A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR by Laurie Ruffner

Fall has always been my favorite time of the year; especially in Montana. It’s full of beauty, unpredictable weather, elk bugling and change. Some of us may be feeling like there’s been too many challenges and too much change in 2020 for our liking.

Often though, through unforeseen challenges and change come wonderful new opportunities to explore outside of our normal comfort zones allowing us to incorporate new ideas. The BPAC has had to move to cutting staff hours while still maintaining our box office, our monthly Board Meetings and continuing to pursue grants to support us as we move forward and can resume our normal operations and safely re-open our stage for live performances.

As we are still on our “Extended Intermission,” we began thinking not about what we can’t provide but what could we do to stay relevant and also continue to build upon our mission.

We are so excited to be working on and building an addition to the BPAC which incorporates both local and global performing artists to build a streaming “library” of available vignettes for our local Band, Drama, and Choir programs for our teachers, students and patrons to access. Through generous grant funding and your ongoing support, this exciting new offering, “BPAC Presents Performing Artists in Education” is creating a lot of excitement! There will be opportunities for sponsorship as this program will become a permanent addition to our offerings. Just think; our fabulous live performances but also local and global artists sharing their knowledge, skills and talents with access for all through personalized streaming vignettes.

We are humbled and honored to serve this community and cannot tell you what your ongoing support and commitment to our organization means to us. You are the foundation and the reason we do what we do.

Thank you for your continued support and for believing in our mission to enlighten, inspire, educate and entertain you through the presentation of the performing arts.

Together, we will get through this. May you and your loved ones stay safe and healthy.
A sneak peek at what some of our past artists have been up to during the pandemic.

Simone Dinnerstein

Simone Dinnerstein recorded “A Character of Quiet” in June of 2020 in her home in Brooklyn, New York. Her dear friend and producer, Adam Abeshouse, drove down from Westchester with a van full of equipment, and they made the album over the course of two evenings. It was released September of 2020.

Phoebe Hunt

Phoebe has developed an online school of music, Seeds Of Music LLC, to nurture music education both within adults who already play music, connecting them to her greater community of music teachers through online academies, as well as through developing curriculums for children’s education including Ukulele Sprouts, a program that teaches parents to be their own child’s first music teacher.

Tim Fain

Many of us have been joining Tim every week enjoying his Resilience Series that has been coming from his home studio in Montana. If you haven’t had the time to enjoy them you can find Tim Fain’s “Resilience” on his Facebook page.

AJ Croce

AJ Croce has some new music coming out soon. “By Request” available for pre-order on vinyl, CD, and digitally. By Request is a retrospective of Croce’s life. It’s not just a assemblage of songs, but tracks attached to specific memories for the artist, some stretching as far back as 35 years or more through his life.

Laurie’s Playlist for Fall 2020

- Someone You Loved – Simply Three
- Santa Fe – Ottmar Liebert
- All In It Together – Mavis Staples
- I’m On My Way – Rhiannon Giddens with Francesco Turrisi
- Even Though I’m Leaving – Luke Combs
- All of Me – John Legend
Thank you to our Super Stars. Most donors donated at least the amount they would have normally purchased their season tickets if we were able to have a season this year. We want to say a Super Thank You! While we can’t gather together this year these Super Stars will help the Bitterroot Performing Arts weather this storm.

Mandy Barnings  
Nanette Seltzer  
Diane Davis  
Bobby & Shirley McGibbin  
Jan Driscoll  
Jacqueline Locke  
Byron & Mary Williams  
Bob & Jane Cron  
Stephen & Gail Goheen  
Judy & Rich Morrisey  
Bill & Becky Peters  
Cory Keith  
Katy Bosio  
Kathy & Ron Messer  
Sandy Herrick  

Archie Thomas & Mary Schrumpf  
Andrew & Louise Massie  
Steve Mandala  
Terry & Jerry Hinman  
Joan Cartal & Ian Purse  
Jan & Alan Abel  
Mary & Terry Hammerschmidt  
Helen Gurtner  
Marshall & Tonia Bloom  
Frank Pelfrey  
Joyce Pando  
Peggy Tonon & Warren Neyenhuis  
Chris & Addy Porter  
Laura Merrill  
Richard & Lynn Thurber  

Allegro Print & Imaging  
Gordon Maus & Quinty Smith  
Maria Nieto  
Don & Joan Lodmell  
Pat Murphy  
Janet & Warren Webber  
Dave & Carole Mackie  
Tori Nobles  
Sarah Southwell  
Mel & Mary Alice Holloway  
Ben & Rachael Watters  
Paul & Sonny Stone  
Bob & Peggy Ratcheson  
Paul Policastro & Patti Rosa  

Down at the box office we are excited about our new project, BPAC Presents.

Season 1, Episode 1, was kicked off at Big Creek Coffee Roasters and featured loved and local artist Cove Jasmin from the band Shakewell. Cove is no stranger to teaching music. You can often find him at the Bitterroot School of Music in Hamilton, MT, teaching lessons and getting people excited about music. For you that enjoy our local music scene in Western Montana you can also find Cove on stage with Shakewell.

We are just getting this new project off the ground. Beloved, talented, and retired music teacher, Peggy Bucheit is joining us on this project. We are thankful for all the talent and expertise we have in our area to put this project together. The goal of Bitterroot Presents is to highlight Performing Arts and Artists and connect them with students of all ages. The Bitterroot Performing Arts Council may be taking a break from entertaining you on our stage but behind the curtain we are continuing our mission to Entertain, Inspire, Enlighten and Education.
Open: Tues. & Thurs. 11 am to 4 pm
127 W. Main St. Suite 108
Hamilton, MT 59840
BPAC Box Office 406.363.7946
Please consider a much-appreciated tax-deductible
donation to the BPAC.

www.bitteerootperformingarts.org
VISIT OUR WEBSITE

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The Bitterroot Performing Arts Council
is managed by a volunteer Board of Directors
comprised of:
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stairs during
Reggie Tomon, Past President
Brooke Kinsey, Secretary
Byron Williams, Treasurer
Ben Walters, Vice President
Laura Merrell, President

Chris Porter

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