

Inversion Ensemble to perform in Live Music at the Library

Once a month, the Georgetown Public Library's lobby is transformed into an informal concert hall.

The Live Music at the Library series events happen on the third Sunday of each month. On those days, library staff busily wheel out and set up 120 chairs for the audience, musicians arrive with instruments and amps, the audience assembles, and amid the normal busyness of a weekend day in the library, there is sud-



BIBLIOFILES

Dana Hendrix

denly the possibility of just sitting down with others to listen to live music, free of charge. It's rather magical walking in on a Sunday afternoon with the intention

to check out a book or send a fax, but then spontaneously finding a seat and enjoying some good music — maybe something new that you have never experienced, or maybe familiar sounds you've loved for years.

On our music Sundays, many of our regular audience members arrive early and put a sweater over their favorite chair, then go browse the new books or get a coffee; new audience members also come in every month, usually lured in by a performer they want

to hear. We host musicians to perform in a variety of musical genres. In the past couple of years we've had classical piano, a flute choir, traditional Indian folk, an Austin Opera preview, classical guitar, Cuban music, bluegrass, jazz, mariachi, a Gilbert and Sullivan preview, Chilean folk guitar, pop/rhythm and blues and more. Though we fill the lobby with chairs, library visitors often squeeze into a bit of open floor to do some dancing — which everyone enjoys.

The musicians are not volunteers. The funding we use to pay them comes to us from our wonderful Friends of the Library group, a hard-working and effective nonprofit organization with more than 1,000 members. They raise funds for a variety of library programs and materials through dues and donations, sales from the Second-Hand Prose bookstore on the library's second floor, the Hill Country Authors' series, special fund-raising events with Barnes and Noble and Fish City Grill, and note card sales.

In our last fiscal year, the Friends provided the library with about \$70,000 that we used to meet library needs and fund events including the Live Music at the Library series. We are grateful for all they do for us, including allowing us to bring professional performances to library visitors with no admission charge.

This month's concert will be at 2 p.m. Sunday, October 21, and the performing group will be the innovative Inversion Ensemble, an Austin choral collective. The ensemble members include composers and singers, and the group was formed "to give voice to innovative choral works and to encourage the creation of new music." Much of their music is written especially for Inversion Ensemble by singers in the organization who are also composers.

A Few Upcoming Library Events

- Exhibit: Art Hop XI September 28-October 27 at Georgetown Public Library (first and second floors) and Georgetown Art Center
 - October 17, 10 a.m. Play, Learn, Grow Playshop (registration required)
 - October 21, 2 p.m. Inversion Ensemble: Live Music at the Library
 - October 22, 9:15 a.m. Music with Mar (ages 0-6)
 - October 24, 10 a.m. Play, Learn Grow Playshop (registration required)
 - October 26, 6 p.m. Monster Mash Bash (all ages)
 - Exhibit: Worth a Thousand Words October 30-November 30 (second floor)
 - Exhibit: Marissa Palmer: Eye See Divergence & Dissent October 30-December 28 (first floor)
 - October 31, 10 a.m. Spooky Storytime Halloween Party (ages 18 months-5 years)
 - November 5-9 Library closed for inventory
 - November 11, 2-4 p.m. Artist Reception for Worth a Thousand Words exhibit

Consult the Library Events Calendar at library.georgetown.org for more information about these and other library programs such as kids' storytimes and regular teen and adult programs.

Trevor Shaw is the artistic director, and he founded the group two years ago along with Robbie LaBanca and Adrienne Inglis, an instructor of applied music at Southwestern University. All three are composers.

At the library this weekend, the group will perform pieces by at least six different area composers, including one called "The Tree of Life" by Trevor Shaw. The text of this particular piece comes from Charles Darwin's classic *On the Origin of Species*, published in 1859: "As buds give rise by growth to fresh buds, and these, if vigorous, branch out and overtop on all sides many a feebler branch, so by generation I believe it has been with the great Tree of Life, which fills with its dead and broken branches the crust of the earth, and covers the surface with its ever branching and beautiful ramifications."

Adrienne Inglis composed a piece on the program called "Darkness as Light," with text taken

from Psalm 139:7-12. Other works that the ensemble will perform in the library are pieces that set to music text taken from the works of Hildegard von Bingen (born in 1098), and from poetry by Janine Pommy-Veega and Elizabeth Barrett Browning. Inversion Ensemble presents choral music as a modern art form, and the library is pleased to bring them to Georgetown.

If you have an interest in joining our active Friends of the Library organization, visit the Get Involved page on their website to see the varied committee options. The Friends have many volunteer opportunities and are always grateful for new members. Membership forms are available in Second-Hand Prose and in organization brochures around the library; these can be turned in to Second-Hand Prose. The group will also be having a membership drive from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Wednesday, October 17, in the library Lobby.

- For more information:
- Live Music at the Library at library.georgetown.org/music
 - Friends of the Georgetown Public Library at folgeorgetown.org
 - Inversion Ensemble at inversionensemble.com

Dana Hendrix is the Fine Arts Librarian at the Georgetown Public Library.

"You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls."

— JAMES 1:19-21 (NRSV)

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