

MEDIA CONTACT

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Acclaimed ETHEL Cellist Dorothy Lawson to Headline 2021 Artful Lobster: An Outdoor Celebration! Saturday, November 13, 11:30am – 2pm

Dorothy Lawson is a founding member and artistic director of the genre-bending string quartet ETHEL. This sold-out event on the Hermitage's Manasota Key campus raises valuable funds for the Hermitage's nationally renowned artist residency program.

October 14, 2021—The Hermitage Artist Retreat announced today that **Dorothy Lawson**, a Hermitage Fellow, acclaimed cellist, and artistic director of the genre-bending string quartet ETHEL, will headline the Hermitage Artist Retreat's signature fall fundraising event, "The Artful Lobster: An Outdoor Celebration!" on November 13 from

11:30am to 2pm at the Hermitage campus on Manasota Key (Sarasota County, Florida).

Now in its 13th year, the Artful Lobster raises valuable funds for the Hermitage's nationally renowned artist residency program, supporting the creative process of artists from around the world in the fields of music, theater, visual art, literature, and more. This popular event, which takes place outdoors beneath a large tent on the Hermitage's beachfront campus, is now sold out!

The co-chairs for the 2021 Artful Lobster are **Charlie Huisking** and **Charlotte Perret**. This year's event is dedicated to the memory of **Susan M. Brainerd**, a beloved Hermitage trustee who passed away earlier this year. Brainerd generously served as the sponsor of Dorothy Lawson's most recent Hermitage residency, which culminated with two performances at Selby Gardens Downtown and Historic Spanish Point.

A Juilliard-trained cellist and composer, Lawson is a founding member and artistic director of ETHEL, one of America's most adventurous string quartets. She has performed with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, the White Oak Dance Project, Philharmonia Virtuosi, the American Symphony Orchestra, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, and numerous new music ensembles. (Complete bio below.)

"We are incredibly excited to have Dorothy Lawson returning to the Hermitage to perform at this year's Artful Lobster," says Hermitage Artistic Director and CEO **Andy Sandberg**. "Dorothy is an extraordinary performer with an innovative and radiant spirit – not to mention a great friend to the Hermitage. The audience at this year's Artful Lobster is in for a real treat!"

Though this year's Artful Lobster is now sold out, waitlist inquiries can be made by contacting **Amy Wallace** at (941) 475-2098, Ext. 2.

Sponsors and partners for the 2021 Artful Lobster include Gulf Coast Community Foundation, CHUBB, Key Agency, Herald-Tribune Media Group, and *Sarasota Magazine*. A full list of this year's sponsors, benefactors, and partners can be found at **HermitageArtistRetreat.org/ArtfulLobster2021**.

The Hermitage hosts artists on its Gulf Coast Manasota Key campus for multi-week residencies, where diverse artists from around the world and across multiple disciplines create and develop new works of theater, music, visual art, literature, and more. As part of their residencies, Hermitage Fellows participate in free community programs, offering audiences in our region a unique opportunity to engage with some of the world's leading artists and to get an authentic "sneak peek" into extraordinary projects and artistic minds before their works go on to major galleries, concert halls, theaters, and museums around the world. These free and innovative programs include performances, lectures, readings, interactive experiences, open studios, school programs, teacher workshops, and more, serving thousands in our regional community each year.

Hermitage Artistic Director and CEO Andy Sandberg recently announced that all of the Hermitage's live fall programming would continue entirely outdoors, all with socially distanced seating.

To learn more about the Hermitage, Artful Lobster, and upcoming Hermitage programs, visit **HermitageArtistRetreat.org**.

About the Hermitage Artist Retreat:

The Hermitage is a nonprofit artist retreat located in Manasota Key, Florida, inviting accomplished artists across multiple disciplines for residencies on its beachfront campus, which is on the National Register of Historic Places. Hermitage artists are invited to interact with the local community, reaching thousands of Gulf Coast residents and visitors each year with unique and inspiring programs. Hermitage Fellows have included 14 Pulitzer Prize winners, Poets Laureate, MacArthur 'Genius' Fellows, and multiple Tony, Emmy, Grammy, Oscar winners and nominees. Works created at this beachside retreat by a diverse group of Hermitage alumni have gone on to renowned theaters, concert halls, and galleries throughout the world. Each year, the Hermitage awards the \$30,000 Hermitage Greenfield Prize for a new work of art, the newly announced \$35,000 Hermitage Major Theater Award for an original theater commission, and the Aspen Music Festival's Hermitage Prize in Composition. **For more information, visit HermitageArtistRetreat.org.**

The Hermitage is supported by:

Hermitage programs are supported, in part, by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts; by Sarasota County Tourist Development Tax Revenues; and by the Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture, the Florida Council of Arts and Culture and the State of Florida (Section 286.25 Florida Statutes), as well as the Gulf Coast Community Foundation, Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation, and the Community Foundation of Sarasota County.

PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED HERMITAGE PROGRAMS

Friday, Oct 15 @ 6pm, "Body Language: An Exploration of Movement and Poetry" with Hermitage Fellows Jules Downum and Pedro Serrano (Live at Hermitage Campus)

Friday, Oct 22 @ 6pm, Hermitage Sunsets @ Selby Gardens, "Memoir of a Mime" with Hermitage Fellow Bill Bowers (Live at Selby Gardens Downtown)

Friday, Oct 29 @ 5:30pm, "What Even Is This? Discovering Surrealist Fiction" with Hermitage Fellow Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah (Live at Hermitage Beach / Also Live-Stream with Bookstore1)

Monday, Nov 1 @ 5:30pm, *Much Ado About Nothing*, an Asolo Rep, FSU/Asolo Conservatory production (Live at Hermitage Beach)

Thursday, Nov 4 @ 5:30pm, “The Next Horizon: The Latest from Playwright Bess Wohl” (Live at Hermitage Beach / Also Livestream)

Saturday, Nov 13 @ 11:30am, The Artful Lobster, An Outdoor Celebration! – An Annual Benefit/Fundraiser for the Hermitage (Live at the Hermitage Campus)

Thursday, Nov 18 @ 5pm, “Hermitage at The Bay: Sound and Color” with Hermitage Fellows Jared Miller and Iva Gueorguieva (Live at The Bay’s Civic Green)

Sunday, Dec 12 @ 2pm, “Hermitage at The Bay: Muse(ic) and Poetry” with Hermitage Fellows Francine J. Harris and Mae Yway (Live at The Bay’s Civic Green)

Dorothy Lawson

Dorothy Lawson is a founding member, Artistic Director, and cellist of ETHEL – one of America's most adventurous string quartets. Lawson has performed with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, the White Oak Dance Project, Philharmonia Virtuosi, the American Symphony Orchestra, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, and numerous new music ensembles. Canadian-born, she completed degrees at the University of Toronto and the Vienna Academy, and she earned MM and DMA degrees from The Juilliard School. As a member of the ETHEL quartet, Lawson has performed on 40+ albums, premiered 225 new works, and performed in 14 countries, 45 states, and 250 cities. She has been in residence at the Hermitage Artist Retreat with ETHEL and is a proud Hermitage Fellow herself in the field of music composition.