



Search: Articles-last 7 days for [] Go

News | Business | Sports | Entertainment | Living | Shop Local | Classifieds | Jobs | Cars | Homes

Find the Latest Sales & Deals at Your Favorite Local Stores!

Enter your zip code to browse sales

GO



Welcome **Guest**
Sign Up | Sign In
Member Benefits

[Back to Home](#) > [Charlotte Observer](#) > [Local News](#) >

Wednesday, Sep 29, 2004

The Charlotte Observer

Cabarrus

email this print this

The Charlotte Observer

- A-Section
- Local News
- Cabarrus
- Catawba
- Gaston/Lincoln
- Iredell
- Mecklenburg
- Union
- York
- Opinion
- Perspective
- Business
- Click
- Sports
- Outdoors
- Carolina Living
- Arts
- Books
- E&T
- Faith
- Family
- Food
- Gardening
- Health
- Home
- Style
- Travel
- Obituaries
- Columnists

Posted on Thu, Sep. 16, 2004

Diversity enriches school arts programs

Offerings aim to reflect multicultural community

GAIL SMITH-ARRANTS
Staff Writer

For the first time, the Cabarrus Arts Council will offer an Asian musical performance to students and the community as part of its 2004-05 school arts lineup.

Also for the first time, high schoolers will see a multicultural performance.

And next Thursday, African American storyteller Donna Washington will open the council's series of free public performances at the Cannon Memorial Library in Concord.

It's all part of an increasing effort to reflect the multicultural makeup of the community, said Noelle Scott, council executive director. "We have far more multicultural offerings than we had before," Scott said. "Our culture here is becoming more and more mixed."

The programs help children to respect other cultures, Scott said. They also boost the self-esteem of students who are from other countries and just learning English.

At least one local student of Vietnamese origin is excited about the Vietnamese duo who will be performing in February, Scott said.

"Not only will classmates learn about her heritage, but she also will see extraordinary musicians who are like she is," Scott said.

Washington, the storyteller, will perform at 7 p.m. in the library auditorium. Admission is free and open to the public.

Washington has won numerous awards for storytelling and has written three books: "The Story of Kwanzaa," "The Big Spooky House" and "A Pride of African Tales."



She also will be performing in the schools all next week as part of the council's "Students Take pART in the ARTs!" program. She will perform for sixth-graders with tales focusing on self-esteem, and for eighth-graders with stories about North Carolina.

Children in the Cabarrus and Kannapolis public schools -- as well as many private school and home-schooled students -- will participate. Each program ties to the curriculum and includes a teacher workshop to help teachers prepare their students to get more out of what they'll encounter.

Here's the rest of the school lineup for this year:

- Children's musician Roger Day will take kindergarten through second-grade students on a musical adventure, with songs such as "It's a No-No to Kiss a Rhino." His CDs have won several awards, including the Parent's Choice Award. (Performances March 14-18 and 21-22.)

- Opera Carolina will introduce third through fifth grades to opera. Featuring music by Mozart, Rossini and Donizetti, "The Billy Goats Gruff" retells the familiar story of three goats who outsmart a mean troll. (Oct. 14-15 and 18-22).

- Khac Chi Ensemble (pronounced "Kack-Chee") is a duo who will play music for seventh-graders on instruments native to Vietnam. The musicians will show students a glimpse of the country's 4,000-year history through musical traditions, dance and geography. Khac Chi was once Vietnam's premier music ensemble and now performs in the United States, Canada and Europe. (Feb. 8-11.)

"With all the talk of war with the political climate and talking about Vietnam, it's very good timing to have a Vietnamese group here," Scott said.

- In 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court -- in the landmark Brown vs. Board of Education case -- declared it a violation of the Constitution to separate children in school because of their race. Performing for high schoolers, award-winning African American actor Mike Wiley will recount the court's decision and its consequences in this one-man show, in which he portrays multiple characters. (Nov. 1-5.)

Gail Smith-Arrants: (704) 786-2185; gsmith-arrants@charlotte



email this



print this

Ads by Google

[Shop African American Art](#)

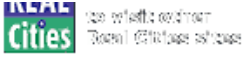
10,000+ Prints, Posters & Photos 30-50% Off Everyday. Free Shipping.
www.GreatAfricanAmericanArt.com

[Language Arts Lessons](#)

Directory of 30,000 lessons! Search from 100's of Language Arts plans.
www.lessonplanet.com/languagearts

[Focus On Diversity](#)

Diversity Marketing & Advertising News Articles On Diversity & More
www.focusondiversity.com



[Homes](#)

[About Charlotte.com](#) | [About the Real Cities Network](#) | [Terms of Use & Privacy Statement](#) | [About Knight Ridder](#) | [Copyright](#)