

pittsburgh applause!

arts & entertainment newsletter

Jazz Star Leroy K. Wofford Killed

Pittsburgh's music community was shocked with the sudden, violent death of popular local jazz star Leroy K. Wofford.

According to police and various news reports, two men walked up to his home in the city's Lincoln-Lemington neighborhood early on September 8 and opened fire through the door. Wofford was hit in the chest and died the next day at 12:30 p.m. *The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review's* Jason Cato reports

that Wofford himself called 911 and was still conscious when the ambulance arrived. WTAE-TV has a complete story at <http://www.wtae.com/news/local/allegheeny/Jazz-musician-killed-in-Lincoln-Lemington-shooting/-/10927008/16532500/-/9xyt8w/-/index.html#ixzz26C0wTSha>

"He was a very forceful bass singer," Tony Mowod of the Pittsburgh Jazz Society told the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's* Moriah Balngit. "He wasn't a crooner kind of blues singer. He was in your face. He was hard, hard-edged."

Wofford was well-known among the area's jazz connoisseurs for his on-stage appearance, a dapper look complete with long suits and brimmed hats.

Hundreds of fans gathered at a north side restaurant and club on

September 12 to watch dozens of local jazz artists perform in his honor. Funds raised are benefiting the Wofford family. *The Pittsburgh Courier* quotes his grateful daughter: "Everyone helping get my father put to rest, and your condolences, I really appreciate it. My father was a good man and didn't deserve this." *The Courier* has posted complete coverage of the event, including a photo, at http://www.newpittsburghcourieronline.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=8115:hundreds-celebrate-wofford&catid=38:metro&Itemid=27

At press time, police were still seeking the two suspects. You can see videos of Wofford at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BKYEWN8aTE>

Inside This Issue

GPAC calls for participants for 2013 convention. **Page 3**

Comcast leads media companies in political dollars. **Page 4**

ShowClix signs on with Apple's ticket app Passbook. **Page 4**

The local film industry has lots of news. **Page 7**

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Composer Wins Award

Mason Bates, who has been designated by the **Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra** (PSO) as their

Composer Of The Year, has been named as one of

the recipients of the Heinz Awards.

The awards are bestowed by the **Heinz Family Foundation** in different categories. The 35-year-

old Bates receives an unrestricted cash prize of \$250,000. The ceremony will be held on October 11.

In other PSO news, the orchestra has set aside a portion of its web site for tributes to the late Marvin Hamlisch. To see or contribute to it, visit <http://blogs.pittsburghsymphony.org/2012/08/tributes-to-marvin-hamlisch/>



ReelQ

Pittsburgh
LGBT film festival

October 12-21, 2012
Harris Theater
ReelQ.org

presented by



sponsored by



GPAC's Call For Artists

With the **Americans For The Arts'** annual convention coming to town next year, the **Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council** (GPAC) is calling on artists and arts organizations to be active participants.

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Founded in 1996, The Americans For The Arts (AFTA) is dedicated to representing and serving local communities and creating opportunities for every American to participate in and appreciate all forms of the arts. An estimated 1,000 arts leaders will be in Pittsburgh for their convention in June of 2013.

GPAC is seeking proposals from artists interesting in performing or exhibiting during the convention and organizations interested in hosting events for convention attendees. Proposals are being accepted through October 23.

In other news, GPAC has announced that nominations are being accepted for the next Mayor's Award For Public Art. The winner will be named at GPAC's annual meeting in November.

For more information on either, call (412) 391-2060.



WCT Gets Big Grant

The **Westmoreland Cultural Trust** has been awarded a \$300,000 grant to support cultural and economic development in the Westmoreland County.

Established in 1969, the Westmoreland Cultural Trust (WCT) promotes the performing arts while preserving and enhancing the county's cultural assets. The grant from the **PNC Foundation** will allow WCT to offer preschool children youth-focused show at the Palace Theatre for the next three years along with other activities at the Greensburg Garden & Civic Center.



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Comcast Leads In Political Donations

With the election looming and big decisions coming up, Medi-aPost.com reports that **Comcast** has been very aggressive in supporting federal candidates.



In Pittsburgh, Comcast operates the city's cable television franchise. The company is also the primary owner of **NBC-Universal**.

Using his blog, David Goetzl says that "Comcast has been making contributions to federal candidates at a higher rate than other media companies. The Comcast PAC has donated \$1.51 million directly

House and Senate candidates, triple the amount of the next leading media company, **Cox Communications**." Cox owns Pittsburgh station WPXI-TV. Comcast's donations are even higher than the industry's leading trade organizations.

The key issue is re-transmission fees, in which TV stations and networks charge cable and satellite companies for transmitting their programming. Members of both houses of Congress have been proposed to change the way these fees are determined and negotiated. Comcast has made donations to candidates of both parties.

New ShowClix App

Local event ticketing company **ShowClix** has announced that **Apple** iPhone, iPod and iPad consumers will now be able to order tickets through the mobile app Passbook.



Passport promised to bring together all of a user's ticket related needs, from theaters to air flights providing everything from coupons to boarding passes.

"Mobile ticket delivery was one of our first big developments back in 2008," ShowClix CEO Joshua Dziabiak explains in a press re-

lease. "Now that four times as many of our tickets are delivered directly to smartphones, we couldn't pass up the opportunity to take advantage of a cool new technology that has been custom tailored for mobile leaders in our industry."

The
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www.pittsburghaebook.com

New App Makes Politics Fun

Local technology firm **Cepstral** has launched a new interactive web site and app that allows users to either play the role of President Barack Obama or former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney in a mock debate.



That site is located at <http://www.soapboxinggame.com/>. The company describes it as "the first political app where the candidates speak voters' minds". A press release goes on to explain that "Users write and direct their own presidential candidate dialog to take on friends and foes. The app creates a video animation to share on FaceBook, YouTube or save to an iPhone."

Based on the city's South Side, Cepstral specializes in speech technology. They were able to take excerpts from the president's publicly available speeches to recreate his voice. Since the governor had fewer such comments available, a version of his voice was created. For details visit http://www.soapboxinggame.com/building_voices.html

The company may create other such programs using other world leaders.

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New QED

Ground breaking local public broadcaster, **WQED Pittsburgh**, is launching a new digital television channel this fall.

The channel, which will be free over the air, is being called WQED Showcase and broadcast on 13.4. The channel will

air a mix of popular pledge programming from the station's archives.



"In additions to local fundraising programs, WQED Showcase will be a testing ground for national pledge programming" that could be offered nationally, the organization's president, Deborah L. Acklin, explains in a press release. The channel is expected to be carried by local cable systems but it will not be available to satellite subscribers.

CBS & Tech Issues

New technologies are providing both opportunities and problems for **CBS Corporation**.

In Pittsburgh, CBS Corporation owns two television and four radio stations, most notably KDKA.



MediaPost.com reports that the company's interactive unit has inked a deal with **InterActive-Corp's** (IAC) nRelate division.

The services nRelate provides encourage viewers to spend more time on a publisher's site by recommending content with engaging graphics. This can lead to more ad revenue for a publisher.

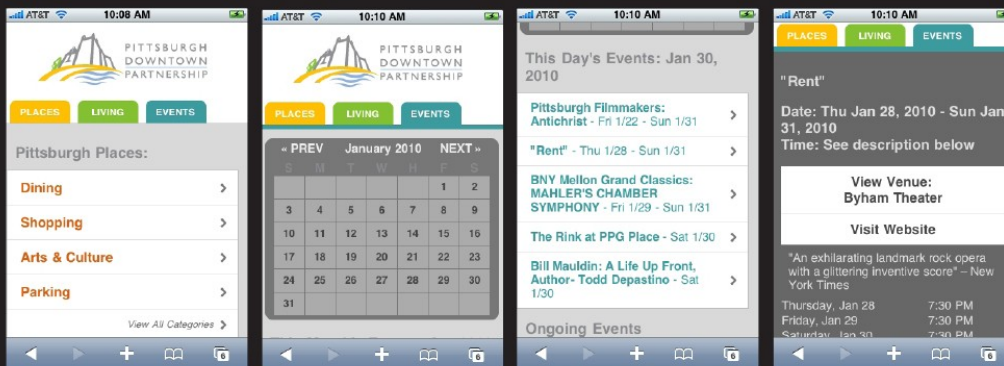
However, the same cannot be said for CBS' relationship with **EchoStar's** Dish Network satellite distribution company. Dish

has introduced a new service called Auto Hop that allows its 14 million subscribers to skip commercials --- the primary revenue stream for most TV networks and stations. Legal action has already been taken and CBS' Leslie Moonves told MediaPost.com's David Goetzl that the company will drop the CBS Television Network from Dish if necessary."If they want to eliminate our commercials," he quotes Moonves telling investors, "we will not be in business with them."

The following day, Dish's Joe Clayton told Goetzl that Moonves is "out of touch" insisting that "the fast-forward button didn't kill the television business, Hulu didn't kill the television business, nor did the VCR kill TV, in fact the industry has thrived."

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Local Film/TV News

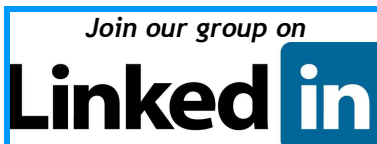
The locally-made film version of the acclaimed novel *Perks Of Being A Wallflower* made an impressive box office debut, reports TheWrap.com. "Perks" opened at a mere four theaters in New York and Los Angeles and earned an average \$61,000 per screen --- making it the fifth-best specialty debut so far in 2012.

Production of the popular cable television series "Supah Ninjas" is being moved to the 31st **Street Studios** in the Strip District for its second season. The comical adventure show debuted on **Viacom's** Nickelodeon in 2011. It stars Ryan Potter, Carlos Knight, Gracie Dzienny and "Star Trek" alumnus George Takai.

The Friends Of The Hollywood Theater (FOHT), which operates the historic one-screen Hollywood Theater in Dormont, have let go executive director John Maggio and replaced him with Chad Hunter with the new title managing director. Maggio helped FOHT apply and receive its non-profit status and compile strategic marketing data. Hunter's background includes a long stint running a similar theater in Rochester, New York.

JFilm, a program of **the Jewish Federation Of Greater Pittsburgh**, is seeking submissions for its new short film competition. More information is available online at <http://jfilmphg.org/>

The Pittsburgh Lesbian & Gay Film Society (PLGFS) is launching the new name for its film festival: Reel Q. Begun in 1985, PLGFS' festival is the sixth oldest in the world dedicated to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender cinema. James A. Richards, publisher of *Pittsburgh Applause*, is a board member who handles the festival's marketing.



Big Bequests

The estate of twin sisters is among those who have made major bequests to the **Pittsburgh Foundation**.

Established in 1945, the Pittsburgh Foundation is one of the country's oldest and largest community foundations. *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's* Patricia Sabatini reports that Jean and Nancy Davis --- who died within months of each other at age 97 --- left \$9 million to the foundation. In addition, \$11.7 million has been given to the trust from the state of a former H. J. Heinz executive and his wife.

Images

Photos Celebrating Pittsburgh's Arts/Entertainment History & Community



This is a still from the short film "Tar Baby Jane" about Pittsburgh artist Vanessa German being screened at the Harris Theater as part of this year's Reel Q (the renamed Pittsburgh International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival).

Source: Pittsburgh Lesbian & Gay Film Society

To have an image considered, email Jim Richards at jim@james-richards.com



Be sure to check out the calendar's special feature section on Halloween events.

MON
1
Take the free new subway to **PNC Park** for the Pirates' last home games of the season.

TUE
2
Acclaimed violinist Lindey Stirling brings some class to **Stage AE** with a night of contemporary music.

WED
3
The provocative play "Maple & Vine" bows at **City Theatre** with its tale of an urban couple relocating to a suburb that's a little too perfect.

THU
4
Former President Bill Clinton appears at **Heinz Hall**.

FRI
5
The **Frick** opens an exhibit of paintings from the stunning Gilded Age.

SAT
6
Pittsburgh's annual African American Parade and Festival returns.

SAT
6
Get down with your fine self as the traveling party Barstool Blackout lands at **Stage AE**.

SAT
6
The opera "Rigoletto" is staged at the **Benedum** with its tale of a devious duke and his court jester.

SAT
6
The **Regional History Center** celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Football Hall Of Fame with an exhibit of rare and fascinating memorabilia.

SUN
7
Speaking of football, the Pittsburgh Steelers are back at **Heinz Field** for a game against the Philadelphia Eagles.

FRI
12
With the new name "Reel Q" Pittsburgh's annual LGBT film festival returns to the **Harris Theater**. The calendar has the entire schedule in a special feature section.

FRI
12
Actor John Lithgow joins the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra at **Heinz Hall** to perform Mozart's famous, unfinished work "Requiem Mass".

SAT
13
Embrace the beauty of the season at **Phipps** for their annual Fall Flower Show.

SAT
13
The **Carnegie Museum Of Art** opens an exhibit about the genius unveiled at world fairs.

SUN
14
Musician and singer Melvin Seals — best known for being part of the Jerry Garcia Band — fuses rock, funk and jazz at the **Hard Rock Café**.

TUE
16
The Broadway musical "Mary Poppins serves a spoonful of sugar at the **Benedum**.

THU
18
Couple your love of beer and cartooning tonight at the **ToonSeum**.

FRI
19
The hot band Umphrey's McGee heats up **Stage AE** with their boundary-pushing rock.

THU
25
A special documentary about the legendary singer/songwriter Arlo Guthrie screens at the **Pump House**.

FRI
26
The classic ballet "Giselle" at the **Benedum** is the eternal tale of tragic love.

SAT
27
A new exhibit at the **ToonSeum** features masterpieces created by artist David Devries inspired by the drawings of children.

WED
31
HAPPY HALLOWEEN



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www.post-gazette.com/events

National/World A&E News Round-Up

Cable Leads 2012 Emmy Awards

More than 13 million people tuned in to **Walt Disney Company's** ABC on September 23 to watch this year's Emmy Awards.

First presented in 1949, the awards are television's top honors administered primarily by the **Academy Of Television Arts & Sciences**.

CBS Corporation's Showtime pay cable network took home the top drama honor for the series "Homeland" while ABC took top comedy honors for "Modern Family." Top acting honors went to Damian Lewis and Claire Danes of "Homeland"; Jon Cryer of CBS' "Two & A Half Men" and Julia Louis-Dreyfus of "Veep" airing on **Time-Warner's** Home Box Office.

To see a complete list of nominees and winners, visit <http://www.emmys.tv/awards/primetime-emmy-awards>

So Long, Andy

Andy Williams, one of the last century's biggest musical stars, died on September 25 of bladder cancer. He was 84.

According to his Wikipedia entry, Williams had 18 Gold and three Platinum albums. His top rated musical variety television series ran from 1962 to 1967 (and again from 1969 to 1971). His signature song was Johnny Mercer's "Moon River" which actress Audrey Hepburn famously sang in the movie "Breakfast At Tiffany's".

Despite being a life-long Republican, Williams and his first wife, French singer Claudine Longet, were close friends with Robert F. Kennedy and performed at his funeral. In addition to his second wife, Debbie Mayer, he leaves behind three children.

A Museum's Sad Coda

158 works of art from the former **Scheringa Museum Of Realist Art** were sold at auction for nearly €3 million, reports TheArt-Newspaper.com.

Opened in 1997 in North Holland, the Scheringa Museum Of Realist Art housed around five hundred works of the 20th century art mainly realist art and contemporary. But it was forced to close in 2009 after its primary backer, a bank, went out of business.

The top seller was "Man On A Beach," a 1977 piece by American sculptor Duane Hanson (1925-1996), who was a key participant in the mid-century Pop Art Movement. It sold for €313,000.

Whispers Continue

Rumors of actor John Travolta's true sexual orientation became news again in September, when he and his attorney were cleared of libel charges.

TheWrap.com's Alexander C. Kaufman reports that Robert Randolph, the author of a book claiming that the actor had performed homosexual acts in a spa, filed suit claiming libel after Travolta's lawyer made public a letter calling Randolph mentally unstable.

Despite his high-profile relationships with actresses Diana Hyland and Kelly Preston (whom he married in 1991), there have been stories for years implying that he is bisexual or gay. In early September, the celebrity web site RadarOnline.com reported that a pilot named Doug Gotterba had a clandestine six-year relationship with Travolta that ended in 1986. There is even a video interview posted at <http://www.radaronline.com/exclusives/2012/09/john-travolta-gay-pilot-lover-kelly-preston-video-interview>

New Leader

@ Hispanic

Ross Kramberg has been named as the new executive director of **Ballet Hispanico**.

Founded in 1970, Ballet Hispanico is one of the nation's preeminent Latino dance organization. Kramberg has more than two decades of arts management experience, most notable at the **Paul Taylor Dance Foundation**.

"Ballet Hispanico is a remarkable organization that has made a substantial impact on dance and culture in New York and across the country," Kramberg explains in a press release. "I see unlimited potential" for the organization.

Kramberg's resume also includes stints at the **Joffrey Ballet** and the **Brooklyn Center For The Arts**.

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Pittsburgh Applause Editorial

Music, Money & ASCAP

By James A. Richards

I often warn people in the music world that the industry is called show business and not show hobby for a reason: there is money involved. But whether they are a solo act, a jazz band or a nightclub they routinely forget this reality.

On Sunday, September 16, the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* published an article by Anya Sostek about the challenges many venues face when it comes to licensing fees. These are especially daunting for smaller venues who want to support local musicians while using their concerts to draw in customers.

On the surface, that sounds like a win-win. But what these smaller venues (and many musicians) forget is that they are usually dealing with copyrighted material. It reminds me of an incident a few years ago when a New England high school teacher decided to put on a student production of "Rent" without realizing that he had to pay for the play. Creative people -- writers, composers, actors, directors, musicians --- all have bills. It is only reasonable for them to be paid.

Vincent Candilora of the American Society Of Composers, Authors & Publishers (ASCAP) defended their aggressive enforcement of licensing to Sostek. "Most of the time, even if we're charging \$2 a day, the bartender

makes more in tips in the first hour than what we're charging in music."

But for really small businesses with slimmer profit margins --- like coffee shops --- that \$2 may not be so reasonable. I support a suggestion local musician Brad Yoder made in Sostek's article: discount the fee for smaller venues from what can be \$1,000 a year to a few hundred.

This way everyone benefits.

Letters to the editor are welcome via email to jjim@james-richards.com

They may be edited for publication.

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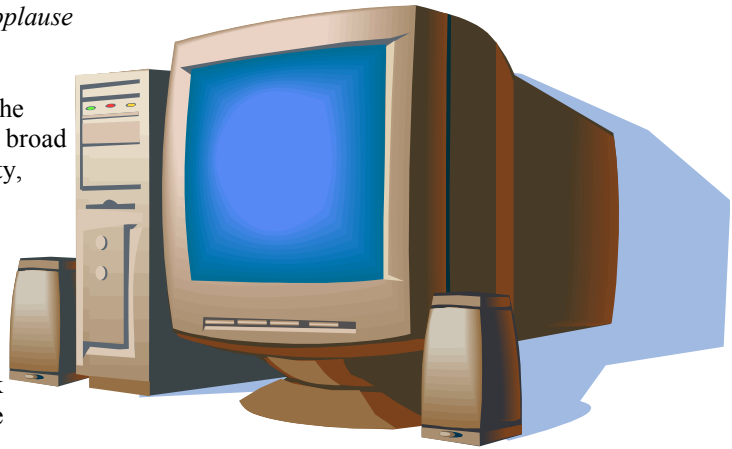
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Jim hopes to eventually bring *Pittsburgh Applause* back to the real world!

The goal is to produce 10,000 full-color print copies each month distributed primarily through Crazy Mocha coffee shops.

But Jim needs a collection of advertisers willing and able to commit to at least six months of advertising. For more information, contact him at jim@james-richards.com

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