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A History of First Thursdays and Special Performances by the Cultural Arts Committee of the Del Mar Foundation

On January 26, 2000, the Cultural Arts Committee met for the first time in the newly opened Powerhouse Community Center. Ideas for lectures and music came from everyone! We settled on a Series format which would feature eclectic music in the Spring, lectures in the Fall, and classical music during the Winter. Each series could be subscribed to separately. A special Holiday Concert at St. Peters could be purchased in addition. The next year we added special concerts like Mainly Mozart, Night at the Summer Pops, etc. By 2003, while we realized we had a winner with all three types of First Thursdays, we had a nightmare with bookkeeping and publicity costs. We made the decision to go with a once-a-year opportunity to subscribe to a year-long group of programs which has proved so much easier on all!

Spring Music Series 2000

May 4, 2000 – Jeanne Carney – Ballads and Bluegrass from the Southern Uplands
June 1, 2000 – Peter Puppington Quartet “Samba Nights”
July 6, 2000 – Ensemble Elan “Chamber Music Concert”

Fall Lecture Series 2000

September 7, 2000 – Steven Scheuer “Close Encounters with the Famous Kind”
October 5, 2000 - Michael Robertson, Bob Bingham, Charlie Gaylord, Bob Petcovich on High Tech
November 2, 2000 – Dr. Larry Schneiderman & friends on medical ethics
December 7, 2000 – Jerry Hirschberg “Making Believe & Making Beliefs”

Holiday Concert on December 10, 2000 was held at St. Peter’s church with Pat O’Brian’s daughter Mauvoren and her singing entourage. They were followed by a Brass Quintet.

Winter Classical Music Series 2001

January 4, 2001 – Brandenburg Concerto with Fairbanks School of Performing Arts
February 1, 2001 – California Quartet
March 1, 2001 – Jung Ho Pak on “Breaking the Mold”

Mainly Mozart Concert on February 15, 2001 – internationally famous quartet played in the Powerhouse to a sold-out crowd.

Spring Music Series 2001

April 5, 2001 – Tinku Peruvian Music
May 3, 2001 – Chris Klich Trio
June 7, 2001 – Fred Benedetti & George Svoboda

“Del Mar Night at the Pops” August 18, 2001 - We put a bus together and saw the San Diego Symphony Pops concert at Navy Pier. A fabulous night of George Gershwin!

Fall Lecture Series 2001

September 6, 2001 – Sandra Dijkstra “The Truth about Publishing”

October 4, 2001 – Rob Quigley “Public Spaces and Private Places”

November 1, 2001 - William Murray, author, tales from the Del Mar Track

December 6, 2001 – Alice Sullivan panel on “Privacy, Security & the Internet”

Holiday Concert on December 16, 2001 – Cappella Gloriana performed in St. Peter’s

Winter Classical Music Series 2002

January 3, 2002 – Camarada Chamber Ensemble

February 7, 2002 – Fairbanks School of Performing Arts

March 7, 2002 – Celino Romero

Mainly Mozart Concert on February 17, 2002 – Cuarteto Latino Americano

Spring Music Series 2002

April 4, 2002 – Laura Preble Band & Chris Klich Quintet

May 2, 2002 – Burt Turetzky & The Tango Project “The Music of Astor Piazzolla”

June 6, 2002 – Steve Feierabend Band & the Powerhouse Allstars

Saluzzo Music Festival Concert on April 18, 2002 by Fairbanks School of Performing Arts

Fall Lecture Series 2002

September 5, 2002 – Herb Turner “My Way” talks about his painting & architecture

October 3, 2002 – Zandra Rhodes “Turning Points” Fashion Design

November 7, 2002 – Joe Harper “Growing up in Hollywood & Tales from the Track”

December 5, 2002 – Des McAnuff , writer & director

Holiday Concert on December 15, 2002 featuring Peter Puppig Quartet at St. Peter’s

Winter Classical Music Series 2003

January 2, 2003 – Westwind Brass Quintet

February 6, 2003 - San Diego Opera Ensemble

March 6, 2003 – Musica Angelica

Mainly Mozart Concert on January 23, 2003 at the Powerhouse - Chamber Music Quartet

Spring Music Series 2003

April 3, 2003 – “Cabaret” at North Coast Rep. Theatre

May 1, 2003 - Chunky Sanchez & Margarita Night

June 5, 2003 – Mark Lessman & Peter Sprague

“Shakespeare in the Plaza”

August 5, 2003 – A Midsummer Night’s Dream and Pre-theatre dinner party

First Thursdays 2003-2004 Series

September 4, 2003 – Arthur Wagner on theater

October 2, 2003 – Hutchins Consort – 8 scaled violins

November 6, 2003 – Flamenco Night at St. Peters

December 4, 2003 – Richard Lederer on linguistic joys of Christmas

December 14, 2003 – Mira Costa College Chorus at St. Peters

January 8, 2004 – San Diego Saxophone Quartet

February 5, 2004 – Mary Walshok on How a City Reinvents Itself

February 20, 2004 - Mainly Mozart Concert – TBA

March 4, 2004 – SDSU Faculty Chamber Players –String Quartet with Clarinet

April 1, 2004 – Cabaret Night at L’Auberge with Ruby & Red Hots

May 6, 2004 – Ivan Gayler & Bill Wheeler on Endangered Lands, Endangered Peoples

June 3, 2004 – Celino and Lito Romero on guitar

“The Fantastiks” at North Coast Rep

April 15, 2004 – we took over the theatre and had a special Del Mar Night

“Phillips, Grier, & Flinner” at the Powerhouse (with guest: Gabe Witcher)

January 18, 2004 – 2 concerts with San Diego Bluegrass Society

Burt Bacharach at the Summer Pops

August 28, 2004 – Bus, Dinner, and Burt on the Embarcadero!

First Thursdays 2004 – 2005 Series

September 2, 2004 – Logan Jenkins on a Perspective on North County

October 7, 2004 – San Diego Lyric Opera

November 4, 2004 – Peter Jensen speaks on Del Mar Houses

December 2, 2004 – North Coast Chorale at St. Peters

January 6, 2005 – Mary Lou Metzger & her one woman show

February 10, 2005 – Mainly Mozart Chamber Music Ensemble

March 3, 2005 – Al & Stephanie Tarkington tell about 10,000 bike trip

April 7, 2005 – California String Quartet

May 5, 2005 – African Drum and Dance

June 2, 2005 – Westwind Brass

Chinese New Year at the Powerhouse

February 6, 2005 – Chinese Lion Dancers and food!

Prague Symphony Orchestra at Ca. Center For the Arts

March 20, 2005 – This event was cancelled because not enough participants to fill the bus

Laurie Lewis & Tom Rozum & the Guest House Band

August 12, 2005 – St. Peters with the San Diego Bluegrass Society

First Thursday 2005 – 2006 Series

September 1, 2005 - Millenia Too! Renaissance & Baroque Tapestries

October 6, 2005 – Pat Launer “Stage Whispers” on theater

November 3, 2005 – Cecil Lytle (Ryder Davidson & Alan Huang originally scheduled)

December 1, 2005 – Rick Rosenberg speaks on “Behind the Scenes”

December 11, 2005 - Pacific Coast Harmony at St. Peters

January 5, 2006 – Gary Lefebvre Jazz Quartet

February 3, 2006 – Camarada “Flute & Guitar”

March 2, 2006 – Billy Watson & Band

April 6, 2006 – Harry Katz “Eyes of the Nation: A Visual History of the U.S.”

May 4, 2006 – Chunky Sanchez & Los Alacranes

June 1, 2006 – Doug Myers “Latest News from the Zoo”

Claire Lynch Band at the Powerhouse

April 23, 2006 in conjunction with the San Diego Bluegrass Society

First Thursdays Series 2006 – 2007

September 7, 2006 – Camarada “Amadeus and Friends”

October 5, 2006 – New Village Arts Staged Readings

November 2, 2006 – Rack of Bones: Trombonists

December 7, 2006 – Early Music Ensemble

January 4, 2007 – Howard and Michelle Hall “Making IMAX Films”

February 1, 2007 – San Diego Chamber Orchestra

March 1, 2007 – Talya Ferro sings “Harlem Haunts My Mind”
April 5, 2007 – Paul Ponganis “Emperors of Antarctica”
May 3, 2007 – Chris Klich Jazz Quintet
June 7, 2007 – Anne Marie Gabriele “Chamber Music for Oboe & Strings”

First Thursdays Series 2007 – 2008

September 6, 2007 – Javid & New Flamenco Music & Dance
October 4, 2007 – Cecil Lytle & Art Wagner “An Evening of Gershwin” St. Peters
November 1, 2007 – Manuelita Brown & Lana Wilson on Bronze & Clay
December 6, 2007 – Pacific Coast Harmony at St. Peters
January 3, 2008 – Rob Ickes & Joe Craven, bluegrass
February 7, 2008 – Bach Collegium: Music from 17th & 18th Centuries
March 6, 2008 – Dirk Sutro, author, San Diego Architecture
April 3, 2008 – Rosina Reynolds, “Eleanor” A One-Woman Show
May 1, 2008 – Luna Llena: Music from Cuba
June 5, 2008 – Camarada “Musica Dolce”

Rob Ickes & Joe Craven at the Powerhouse

January 4, 2009 in conjunction with the San Diego Bluegrass Society

The Infamous Stringdusters at the Powerhouse

March 21, 2008 in conjunction with the San Diego Bluegrass Society

First Thursdays Series 2008 – 2009

September 4, 2008 – Nick Revelas from SD Opera
October 2, 2008 – Richard Lederer “Presidential Trivia”
November 6, 2008 – California String Quartet “Bohemian Rhapsody”
December 4, 2008 – Westwind Brass on Music of the Holidays
January 8, 2009 – Fred Benedetti & George Svoboda, Classical, Flamenco, & Gypsy Guitar
February 5, 2009 - Scott Martin Latin Soul Band
March 5, 2009 – Peter Sprague String Consort
April 2, 2009 – Holly Hoffman & Mike Wofford Jazz Ensemble
May 7, 2009 – Chunky Sanchez & Chicano-Barrio Folklore Music
June 4, 2009 – Arthur Dong, filmmaker

Missy Raines and the New Hip at the Powerhouse

February 22, 2009 in conjunction with the San Diego Bluegrass Society

The Claire Lynch Band at the Powerhouse

March 19, 2009 – in conjunction with the San Diego Bluegrass Society

First Thursdays Series 2009 – 2010

September 3, 2009 – Camarada “Tango Nuevo”
October 1, 2009 – Mark Lessman & Jazz Group
November 5, 2009 - Gustavo Romero at St. Peters
December 3, 2009 – Pacific Coast Harmony
January 7, 2010 – Keeling Family Hour, classical & eclectic music
February 4, 2010 – Judith Rosenberg & Mai-Lon Gittelsohn on Silent Film
March 4, 2010 – Marion Liebowitz, clarinet with strings
April 1, 2010 – Billy Watson Band, harmonica-driven blues
May 6, 2010 – Playwright’s Project, “Three Short Plays”
June 3, 2010 – Randy Fontaine & the Swingers: Swing Era Music

The Romeros at the Powerhouse – Celebrating 50 Years!

November 21, 2009

Bluegrass Concerts at the Powerhouse 2010

January 17, 2010 – John Jorgensen Quintet

March 21, 2010 – The Gibson Brothers

May 16, 2010 – Laurie Lewis & The Right Hands

First Thursdays Series 2010-2011

September 2, 2010 – Bert Turetzky with the Wethersfield Trio

October 7, 2010 – Coral McFarland Thuet & Steven Cassedy

November 4, 2010 – Gustavo Romero

December 2, 2010 – Early Music Ensemble

January 6, 2011 – Eve Selis Band

February 3, 2011 – Malashock Dance

March 3, 2011 – red fish blue fish

April 7, 2011 – String Quartet from Orchestra Nova

May 5, 2011 – Seema Sueko

June 2, 2011 – Adrienne Nims and the Spirit Wind