

Britt Backstage fall news 2011



Photo by Josh Morell Image This Photography

In this issue...

- New Executive Director . . . 2
- 2012 Classical Festival . . . 3
- 50 Years of Britt 4-5
- Honoring Maestro Bay 6
- Educational Outreach 7
- Connect With Britt 7
- Volunteer of the Year 8

BRITT BACKSTAGE
is published annually by

Britt Festivals
PO Box 1124 / 216 W. Main St.
Medford, OR 97501
1-800-882-7488 / 541-779-0847
www.brittfest.org



Britt Festivals
PO Box 1124
Medford OR 97501

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 115
Medford, OR

Follow us on:



DONNA BRIGGS IS BRITT'S NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



several awards and honors, including The Oklahoma Center for Non Profit Management "Management Excellence Award," Leadership Tulsa's Paragon Award and the Noble Foundation's Leadership Award.

Donna's experience as an executive director makes her transition a smooth one. She says, "Since being hired as the Development Director for Britt, I have been busy building strong and diverse relationships within the business community. In the role of Executive Director, I am looking forward to expanding and deepening those relationships."

Britt's new Executive Director is a familiar face. Last month, Britt's Board of Directors appointed Donna Briggs to lead the organization. Donna started at Britt as Director of Development in October 2010, and brings significant non-profit leadership experience to her new role.

Prior to her work at Britt, Donna served for fifteen years as Executive Director of the International Visitor Leadership Programs in Tulsa, Oklahoma and Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Her leadership in those roles earned her the U.S. Department of State Citizen Diplomat Pillar Award, which she was presented with in February 2011. Over her career, she has received

Since starting at Britt last year, Donna has been instrumental in several key changes. She refocused Britt's Business Partnership program, increasing combined cash and in-kind contributions from area businesses, including 25 new business partners, and secured over \$100,000 in grant contributions, exceeding goals. She also helped develop and manage the exciting new wine and concessions program on the Hill.

She's looking forward to more positive changes as Britt grows. "As we approach the monumental milestone of Britt's 50th season, I believe we have the potential to make Britt one of the most successful, adventurous and genre-defying outdoor music festivals in the

Northwest. With the support of the Board of Directors, amazing staff, members and volunteers, we can make that happen."

Donna succeeds Jim Fredericks, who announced his resignation from Britt last month. Jim says, "It is extremely gratifying to me to leave the organization in such capable hands.

"As we approach the monumental milestone of Britt's 50th season, I believe we have the potential to make Britt one of the most successful, adventurous and genre-defying outdoor music festivals in the Northwest."

Donna is an outstanding individual, a true non-profit leader and a person who has inspired confidence from our Board of Directors, the Britt staff and our Britt community. There are great things ahead for Britt under Donna's leadership."

CELEBRATE BRITT'S 50TH CLASSICAL FESTIVAL JULY 31 - AUGUST 19, 2012

We're looking forward to a summer full of celebrations! As you know, we normally announce the Classical Festival lineup and programs in November. However, 2012 marks Britt's 50th season of classical concerts under the stars. To mark this momentous milestone, we decided to do things a little differently. At the end of January, we'll announce the Classical Festival in a special new event. It will be a chance for Britt Classical lovers to join in our excitement and help us kick off the 50th season, as we announce the programs and guest artists for this milestone season to the whole community.

One of the many exciting things we're doing in 2012 is the commissioning of a new "photochoreography" piece by James Westwater, whose work was featured on the Britt hill a few years ago. The new work will celebrate both Britt's rich history and the Britt Experience, through photographs shown on large screens above the stage while the orchestra plays.



Photo by Maxine Guenther

This summer also marks a celebration of Music Director and Conductor Peter Bay. The 2012 season will be Maestro Bay's 20th and final season with Britt, as he announced last summer. We'll thank Maestro Bay, and honor his significant contributions to the Britt Classical Festival. See page six for more information about Maestro Bay.

Coming in January: a full schedule of the 2012 Classical season, including information on special celebratory events.

GIVE TO CLASSICAL

If you haven't made a contribution to the Classical Annual Fund, there's still time to take advantage of making your tax-deductible gift before the end of the year.

The generous gifts we've received to date have put us close to our goal for the year, but we need your help to reach the top. If you've

already made a gift, thank you. If not, please consider including Britt Classical in your year-end giving.

Think about the magic of those starry August nights and make a personal investment in the Britt Orchestra now.

Support the Britt Classical experience: MAKE YOUR GIFT NOW!

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE LAST BASH!

The Last Bash, our annual gala fundraiser, will be Saturday, February 25 at the Rogue Valley Country Club. Mark your calendars for a fun night that benefits Britt programs!

A STORY RICH IN HISTORY



John Trudeau's story is a very special part of the Britt story. It's about the dream of creating a summer music festival in a small historic gold-mining town. When John conducted the Britt Orchestra during our 40th anniversary season in 2002, he discovered that a lot of people wanted to hear about the early days of Britt. Those questions and

conversations led him to write *Touches of Sweet Harmony*, in which he tells how it all started back in 1963.

There's no better way to start the celebration of Britt's 50th than to look back at the very beginnings of our story, so we've gathered a few historic photos to set the stage.

Touches of Sweet Harmony is the story of how a community built a music festival. It's available at the Britt offices.



As we begin celebrating the 50th season, we are looking to gather Britt experiences from patrons. We'll be seeking stories from musicians, board members, volunteers, orchestra hosts, donors and patrons, and using those stories in a variety of materials throughout our 50th season.

Everyone has a Britt story; join the celebration and share yours! Email rachel.jones@brittfest.org if you'd like to be contacted to share your story.

In 2012 we'll be observing Britt's 50th season by sharing the stories that honor our rich history and celebrate the Britt Experience of today.

Britt got its start during the summer of 1962 with the dream of conductor John Trudeau and his friend Sam McKinney. Less than a year later, through the grassroots efforts of an entire community, the first Britt concert took place on August 11, 1963. These photos show the humble beginnings of the Britt story. Just as in those early years, community spirit, dedicated volunteers and magical nights of music define the Britt Experience fifty years later.



1962—Founding Conductor John Trudeau exploring the Britt grounds.



July 1963—Board members and volunteers finish work on the first stage. Bert Pree, Britt's first board president, is seated in the wheelbarrow.



July 28, 1963—Britt's first board officers pose for *The Oregonian* in front of a Peter Britt-painted backdrop and his photography equipment.



Sunday, August 11, 1963
First Britt Concert. Trumpeter James Smith performed Ernest Bloch's Proclamation for Trumpet and Orchestra



Britt's John Trudeau and OSF's Angus Bowmer established an early bond and the already well-established OSF helped promote Britt to its patrons..



Note the #10 tin cans that were used to create stage lighting in the 1960s.



John Trudeau, Sam McKinney and Gordon Solie greet orchestra musicians on the tarmac.



Many volunteers raked leaves and mowed weeds to create a seating area for concert patrons long before a lawn existed.



The Festival Woodwind Quintet performs a special youth concert. Tickets were \$1.50 and adults were free when accompanied by a child.



Early 1960s concert on the temporary plywood stage used for Britt's first 15 seasons before the pavilion was built.

1960s

HONORING MAESTRO PETER BAY

This August will be Maestro Peter Bay's 20th and final season on the Britt podium as Music Director. As announced at the opening of the 2011 Classical Festival, he will be stepping down as Music Director and Conductor of the Britt Festival Orchestra at the end of August 2012.

Peter's time on the Britt podium began in 1993, when he started his tenure as Britt's third Music Director, following James DePreist (1988-1992) and founder John Trudeau (1963-1987).

While Peter's relationship with the Britt community has spanned 20 years by the calendar, in Britt time (that magical time when the orchestra appears for a few short weeks each summer), he's only been

Under Peter's baton, the Britt Orchestra has given inspired performances of great masterworks as well as exciting introductions to new music. He has brought some of the biggest stars of classical music to our stage and led our discovery of promising rising stars.



Maestro Peter Bay leads the Britt Orchestra in a morning rehearsal during the 2011 season. Photo by Vicki Rosette

with us for 58 weeks—a little over a year. It has been a magical time no matter how you measure it.

When Peter came to Britt, he was resident conductor of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra and associate conductor of the Rochester Philharmonic. He was guest conducting with orchestras around the nation and had appeared annually at Aspen Music Festival. We knew we were very fortunate to have him joining the Britt family and his long and distinguished artistic leadership has been remarkable.

Over the two decades of his tenure at Britt, Peter has built an extraordinary orchestra. He took Trudeau's legacy and added his own vision for expanding Britt's reach. As he raised the artistic bar to new heights, the number and caliber of musicians auditioning

to play at Britt grew. As it grew, so did the orchestra's ability to tackle more challenging repertoire and collaborate with artists of ever-increasing stature.

Under Peter's baton, the Britt Orchestra has given inspired performances of great masterworks as well as exciting introductions to new music. He has brought some of the biggest stars of classical music to our stage and led our discovery of promising rising stars. He has supported the growth of Britt's education programs and deepened the community's ties to Britt in myriad ways. This summer we pay tribute to all that Peter has done as our Music Director and offer our heartfelt thanks and affection to him for 20 years of great music-making and artistic leadership.

RAINING JANE LEADS EDUCATION WORKSHOPS WITH LOCAL STUDENTS

One of the unique qualities that Britt education programs offer is the opportunity to connect students with performers in educational sessions. In October, before their special indoor concert on the Britt stage, the members of the group Raining Jane led two days of workshops at Crater Renaissance Academy. As the primary faculty for Rock 'n' Roll Camp for Girls Los Angeles, the band members have extensive outreach experience with teenagers. Singer-songwriter Natalia Zukerman, who opened the concert, also participated in the workshops.

The workshops were fun and enriching for teachers and students alike. One Crater Renaissance student said, "[the residency] inspired me to do better in music. It was an experience that lasts a lifetime."



 @zukertweets
Natalia Zukerman
13 Oct via TweetCaster

Teaching again at crater renaissance academy. Should say learning actually. These kids are brilliant.

The two afternoons included an in-depth songwriting workshop and a "mini rock camp," where students cycled through tutorials on bass, guitar, drums and vocals. The students who participated in the songwriting workshop were able to work on their songs overnight, and share their progress on the second day. As part of the outreach, the students were also invited to attend Raining Jane's concert that night, free of charge.

Photos by Vicki Rosette

CONNECT WITH BRITT



Photo by Maxine Guenther

NEED FOR SUPPORT

Ticket revenue covers only 60% of the expense of our summer pop season and only 33% of staging Britt's Classical Festival. We rely upon your membership contribution, along with business partnerships and foundation grants, to supply the rest, to help ensure the future of music and performance in our community.

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY

Britt has been your cultural connection to the community for the past 50 years. Help continue the long tradition of giving and support, so we can keep Britt alive for the next 50 years.

Connect with us
and join as a
member today!



GIVE BRITT FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

Nothing will make the music fan on your shopping list happier than a special gift from Britt.

GIFT CERTIFICATES

Can be used for purchasing Britt tickets, memberships, tuitions for summer programs or Britt merchandise, such as t-shirts and posters (in the Britt office only).

BRITT MEMBERSHIPS

Make a tax-deductible contribution to Britt in the name of your favorite concertgoer. You'll enjoy the satisfaction of supporting a vital community organization and your recipient will enjoy the many benefits that come with membership!

Memberships are available by calling 541-779-0847, visiting our web site at www.brittfest.org, or coming into our office at 216 W. Main Street in Medford.

Britt Merchandise

Buy shirts, sweatshirts, picnic blankets, hats, beer and wine glasses, posters and much more (in the Britt office only).

Please note that the Britt office will be closed from December 24, 2011 through January 2, 2012.

ABOVE AND BEYOND: VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Each year Britt names a “Volunteer of the Year”—someone who has demonstrated the best in volunteer spirit. This year, that honor goes to Lauri Parker.

Britt merchandise had a new home on the Hill this summer, also thanks in large part to Lauri's coordination. She oversaw the construction of the new booth, which created better visibility for merchandise.



Lauri Parker making a sell in the new Britt gift booth this past summer. Photo by Josh Morell Image This Photography.

Lauri chaired the gift booth efforts this year. She enthusiastically identified new products to sell, working with Britt staff to upgrade the look of several items. Her hard work and passion paid off, as merchandise sales doubled this year. All proceeds from Britt merchandise go to Britt Society, which provides financial support and volunteer service to Britt, so Lauri's efforts to increase sales directly benefited Britt.

Volunteer Coordinator Bow Seltzer says, “Sometimes volunteers find themselves in a situation where suddenly they are asked to do much more than they had imagined, and without hesitation, they embrace and successfully tackle the task placed before them. This year, Lauri went above and beyond, and she did it like a pro.”

SHOW YOUR SPIRIT

Does Lauri's volunteerism inspire you? Join her on the Britt volunteer team next season! If you are interested in volunteering, contact Volunteer Coordinator Bow Seltzer at 541-690-3842 or email bow.seltzer@brittfest.org