, Southworth Planetarium. Dr. Jerry LaSala, physics and astronomy professor and Director of USM's Southworth Planetarium, joins the planetarium staff and PCA Offstage to share a look at the moon and the

“seas” that inspired the internationally acclaimed dance ensemble Momix to create their latest work *Lunar Sea*. This unique program features music to accompany an interdisciplinary look at the heavens as inspiration for “lunatics”: artists, scientists, and sailors.

### **Statewide Residency with the Borromeo String Quartet.**

May 1–9, 2008. Fees dependent on activity and number of students. All ages/skill levels. The exhilarating Borromeo String Quartet returns to celebrate and premiere a new work by Maine's own Elliott Schwartz, commissioned by PCA Great Performances. Whether working with string orchestras, string quartets or individual students of any age, members of the BSQ empower musicians of all skill levels to play boldly and confidently, creating a positive environment for immediate improvement in skills. During this week-long, statewide residency, there will be opportunities for string quartet masterclasses; coaching workshops; composing, music theory, and history lectures; demonstrations and more.

## resources

**Study guides** and other resources, including links to many of our educational partners, will be available on the PCA Great Performances website.

We will assist in **grant writing** to help make these activities possible in your school.

Opportunities with visiting artists are limited. **Call now** for reservations.

For information, fees, or to schedule an activity, please call Barri Lynn Moreau at 207.773.3150.

please share this information with your colleagues.

## in-school lecture-demonstrations and workshops

**Celebrate Uganda.** March 30, 2008. Time TBD. State of Maine Room at Portland City Hall. Grades K–12. Observe the rehearsal process of the talented youth ensemble Spirit of Uganda. Then at 2:30, join Dr. Rick Nickerson and Maine's own Pihcintu chorus of 38 voices from 17 countries for a unique pre-curtain event, a joyous sing-a-long to welcome the ensemble.

**Verbal Mayhem.** November 16 and 17. Fee dependent on class size. Grades 6–12. Performance ensemble Mayhem Poets bring a hip-hop beat to poetry, taking participants through a workshop that hones skills in enunciation, improvisation, wordplay, connection with an audience, and use of creativity and imagination. Sourcing Longfellow's legacy, Mayhem Poets coach students to find connections between their brand of poetry and the essence of Portland's hometown poet.

**Storytelling through Movement with Choreographer Ronald K. Brown.**

April 8, 2008, \$350 for a class of 25 or fewer. Grades K–12. Known for his blend of African, modern, ballet and hip-hop to tell stories about what is important about the human experience, choreographer Ron Brown shares his approach to storytelling through dance. Open to all levels, this unique workshop utilizes the universal language of the body to share and tell.

**Theater Craft with the Acting Company.**

April 17, 2008, morning. \$350 for a class of 25 or fewer. HS and college drama students. While in Portland for their performance of *Moby Dick Rehearsed*, the Acting Company shares its highly skilled approach to theater with the option of student workshops in mask-making, movement for the actor, stage combat, or page-to-stage adaptation.

**Bringing Literature to Life in the Classroom.** April 17, 2008, morning. \$40 per person. Middle and HS literature/drama teachers. Working with the Acting Company, teachers gain insight into bringing *Moby Dick* and other works of literature to life in their classrooms, addressing topics such as text, literacy, critical thinking, and acting. This sixty-minute workshop offers insight into the actors' process of making informed artistic choices based on the text, showing educators new ways of approaching Melville and other literature.



## community masterclasses

**dance**

For intermediate dancers or observers interested in learning more about advanced dance techniques.

**Momix.** January 24, 2008, time and location TBD, \$35 per person. Experience the magic, beauty and athleticism of the internationally celebrated dance ensemble Momix in this masterclass that explores the company's unique weight-sharing approach to partnering.

**Limón Dance Company.** February 26 or 27, 2008, time and location TBD, \$35 per person. Rich in dynamics, expression and musicality, the Limón Dance Company celebrates sixty years. Learn the technique and repertoire of the iconic, classic contemporary dance master José Limón from a company member.

**Ronald K. Brown/Evidence.** April 9, 2008, time and location TBD, \$35 per person. Participate in this high-energy masterclass led by company member Arcell Cabuag, who probes the rhythms and moves of Africa, the Caribbean and the streets of the US that inspire choreographer Ronald K. Brown's signature vocabulary.

**strings**

For advanced musicians and observers to learn more about how musicians perfect their technique.

**Matt Haimovitz.** November 7, 2007. 3–5 pm, USM School of Music, Gorham Campus. A cellist whose musical tastes run from classical to rock works with area strings students to prepare their concert repertoire. Tickets to observe class are \$6. Please contact the USM School of Music Box Office at 207.780.5555.

**Borromeo String Quartet.**

See weeklong residency, above, for details.



# student tickets

Call PortTix: 207.842.0800

The following reduced ticket prices are available to individual students with student ID.

**For tickets, call PortTix at 207.842.0800.** For group sales and accommodations, please call Laura at 207.773.3150.

Lots more details about all of these performances are online at [www.pcaGreatPerformances.org](http://www.pcaGreatPerformances.org).

## classical

\$10

Matt Haimovitz *cello*

Thurs, Nov 8, 2007. 7:30 pm.

USM Hannaford Hall, Portland

Ingrid Fliter *piano*

Wed, Feb 6, 2007. 7:30 pm.

Borromeo String Quartet

Thurs, May 8, 2008. 7:30 pm.

James Ehnes *violin*

Wed, May 14, 2008. 7:30 pm.

## dance

\$10 and \$15

Momix *Lunar Sea*

Thurs, Jan 24, 2008. 7:30 pm. \$15.

Limón Dance Company

Wed, Feb 27, 2008. 7:30 pm. \$15.

Ronald K. Brown/Evidence

Wed, Apr 9, 2008. 7:30 pm. \$10.

## opera

\$15

Puccini's *Tosca*

Thurs, Nov 1, 2007. 7:30 pm.

Verdi's *La Traviata*

Wed, Mar 5, 2008. 7:30 pm.

## theater

\$10

Orson Welles' *Moby Dick Rehearsed*

Wed, Apr 16, 2008. 7:30 pm.

## world music

\$10 and \$15

Anúna *Celtic Origins*

Wed, Oct 17, 2007. 7:30 pm. \$15.

Boys of the Lough *A Celtic Christmas*

Tues, Dec 4, 2007. 7:30 pm. \$15.

Spirit of Uganda

Sun, Mar 30, 2008. 4 pm. \$10.

Performances take place at Merrill Auditorium unless otherwise noted; most are preceded by a free pre-performance lecture at 6 pm. See our website for details. Student tickets cannot be combined with any other discounts. Dead River Company underwrites this program.



The Borromeo String Quartet.

also join us for...

## open rehearsals: \$10

Open to the community, open rehearsals are an opportunity to witness artists' rehearsal process as they become comfortable with the performing space. These events often include an opportunity to ask questions or listen to the thoughts of artists as they prepare for performance. Open rehearsals are still being scheduled. Stay tuned for details.

## free pre-curtain lectures

These lectures precede most of our events. See our website for details: [www.pcaGreatPerformances.org](http://www.pcaGreatPerformances.org).

# thank you

We wish to thank the following community collaborators for their participation and support of these projects: USM School of Music, Portland Conservatory of Music, Portland Public Schools, Maine Department of Education, USM Southworth Planetarium, Maine Historical Society, River Tree Arts, The Telling Room, Maine Association of Strings Teachers of America, and Dance Resources.

These programs are made possible in part with financial support from Maine Arts Commission, Maine Humanities Council, New England Foundation for the Arts, and Chamber Music America. Dead River Company generously contributes to our youth access program.