

# GASTON ALIVE



MAGAZINE

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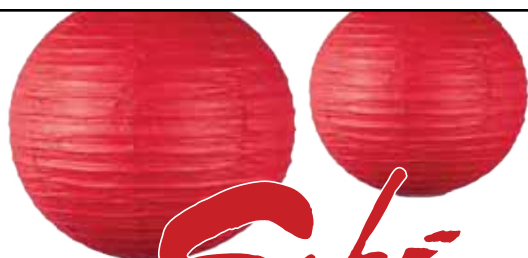
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# FROM THE PUBLISHER

It's that time of year again-Gaston County schools start back August 29th. Time for those last minute vacations, and to sign up for all the fall art and sports activities (if you haven't already!).

Speaking of the arts- we have plenty to be excited about here in Gaston County. The Little Theater of Gastonia and the Gaston Choral Society are both featured in this issue, Artspace is coming to downtown Gastonia, we have the Abbey Players, Gaston Dance Theater, the Catawba River Artisans, and much, much more.

In this time of political and social unrest, you might ask, "why does art matter?" When folks are worried about the elections, their jobs and 401k's, why art?

Because art can be restorative, it can make us think, or take us to a quiet place that lets us reconnect with our inner selves, with what is truly beautiful and meaningful. Art is the best of what we can be, in spite of what the news or financial markets are doing.

A month before he died in Dallas, John F. Kennedy said: "We must never forget that art is not a form of propaganda, it is a form of truth."

Art matters because it elevates us and our community. I often use this space to encourage you support local business, but please support local arts and artists. They make Gaston county (and the world) a better place.

All the best,  
David

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# on the cover



Pictured are Dylan Moore and Lauren Pace, who play Boy and Molly in "Peter And The Starcatcher" in the upcoming performance by the Little Theater of Gastonia. Cover shot in studio by Rick Haithcox, graphic design by David James. See related article page 6.

## our staff

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# GASTONIA'S LITTLE THEATER STARTS THE SEASON WITH A BANG WITH PETER AND THE STARCATCHER!

By David Hamrick



Front row, reclining: Dylan Moore, Seated, L: Kris Lineberger, R: Lauren Pace, Standing Rear L: Geof Knight, Patrick Daley, James Schmitt

## **GA: I know you are excited about Peter and the Starcatcher...tell us about that:**

**Kris:** *Peter and the Starcatcher* is referred to as an adult prequel to *Peter Pan*. When I saw this show during its national tour, I absolutely fell in love with it! Because really it's this unique and magical theater experience that invites the audience to play along by asking them to imagine... The simple set allows the actors to establish the setting, from the rocking decks of two British ships to the shores of a lush jungle island. Everyday household items are costumes, weapons, animals, objects, and so forth. A group

of actors can become over 100 different characters. We have a great cast consisting of 14 actors who work as an ensemble—they do everything and are onstage almost the entire show, being a character, part of the set, creating a picture—anything that furthers the story. There are some familiar Pan characters, but different from how you've seen them before: Peter is called Boy because he's been an orphan for so long he doesn't remember his name. The notorious pirate, Black Stache, does not yet sport his "hook" but his faithful first-mate, Smee, is still by his side. Our heroine is Molly Aster, an apprentice starcatcher. How their journeys intertwine is this big adventure which winds its way toward the Pan story people already know and love. This musical is based on the Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson novel series and won 5 Tony awards in 2013. This

was kind of a leap of faith for LTG; the board approved the season not being sure we would be able to contract this show. We are so excited to have secured the rights. In doing so, it allows us to be one of the first community theaters in this area to have the opportunity to share this production with audiences—AWESOMENESS!!

## **GA: Looks like you have a great season lined up!**

**Kris:** We do! It's our "Hopes & Dreams" season inspired by our decision regarding *Peter and the Starcatcher*; this may be the first "theme" utilized at LTG. All five shows deal with a hope and/or a dream. Our season includes the musicals,



*Company* by Stephen Sondheim—the story of a man at his 35th birthday party thinking about the wish for his life, while all his married friends are wishing they could help him find the right girl and settle down. *Man of La Mancha* by Dan Wasserman: the story of an imprisoned man who entertains his fellow inmates with a dream-like tale meant to fill their time while they wait for their trial during the Spanish Inquisition. They both are Tony award winners as well. We offer Ken Ludwig's *Shakespeare in Hollywood*, a comedy based around the 1934 filming of the Warner Brothers movie about the bard's *A Midsummer's Night Dream*. This show won the Helen Hayes award for Best New Play. *Defying Gravity* by Jane Anderson is probably our least known show. This story is about the 1986 Space Shuttle Challenger explosion and its affect on the lives of the 7 characters, one of which is a Teacher who wishes to explore space and share her experience. Being the 30th anniversary year, we feel privileged to have the opportunity to remember the crew, families, and many others connected to this historic event during our season.

**GA: It is so cool that Gaston County has such a thriving theater group!**

**Kris:** How nice of you to say—thank you! The Board of Directors is a great



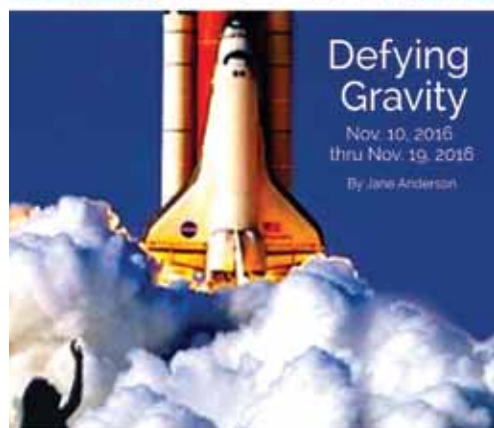
Dylan Moore & Lauren Price

# The Little Theater of Gastonia

2016 - 2017 Season "THE SEASON OF HOPES & DREAMS"



67<sup>th</sup>  
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\*Peter and the Starcatcher and Company are presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.MTIShows.com  
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group of people who bring a wide range of experiences, expertise, and vision to the many areas within the organization. I'm honored to have been part of the team for 5 years and humbled to serve these past 2 as President. We continue to focus on LTG's growth and connection within our community. We have been able to make many upgrades to the building and grounds and also to other areas like marketing. We now have an online ticketing system where you may choose your own seats and even print your tickets at home. However let me say, that the board couldn't be

successful at what we do without the many volunteers who give of their time and talents as committee members, set builders, costumers, actors, ushers, and so forth. Volunteers are and have always been an integral part of our organization. The board hosted its 1st Annual Volunteer Appreciation event this past June as a way to recognize and thank everyone who helped in making our season a success! For me, it was the fruition of one of the most important goals I wanted to achieve during my tenure. Over 100 people were invited to attend this

*Continued on page 8.*

Continued from page 7.

year's event. I feel that's at the heart of LTG's success and why it continues to thrive as it does—people working together and supporting each other. It's the essence of community spirit!

**GA: How long has the theater been in existence, and where are you located?**

**Kris:** Little Theater of Gastonia was created in 1950. Nine years later our theater building, located at 238 S. Clay Street, Gastonia, began to be used for the season productions. Here we are today, with *Peter and the Starcatcher* opening our 67th season.

**GA: How can folks find out more, and what sorts of ticket packages do you have?**

**Kris:** Visit our website: [littletheaterofgastonia.org](http://littletheaterofgastonia.org) or call our box office at 704-865-0160; our part-time office administrator, Janet Gibson, is always happy to answer questions. There are several season flex-pass options available: Some give you 5 admissions good for any show in the season, others offer you show admissions along with a tax-free donation to the theater. There are individual and corporate sponsorships available too. Feel free to follow LTG on Twitter and Instagram, and like us on Facebook. We "wish" to see you this season at the theater! 🍷



Characters Stache & Smee glower down at Boy (Peter) and Molly



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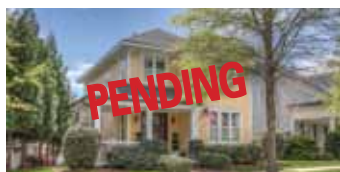
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# GASTON CHORAL SOCIETY

## WHAT IS THE GASTON CHORAL SOCIETY?

We are a volunteer community chorus that provides its members an educational resource that promotes understanding and love of choral music as well as the opportunity to achieve excellence in the performance of celebrated choral music. We provide audiences in the greater Gaston area the many occasions to hear quality performances of a wide variety of choral repertoire. We proudly anchor ourselves in Gastonia, North Carolina as we continue to build a community of passionate musicians, audience members, and sponsors. We are fully dedicated to promoting the choral tradition of our area.

## HOW DID THE GASTON CHORAL SOCIETY GET STARTED?

In 1968, two local doctors, Dr. Joel Conner and Dr. Edward Whitesides, wondered if the community could support a local choral group. They approached Adrian Littlejohn, then music minister at First Baptist Church of Gastonia, and asked him if he would be interested in directing such a group. Adrian gathered a dozen or so enthusiastic singers one evening, distributed copies of The Battle Hymn of the Republic, and thus the Gaston Choral Society became a reality. Since then the Choral Society has performed under six other directors, now under the baton of Daniel Wynkoop who took over in 2001 and has broadened its membership far beyond the original group, including members of all ages from high school up.

## TELL US ABOUT YOUR MEMBERSHIP.

The GCS welcomes singers from throughout the Gaston County area. It is not a requirement that you have previous singing experience, however, the choir includes many experienced singers. Although the chorus is an enjoyable social experience for its members, it maintains a serious approach with regard to musical standards and commitment. We welcome all mature high school students and adults who are interested in choral music to sing with us and join our family. Our membership includes volunteer singers from all walks of life. Our dedicated singers include local high school students, full time professionals, stay-at-home parents and retirees all sharing a love for being challenged to perform a wide array of choral repertoire.

## TELL US ABOUT A TYPICAL SEASON WITH THE GASTON CHORAL SOCIETY.

The GCS performs a wide variety of choral music, from poignant settings of sacred texts to vibrant arrangements of secular songs. We rehearse at First Baptist Church in Gastonia on Thursday evenings from 7-9 pm. We generally perform four main concerts a year: one in the Fall, a holiday concert in December, one in the Spring and the annual Celebration of Freedom service in June (in conjunction with First Baptist Church). For the last two years, we have been thrilled to participate in the Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden Holidays at the Garden event. Small ensembles are also available to perform at private events throughout the year. If interested, please contact us via email.

## WHAT IS IN STORE FOR THE 2016-2017 SEASON?

We are in the process of finalizing the repertoire for 2016-2017. Here are some important dates for the upcoming season.

- **New Member Auditions** - August 25th from 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church in Gastonia
- **Fall Concert** - October 29th Location TBD
- **Holiday Concert** - December 10th Location TBD Please feel free to check our website for the Spring season and any updates.

## HOW CAN PEOPLE JOIN THE GCS?

New member auditions are held twice a year, in August and in January. A typical audition includes vocalizing for the director, a short sight-singing exercise and singing through a piece of music presented to prospective members in advance of the audition. If this sounds daunting, don't let the audition process scare you! If I can survive it, anyone can! Additional audition information can be found on our website and Facebook page.

## HOW CAN PEOPLE SUPPORT THE CHORAL SOCIETY?

The easiest way to show your support is to come hear us sing -- we would love to see you in our audience! Other ways to support us are through our annual Patron Drive. We are a non-profit organization and all our members and board are volunteers. A majority of our funding comes from the membership itself and our generous patrons. We are always open to working with local businesses and organizations who might be interested in sponsoring a performance. The most important thing to us is that you come to hear us sing. We work very hard to put on good performances and we are proud to share that with our community.



*Pictures courtesy of Tammy Cantrell*

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: PHONE: 704-363-6370 | EMAIL: - GASTONCHORALSOCIETY@GMAIL.COM  
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# A Three Layer Orange Cake For Company!

## HAWAIIAN SUNSET CAKE

A while back I attended an event at a Baptist Church in Iron Station. Like many events at Baptist Churches in the South they had a refreshment table, with a sweet church lady serving up desserts. I decided on a piece of particularly attractive orange cake with white topping. One mouthful and I was thinking-wow! This is good! After the second mouthful told the church lady that this cake was probably some of the best cake I had ever had. I asked her who made it, and she said she had. So I asked if I could get the recipe and she had about 30 copies of the recipe printed out and ready to hand out, so she handed me one. She said she gets so many requests for the recipe she just keeps some ready to hand out. Try this cake-I think you'll love it!

Here's the recipe:

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 package orange cake mix (regular size)
- 1-1/2 cups milk
- 1 package (3.4 ounces) instant vanilla pudding mix
- 1 package (3 ounces) orange gelatin (make sure not to get Peach!)
- 4 eggs
- 1/2 cup canola oil

### FILLING:

- 1 1 can (20 ounces) crushed pineapple, drained
- 1 2 cups sugar
- 1 1 package (10 ounces) flaked coconut
- 1 1 cup (8 ounces) sour cream
- 1 1 carton (8 ounces) frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 1 Toasted coconut, optional

### Directions:

1. In a large bowl, combine the first six ingredients; beat on low speed for 30 seconds. Beat on medium for 2 minutes.
2. Pour into three greased and floured 9-in. round baking pans. Bake at 350° for 25-30 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool for 10 minutes before removing from pans to wire racks to cool completely.
3. In a large bowl, combine the pineapple, sugar, coconut and sour cream. Set aside 1 cup for frosting. Place one cake on a serving plate; top with a third of the remaining pineapple mixture. Repeat layers twice.
4. Fold whipped topping into the reserved pineapple mixture. Spread over top and sides of cake. Sprinkle with toasted coconut if desired. Refrigerate until serving. Yield: 12-16 servings.

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