

NEWS RELEASE

Contact:

Kate McOmber
Director of Communications
860-525-8629, ext. 249
KMcOmber@letsgoarts.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

‘BIG RED FOR THE ARTS’ TO FEATURE LIVE MUSIC AND DANCE BY LOCAL ARTIST COMMUNITY

Hartford, CT (February 16, 2017) – The Greater Hartford Arts Council will celebrate its annual Big Red for the Arts fundraising event on March 9th from 6:30PM – 9PM at Infinity Music Hall & Bistro. For the first time ever, Big Red will feature special live musical and dance performances by local artists and arts organizations. In addition to the performances, guests can enjoy dishes from the area’s best restaurants, local spirits and brews, and wines from around the world. All proceeds from the event benefit the United Arts Campaign, which supports arts organizations and programs that provide educational opportunities, promote diversity, and drive the local economy. A VIP reception will be held prior to the main event at NIXS Hartford to honor the Pryor Family for their generous contributions to Greater Hartford.

“Big Red for the Arts is our biggest fundraising event, and this year we are excited to honor the Pryor Family for their philanthropic commitment to our arts and cultural community,” says Cathy Malloy, Chief Executive Officer of the Greater Hartford Arts Council. “I invite you to join us during our VIP reception to honor Claire and Esther Pryor and to kick off our 2017 United Arts Campaign!”

Big Red will feature four live performances that speak to the healing power of the arts:

- **“Celebrating Deaf Musical Culture” by Cuatro Puntos***
Cuatro Puntos will perform two musical selections from a recently completed project that brings together the hearing and the Deaf to share and experience part of each other’s culture. Featuring part of the first string quartet that Ludwig van Beethoven composed after almost entirely losing his hearing.
- **“Changing Perspective” by Sonia Plumb Dance Company***

Sonia Plumb Dance Company's performance will include excerpts from "River" (2012), "Random XY" (2016) and "Fire or Ice" (2016), all of which speak to human relationships and artistic transformations through one's environment.

- **"Opera without Borders" by Hartford Opera Theater***
Hartford Opera Theater will perform selections from Copland's *The Tender Land* and Wolfson's *The Faith Operas* to reflect principles of inclusion, freedom, communication, and giving a voice to those who cannot speak for themselves.
- **"Sound Evolution" by Mixashawn**
Lee 'Mixashaw' Rozie will perform an interactive solo that follows the journey of Indigenous music from its ancient roots on voice, drums and flute into the modern evolution of the Native American Art form blues and jazz.

To purchase tickets to Big Red for the Arts, please visit LetsGoArts.org/BigRed.

Big Red for the Arts is generously sponsored by United Bank Foundation Connecticut, with contributing sponsorship from Voya Financial, Aetna, Grunberg Management, Robinson + Cole, and Patrick Gingras of Essex Financial Services.

*Supported by the Greater Hartford Arts Council.

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The Greater Hartford Arts Council is the central voice for the cultural sector in our region. We secure community resources through the annual United Arts Campaign, and responsibly reinvest those dollars through a stringent grant-making process into a wide array of organizations and programs that keep our community strong. We promote the arts as a regional asset and connect citizens to the arts. To learn more about Arts Council programs and services, as well as our United Arts Campaign, visit LetsGoArts.org or follow us @letsgoarts_org on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/letsgoarts_org).