

The Jazz Sanctuary celebrates milestone in its musical mission



Pianist Sebastian Grand and cellist Nolle Grand will perform at St. Philip's Episcopal Church in New Hope on Sunday, June 26

"Curiously British" concert set for St. Philip's

Pianist Sebastian Grand and cellist Nolle Grand will perform a concert of "Curiously British" at St. Philip's Episcopal Church, 10 Chapel Road, New Hope, at 4 p.m. Sunday, June 26.

The program will consist of works from British composers Ralph Vaughan-Williams and Percy Grainger, all of whom were born at the end of the 19th century and lived into the mid-20th century.

Works of 18th and 19th century German and Hungarian composers Ludwig van Beethoven and Franz Liszt will also be heard.

The Grands both have ties to Great Britain. Sebastian, who was born there, and Noelle, an American, both studied at the Royal Academy of Music in London.

Sebastian is currently principal conductor of the Guernsey (U.K.) Sinfonietta.

Noelle has performed in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, as well as at Carnegie Hall in New York.

Now based locally, Sebastian and Noelle are the directors of the Grand School of Music in New Hope.

The concert is open to all with a free-will donation at the door for the musicians and the outreach of St Philip's Church. For information, visit stphilipsnewhope.org or call 215-862-5782.

Jodi Spiegel Arthur

Alan Segal spent Dec. 14, 2006, having brain surgery for a cerebral arteriovenous malformation (AVM) that had been diagnosed in May.

"When I came out, I couldn't read, write, walk or talk, nothing, zero. I had no hand-eye coordination. I spent 33 days in the hospital and almost passed away twice while I was there," he said.

A Certified Public Accountant, a broker and businessman who played bass as a hobby, Segal used the instrument as part of his physical therapy, training his eyes to move back and forth once again so he could read, and working to recover his hand-eye coordination.

Eventually practicing as much as eight hours a day, Segal said, "I turned myself into a jazz musician."

The Philadelphia resident said he wanted to repay the kindness of those who had visited with him and prayed for him during his hospital stay. Many of the visitors were members of the clergy, friends of his wife, the Rev. Joy Segal, rector of Gloria Dei Old Swede's Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, and from 2003 to early 2006, interim rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in Buckingham.

"I decided to form The Jazz Sanctuary," he said of the organization that recently marked its 300th Jazz & Joe event with three celebratory concerts, including one at Trinity Buckingham. "It was a wonderful celebration. We had extraordinary events."

The Alan Segal Quintet will play at the Buckingham church again this weekend, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Sunday, June 26, during "Jazz & Joe's Fourth Annual BBQ AND YOU."

Segal said his idea for The Jazz



Alan Segal, executive director and founder of The Jazz Sanctuary

Sanctuary was to gather the best jazz musicians he could find and "give music away" by playing at houses of worship. He sought donations and sponsorships from people he knew through business so he could pay the musicians, all of whom are professionals, but he volunteers his time and talent.

"That's how it started," said Segal, now nearly 75. "Now we're booking more jazz than anyone in the city, and we're the only sponsored organization of its kind in the United States. I'm very proud of what we've accomplished."

The Jazz Sanctuary raises \$30,000 to \$40,000 a year, he said, 50 percent from sponsors, 10 percent from houses of worship and other charitable organizations and 40 percent from general donations. More are always needed.

Jazz & Joe performances began



Leon Jordan, Eddie Etkins, Alan Segal, Randy Sutin and George Sinkler are the Alan Segal Quintet.

IF YOU GO

Tickets for Sunday's concert are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door for adults, and \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door for children 12 and under. Visit trinitybuckingham.org for tickets and information or visit thejazzsanctuary.com

approximately five years ago. "We only play for charitable organizations," Segal said.

For concerts Sunday through Thursday, The Jazz Sanctuary does not charge for performances, but on Fridays and Saturdays, "I ask for a little help," he said. "That's when musicians make their living."

Segal's quintet is comprised of Eddie Etkins on saxophone, Leon Jordan on drums, George Sinkler on piano, Randy Sutin on vibes and Segal on bass. Segal said his group goes out on all new booking because he makes a presentation

about The Jazz Sanctuary. "I don't say no to anyone," he said, adding, "There are times when we have a double booking. I get someone else to do it. I like to get more musicians out to affect more people."

The musicians perform 50 to 60 concerts a year in Philadelphia and surrounding counties in both Pennsylvania and New Jersey, although not many in the summer. In Bucks County, in addition to Trinity Buckingham, they sometimes perform at the Penridge Community Center in Perkasie.

The settings are intimate, cabaret-like, Segal said, with the band and the audience close together.

"We feel what the audience feels," he said. "It becomes one. It's what music is supposed to be. It brings everybody together."

Mostly retired now, Segal spends the majority of his time playing music and on The Jazz Sanctuary business.

"It's a wonderful life," he said. "I wouldn't trade it for anything."
jartur@buckscountyherald.com

Performing arts center to open at Music Mountain

Major news was announced at the Washington Crossing Open Air Theatre at the end of the Saturday, June 18, performance of "Little Women the Broadway Musical."

Producer Ginny Brennan announced from the stage that the Downtown Performing Arts Center will become Curtain Up Productions and after three years of searching will build a year-round, performing arts venue in Lambertville, N.J.

The venue, to be called Music Mountain Theatre, is located at 1483 Route 179, adjacent to the site of the former Lambertville Music Circus. Unlike the Music Circus, which was performed under a circus-style, big-top tent, the new Music Mountain Theatre will be a 265-seat, indoor venue with a traditional proscenium stage.

Shows will be year-round and feature mainstage Broadway revivals, plays and a children's theater schedule. Additionally, the theater will be open for concerts and



JORDAN BRENNAN

Building in Lambertville, N.J., has begun on the new Music Mountain Theatre, set to open in late 2016.

community events. The structure will be the new home of Curtain Up Productions,

which has operated as the Downtown Performing Arts Center in Lambertville, N.J., for more than 15

Mergotts perform at summer coffeehouse

Annie and Chip Mergott, Bucks County singer-songwriters, will perform a summer-themed folk, country, folk-rock and original songs at 7 p.m. Saturday, June 25, at Point Pleasant Community Baptist Church.

The Mergotts have played concerts with Tom Paxton, Livingston

Taylor and Christine Lavin. They were featured artists at the Philly Folk Fest in August 2013, and have performed at the Kimmel Center, Sellersville Theater, Grounds for Sculpture, and the Doylestown Arts Fest, among others.

They will be joined by local musicians Lee and Kim Karsan

and Cowboy Pete Hutweller.

A Summer Desserts Bake-Off will provide an opportunity for all to show off and share their tastiest seasonal confections.

The church is located at 35 River Road, Point Pleasant. A \$10 donation is suggested. For information, call 215-297-5047.



Singer-songwriters Chip and Annie Mergott can be seen at Point Pleasant Community Baptist Church on June 25.

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