



MEDIA CONTACT

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**Hermitage Artist Retreat Presents
December Programs**

Art at the Water's Edge:

“Poem, Play and Novel: Three Readings”

**With poet Greg Wrenn, playwright Sharyn Rothstein,
and novelist Sugi Ganeshanathan**

Friday, December 13, 4:30 p.m.

Fridays @ Five:

Violinist and Freestyle Composition Artist Mazz Swift

Friday, December 20, 4:30 p.m.

“Let's Talk Opera”

With composer Laura Kaminsky and librettist/filmmaker Kimberly Reed

Friday, December 27, 5 p.m.

Hermitage North:

Open Class with Mime Artist Bill Bowers

Saturday, December 21, 11 a.m.

(Sarasota County) The Hermitage's free December programs include **“Poem, Play and Novel: Three Readings,”** with poet Greg Wrenn, playwright Sharyn Rothstein, and novelist Sugi Ganeshanathan, Friday, December 13, 4:30 p.m., on the beach at the Hermitage. Wrenn, a lifelong scuba diver, will give a reading from his eco memoir

centered around the ocean. Rothstein, a playwright and television writer, will read from one of her many works. Ganeshanathan will read from her novel in progress, *Movement*, which tracks a medic-turned-doctor during and after the Sri Lankan civil war. Audience members are welcome to bring blankets and chairs; in case of rain, the event will be moved inside. *Registration is required at www.HermitageArtistRetreat.org.*

Violinist and freestyle composition artist **Mazz Swift** will perform an informal concert on Friday, December 20, 4:30 p.m., in the Palm House at the Hermitage. She'll play works in progress, songs of resistance, spirituals, modern day protest music, and share her thoughts on the Ghanaian concept of "Sankofa," or looking back to learn how to move forward. This will be followed by an opt-in group exploration of conduction (conducted improvisation). No musical, improvisational, or conduction experience is necessary for participation. Musicians are welcome to bring their instruments.

Registration is required at www.HermitageArtistRetreat.org.

Hermitage North returns featuring an open class with mime artist **Bill Bowers**, Saturday, December 21, 11 a.m., in the Jane B. Cook Theatre at the FSU Center for Performing Arts. Hailed by critics as the most accomplished and renowned mime of his generation, Bowers performs and teaches the art of physical storytelling throughout the world. He is also an award-winning actor and has appeared on the stages of Broadway, The Kennedy Center, The White House, La MaMa, the New York International Fringe Festival and many other venues. In this program, Bowers will demonstrate basic pantomime technique and perform selections from his solo plays. FSU students who have been studying with Bowers will share work from their week-long residency with

him. *Reservations are required and can be made by calling the FSU Center box office at 941-351-8000.*

“Let’s Talk Opera,” part of the Fridays @ Five series, is Friday, December 27, 5 p.m., in the Palm House. Engage in conversation with contemporary opera creators Laura Kaminsky, composer, and Kimberly Reed, librettist and filmmaker. They wrote the opera, "As One," with Hermitage Fellow Mark Campbell. "As One" is the most-produced modern opera in America. Video opera scenes will bookend the discussion. *Registration is required at www.HermitageArtistRetreat.org.*

Executive director Bruce Rodgers explains that these cultural gatherings exist to give the community the rare opportunity to interact with celebrated authors, poets, artists, composers and performers from around the world. “Artists who are invited to be at the Hermitage are asked to give free programs for the community during their stay with us.” He adds that, in addition to programs at the Hermitage, many artists also participate in free outreach programs at area schools, colleges, and in collaboration with regional cultural organizations.

All programs are subject to change. Please check the Hermitage website or Facebook page for updated program status. The Hermitage Artist Retreat is located at 6630 Manasota Key Road in Englewood. For more information about these free community programs or the Hermitage, visit www.HermitageArtistRetreat.org.

About the Hermitage Artist Retreat:

The Hermitage is a nonprofit artist retreat located in Englewood, Sarasota County, Florida. It invites accomplished artists in all disciplines for residencies on its beachfront campus which is on the National Register of Historic Places. Its artists, who are asked to interact with the community, touch thousands of Gulf Coast residents and visitors with unique and inspiring

programs. Hermitage fellows have included Pulitzer, Tony, Emmy, Grammy and MacArthur Fellowship award winners. The Hermitage awards the \$30,000 Greenfield Prize for a new work of art, and the Aspen Music Festival awards the annual Hermitage Prize in Composition. For more information about The Hermitage Artist Retreat, visit www.HermitageArtistRetreat.org.

The Hermitage is supported by:

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