

## Born for ovations

**Born for This,** presented by Arts Emerson at Emerson Cutler Majestic Theatre, Boston, through July 15. 617-824-8400 or [artsemerson.org](http://artsemerson.org)

By JULES BECKER

BeBe (Benjamin) and CeCe (Priscilla Marie) Winans were born for the stage, and so it goes for their

stories. The remarkably talented brother and sister singer-songwriters (now 55 and 53 respectively) have traveled both geographically—from Detroit to North Carolina and all around the United States—and artistically—from gospel to R&B, urban contemporary and pop.

"Born for This," a new musical chronicling that stirring odyssey, has been traveling to such cities as Atlanta and Washington, D.C.

The standing ovation-worthy talent on display at the Emerson Cutler Majestic Theatre—the show's Hub venue—have the voices and the moves to make it in New York.

To make this vocally and visually rich effort the Broadway-worthy show it should be, however, the relatively mild-mannered Charles Randolph Wright, BeBe Winans

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## Welcome Summer: Fête de la Musique

By MICHELE D. MANISCALCO

With free music and dance performances, ice cream and children's activities in seven outdoor spaces around the South End, the sixth annual Fête de la Musique brightened a gray day for approximately 1,000 attendees on Saturday, June 23.

According to Community Music Center of Boston (CMCB) in-

*Continued on page 2*



Union Park: Akil Jamal Haynes and P.A.I.. Photo by Michele D. Maniscalco



Savin Hillbillies: Bill Walczak, center. Photo by Michele D. Maniscalco

## Summer Solstice in Blackstone Square

By MICHELE D. MANISCALCO

The smell of freshly-cut grass, sunshine, mellow music and happy neighbors filled Blackstone Square on Thursday, June 21 at the sixth annual Summer Solstice.

Sponsored by Washington Gateway Main Street (WGMS) with partners Blackstone/Franklin Square Neighborhood Association (IB/FSNA), Lord Hobo Brewing Company, Make Music Boston, Boston Parks and Recreation Department and Boston Main Streets, this year's festival celebrating the arrival of summer and the longest day of the year featured laid-back jazz by the Tyson Jackson Trio and lively country and bluegrass music by the Savin Hillbillies featuring South End Community Health Center CEO and multi-instrumentalist Bill Walczak on guitar, accordion and vocals.

Woburn-based Lord Hobo pro-

vided libations at the beer garden on West Brookline Street, while Daddy's Bonetown Burgers and Dylan and Pete's ice cream offered picnic fare.

A group of grown-ups got fit at an exercise in the Washington Street quadrant of the square at a pop-up fitness class led by barre3 and Endurance Pilates and Yoga, while elsewhere, children frolicked in the fountain with inflatable floats, bounced and rolled across the grass in large, inflatable balls and expressed themselves with sidewalk chalk.

WGMS interim executive director Liza Quiñonez estimated attendance at about 500. "This is my favorite event of the year!" WGMS vice-president Arthur "Bud" Larivey said as he and his husband, Milton Vázquez, surveyed the crowd and the medley of activities taking place in the square.

*More Photos on page 4*

## ASK DOG LADY



### Advice on Pets, Life, Love

By MONICA COLLINS

Dear Dog Lady,

A group of us take our dogs to a city park where we let them off the leash. One day, a friend of mine saw

a pile on the field and she picked it up even though it did not come from her dog. She said she did this because she wanted "poop karma." Please explain.

—Mindy

Dear Mindy,

*Your friend sounds like the wise monk in the mutt world. To those who do not keep dogs, this phrase may sound grossly scatological. Dog people, however, are not offended because they are constantly on guard for their pet's bodily functions.*

*"Poop karma" is what comes back to you in the form of good will and clean shoes. Poop karma makes the world safe for dogs and clean for humans.*

Dear Dog Lady,

I am hoping you can provide some timely advice. I have dear friends who have been abroad for 1.5 years. In the time they have been gone they've had a baby who is now 1. When they went overseas they left their beloved rescue dog with friends who had a long-standing relationship with him.

Unfortunately "Fred" the beloved dog is not particularly well trained. He loves his owners and they adore him. However, he is not obedient, nor are they particularly strong-minded masters. Of greatest concern is that "Fred" has bitten

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## Fête de la Musique

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terim director of advancement Catherine Miller, "We were surprised at the numbers and I think a lot has to do with the momentum we have gained over the years, the increased activities at each site [such as] balloon twisting, face painting, dance classes by Urbanity, an art project by the Consulate General of France in Boston, along with the fact that people didn't leave Boston to go to the beach on a rainy Saturday!"

In addition to the customary jazz, blues, singer-songwriters and rock bands that

entertain at the multi-stage event, CMCB added new artists, venues and genres to this year's event.

Miller explained, "Due to feedback from previous events, the Music Center made a strong effort to diversify the music offerings. This year, music included Western swing, Latin jazz, brass band, jazz quartet, a kid-friendly offering and urban blues." Hayes and Watson parks joined the usual Fête de la Musique venues: BCA Plaza, Childe Hassam Park, Union Park, Ringgold Park and Frieda Garcia Park.

Garcia herself and her husband, state representative Byron Rushing (9th Suffolk)

enjoyed the music of AB Latin Jazz and watched Brazilian zouk dancing lessons by Urbanity Dance in alternating sets.

Organized by CMCB, the event was sponsored by neighborhood associations including The Friends of Ringgold Park, Friends of Hayes Park, Friends of Frieda Garcia Park, Union Park, Eight Streets, The Ellis and Friends of Childe Hassam Park, all of which had performance venues in the festival, as well as local businesses Gibson Sotheby's, Coldwell Banker, South End Eye, Vejigantes Restaurant, Flour Bakery and Cafe, Ben & Jerry's and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Executive Director Lecolion Washing-

ton, who took the helm of CMCB in the summer of 2017, was joined by his predecessor, David Lapin. This year's Fête featured the presentation to CMCB of a \$2,500 award from the Tedrock Fund, a Massachusetts charity founded last year in memory of the late Boston musician Ted Collins for the purpose of helping children in underserved populations learn and appreciate music. Tedrock presenter Peter Malagodi is a former CMCB staffer who taught music in the Boston Public Schools through CMCB's community outreach program.



(Left) Frieda Garcia Park-Frieda Garcia, Byron Rushing. (Top Right) Hayes Park: The Moonraiders. (Bottom Right) Purpose at Childe Hassam Park. Photos by Michele D. Maniscalco

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## Dog Lady

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several human strangers and has shown a tendency of impulsive aggression. This became such an issue that the friends who were watching him asked that he be placed elsewhere. Fred has since been with one of the owner's parents out West. Apparently there have been no further biting incidents but he has been aggressive with other dogs.

I am REALLY worried about my friends' child. The dog only encountered her once on a visit and seemed confused by her presence. My friends are planning on returning home in a month and plan to retrieve Fred and bring him home. I've expressed my concern but I don't think I can convince them otherwise. The child will be at prime face level, doing all the things a toddler does and I'm almost certain there will be a potentially tragic accident given the dog's track record.

Is there anything else I can do to help them avert potential tragedy?

— Scared Dog Love

Dear Scared Dog Love,

Ooh, this is tough. Your question is long, thoughtful and very difficult. The best you can do is warn your friends again. If you know their veterinarian, you could ask her or him to intervene as well. Yes, this situation is very dangerous. "Fred" has been displaced and handed-off, which is always unsettling for a dog. When he returns from the West, he will go through another upheaval. For a skittish, aggressive, distrustful dog, the scenario is a powder keg.

Please ask them to leave Fred with family out West, at least until they are resettled. You have not specified what your relationship is to them but you sound caring and responsible. If they don't listen to you and heed your warning? Well, it may sound cold but, really, there is nothing more you can do.

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# Blackstone Square

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(Top) Savin Hillbillies: Bill Walczak, center: (Center Left) Bud Larivey and Milton Vázquez. (Center Right) District 7 city councilor Kim Janey. (Bottom Right) Fitness class. Photos by Michele D. Maniscalco

# 39 / 25

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South End News is published every Thursday.



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# Born

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and Lisa D-Amour book needs to rise to the caliber of BeBe's often catchy score.

"Born for This" does begin fittingly with the Winans' Detroit roots and the church gospel inspiration guiding Pop and Mom Winans and their children. As Winans fans know, BeBe initially served as the van driver for a snappy quartet of fellow Winans—here in handsome matching silver jackets designed by Broadway veteran William Ivey Long—that call to mind The Temptations during the smooth synchronized steps choreographed here by Warren Adams.

Early on, Mom warmly counsels that "We all have our place." For his part, Pop optimistically declares that "God holds the future." Even so, Pop also stresses the importance of self-knowledge prior to leaving one's house. An unlikely but serendipitous 1982 television church debut at Jim and Tammy Faye Bakker's PTL (Praise the Lord) Club eventually brings BeBe and CeCe the opportunity to display their strong voices and develop their songwriting skills.

Designer Neil Patel may vary the color combinations of backdrop vertical rectangles, but stained glass effects smartly suggest the spirituality essential to BeBe and CeCe in life as well as in art.

Before BeBe and CeCe's 1987 departure from PTL in the second act, there are references to prejudice on the one hand and the Jim Bakker fraud scandal on the other. The show's book needs to say more—even briefly—about BeBe's experience with bigotry from a white PTL fellow singer. Especially curious is the lack of follow-up about Tammy Faye's insistence that BeBe nip in the bud any

relationship with white singer Penny, who clearly has feelings for him.

Sibling Ronald Winans comes across significantly as a kind of conscience or moral anchor for BeBe; there ought to be more about Ronald himself. Another surprise about the book is that it stops short of detailing—even in epilogue—major accomplishments of both BeBe and CeCe. Reference is made to Dove Award (Christian music honor) nomination; eventually they actually were winners. Of course there are the impressive Grammy wins—six for BeBe and twelve for CeCe. CeCe has in fact become the biggest seller among female gospel singers.

Shortcomings aside, director Charles Randolph Wright summons compelling performances and big-voiced renditions from a stellar cast. Donald Webber Jr., a nephew to BeBe, has the right intensity and inner fire as BeBe—especially on the electrifying first act closer "Won't Stop." Loren Lott, a niece to BeBe, is persuasively sweet and vulnerable. She delivers CeCe's thoughtful solo "Is It Right" with singular resonance.

Nita Whitaker, tenacious as supportive Mom Wayans, delivers the vivid solo "Seventh Son"—arguably the musical's showstopper—with arresting angst. Milton Craig Nealy has persuasive authority as Pop Wayans. Chaz Pofahl captures Jim Bakker's slickness, and Kirsten Wyatt catches Tammy Faye Bakker's outspokenness as well as her distinctive accent. Brad Raymond finds all of Ronald's wisdom and striking directness.


Webber Jr. and Lott as BeBe and CeCe take the siblings' variation on "Up Where We Belong" to satisfying heights. The as yet unanswered question is whether the musical's book can do full honor to these uncommon talents.



Chaz Pofahl as Jim Bakker; Kirsten Wyatt as Tammy Faye Bakker; Loren Lott as Cece Winans, and Donald Webber Jr. as BeBe Winans in new musical "Born for This" (courtesy Arts Emerson)

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# News from...

## Friends of the South End Library

SUBMITTED BY MARLEEN NIENHUIS

### Park and Library Renovation Update:

After intensive lobbying, the reconstruction of Library Park is back on schedule to start mid- to late July. Earlier this month, bids on the contract let by the Parks Department came in twice as high as anticipated (close to \$200,000 instead of about \$100,000), halting the much-anticipated reconfiguration and infrastructure overhaul of the long-neglected park. Thanks to the support from the Mayor's Office and Parks Commissioner Chris Cook, the City's Budget Office added the funds required to proceed.

If possible, we hope to schedule one summer jazz & blues concert in Library Park with Pat Loomis and his Friends before construction commences. Stay tuned, so to speak.

Negotiations for Phase Two renovations of the library's downstairs interior are still on-going. The Phase One reconstruction, which will bring the library's electric and

telecommunications infrastructure into the 21st century, is now in the design stage and will occur in the 2018-19 time frame.

But as of today, there's no commitment for any of the dramatic changes to the downstairs interior outlined in Phase Two, as pictured in the drawing at the top of the page, that we had discussed previously with the BPL. We expect to hear more details within the next week and will inform you as soon as they become available.

### South End Writes Updates:

Harvard University's Health Policy Professor, David Hemenway suggested that a public-health approach would reduce the staggering death and injury rate by gun violence in the U.S. Such an effort should follow the template of the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) campaign decades ago, which cut fatalities from car crashes by more than 80 percent. A nationally recognized authority in Violence and Injury Prevention, Hemenway said the CDC at the time changed the question of

"who was to blame," i.e. irresponsible drivers, to "what caused the injuries and death", i.e. dangerous cars and roads.

The immediate problem is, research into gun use with Federal dollars is not allowed, thanks to the NRA's grip on Congress, which threatens researchers with loss of funding. Hemenway was introduced by Boston's Police Commissioner, Bill Evans. The commissioner could not stay long; He had to attend to another shooting.

On May 22, the acclaimed author, Allegra Goodman, talked at length about her work, including the recent novel, *The Chalk Artist*, and her remarkable short stories, set in the Boston area and published in *The New Yorker*, focused on different members of the fictional Rubinstein family.

### Final Bookings for the Fall/Winter 2018-19 Season:

September 4: Irrepressible bon-vivant Iory Allison, with *Book Three* of his *Glamour Galore Trilogy*, *The Mermaid and the Sailor*. (The date may have to be changed due to unforeseen circumstances.)

September 25: Prize-winning author of domestic drama (*Accidents of Marriage*) Randy Susan Meyers, with *The Widow of Wall Street*, inspired by the Bernie Madoff case.

October 9: Celebrated *Odyssey* Opera conductor/artistic director, Gil Rose, and impresario, Randolph Fuller, return to highlight the focus of their 2018 fall season, composer Charles Gunoud, on the 200th anniversary of his birth.

October 30: Acclaimed playwright and performer, Melinda Lopez, will talk about her latest work, including the 2019 adaptation of Federico Garcia Lorca's *Yerma*.

November 13: Best-selling author Jessica Keener (*Night Swim*, *Women in Bed*) will read from her latest work, *Strangers in Budapest*.

November 27: Award-winning author and Boston Globe contributor, Joan Wickersham (*The Suicide Index: Putting my Father's Death in Order*) with a new -interconnected- short stories' collection, *The News from Spain*.

December 11: Distinguished foreign correspondent, Boston Globe contributor and former New York Times bureau-chief in Latin America, Istanbul and Berlin, the South End resident will present his take on the fraught U.S. - Iran relations under the current Administration.

January 8: From *Page to Stage*, with Zeitgeist Stage Co.'s director David Miller presenting the ins and outs of *Trigger Warning*, a new play about a school shooting from the point of view of the shooter's family, to include a reading of a chapter with the play's actors.

### Membership Campaign

Your membership pays for programming sponsored by FOSEL, such as the popular Library Park summer jazz & blues concerts

with Pat Loomis and his Friends.

Please join (or rejoin) the Friends of the South End Library (FOSEL) to support programming we sponsor at the best institution in town: your neighborhood public branch library. With your tax-deductible FOSEL membership, you and your neighbors help make the South End library a vibrant community space with free programming for everyone in the neighborhood.

### Where does FOSEL use your money?

A speaker series that has brought prize-winning authors to our library.

Summer jazz and blues concerts in Library Park, to resume after this summer's Library Park renovations, with a new format showcasing Special Musical Guests

The famous annual *Easter Egg Hunt* featuring the Easter Bunny, and eggs with chocolates, poems and knock-knock jokes

Attractive Local/Focus window installations by local artists, creative entrepreneurs and nonprofits to inform you about who does what in the South End

Programs for adults, teens and children, as requested by library staff

Refurbishing of draperies, carpeting, circulation desk and furniture, when requested

Maintenance, weeding and watering of Library Park and surrounding tree wells by a private local contractor

FOSEL works with city leaders to maintain and expand support for the South End library and Library Park.

Please contribute as generously as you can. And thank you.

### Local Focus

Last but not least, our current Local/Focus window display features Will Corcoran, the South End wire sculptor whose playful installations in his front garden on Pembroke Street at Warren Avenue have long delighted passersby and neighbors. Corcoran was the first local artist of Local/Focus several years ago, when he exhibited sculptures based on the tales of Edgar Allen Poe and the Grimm Brothers, linked here. The current theme is Families Reading Together.

### Upcoming Installations

\* The Union United Methodist Church, with a historical view of the 200-year anniversary of its congregation

\* The historic Ayer Mansion, the only surviving residence created by Louis Comfort Tiffany

\* *Odyssey Opera*, the unique and eclectic Boston opera company

\* Eric Grau, sculptor, *Cats and Crystals*

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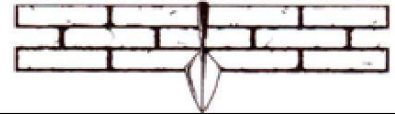
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**Affordable Housing Waitlist Lottery, 1 & 4 Bedrooms Only  
Castle Square Apartments**

Castle Square Apartments will be accepting applications from July 9, 2018 through July 19, 2018 for the affordable housing waitlist lottery of 1 and 4 bedroom apartments only located at 484 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02116. Income guide lines apply. Heat and Hot water included. Applications are placed on the wait list by random order according to the lottery number not the date/time the application was received. The Lottery will be held on August 1, 2018 between 2pm - 3pm in the Castle Square Community Room located at 464 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02116. Applicants will be notified of their status in the mail.

Household Size	1 person	2 persons	3 persons	4 persons	5 persons
Maximum Income	\$34,250	\$39,150	\$44,050	\$48,900	\$52,850

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484 Tremont Street  
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TTY: 1-800-439-2370

Applications will be available by email at castlesquare@wincco.com  
By fax, by mail or in person  
Weekdays from 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM July 9, 2018 through July 19, 2018.  
At Castle Square Apartments Community Center, 2nd Floor,  
Located at 464 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02116.

Applications are also available at the  
Boston Public Library, First Floor, McKim Building  
700 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116  
July 9, 2018 through July 19, 2018.  
**Monday-Thursday: 9AM-9PM;**  
**Friday-Saturday: 9AM-5PM;**  
**Sunday: 1PM-5PM**

**Application Deadline**

Applications may be submitted by email, fax, in person or by mail No later than 3:45 PM on July 19, 2018 or Postmarked no later than July 19, 2018. Applications after this date will not be accepted for the lottery.



Call (617) 426-5517 for more information about the application process or to request a reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities.

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