

Celebrate the Arts

Les Misérables and Hiromi's Sonicbloom featured BRAVO! Events

As the largest arts organization in the region, the Arts Center will play a major role once again this May in *BRAVO! Celebrate the Arts*, a monthlong festival showcasing the best of the area's arts and cultural offerings.

Les Misérables, running April 22 through May 24 in the Elizabeth Wallace Theatre, will serve as one of BRAVO'S signature events. The Tony Award-winning show – hailed as the “world's most popular musical” – was chosen by theater patrons in surveys as their favorite musical, and the rights just became available.

“*Les Mis* promises to be our best and perhaps most important show ever,” said Arts Center President and CEO Kathleen Bateson. “We've brought together an extraordinarily talented cast of actors with voices that will raise the rafters.”

Hiromi's Sonicbloom will be rocking the house in May as well. A jazz dynamo known for her high-octane performances, the Japanese pianist and her hip band will play songs from their latest CD, *Beyond Standard*, as well as original compositions from four prior albums, when they perform at the Arts Center May 18.

While deeply rooted in the jazz tradition, Hiromi enjoys mixing disparate musical elements to create a wildly, wonderfully thrilling jazz fusion. AllAboutJazz.com described it as “a shot of adrenalin for tired musical tastes.”

The Arts Center also is hosting a Gullah History and Storytelling symposium at 7 p.m. May 11. Native Islander Louise Miller Cohen, director of the fundraising campaign to build the Gullah Museum of Hilton Head Island, will be the guest speaker.

In addition, a number of community workshops will be offered throughout the month of May, including a hand-building pottery course for adults, fundamentals of drawing and painting for youth and hands-on art classes for preschoolers.

Sponsored by the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce, *BRAVO! Celebrate the Arts* will feature some 40 shows, concerts, exhibitions and classes presented by two dozen area groups and organizations from Hilton Head Island and Bluffton.

This year's schedule also includes a Memorial Day weekend concert by the Hilton Head Choral Society, Art in the Park outdoor festival in Bluffton's DuBois Park, Art Market at Historic Honey Horn, the *Art League Juried National Exhibition* at the Arts Center, Jazz Corner concerts and the Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra's Brahms “Majestic F Major Symphony.”

For a complete list of *BRAVO!* events, visit www.hiltonheadisland.org/bravo, pick up a brochure or call the Chamber of Commerce at (843) 785-3673.

BRAVO

Arts & Cultural Festival

