

# snapshots

## Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre's Bard Ball, Conway

PHOTOS BY AMBER QUAID, CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER



Steve Griffith keeps to his tradition of completing a live painting during the Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre's Bard Ball as his donation to the year's fundraising event. The painting, titled *Masks We Wear*, was auctioned off later in the evening on Feb. 1 at the Reynolds Performance Hall in Conway and raised \$600. The total evening brought in about \$57,000.



Drs. Brian and Shelley Russell, both with Conway Regional Medical Center, look at the history of the Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre plays through quick-reference boards set up along the entrance to the Bard Ball.



Jamie Bray, Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre's production manager, left, and Erikio Terao, Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre's costume-shop manager/designer, enjoy the festivities of the night and converse with each other during one of the intervals for mingling and silent-auction bidding.



From left are Lacy Glover, Brad Lacy and Andrea Lennon, all of Conway.



Members of the Kassissieh family, from left, are Alex, 12; Rami; Raja, and Essa, 14.



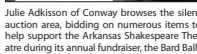
Patrons received handmade disks as a thank-you for their support.



Signs lead guests to their destination, the Bard Ball. This annual fundraiser featured AST alum and *Come From Away* star De'Lon Grant performing a few songs, AST artistic collective member Jess Pritchard as master of ceremonies, and Judge Troy and Karla Braswell as co-chairs for the event.



Gene and Eleanor Stanley of Little Rock attend the Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre's Bard Ball in support of their niece, Mary Ruth Marotte, AST's executive director.



Julie Adkisson of Conway browses the silent auction area, bidding on numerous items to help support the Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre during its annual fundraiser, the Bard Ball.



De'Lon Grant, Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre alum and *Come From Away* star, performs a few songs for the patrons of the Bard Ball. He will return to the Reynolds Performance Hall stage to perform for the 2020 season.



Shown are Matt Dempsey and his wife, Jamie, of Little Rock.



Ian Collins, 17, of Conway High School plays for the guests.

### Conway Symphony concert to feature Copland, Gershwin and more

CONWAY — The Conway Symphony Orchestra will present its February concert, American Portrait: A Concert of Unity, at 7:30 p.m. Saturday in Reynolds Performance Hall at the University of Central Arkansas. Tickets range from \$20 to \$40 and are free for all UCA students, courtesy of the UCA College of Fine Arts and Communication, as well as students in K-12 who are enrolled in a music program. Tickets are available at the box office by calling (501) 450-3265 or at [www.conwaysymphony.org](http://www.conwaysymphony.org).

The program will open with Aaron Copland's iconic "Fanfare for the Common Man," which features the brass and percussion sections of the Conway Symphony, and will continue with Albert Markov's "Porgy Rhapsody" for violin and orchestra, with guest artist Min Yen Chien on violin.

The concert will also feature Gershwin's jazz-influenced piece, "An American in Paris," before closing with Copland's "Lincoln Portrait," which will feature Rob Holden as guest narrator. Min Yen Chien came from a family of medical and musical eminence in Nantou, Taiwan. He started playing the violin at age 7 and became a protégé of Raphael Hillier, violist of the Juilliard String Quartet. Chien's great interest in medicine and science brought him to the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Medicine, where he enrolled as a medical student from 1982-86. Recently, Chien began exploring the relationship between the violin and the muscular-skeletal system and is committed to studying injury prevention of muscle overuse or misuse.

Preceding the concert, from 6:45-7:15 p.m., the symphony will offer a guest lecture from Jane Dahlenburg, associate professor of music history. She received a doctorate in musicology from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and taught at UNC-Chapel Hill and UNC-Greensboro before moving to Arkansas. She has taught courses at UCA that include Renaissance graduate seminars, the history of Broadway and the history of rock 'n' roll.

This concert also features an art contest and an essay contest for local fifth- through 12th-graders. Students can submit an essay or art entry to the symphony at P.O. Box 1307, Conway, AR 72033, or drop off their work at the UCA box office. Students are asked to base their entry around the question, "How can our nation, with its diverse population, achieve unity?"

Finally, this concert offers an opportunity to donate non-perishable food items through Orchestras Feeding America. Audience members can bring items to the concert, and they will be collected in the lobby. All donated items will be shared with local food banks.

American Portrait: A Concert of Unity is sponsored by First Security Bank. For more information, visit [conwaysymphony.org](http://conwaysymphony.org) or call (501) 269-1066.

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