

TO: Editors, Feature Writers and Event Listings
SUBJECT: Art Related Special Events
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PRESS RELEASE

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Ralph Funaro at the piano with guests (top left to right), Camille Bedard, Michael Lally, Greg Descoteaux, and (bottom left), Jerry Bisantz)

The Brush Art Gallery and Studios presents
“SINGING IN THE RAIN”

A Cabaret Performance and Greek Buffet Dinner

Lowell, MA -- Cabaret performances have become a trademark theme for the fundraising efforts of the Brush Art Gallery and Studios. “Singing in the Rain,” the most recent in this series, will take place on Friday, April 12, 2019, at Olympia’s Zorba Music Hall on 437 Market Street in Lowell.

The evening begins at 6:00PM with a cocktail hour along with a raffle and silent auction. A buffet dinner of Greek delights will then be served: Chicken Kebab, Baked Haddock, Greek Salad, Spinach Pie, Rice, Ice Cream and Coffee. A cabaret-style performance of songs inspired by rain will follow, featuring Ralph Funaro at the piano with guests Camille Bedard, Jerry Bisantz, Greg Descoteaux, and Michael Lally.

Greg Descoteaux is a singer and songwriter from southern NH. “My songs are a pure expression of my love for singing and my passion for the guitar,” he said. Descoteaux has performed throughout the northern Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire area for thirty years.

Ralph Funaro is a well-known Greater New England musician. He is a sought-after “Keyboard” master, songwriter, singer and entertainer.

The performances will be emceed by Michael Lally, founder and Director of the Standing Room Only (SRO) Players. He is also president of the Board of Directors for The Brush Art Gallery and Studios.

Jerry Bisantz is an actor and singer. His “razzle-dazzle” is welcomed at any event. In addition to being a playwright and artistic director of Image Theater Company, he has received awards ranging from “Best New Play” to “Excellence In Play-writing.”

Camille Bedard is known for singing in the Jack and Mary Keefe Variety Show as well as the First Baptist Church Christmas Choir.

How is the Brush unique? They were the first Open Studios in Lowell and have been an attraction for visitors to the Lowell National Historical Park for over 35 years. “Making Art Make A Difference,” their tagline, illustrates a commitment to address social and environmental issues. Current programs include art expression classes at Megan’s House, art classes at the Recreational Adult Resource Association, and a Four by Four for Education exhibit which raises scholarship money for UMass Lowell students.

They have collaborated with many other organizations including Community Teamwork’s YouthBuild Lowell, Merrimack Valley Food Bank, Innovation Academy, Lowell Humane Society, and the Lowell Public School system to name a few.

Early Sponsors include: Richard K. and Nancy L. Donahue Charitable Fdn., Market Basket, Conway Insurance Agency, Enterprise Bank, Lowell Sun Charities, Eastern Bank, William & Marie Sweeney, Michael H. Lally & Margaret M. Lally, Don Bedard & David Vaillancourt, UMass Lowell, Gallagher & Cavanaugh LLP, Newell Flather, Carolyn Walsh & Jack Moynihan, Johanna Bohan Riley, Stephen Kinney.

The Brush Art Gallery and Studios is located in the Lowell National Historical Park across the courtyard from the Visitor Center. This dynamic and captivating place was originally founded by the Lowell Historic Preservation Commission, U.S. Department of the Interior in 1982. The Brush presents museum quality exhibitions, educational programs, and has collaborated with many other nonprofit groups. Artists occupy studio spaces to interact with and educate the public on a weekly basis. Studio artists produce paintings, illustration, photography, jewelry, sculpture, ceramics, quilts, and handwoven items. Associate artists display work in the common area. The Brush Art Gallery and Studios is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization. The Brush is supported by Lowell National Historical Park and Eastern National.

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