

THE LOON CALL

2024 WINTER



While much of the world may be moving a little slower during the cold and snowy winter months, our Caroga Arts artists remain tirelessly engaged in their roles as composers, lyricists, educators, and performers. In the past year, we were fortunate to witness the emergence of stars, notably 2024 GRAMMY nominees **War And Treaty** (Best New Artist and Best American Roots Song) and **Laufey** (Best Traditional Pop Vocal Album).

Embarking on our SPACE program!

Making music education accessible in our communities



As part of our commitment to year-round programming, we launched the **SPACE (String Project & Arts Collaborative Education) Program** in Johnstown and Wheelersville Schools this January. The mission of the SPACE Program is to provide accessible and affordable string education and collaborative mentorship opportunities to students in the area. With SPACE keeping music education accessible to all, students will not only learn music but also develop life skills and foster creativity. We also hope to extend the program to students in the Gloversville School District and further establish a partnership with area BOCES in the coming months.

This initiative was made possible in part by a generous inaugural \$25,000 sponsorship from Mildred Elley. With this sponsorship, we are able to provide \$250 scholarships to the first fifty area schoolchildren who register in the after-school program during the Spring and Fall 2024 school semesters, with any amounts remaining going to similar underwriting for the Spring 2025 school semester.

In addition, we are grateful for a \$30,000 pledge from Johnstown native William "Bill" Blethen, in memory of his wife, Nancy Elliott Blethen, also a Johnstown native. Bill's remarkable contribution for the "**Nancy Elliott Blethen Memorial Fund**" will support the expansion of educational programming during the summer months, increase the teaching hours of instruction offered, and ensure the continuation of our education programming through the 2025 school year.





CAROGA ARTS CONTINUES TO BREATHE LIFE IN THE WINTER MONTHS

Meanwhile, well beyond the dimming of the lights for our last Caroga Lake Music Festival performance, we've also continued our core mission work of **reimagining the Caroga and Adirondack experience through the power of the arts**. Throughout the holiday season, the skies over Sherman's Park were illuminated with vibrant and festive lights, a spectacle that followed our traditional Holiday Tree Lighting. Additionally, we presented our 4th Annual CLMF WinterFest which brought nearly twenty world-class artists (including faculty at Oberlin, Vanderbilt, Denison University and members of leading ensembles) to Caroga for a week of performances and outreaches across the region. Each concert was unique, featuring holiday favorites by Tchaikovsky, Schumann, Prokofiev, Bach and more.



GET READY FOR ANOTHER YEAR OF EXTRAORDINARY LIVE PERFORMANCES!

Mark your calendars for the **Caroga Arts Spring Residency: April 9-12, 2024**, as well as the **13th annual Caroga Lake Music Festival: July 15 - August 18, 2024!**

In addition to the return of our beloved resident artists, we also are excited to present an array of guest artists for memorable collaborations and programs by the lake. We can't wait to let you know about those in the coming months! Stay tuned for more details about our 2024 Season Announcement. This year's music extravaganza will once again be filled with world-class performances and memorable moments for audiences and artists alike!

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE CAROGA ARTS GALA

Saturday, July 20, 2024 at Sherman's Park

This year's gala, "**A Midsummer Night's Dream**", promises to be an evening of fantasy, fun, and fairies as we enter the enchanted forest and revel in the magic of music. We will proudly be presenting the Ruth and George Abdella Award to this year's recipient, Joyce Barrett (aka Grandma), in honor of her instrumental role in nurturing the roots of the organization over the past twelve years by providing meals and housing for our musicians, as well as inspiration, guidance, and countless hours in writing thousands of treasured hand-written thank you notes to our donors and patrons through all the years (as she continues to do to this day).

Musical entertainment for the evening will feature **Cara Samantha, of American Idol, and her band Highline**, New York's top dance band for luxury weddings and events. Cara has been a prominent artist at Caroga Lake Music Festival since 2014.

We hope you will join us for this magical evening. We promise you an evening unlike any other! This year's gala is being chaired by the mother/daughter team of Judy and Mia Simon. More will be coming out soon about sponsorship opportunities and tickets for the event. In the meantime, if you would like to volunteer to serve on the Gala Committee or donate an item for the evening's auction, please contact Judy Simon at judy@carogaarts.org.



Meet Nancy Purcell, a Pillar of Caroga Arts

This month, we are thrilled to showcase the remarkable commitment of Nancy Purcell, a cherished patron and devoted volunteer at Caroga Arts.



A musician herself, Nancy's journey with Caroga Arts began many years ago when she was inspired to open her home for the musicians after hearing them perform at the Caroga Chapel. She stepped forward as a housing donor and has since hosted over fifty artists.

Year after year, Nancy and her husband, Doug, stand out on our in-kind, artist housing, and meal donor lists, embodying the spirit of generosity. Their unwavering support has now reached new heights. After sponsoring The Gibson Brothers last year, they have committed to elevate into Season Sponsors for the upcoming 2024 season.

Not only has Nancy continued to contribute as a steadfast Board member since taking on that role in 2018, but she has now also taken on the pivotal role of Volunteer Coordinator for 2024. In this capacity, Nancy is instrumental in shaping the future of Caroga Arts Volunteering, guiding a dedicated team toward impactful contributions.



Become a Volunteer Hero! For those who have shared their time with us in the past, we invite you to participate in our recent volunteer survey, thoughtfully crafted by Nancy herself. Your insights are invaluable as we continue to enhance the volunteer experience. If you have not received the survey or are new to volunteering with Caroga Arts, reach out to Nancy at npurcell@carogaarts.org to explore the exciting ways you can join her dynamic team.

Nancy's passion and leadership exemplify the spirit that makes Caroga Arts a thriving community. Join us in expressing gratitude for her tireless dedication, and let's continue to build a vibrant future together.

CAROGA ARTS AWARDED \$50,000 NYSCA GRANT FOR 2024

We were pleased to be awarded the New York State Council on the Arts grant for Caroga Lake Music Festival in 2024. Through New York State's continued investment in arts and culture, NYSCA has awarded over \$80 million since Spring 2023 to over 1,500 artists and organizations across the state. Governor Kathy Hochul said, "Research confirms what we've always known here in New York: arts and culture are a powerhouse, with a staggering return on investment for our economy and our communities. Nonprofit arts and culture organizations and their audiences generated \$151.7 billion in economic activity nationwide in 2022 and New York's unparalleled arts and culture sector is leading the way to benefit our residents, our students and our visitors every day."

OUR SINCERE GRATITUDE TO OUR NEW AND RETURNING BUSINESS SPONSORS

We are delighted to have NBT Bank and Ruby & Quiri return as sponsors and welcome new business sponsors to the Caroga Arts family: Abdella & Sisse Law Firm, , Brown's Ford in Johnstown, Hannaford, Highland Legacy Holdings LLC (the recently acquired owners of the picturesque Pine Lake Lodge rental property), Stewart's Shops, The Summit Group, and The Wesson Group. A heartfelt thank you to all these generous contributors for their support, which plays a pivotal role in making our 2024 season truly shine!

Become a Business Sponsor for 2024! Learn more about our Business sponsorship packages [here](#).

INTRODUCING ENHANCED DONOR BENEFITS FOR INDIVIDUAL SPONSORSHIPS

This year, we're thrilled to introduce an enhanced lineup of benefits for our valued individual donors! Your support fuels the heart of our organization, and we've curated special perks for our individual sponsorships to express our gratitude. From unique behind-the-scenes experiences to personalized acknowledgments, your contribution ensures unforgettable moments for our audience, artists, and community. Check out the exciting details and donate today at carogaarts.org/donate. Your swift response is crucial as we plan the upcoming season's performances and artists. Your commitment now makes a lasting impact on our creative journey. Thank you for being a impactful part of our community.

We'll be back with our next edition of *The Loon Call* in the Spring. In the meantime, stay tuned for our Caroga Key Notes updates and news flashes, along with regular postings on Facebook and Instagram. Keep warm and relish the splendor of our Adirondacks winter landscape. Don't miss our video postings, designed to fill your hearts with musical memories. A heartfelt thank you for being an integral part of our Caroga Arts Collective family!

GIVE A GIFT TO CAROGA ARTS



A gift to Caroga Arts Collective provides vital support as we continue to expand our programming and maintain our commitment to fostering relationships among our artists and the community. We hope you will consider joining us in our mission to reimagining the Caroga experience through the power of the arts!

carogaarts.org/donate



**Council on
the Arts**

Various programs of the Caroga Arts Collective are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

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