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KATHRYN DASILVA EARNS GIRL SCOUTS GOLD AWARD

Submitted by Allison Kempe

Congratulations to Kathryn (Katy) DaSilva of Long Hill's Girl Scout Troop 82224 for achieving the highest award possible – the Girl Scout Gold Award.

For her Gold Award, Katy built a Legacy Wall, now sitting outside the child development center at The Center for Great Expectations (CGE) in Franklin, NJ. The Legacy Wall is a collection of painted tiles that were created by the residents and staff of the CGE, as well as other community members. The wall is displayed outside of "Katy's Place," the child development center at CGE.

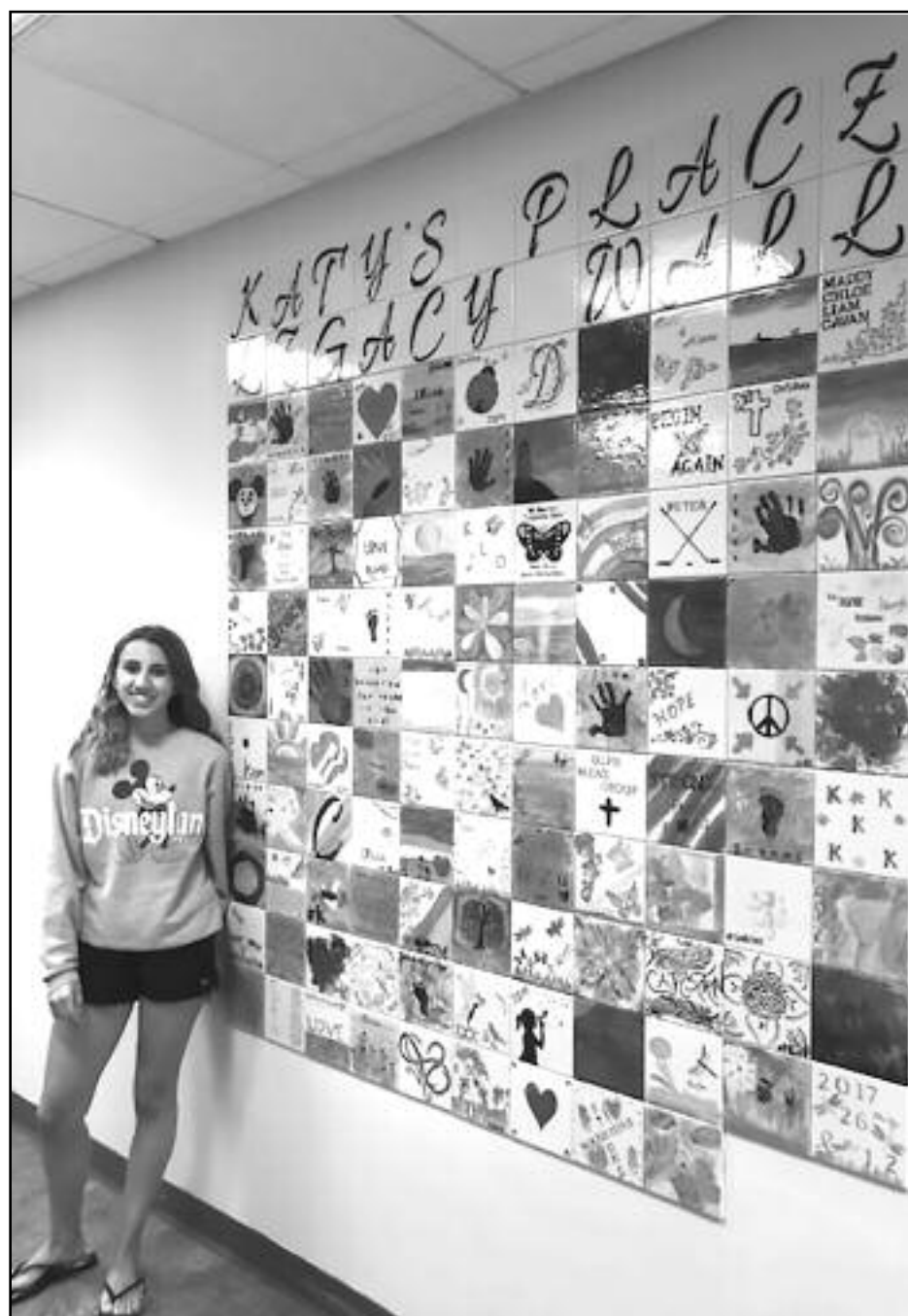
Katy's Place is named for Katy Deitchman, Katy's beloved Auntie Katy, who died in 2003 from a rare form of cancer. The goal of Katy's project was to help raise awareness for CGE's mission of caring for homeless pregnant or parenting women and adolescents, and breaking the cycle of trauma, homelessness, abuse, and

addiction. By creating the Legacy Wall at The Center for Great Expectations, Katy gave current residents, their children, and supporters of the organization an opportunity to leave their "legacy," a permanent mark of their involvement and/or support.

Katy has been a Girl Scout for 13 years and hopes to continue her involvement with the Girl Scouts in the future. She also plans to continue her involvement at The Center for Great Expectations.



(above) Katy DaSilva of Long Hill's Girl Scout Troop 82224, who achieved the highest award possible, the Girl Scout Gold Award.



(above) Katy DaSilva with her completed project, the Legacy Wall.

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Green Brook Gazette is published by Renna Media. 3,000 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and home in Green Brook, NJ and the balance are distributed for free pick-up throughout town.

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2020 NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS AND COMMENDED STUDENTS

Submitted by Denis Kelly

Four Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) students have been named to the 2020 National Merit Semifinalist List, and another 26 WHRHS students have been named to the 2020 National Merit Commended List.

This year's WHRHS National Merit Semifinalists are: Phillip Ding, Dave Ki, Jessica Young and Vivian Zhang.

This year's WHRHS students named to the Commended List, which is the category immediately following Semifinalist, are: Laura Baeyens, Jagdeep Bhatia, Catherine Cai, Nyna Chacko, Tina Chen, Tamara Hadzic, Jenna Hansen, Nicole Harris, Roopa Irakam, Niharika Iyer, Apurva Joshi, Stephanie Ju, Abigail Kotar, Sana Mamtaney, Aaron Marmolejos, Manthan Naik, James Narayanan, Annabell Pu, Julia Rubin, Cristina Sarrico, Julia M. Schink, Mayur Sharma, Katie Tan, Sarah Young, Maya Zhang, and Kevin Zu.

The designations are based on scores by these students on the Reading Test, Writing and Language Test, and Mathematics Test for the

2018 PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test)/NMSQT (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMSQT) last Fall.

This year's four National Merit Semifinalists means that as many as 52 WHRHS students have qualified as National Merit Semifinalists during the most recent six years.

The year-to-year totals have been:

Class of 2015 – 11; Class of 2016 – 6;

Class of 2017 – 10; Class of 2018 – 15;

Class of 2019 – 6; and Class of 2020 – 4.

The National Merit Scholarship Program reports that the Finalists will be named later in the year. A percentage of Finalists are expected to compete for National Merit Scholarships, according to the scholarship program. Taken into account for those scholarship selections will be a variety of factors, including the student's subsequent SAT scores that confirm the score in the PSAT/NMSQT, an essay, as well as an endorsement and recommendation from the student's high school, demonstrations of leadership and participation in school and community activities.



(above, l-r) The 2020 National Merit Semifinalists from WHRHS are Phillip Ding of Green Brook Township, Jessica Young of Warren Township, Vivian Zhang of Green Brook Township, and Dave Ki of Warren Township.

Photo by WHRHS

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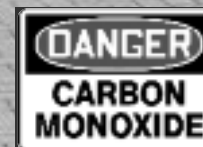
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ENTRIES SOUGHT FOR ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST

Amateurs and professional photo buffs are invited to submit entries in one of 4 themes by November 29, 2019.

Do you take photos for fun or work? If you live in Somerset County, you are invited to participate in the fifth annual "Show us Somerset County Through Your Camera Lens" photo contest. Amateur and professional photographers are asked to submit photos of the county's vibrant communities, historic sites, picturesque landscapes, recreational opportunities and engaging community events.

Photo Contest entries should reflect one of these four themes:

Community Events – neighborhoods, fairs, parades, etc. Looking for ideas? Visit visitsomersetnj.org/events.

Historic Sites in Somerset County – buildings, reenactments and other areas and events of historic significance to Somerset County. For inspiration, visit bit.ly/HistoricSites19.

Natural Environment – for example, rivers, forests, parks and wildlife.

Recreational Opportunities – Somerset County offers many venues for recreation; show us your favorite activities. For example, wellness activities (e.g. hiking, biking, etc.) or leisure activities (e.g. golfing, dog walking, gardening, arts and culture engagements, etc.)

Submissions must be the original work of the applicant and not previously entered in the photo contest. A panel of judges will select two winners for each theme, as well as an overall contest winner in both the professional and amateur categories. Photographers whose artwork is selected as a winning entry will receive a \$50 honorarium. Overall contest winners will receive a \$100 honorarium.

To enter the contest, individuals must complete an online form, which can be found at: co.somerset.nj.us/residents/photo-contest. One person can submit up to five images; the maximum size for each image is 10 MB. See photo contest instructions for more information. Contestants are responsible for acquiring subject release forms from identifiable people featured in the photographs. All images must be received by 4 p.m. on Friday, November 29, 2019. No late submissions will be accepted.

Images will be featured online and in printed materials produced by Somerset County and the Somerset County Business Partnership.

Made possible by funds from the Somerset County Cultural & Heritage Commission, a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

For more information, contact photocontest@co.somerset.nj.us or call 908-231-7081.

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Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2019




Aram E. Jawed, M.D.

Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2019



Anish Nihalani, M.D.

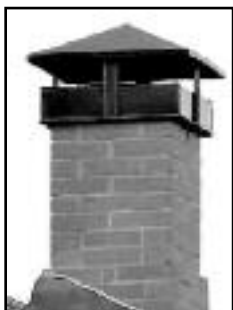
Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2020



Alexander Abkin, M.D.



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SCLSNJ DONATES SCHOOL SUPPLIES TO COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

The Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) continues their dedication to contributing to the community all year-long. On August 9, 2019, SCLSNJ staff donated 22 boxes of school supplies to the Food Bank Network of Somerset County through the Project First Class initiative. Donations included backpacks, calculators, writing instruments, and more.

“SCLSNJ is committed to continuing our philosophy of exceptional customer service by connecting with our community, demonstrating empathy for those who have less, and making their day brighter,” said Edith Lit, SCLSNJ operations supervisor. “Project First Class for the Food Bank Network of Somerset County was another huge success. We collected an abundance of school supplies for our community members. We can imagine the excited faces of the children that will be receiving new backpacks filled with school supplies.”



(above, l-r) Andrew Schuller, SCLSNJ courier; Marie Scannell, Food Bank Network executive director; Jennifer McClear, SCLSNJ library technician; Edith Lit, SCLSNJ operations supervisor; Charlene Perkins, SCLSNJ human resources and payroll associate; and Anthony LoSardo, SCLSNJ courier. For more information or to donate to the Food Bank Network of Somerset County: www.somersetfoodbank.org.

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The Green Brook PBA Local 398 along with the Township of Green Brook hosted an annual Seniors Picnic on September 21st, 2019 at Top of the World Park.

There was plenty of food to choose from, and even a potted-plant raffle. The day was met with great weather, good food, and lots of smiling faces.



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Friends of the Dunellen Public Library Annual Holiday Party!

Sunday, December 1 from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
You're invited to the Friends Annual Holiday Party at the library! Delicious food and beverages will be provided. Plus, prize for the Holiday Quiz winner! No registration is required, walk-ins are welcome!

Teens Anime Club

Every 1st and 3rd Friday at 3:30 p.m.
Teens! Love Anime? So do we! Watch your favorite shows for free here at the library while munching on some free snacks!
Bring a friend or two!

K-Pop Club

Every 2nd and 4th Friday at 3:30 p.m.
Teens! Explore the world of K-pop with some Korean dramas, food, culture, and language!
Free and open to all teens!

Gaming Club

Every 1st and 3rd Monday at 3:30 p.m.
Enjoy snacks, having hilarious fun playing the Nintendo Wii, and talking all things video games! Bring in your own game systems and/or games, but they are your responsibility. Games will be reviewed for content purposes before play.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK AT IEF

Marking the end of Fire Prevention Week, the Green Brook Fire Department visited the Irene E. Feldkirchner School to make presentations to each grade level on fire prevention and safety.

On October 11, 2019, Captain Rick Connolly and other firefighters reviewed safe practices,

important home devices, and the homework that they were assigning all families: check smoke detector batteries, set up a meeting point outside the home, and have monthly fire drills.

Most exciting to the children, however, was the equipment, including two fire engines--one with a 75-foot ladder.



Photo by Green Brook Public Schools

KIDS PROGRAMS

Register on [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)

Blindfolded Mario Kart Racing

Mon, November 4 at 2:00 p.m.

Team up with another participant to see how well you can navigate the Mario Kart racing world blindfolded. Grades K+.

Just Dance

Wednesday, November 6 at 1:00 p.m.

Dance along with your friends to the Wii game. Participants should wear comfortable clothes and bring a labeled water bottle. Grades K+.

Toy Story 4 Movie Screening followed by Forky Craft

Thursday, November 7 at 2:00 p.m.

Children should be able to sit through an entire full length feature film. Participants are welcome to bring their own snacks to enjoy during the movie. Create your own Forky craft will take place directly following the film. Ages 3+ (parents should use their discretion)

Frozen Sing Along Party

Friday, November 8 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Celebrate the original Frozen adventure with Anna, Elsa, and Ms. Jennifer just in time for the release of Frozen II. Sing along with the popular tunes, create "frozen" crafts and more. Family (children under 5 should have an adult companion with them)

ADULT PROGRAMS

ESL Conversation Class

Every Monday at 5:00 p.m.

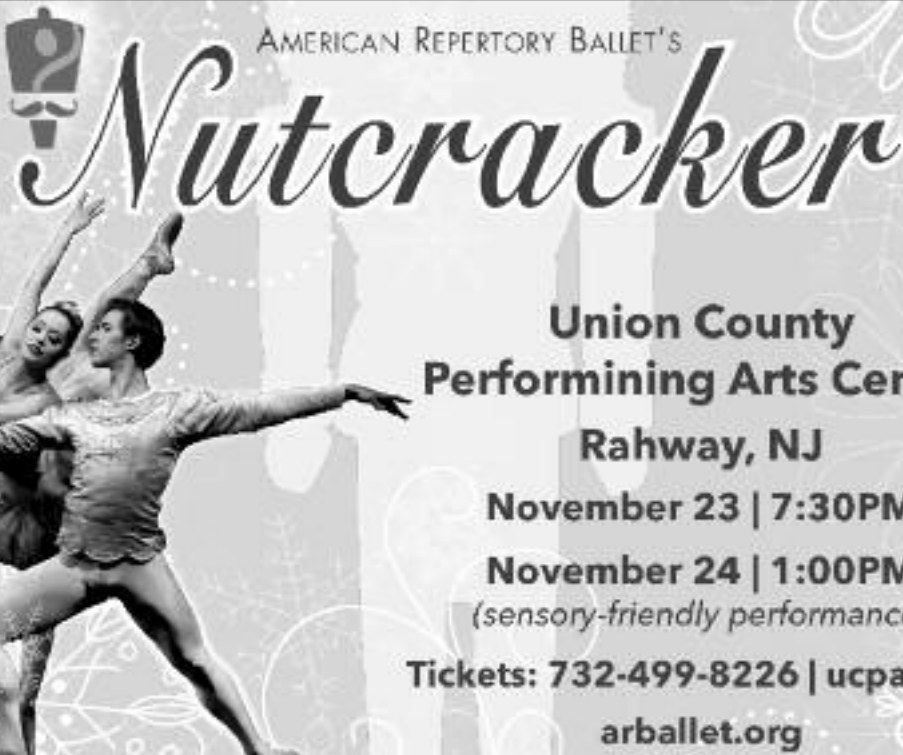
All Adult ESL learners are welcome to join us every Monday evening at 5 p.m. Advanced to Intermediate students will learn speaking, listening, writing, and cultural language skills. Enrollment is open, no limit on number of classes you can attend.

Book Club

Thursday, November 21 at 1:45 p.m.

(We will be meeting one week earlier due to the Thanksgiving Holiday).

You're invited! Every 4th Thursday join us for Book Club at the library! This month we're reading Bittersweet by Colleen McCullough. Pick up your copy at the Front Desk with your library card.



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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR LEAF CLEAN-UP

You can help an elderly or disabled resident get his or her yard ready for the winter months. This year's fall clean-up date is November 23, 2019, but other dates are available.

The Somerset County Office of Volunteer Services is looking for volunteers for its annual fall leaf clean-up program. Volunteers are needed to rake leaves for elderly and disabled homeowners around the county who have no other means to do yard work.

The annual leaf clean-up project will take place Saturday, November 23. However, anyone who would like to help but cannot make it on November 23 is welcome to schedule an alternative date and time. For information and to sign up as a volunteer, call the Office of Volunteer Services at 908-541-5715.

Elderly and disabled residents who need the leaf-raking service can also call 908-541-5715.

To stay up to date with Somerset County events and information, sign up for free email alerts at co.somerset.nj.us/subscribe or follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

UNION MUNICIPAL BAND CONCERT NOV 11TH

Invitation for new members.

The Union Municipal Band, under the direction Howard Toplansky will present a concert on Monday evening, November 11, 2019. The concert will be held at Hannah Caldwell School Auditorium, 1120 Commerce Avenue, Union, NJ at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free and the public is cordially invited to attend. This autumn concert will feature music from the Broadway stage, marches and overtures.

The concert will include the following selections: The Star Spangled Banner, Brighton

Beach March, Amazon Overture, Gypsy Fantasy, Variag March, Amazing Grace, Strenuous Life Rag, The Girl From Ipanema and Third Man Theme.

The band would like to invite musicians from Union and the surrounding communities to join the group.

If you are interested please call the band director Howard Toplansky at 908-415-4939. Please call the Recreation Department at 908-686-4200 with any inquiries.

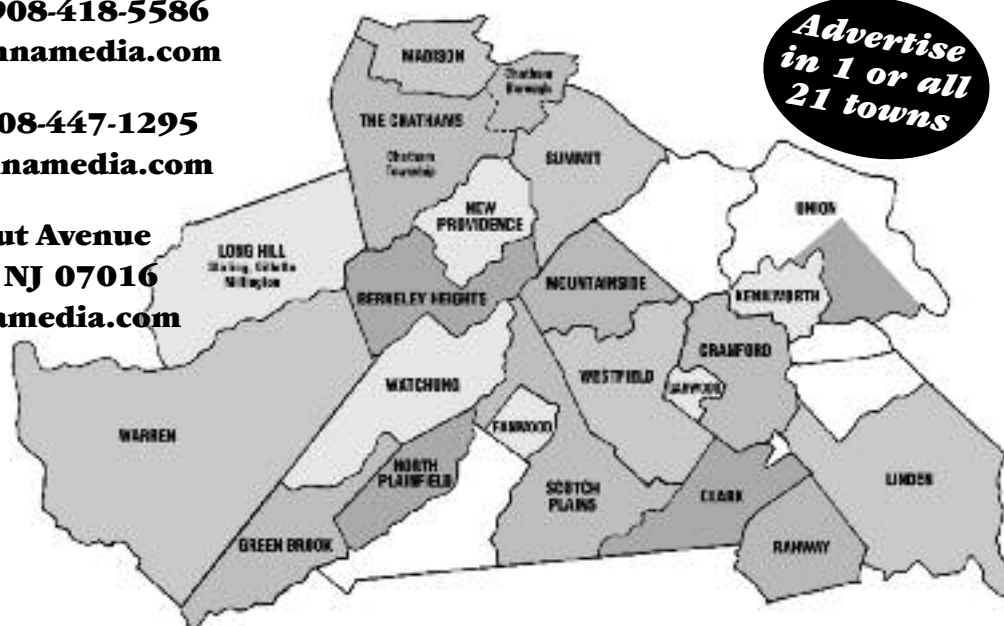
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TICKETS NOW ON SALE FOR 21ST ANNUAL PIPES OF CHRISTMAS

The Pipes of Christmas will celebrate its 21st season with performances in New Jersey and New York this December. The holiday favorite opens on Saturday, December 14 at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, located at 921 Madison Avenue (at 73rd Street) for a 2 p.m. performance. The concert moves across the Hudson River on Sunday, December 15 to Central Presbyterian Church located at 70 Maple Street in Summit, NJ with performances at 2 and 7 p.m.

For those weary of the ceaseless stream of secular seasonal music from department stores to TV, the Pipes of Christmas offers a spiritual and traditional take on the season that connects concertgoers to the holiday in a fresh, meaningful way. The show features tunes such as, "Highland Cathedral," Joy to the World, and Amazing Grace, all performed live on pipes and drums, harp and fiddle, and organ and brass and more. Not only does the performance define Christmas cheer, but also it inspires those of

Celtic descent to retrace and reconnect to their ancestry.

The 2019 production will also mark the world premiere of "Mystical Nativity," an original composition inspired by the 16th century masterpiece painted by Italian Renaissance master, Sandro Botticelli.

The concert presents the music of Christmas accompanied by readings taken from the Celtic literature of Scotland, Ireland, and Wales. Featured performers include singer Maddy Kearns of Glasgow, Scotland making her concert debut, James Robinson from the film "Braveheart," New England fiddle champion Paul Woodiel, champion harpist Rachel Clemente, and the Pipe Major Kevin Ray Blandford Memorial Pipe Band from Redlands, CA among many more.

PROCEEDS SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIPS AND MORE

Proceeds from the concert support an extensive music scholarship program, which includes the Carol Hassert Memorial Fine Arts

Scholarship at Summit (NJ) High School as well as annual gifts to the National Piping Centre and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (both located in Glasgow, Scotland) the Gaelic College of Nova Scotia and Lyon College in Batesville, Arkansas.

Proceeds also support the Society's sponsorship of the US National Scottish Harp Championship, the Gaelic Literature Competition at Scotland's Royal National Mod and an annual academic research prize at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Scotland's Gaelic college on the Isle of Skye.

Each year, concert highlights are webcast in hi-definition over the Christmas holiday to a global audience. In cooperation with HomeTowne Television, the 2018 production was the recipient of two prestigious Telly Awards for webcast excellence.

The concert is still accepting Title Sponsors as well as Program Ads. These gifts help offset production expenses and add help fund our scholarships.

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW

Tickets may be purchased online exclusively through Brown Paper Tickets at www.brownpapertickets.com (be certain you select the event name and date in the search engine) or by phone at (800) 838-3006. Reserved patron seats are available at both venues.



(above) Rachel Clemente. The acclaimed composer and performer will debut the new composition, "Mystical Nativity."



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