

The background is a painting of a coastal landscape. In the foreground, there are tall, thin reeds or grasses on the left and a path of light-colored stones or shells leading towards the water. The water is a mix of blue and white, suggesting waves or a shallow reef. The sky is a warm, golden-brown color, indicating a sunset or sunrise. The overall style is impressionistic and textured.

LA GRUA CENTER
2017-18 ANNUAL REPORT



A 360° VIEW

This Year at La Grua

I like the concept of “escape velocity.” A physicist (or at least Wikipedia) would tell you it’s the minimum speed needed for a free object to escape the gravitational influence of a massive body. That’s roughly 25,000 MPH if you’re trying to leave earth.

For most, the illustration that comes to mind is that of a rocket blasting upward, a tail of burning fuel behind it, straining against gravity and then—just barely—breaking into space and a smooth and silent orbit.

Lately I’ve been thinking about La Grua’s escape velocity. Not that our beautiful stone foundry is hurtling toward space, but that we are moving intentionally through the threshold that divides our first 10 years...from the next 100.

And this year, if you were watching closely, you could sense our center pulling away from the gravity that challenges so many young organizations as they get on their feet.

In short, our team is organizing, our ability to execute improving, our financial sustainability strengthening, and our commitment to culture and the community deepening.

More specifically, this year we’ve updated our mission and vision, established formal board committees, spent quality time with our beloved volunteers and supporters, attracted new sponsors, provided health benefits to our staff, increased our ticketing and subscription revenue, set up a credit card machine (finally!), and refurbished our fundraiser (please join us next year if you missed that great night).

While some of these steps may seem mundane, they all contribute to that forward momentum that has also allowed us this year to attract new talent, open our doors more days and nights, and offer ever improving programming to ever broadening audiences.

So as you read this annual report, look for the signs of La Grua’s escape velocity, know that your support makes it all possible, and imagine—as we do—what lies beyond.

Sincerely,

Paul Leeming
President, Board of Directors

Snapshot

Another year of stellar performers graced the La Grua stage as part of our signature concert series, *Music Matters*, as we welcomed back **Duo Fortin-Poirier** playing four-hand piano, **Duo Orfeo** with guitar music from Argentina and Brazil, and the **Press Gang** performing Irish dance music. Swedish folk fiddling with **lydia ievins** and **Andrea Larson**, classical harpsichord with **Elena Zamolodchikova**, and early Baroque with **Arcadia Viols** contributed to our eclectic offerings, along with a return engagement from violinist **Hilary Castle** and colleagues **Ani Kalayjian** on cello and pianist **David Kaplan** playing piano trios written by a very young Beethoven and Brahms.

Our wide-ranging talks brought us perspectives on world affairs with **John T. McCarthy**, former U.S. ambassador to Lebanon and Tunisia, on why the Arab Spring failed, and in partnership with the Southeast Connecticut World Affairs Council (SECWAC), local scholar **Anthony Pellegrini** discussed China's new "Silk Road" initiative, and the latest on our neighboring submarine base from its commander, **Capt. Paul Whitescarver**. Former Stonington resident and conservationist **Wendy Benchley** talked about her lifelong journey in protecting sharks and the seas, and Mystic's **Bailey Pryor** brought us a



PREVAILING WINDS TRIO

tasting of his Real McCoy rum as he regaled us with stories about rumrunner Bill McCoy. Painter **Sabina Streeter** showed her portraits of Stonington's iconic seafaring characters, and best-selling author **Alexandra Stoddard** spoke about her philosophy of living in love. Further, we welcomed more musicians to our stage including the **Prevailing Winds Trio**, hometown favorite **Nora Fox**, and Mystic pianist **Jeff Barnhart** accompanying silent films from Buster Keaton and Harold Lloyd.

We're always grateful for the talented group of seasoned local artists who shared their expertise with young budding artists in our **7th Annual Kids Summer and Holiday Art Workshops**, and we presented the annual **Celebrating Art in Autism** exhibit in April. Hosting the annual concerts of the **Mystic Middle School Jazz Band** and **Chorus** continues to be an investment in the artists and audiences of tomorrow.



SABINA STREETER





Partnership

Our closest nonprofit cultural neighbors are the **Stonington Historical Society**, **Stonington Free Library**, and **James Merrill House**, which all use the center regularly for their programming—we continue to value and build upon our important relationships with them. This past year included a joint art exhibition with the Stonington Historical Society presenting gorgeous renditions of Stonington's iconic lighthouse. New partnerships included working with the **Portuguese Holy Ghost Society** to present fado singer **Sonia Bettencourt** with the audience invited to cross the street and enjoy Portuguese tapas at their clubhouse afterwards. We also began a new collaboration with **Mystic Aquarium** as we jointly presented a panel discussion about coastal resiliency after hurricanes, and **Peter Auster**, its senior research scientist, in a talk about the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument.

By the Numbers

We presented nearly thirty concerts; some forty lectures, films, poetry readings, and panel discussions; seven art exhibitions and one craft fair; three kids's workshops; and five weekly wellness and dance classes—welcoming more than 10,000 visitors through our doors.

HIGHLIGHTS

A WEE BIT OF IRISH

We were delighted to present the acclaimed poet **Paul Muldoon** in a Q&A interview



and poetry reading. The walls behind him showcased landscapes of his native Northern Ireland in the photographs of **Rachel**



Brown, whose work was inspired by Paul's mentor Seamus Heaney and his epic poem *Sweeney in Flight*.

TWO COOKS IN THE KITCHEN

World renowned chef **Jacques Pépin** and his 13-year-old granddaughter **Shorey Wesen** joined us for a discussion about elevating the art of cooking for kids, including easily prepared recipes, as well as helpful instructions on setting the table, table manners, and decorating food for fun.





STONINGTON SOUNDS

Weather got the best of us during our day-long summer music festival, **Stonington Sounds**, but the show still went on under the tent on our adjacent green. We hosted six eclectic performances—an old-fashioned community band concert,

American songbook jazz, a concert for kids, classical violin, Irish folk music, and sea chanteys. We're deeply grateful for the major support of the festival provided by the **Stonington Village Improvement Association**, which included underwriting the performance of The Westerly Band.

Our Volunteers



We owe a big “thank you” to all our artist and other volunteers who came out two Sunday mornings in July to make our **Kids Summer Art Workshops** possible: Karin Bastidas, Carmel Bourneuf, Barbara Ginsberg, Eva Leong, Vincent Loiacono, Dan Potter, JJ Stinton, and Jen Rothman of Stone Acres Farm. We want to acknowledge the passing of longtime Stonington art teacher Sadie DeVore, who participated every year since its inception seven years ago.

All of our programming is made possible by the dedication of our volunteer advisory committees and event/office volunteers, as well as the many presenters who give us compelling lectures. As always, we extend our gratitude for their donated time and personal commitment to La Grua Center.

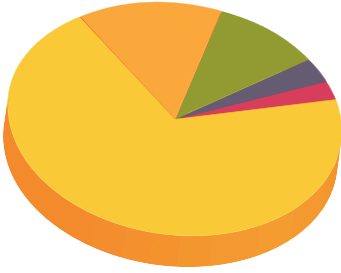
ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND EVENT/OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

John Adams
 Carole Barnard
 Beth Black
 Dan Brandl
 Betsy Carr
 Peter Castle
 Charles T. Clark
 Denise Collins
 Harriet Crane
 Lori Dyer
 James Eckerle
 Marcia Fix

BJ Gaynor
 Barbara Ginsberg
 Christopher Greenleaf
*Artistic Advisor to
 Music Matters*
 Sarah Janssens
 Janice Lamb
 Mary Kay Long
 Sharon Lynch
 Lauren Lyons
 Regan Morse
 Cindy MacNeill

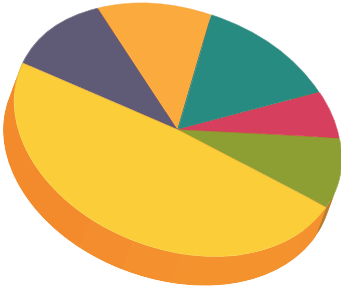
Muireann O’Callaghan
 Bergin O’Malley
 Dan Potter
 Nancy Potter
 Shau-Wen Lucia Sokol
 Tom Sheffer
 Stonington Garden Club
 Trish Watson
 Wick York
 Elena Zamolodchikova

Financials



Income

Direct Contributions	\$179,477
Program Related Sales and Fees	36,311
Fundraiser (net)	26,901
Rental income	8,560
Misc. Income	5,870
TOTAL	\$ 257,119



Expenses

Salaries and Benefits	\$ 122,441
Marketing & Support	23,969
Insurance & Office Related	14,215
Facility & Equipment	33,738
Programming	28,553
Depreciation	29,393
TOTAL	\$ 252,309



Board of Directors and Staff

Paul Leeming, *President*
Barbara Timken, *Vice President*
Barbara Heuer, *Treasurer*
Muireann O'Callaghan, *Secretary*
Harriet Crane
BJ Gaynor
Janice Lamb
Sharon Lynch

Regan Morse
Minor Myers
Meg Raftis
Barbara Timken
Wick York
Lori Robishaw, *Executive Director*
Kelli Rocherolle, *Programs Director*

Donors

We thank the following donors to the Annual Fund who make our programming possible with their financial support. The list also includes individuals who attended our Summer Soirée fundraising event and/or contributed to our 10th Anniversary Makeover. All donations to La Grua Center were made between the dates of July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018.

Anonymous	Neal and	Jill Corr
John and Grania Ackley III	Jane Lassen Bobruff	Cove Ledge Beer, Wine & Spirits
Michael and Ann Adair	Annette Born	Marie Cox <i>in memory of Christopher Cox</i>
Adams & Associates	Susan and Peter Bove	Tony and Harriet Crane
AHEPA New London Foundation, Inc.	Anne Fix and Kevin Bowdler	Liane and Don Crawford
John W. and Judith B. Alexander	Betsy Wade and Jim Boylan	Ned Davies and Tom Crimmins
Lou and Cindy Allyn	Randy Brooks	Elizabeth and Curt Danforth
Luis and Sheila Alonso	Sylvia Brown	Kay and Dick Daniele
Maureen McCabe and Jeff Andersen	Elizabeth Tobin Brown	Laurel Butler and Chris Daniels
David Brierley and Lynn Anderson	Meg Raftis and Stillman Brown	Philip and Alison Darrell
Anita and Frederic Anderson	M.J. and Alan Brush	Dean A. Davis
Frances C. Ashley	Jane Buffum	Michael and Daphne Davis
George Avery <i>in memory of Dorothy Avery</i>	Ann and Charlie Buffum	Miranda De Kay
Norman R. Bailey and Dr. Shirley M.C. Johnson	Josephine R. Bump	Gerard and Marianne De Luca
Alan and Patience Banister	Clay Burkhalter	Edward and Deborah Dear
Brian and Carole Barnard	Holland Burt	Lisa and Jay DeFanti
Anne Bartholet	Mollie Burton	Tertius and Belinda DeKay
Elizabeth Bartholet	Jeff and Lynn Callahan	Dudley and Michael Del Balso
Chauncey and Natalie Bartholet	Sharon Carlee	John and Laurie Deredita
Eric and Marybeth Bartholet	Betsy Carr	Cornelia Dickinson
Robert Baum	Robert Casey	Marylys Jackson and Jesse Diggs
Beth Black and Randy Bean	Karen and Lee Cashman	Christopher and Barbara Dixon
Ted and Diana Beck	Peter and Deborah Castle	Dene and Eileen Dobensky
Bertrand Bell <i>in memory of Marianna Wilcox</i>	Tom and Dorrit Castle	Bill and Linda Dohrmann
Wendy Benchley	Krystyna Celichowska	Dorothy and Declan Doogan
Gary and Frankie Bennett	Sam and Beth Chapin	Penelope Duckham
Dr. and Mrs. Alan P. Bentz	Jane and Donald Charbonnier	Judith G. DuPont
Bruce and Betsy Biddle	Mayo Margaret and James H. Chase	David and Lori Dyer
Bill and Natalie Billing	Dan and Kathleen Clancy	Richard and Denise Easton
John Birkhoff	Susan Clapp	J. Mark Renfrow and James Eckerle
Virginia Bitting	Charles T. Clark	David and Donna Elks
Ashley and Elliott Blanchard	John and Julie Coduri	
	Tom and Sally Cogan	
	Virginia and Frank Colassano	
	Richard and Lois Cole	
	Michael and Merrily Connery	



AXELROD-MARTIN DUO

Carole and David Enfield
 Anne Wynne and
 Chris Errichetti
 Shirley and John Errico
 Robert R. Evans
 Stephanie Ferguson
 Henry and Susan Ferguson
 Richard A. and Cheryl K. Ferris
 Ben and Kierstan Field
 Margaret Field
 Jerry and Joyce Fingerut
 Alice Fitzpatrick
 John and Marcia Fix
 Mary Wolf and
 William Fowler
 Margaret Frisch
 Howard and Sandy Fromson
 Susan and John Fullerton
 Bruce Ferguson and
 Kathleen Gaynor
 Jim and Jennifer Geary
 Sandra Swan Gensemer
 Janet Gezari
 Maria Giese
 Richard and Koko Gildersleeve
 Barbara Gildersleeve
 Marc and Barbara Ginsberg
 Henri and Brenda Pelt Gourd
 David and Lucia Greenhouse
 Geraldine Nager Griffin
 William J. Griffin IV
 Linda Grimes

Priscilla Griscom
 John and Alice Groton
 Cathy Klein and Steven Grover
 Grover Insurance
 Mary Elliott Haders
 Charles Hamm
 Charles and Elizabeth Harding
 Bill Hargreaves
 Conrad Poznanski and
 Kayla Hedman
 Barbara Petty Heuer
 Hickrill Foundation
 Muriel Hinkle
 Timothy Hogen
 Ardis and Dick Holliday
 Mohamad Homsy
 Robin and Judith Honiss
 Elizabeth Hopkins
 Peyton C. Horne
 Candace Howes
 Mary E. Hughes
 Dinda Elliott and Adi Ignatius
 Barbara Nash and Don Irion
 Lowell and Joanne Jaeger
 Sarah Janssens
 Jane Keener and
 Paul Janssens
 Graham Jeffrey
 Mr. and Mrs. Philip Johnstone
 Christopher Kepple
 Karin Forde Whittemore and
 Peter Kepple

Patricia Kitchings
 Coco Knapp
 Deborah Kotchen
 Brooks and Anne La Grua
 Lucille Laccetti
 John and Mary LaMattina
 Hervie and Janice Lamb
 G.F. Lane *in memory of*
Marcia Huhn Lane
 Saren Langmann
 Laurie Cameron and
 Richard Larkin
 James and Allison Larkin
 Kevin and Claudia Laxar
 Paul and Julia Leeming
 David and Pamela Leeming
 Eva Leong
 Archie and Diana Leslie
 Amanda Lindberg
 Bruce and Catherine Littman
 Ann Lobdell
 Nancy S. Loney
 Kate and Tim Love
 BJ Gaynor and David Luce
 Peter Perenyi and
 Sharon Lynch
 Michael Schefers and
 Sibby Lynch
 Douglas and Evelynn Lyons
 Sheila Lyons
 Diane MacFadyen
 Rita Madison
 Valentina Marchenkoff
 Harry and Susan Martin
 Judy and Steve Martin
 Sally McBee
 Kari McCabe and
 Nate McBride
 Alexandra McCagg
 Louise McCagg
 Marija and John McCarthy
 Bobette McCracken
 Kathy Calnen and
 Michael McKinley
 Prudence F. Meehan
 Sabine Moffett
 Montauk Foundation
 Robert and
 Virginia Montgomery
 Thomas and Marguerite Moore

Dorothea Moore
 Carter Holliday and
 Alexandra Moore
 Claire R. Morse
 Scott and Caroline Muller
 Sandy Murray
 Eliza and Minor Myers
 Frederick S. Nicholas, Jr.
 John and Joan O'Brien
 O'Brien Goodman
 Family Fund
 Tom Frohnappfel and
 Muireann O'Callaghan
 Bunny O'Callahan
 Cormac and Moira O'Malley
 Bergin O'Malley
 Tim and Joan O'Neill
 Tad and Jan Ogden
 Elizabeth A. Osha
 Eva Page
 Laura Paige
 Gerry Klender and
 Dennis Palmer
 Cynthia Palmer
 Henry R. Palmer III
 Joyce and Francis Pandolfi
 John and Deborah Papp
 Philippe Pavillard
 Tony and Jane Pellegrini
 Arthur and Helen Pendleton
 Jane Percy
 Margaret Perkinson
 Geoffrey and Beverly Phillips
 Robert Pittaway
 Marya Ursin and Dan Potter
 Cheryl and David Purvis
 Chris Zhang and James Quinn
 Dan and Vicki Quinn
 Ann Baldelli and Don Raffo
 Ann and Paul Rath
 Cynthia Elliott and
 R. Douglass Rice
 Betty Richards
 Margaret Luchars Richards
 David Black and Anne Rivers
 Michael and Julia Roberts
 Kate Robinson
 Alexander Roepers
 Alan and Ginny Roessler

Mark Twiss and Sarah Rogovin
 Elizabeth Rossell
 Chuck and Deborah Royce
 Mike and Tracy Ryan
 Tom and Candy Sanford
 Carol and Edward Sauers
 Robert and Susan Scala
 Michael and Sharon Scarpa
 Peter and Eleanor Schaffer
 Jeffrey and Ana Schneider *in
 honor of Hilary Castle Green*
 Jerome and Deborah Schwell
 Elaine and Peter Shallenberger
 Sandra Sharr
 Barbara Silver
 Robert and Heidi Simmons
 J.J. and Chris Sinton
 Alexander and Martha Slater
 Candy and Danny Slaton
*in memory of Mr. & Mrs.
 Maurice C. La Grua*
 Hester and Ben Smith
 David Smith
 Edward and Elaine Smith
 Kimberly Hoskins Smith
 John Lawson and Joseph Smith
 Anne-Marie Smith
 Martha Snyder
 Shau-Wen Lucia Sokol *in
 memory of Matsumoto Sonoe*
 Caroline Souter
 Geraldine S. Spillane
 Bill and Mary Grace Sponn

Jeffrey Sprouse and
 Rebecca Lehmann-Sprouse
 Gigi Bradford and Jim Stanford
 Rowland and Carla Stebbins III
 Rich and Liz Stern
 Paul and Nina Stimson
 Alexandra Stoddard
 John and Sue Sutherland
 Tom and Lisa Switz
 Mary M. Thacher
 The Brownington Foundation
 The Gildersleeve/White Fund
 Barbara Corwin Timken
 Peg Tumicki
 John and Chris Turrentine
 Anne Goodrich Twichell
 Suzanne and Timothy Tyler
 Mary Kay Long and
 Dennis Unites
 Raymond A. Uzanas
 Donald and Sally Vail
 Janet and Alan Vaskas
 Dan and Melissa Verdier
 Beth Walker
 Gus and Dea Warren
 Patricia and Brandon Watson
 Virginia and Richard Welch
 Lucy Werner
 Bob & Sue Wesson
 Ruth Saunders and
 Jonathan White
 William White
 Kirby and Joe Williams
 Andrew Wilson
 James and Karen Witliff
 Clem and Sally Wood
 Robert and Elizabeth Wood
 Andrew and Ellen Wormser
 Sky Hoyt and Charles Wustman
 Eugene and Georgia York





We thank the following donors who contributed items to our auctions at the Summer Soirée.

Joseph Alchermer
Beth Black and Randy Bean
Behan Family Farms
Betsy Bowman
Heidi Coutu
Lori Dyer
James Eckerle
Deborah and Peter Lamm
Archie and Diana Leslie
Ann Lobdell
Spike Lobdell
Sam Quigley and the
Lyman Allyn Art Museum
Katherine Love and
Malcolm Macdonald
C. Griffith Mann
Michael and Julia Roberts
Donna and Grant Simmons
Stillman Wines
Stone Acres Farm
Stonington Country Club
Stonington Harbor
Yacht Club
Studio Jeffrey P'an
The Beer'd Brewing Co.
The Mohegan Tribe
Patricia and Brandon Watson
Woodfellas Pizza & Wings
Zest Fresh Pastry

2018 STONINGTON SOUNDS SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL SPONSORS

Gold—UBS; **Silver**—Dime Bank, Heritage Fisheries and the Williams Family, Pappas/Macdonnell, Waller, Smith & Palmer, and Yale New Haven Health – Lawrence + Memorial Hospital;

Bronze—Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England-Borough Office and Water Street Café; and our **Friends**: A.K. Dasher Jewelry, Bluebird Day Children's Boutique, Breakwater, Clad In Women's Designer Clothing and Shoes Boutique, Cottrell Brewing Co., Cove Ledge Wine & Spirits, Dog Watch Cafe, Grand & Water Antiques, Michael McKinley and Associates-Coastal Home Architects, Northeast Property Group, Seaboard Properties, Stonington Community Center, Stonington Consign to Design, and Yali Stonington.

Major support of the festival was provided by the Stonington Village Improvement Association.



CONCERT/LECTURE SPONSORS

Benson P. Blake
Charitable Trust
Bestemors
Charles T. Clark
Muriel Hinkle
Olde Mistick Village
Portuguese Holy
Ghost Society

MATCHING GIFTS

The following companies have matched the charitable donations their employees have made to La Grua Center.
Charter Oak Credit Union
Dominion
Pfizer
UBS

While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, please accept our sincere apology if there are any errors or omissions with your name. If your listing requires correction, please let us know.



lagruacenter.org