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21  
22

The American Howell Turner Center for the Arts

PRESENTER SERIES

# BROADWAY BOUND



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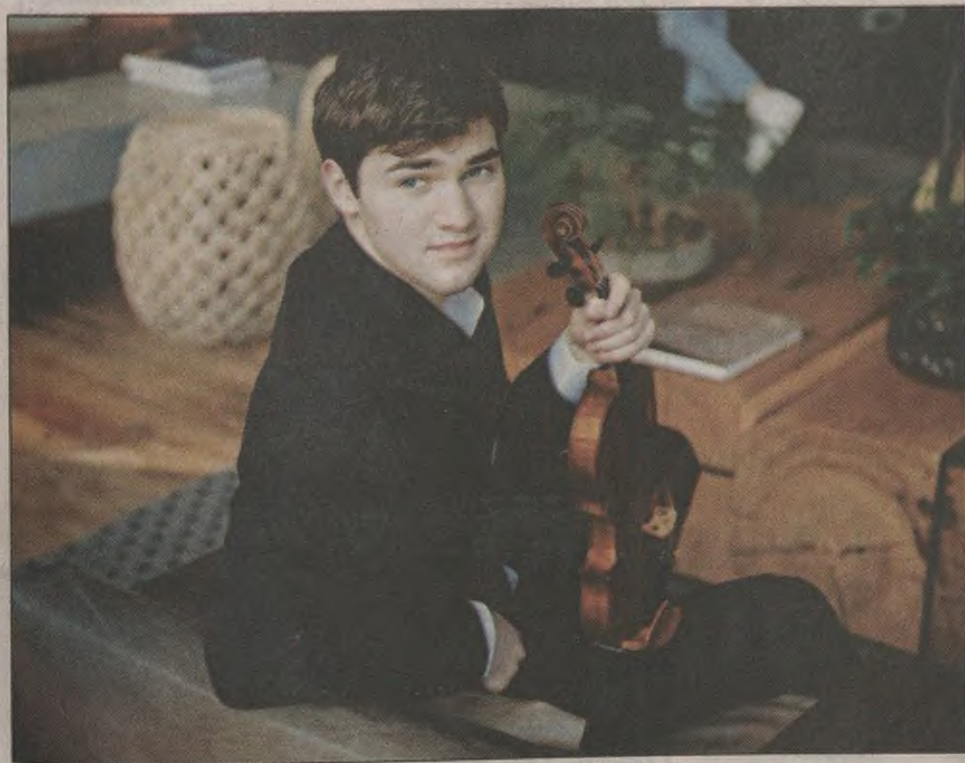
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Turner Center For The Arts, Valdosta

*Tickets: Available by phone (229-247-2787) or in person at the Turner Center for The Arts.*





SUBMITTED PHOTO

**Nathan Meltzer, classical violinist, plays Tuesday, Feb. 8, at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.**

## Concert features classical violin

**V**ALDOSTA – The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts presents classical violinist Nathan Meltzer, 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 8.

The concert takes place in the Turner Center Art Galleries, 527 N. Patterson St., center representatives said.

Meltzer is the recipient of the 2020 Salon de Virtuosi Career Grant and youngest ever to win the Windsor Festival International String Competition. He has been a soloist with the Orchestre national d'Île-de-France, the Philharmonia Orchestra, the Royal Northern Sinfonia and the Aalborg, Berlin, Concepción, Evansville, Indianapolis, Medellín, and Pittsburgh orchestras, among others, performing in Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Denmark, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Poland, Switzerland, the UK, and across the U.S.

Meltzer's 2020-21 season includes the release of his debut CD with Rohan De Silva, appearances with the Adelphi and Charlotte Symphony orchestras, and the launch of Opus Illuminate, an online concert series dedicated to the works of composers from underrepresented communities.

Meltzer studies with Itzhak Perlman and Li Lin at Juilliard. He was the inaugural recipient of the 1734 "Ames, Totenberg" Antonio Stradivari violin from Rare Violins In Consortium, Artists and Benefactors Collaborative.

"Through a National Endowment for the Arts grant, the matching support of Dan and Carolyn Eager Coleman, and our partnership with the Valdosta City Schools System, the Turner Center is proud to host more than 600 Valdosta City fifth-graders in our art galleries to experience professional classical music and fine art during the 2021-2022 school year," said Sementha Mathews, arts center executive director. "We invite our adult audiences to enjoy the longer and more elegant performance offered in the evening. This is absolutely a cultural event you will not want to miss."

*Tickets for the evening performance are \$25 each, and can be purchased by visiting the Center or [turnercenter.org](http://turnercenter.org), or by calling (229) 247-2787. Patrons who need special assistance may contact the Center to make arrangements.*



The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts

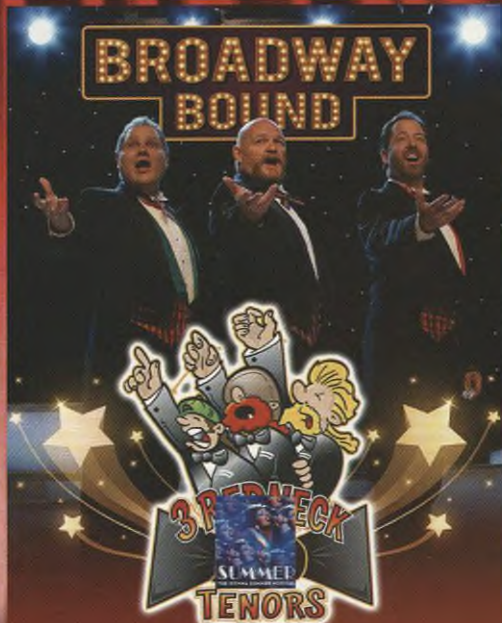
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# PRESENTER SERIES

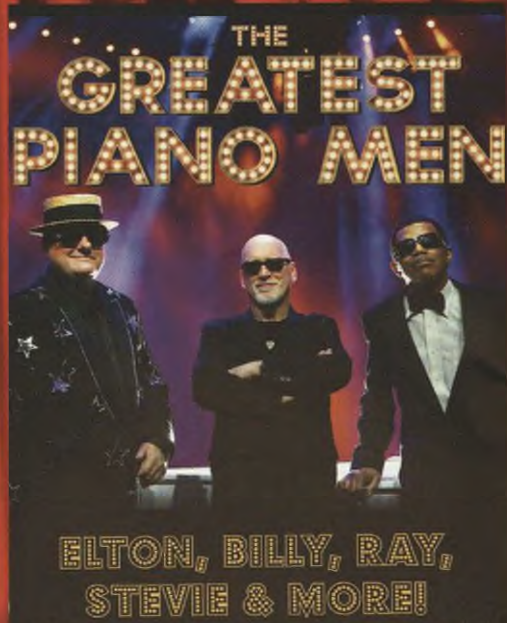


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**FEBRUARY 17, 2022**



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## **DONNA:** Visiting musical brings three visions of the Queen of Disco to life on Valdosta stage

acted.

The three Donnas said most people don't realize Summer wrote the majority of her songs.

"But she was more than just the music," Smith said.

Smith and Gullage had plenty of archival material to portray Summer during the diva and disco eras of her life respectively. They also face certain expectations from audiences familiar with Summer during those famous periods of her life.

But Edwards-Jones plays Summer before the fame, even before the name Donna Summer. She plays young LaDonna Adrian Gaines.

To play the younger Donna, she said she tries to "envision what she was like and what she would become." While Smith said her "Diva Donna" looks back on where she's been.

The musical is written in a way that allows the Donnas to share the stage. All three of the Donnas perform "Last Dance" together, for example, Gullage said.

And all three say they enjoy performing and touring together.

The show started in November and has been traveling across the nation. Last week, when The Valdosta Daily Times inter-



NICK GOULD | SUBMITTED PHOTO

**Last Dance, the Three Donnas: Charis Gullage as 'Disco Donna,' Brittney Smith as 'Diva Donna' and Amahri Edwards-Jones as 'Duckling Donna' in 'Summer,' the musical about Donna Summer coming to Valdosta as part of the Presenter Series.**

viewed the three Donnas via Zoom, they were in Augusta preparing for their set of Georgia performances, leading to the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series show scheduled for Thursday evening, Jan. 27.

Smith is the veteran touring performer. She has

been performing in traveling musicals and shows for years, she said, with work that includes "Dreamgirls," "The Color Purple," etc. She has performed in about 30 countries, she said.

"Summer" marks Gullage and Edwards-Jones' first national tour, they said.

Smith said she offered advice for touring, performing on the road, budgeting money, etc., when asked in the early days of the show, but she added that has mostly stopped now.

But the woman who plays "Diva Donna" has plenty of experiences to share from her touring

career. "Oh, I have lots of stories to tell," Smith said, laughing.

The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series hosts "Summer: The Donna Summer Musical," 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 27, Mathis City Auditorium, 2300 N. Ashley St. An option, pre-show

dinner is available at 6 p.m. prior to the show. More information: Visit [turner-center.org](http://turner-center.org) or call Turner Center for the Arts, (229) 247-2787. "Summer" is the first Presenter Series show with the Three Redneck Tenors scheduled for Feb. 17 and the Greatest Piano Men, March 15.





NICK GOULD | SUBMITTED PHOTO

**Hot Stuff:** Charis Gullage as 'Disco Donna' and the ensemble of 'Summer,' a nationally touring musical about the life and music of Donna Summer coming to Valdosta.

# Three Faces of Donna

Multiple performers play Summer in visiting musical

**V**ALDOSTA - With hit songs such as "She Works Hard for the Money," "Hot Stuff," "On the Radio," "Love to Love You Baby," "Last Dance," it takes a lot to play Donna Summer.

For "Summer," a nationally touring musical coming to Valdosta this week, three performers play the singer dubbed the "Queen of Disco."

Brittney Smith plays "Diva Donna," Charis Gullage, "Disco Donna," and Amahri Edwards-Jones plays the young "Duckling Donna."

They play Summer during different parts of her life and career. In earlier scenes, Smith said she has a dual role playing



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**This Dec. 11, 2009, photo shows Donna Summer performing at the Nobel Peace concert in Oslo, Norway.**

Summer's mother to Edwards-Jones' young Donna.

Gullage and Edwards-Jones admit they are too young to have experienced the 1970s height of the disco era but Smith said she is a little closer

to the time when Summer was the "Queen of Disco."

LaDonna Adrian Gaines was born in 1947 in Boston where she spent her childhood singing gospel music in the church choir. She rose to fame in the disco

era with a string of memorable hits in the 1970s into the 1980s. She passed away in 2012.

In addition to singing, Summer wrote songs and

See **Summer**, page 7A





# Cultural Arts



## ART GALLERIES

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## The Gallery at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture The Country Store

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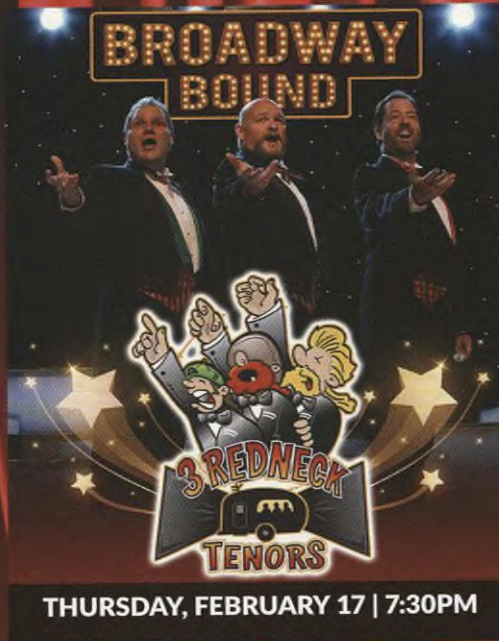
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The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts

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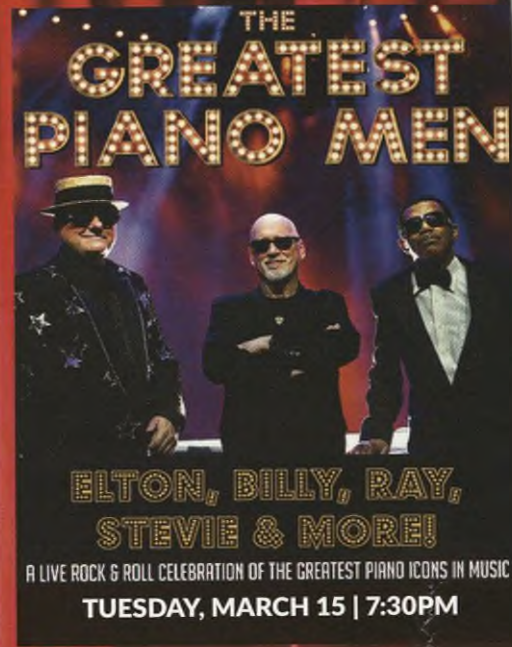
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**BROADWAY  
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**3 REDNECK  
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**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17 | 7:30PM**



**THE  
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PIANO MEN**

**ELTON, BILLY, RAY,  
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A LIVE ROCK & ROLL CELEBRATION OF THE GREATEST PIANO ICONS IN MUSIC

**TUESDAY, MARCH 15 | 7:30PM**



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# SCORE

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Julian Lawrence Gargiulo is a pianist, composer, and recording artist. He has performed in the United States, Canada, England, Italy, France, Germany, Greece, Russia, Singapore, Philippines, Thailand, China, and Australia, to both public and critical acclaim. Julian was named a Steinway Artist in 2014. Julian's music and recordings has appeared in movies and documentaries.

**Thursday, April 14, 2022 - 7pm**  
Turner Center For The Arts, Valdosta

*Tickets (\$25): Available by phone  
(229-247-2787) or in person at the Turner  
Center for The Arts.*



devotion, capturing magic in layers of paint on canvas for her clients.

In early 2020, Cabral's work was shown in an exhibit titled "Remnants" at The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts. This particular collection of works explored the bond between mother and child through the changing seasons of life: being a child, losing a parent, having children, and embracing the joy of motherhood. In "Remnants," Cabral's art pays tribute to the mother who, she notes, "raised me to become the mother I am today." She also shows at the Turner Center's "Artoberfest," held annually in October, as well as their "Spring into Art" and "Drawproject."

Married with two small children, Cabral enjoys a nice studio space in her home. She can be found painting there or outside on the patio in the fresh air. She finds that painting needs perspective, and she likes to take steps back and view a piece in progress. Those details in the piece (like the red chair of her childhood) may begin as a vivid, remembered object, then end veiled or covered, just like memories of objects in the mind. Because she has an innate desire to make art as a form of expression, Cabral states that it is something she will always do, without regard to sales or exhibits. That professional passion, a process and a path, is certainly apparent. To see more, visit [christinecabralart.com](http://christinecabralart.com). | VM

**SHE OFTEN FEATURES A RED CHAIR,** WHICH IS SYMBOLIC OF HER OWN CHILDHOOD MEMORIES AS WELL AS THE LONELINESS AND VOID CREATED WHEN ONE LOSES A PARENT.





# Turner presents new gallery shows

VALDOSTA — A gallery opening is scheduled for Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

The opening is scheduled for 5-7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 20, featuring artists Erin Kendrick of Jacksonville, Fla., with "The Things We Bring," Amy Bennion of Salt Lake City with "Your Glass" and Travis D. Simmons of Valdosta with "Momus."

The reception will be held at the Turner Center main galleries, 527 N. Patterson St., and is free to the public.

Kendrick is an international artist and arts educator from Jacksonville, center representatives said in a statement.

"Her color-rich, acrylic ink-stained works of art and transformative installations seek to inspire a dialogue about contemporary spectatorship and the power of language as it relates to perceptions of and about Black women," center representatives said.

She has exhibited work in museums, galleries and alternative spaces throughout the United States and abroad.

She received her bachelor of fine arts in studio art from Florida State University, her master of fine arts in drawing and painting from Georgia State University and has worked for many years as a studio artist and arts educator in Atlanta.

Bennion is an assistant professor of painting and drawing at the University of North Florida. Bennion has been a part of the museum education team of the Art Institute of Chicago and in the Education and Engagement Department at the Utah Museum of Fine Arts.

She earned a BFA from Brigham Young University, a post-baccalaureate certificate from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and an MFA from the University of Utah. Bennion has shown in galleries nationally, in the cities of Chicago, Salt Lake City, Cincinnati, among others. She has been featured in national and international publications.

Simmons lives and works in Valdosta.

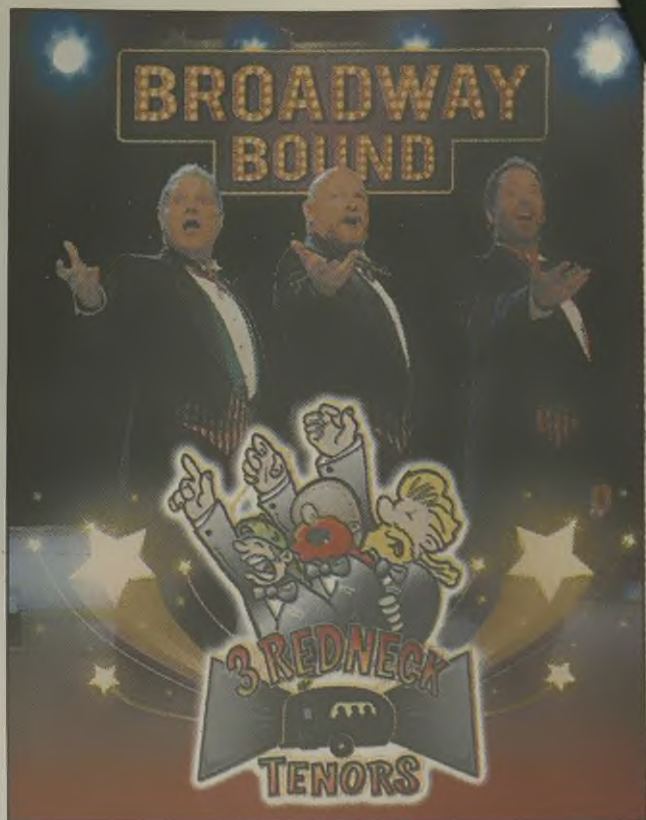
"Travis's paintings demonstrate his distinctive expressionist style of combining oil paint and India ink into colorful compositions that are layered and textured with encaustic wax and paper collage application," center representatives said. "His subject matter is primarily figurative, with elements of philosophy, psychology and mythology weaved throughout the many series of works included in this exhibition."

The Turner Center will host award-winning poet Trent Busch for a book signing during the reception. Busch, a native of rural West Virginia, now lives in Valdosta, where he is professor emeritus at Valdosta State University and taught American literature and modern poetry.

His recent books of poetry, "Not One Bit of This is Your Fault" (2019), "Plumb Level and Square" (2020) and "West Virginians" (2021) were published by cyberwit.net.

*All exhibits will remain open in the galleries through Wednesday, Nov. 3. Patrons who need special assistance may contact the center to make arrangements. For more information, call (229) 247-2787 or visit [www.turnercenter.org](http://www.turnercenter.org).*





SUBMITTED ART

'Broadway Bound: Three Redneck Tenors' is one of three Presenter Series shows coming to Valdosta in early 2022.

# Summer, Rednecks, Piano Men top Presenter Series

BY DEAN POLING

dean.poling@gafnews.com

A look at the shows:

## "Summer: The Donna Summer Musical," Jan. 27

VALDOSTA — For the first time in two years, the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts has announced touring shows for its Presenter Series.

Like so many other events during the past year and a half, the center canceled the Presenter Series last season due to the pandemic. It was the first time the center has not hosted a Presenter Series in decades.

In 2022, the Presenter Series returns with three nationally touring shows being performed in less than a two-month period.

Sementha Mathews, arts center executive director, and Tina Folsom, Presenter Series chairman, said the shows are "Summer: The Donna Summer Musical," "Broadway Bound: The Three Redneck Tenors" and "The Greatest Piano Men."

Mathews and Folsom said the schedule in early 2022 avoids football season and wraps before the Turner Center's massive Spring Into Art exhibit in April.

Expect plenty of disco and the many hits of Donna Summer. Center synopsis: "She was a girl from Boston with a voice from heaven, who shot through the stars from gospel choir to dance floor diva. But what the world didn't know was how Donna Summer risked it all to break through every barrier, becoming the icon of an era and the inspiration for every music diva who followed."

## "Broadway Bound: Three Redneck Tenors," Feb. 17

The Three Redneck Tenors return with a new show for South Georgia. The group performed previously in Valdosta back in 2007 and 2008. Center synopsis: "The Three Redneck Tenors are a new breed in the 'tenor

See Presenter, page 9A





SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Three Redneck Tenors return to Valdosta Thursday, Feb. 17.

# Three Redneck Tenors

## Singing comedians return to Valdosta

BY DEAN POLING

dean.poling@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA — Matthew Lord had a successful career touring as an opera singer.

Tumultuous national and world events in the early 2000s stalled his singing career. He needed work. Trained in opera at the prestigious Juilliard School, he suddenly needed to attend a trucking school to earn a commercial driver's license.

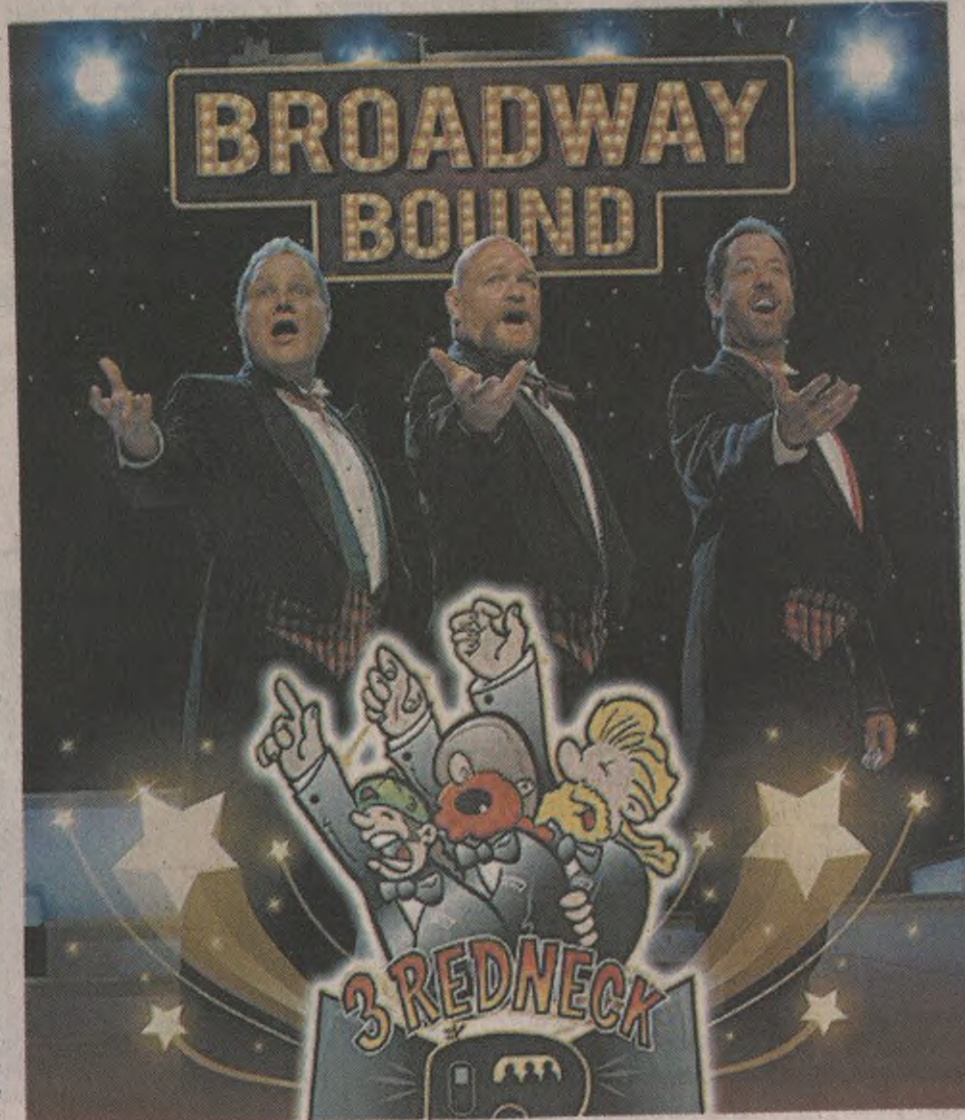
The opera singer became a truck driver.

When show business bounced back so did Lord and his opera career. But he developed a new idea, a takeoff/send-up of The Three Tenors of opera legends Plácido Domingo, José Carreras and Luciano Pavarotti. A concept that would dig into his Texas roots. A show that would have broad humor but would be true to the singing.

The Three Redneck Tenors were born.

The group received national attention on shows such as "America's Got Talent" more than a decade ago. The Three Redneck Tenors played two Valdosta shows several years ago as part of regular national tours.

Lord and the other two Redneck Tenors return to Valdosta this week, with their "Broadway Bound" show, Thursday, Feb. 17, as part of the Annette Howell



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Three Redneck Tenors bring the 'Broadway Bound' show to South Georgia.

Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series.

The 2022 Valdosta stop marks a recent return to the Three Redneck Tenors touring and performing.

When the pandemic struck two years ago, the Three Redneck Tenors went from performing roughly 133 cities annually to zero overnight.

And Lord dusted off his commercial driver's license and hit the road again as a trucker.

See Tenors, page 9A



## **TENORS:** The Three Redneck Tenors perform at the Mathis City Auditorium Thursday Feb. 17 at 7:30 p.m.

"I tell people that I would feel like a hero one day delivering vaccines from Pfizer but then I would deliver fish sticks and gummy bears the next day," Lord said in a phone interview.

He added that earning his CDL made sense several years ago when the show biz gigs dried up the first time. "I realized being Juilliard trained means I'm not trained to do anything," he said.

Now, with theaters open again, Lord said audiences are hungry for live shows. The Rednecks Tenors have recently performed in Virginia, Texas and Alabama as they head toward Valdo-

sta. Shows have been sold out in several venues.

"Some people wear masks. Some don't," Lord said. "We've had large audiences. I want to think people love the show that much but I think it's just people are ready to get back out."

The show's No. 1 priority is the singing, he said, but there is plenty of humor and storytelling, too.

"People are looking to hear humor that doesn't preach to them or push away half of the audience," Lord said. "We don't play to Red State or Blue State. We play everywhere. As far as politics, we're not going to change anyone's mind, so

why go there? We mention in the show that it's time to be nice again. I don't care if you're Red or Blue, just be nice to one another.

"It's the same in the South as it is in the North, people just want to be entertained."

*The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series hosts The Three Redneck Tenors "Broadway Bound," 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 17, Mathis City Auditorium, 2300 N. Ashley St. An optional, pre-show dinner is available at 6 p.m. More information: Call (229) 247-2787; or visit [turnercenter.org](http://turnercenter.org).*





## LENA BOSCH LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HONORING A LIFETIME OF DEVOTION TO AND SUPPORT OF THE ARTS

SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Lena Bosch Lifetime Achievement Award honors people who have exhibited outstanding, creative, innovative and visionary leadership in the growth and advancement of the arts and the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

# Turner Center seeks nods for Lifetime Achievement Award

VALDOSTA – The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts is accepting nominations for the Lena Bosch Lifetime Achievement Award.

The inaugural award will recognize individuals who have exhibited outstanding, creative, innovative and visionary leadership in the growth and advancement of the arts in the community through involvement with the Turner Center, arts center representatives said in a statement.

The award was established in 2020 to recognize Bosch's lifetime of contributions to the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission, the Turner Center and to the overall arts community. Nominations will be accepted through Jan. 31.

"My mother lived her entire life serving others," said Bart Bosch, Lena Bosch's son. "She loved the arts and she loved people. I cannot remember a time during my life when my mother was not serving the



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Lena Bosch Lifetime Achievement Award plaque is displayed in the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

Turner Center, fundraising or expanding opportunities for others to appreciate the arts. This award continues her legacy through the contributions of those who receive the award."

A six-member awards committee will accept and judge the nominations based solely on the content provided on the award applications. The committee's selection is also subject to approval by the LVAC board

of directors, prior to being officially announced to the community.

"Lena was a lifelong friend of Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission and to countless people in our community," LVAC President Bruce Smith said. "It is an honor to remember her life in this way and to celebrate the dedication of others with an award that bears her name."

Members of the com-

mittee, the LVAC board of directors and the Turner Center staff are not eligible for this award while they hold office or are employed by the center.

The award announcement will be made at the April 11, 2022 Spring Into Art Gala. The name of the initial award recipient (and future recipients) will be displayed on a plaque that bears Bosch's bronze image, located in the Price-Campbell Gallery in the Turner Center's main facility. Recipients will also receive a commemorative award, center representatives said.

The nomination criteria for the Lena Bosch Lifetime Achievement Award are outlined in the award guidelines accessible at the Turner Center and at [www.turnercenter.org](http://www.turnercenter.org). For more information, call the Turner Center, (229) 247-2787.





Young Writers League students reviewing their written works with Dr. Cheryl Carvajal, YoWL instructor, at the recent ARToberfest.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Turner Center hosts 'Art of Writing' contest

VALDOSTA – The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts and the Young Writers League invite middle and high school students to participate in the Second Annual Art of Writing contest.

Last year, more than 60 entries were received from area schools. Entries must be submitted by Saturday, Jan. 15, center representatives said in a statement.

The three submission categories are fiction, non-fiction and poetry. Cash prizes are awarded for first, second and third place in each category and judges will choose from submitted works for a published anthology in May 2022. Winners will be announced Sunday, Feb. 27, at the Youth Art Month gallery opening reception.

YoWL, led by Dr. Cheryl

### MORE INFO

For more information, call (229) 247-2787 or visit [turner-center.org](http://turner-center.org).

Carvajal, allows students to express themselves through written word, improve their writing skills and pursue authorship with contests like "The Art of Writing," center representatives said. Classes

take place via the Discord app and are open to writers ages 10-18. The Discord app and YoWL classes are free.

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# DrawProject part of new exhibits

BY DEAN POLING

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VALDOSTA — DrawProject is a chance to see numerous pieces of art by several area artists, an opportunity to own a piece of art at a relatively low price, and financially help art students' education.

The 15th Annual DrawProject exhibit and auction returns Monday evening, Jan. 10, to the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts. The annual scholarship auction-fundraiser is one of a series of new exhibits opening. Others include Jacksonville, Florida, artist Andrew Kozlowski and a curated group exhibit from the First Coast Plein Air Painters.

Created by former arts center curator Jamie Harmon, the DrawProject has continued since his departure more than a decade ago.

Organizers collected donation drawings during the past several weeks for an auction to fund scholarships benefiting Valdosta State University art students.

The DrawProject is as simple as its name.

It asks artists to share drawings, all drawn on the same size paper; however, the term "drawing" can be used loosely.

As Jamie Harmon said in the past, "There were no rules or definition of what a 'drawing' is ... only their interpretation."

Artists can define their interpretation of a drawing.

In the past, drawings have ranged from realism to cartoons, from scribbles to detailed pointillism, from stark black-and-white to gradients of grays to color. One year, an artist even transposed a photograph onto the paper.

DrawProject is one of



'Lavender and Evergreen' by artist Abby Howard Murphy.

the new exhibits opening Monday at the arts center.

Kozlowski holds an MFA in painting and printmaking from Virginia Commonwealth University and a BFA in printmaking from the Tyler School of Art, Temple University. His collective work of prints, works on paper, installations and sculptural work has been included in more than 50 group exhibitions throughout the United States and abroad, according to a statement from the Turner Center.

"Let Me Take You There

En Plain Air" is the First Coast Plein Air Painters group exhibit. "Plein Air is about leaving the studio environment and working out of doors in the natural light," center representatives said in a statement.

*The shows open with a free, public reception, 5-7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 10, Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St. The show is scheduled to run through Feb. 23. More information: Call (229) 247-2787; or visit [www.turnercenter.org](http://www.turnercenter.org).*



# The Snake has nine lives

There's a large old-timey farmhouse on the corner of Toombs and Force Street, actually at 110 W. Force St., Valdosta, Georgia.

It was built in 1909 as a residence for female students enrolled in the South Georgia Normal College, which is now Valdosta State University. Through years of renovations and now refurbishment for Snake Nation Press, the house still retains much of its original Queen Anne grandeur.

And it's funny how Snake Nation Press has continued to be in existence over the last 20-plus years. While the publishing industry in those years has changed radically and the reading public has almost disappeared, the Snake just keeps on keeping on. Why? Why, when multiple times, I personally have been ready to throw in the towel and call it quits, but somehow something always happens that gives the Snake a new life.

I finally figured out it's because of mothers and fathers, of all ages, genders and colors. They are the people who do all the little things that keep the Snake in existence and keep the world turning.

You know what I mean. In your own family, it's the people who pay the bills, buy the groceries, cook the meals, take the kids to school and the doctor, take care of the old codger down the street. And usually those people don't get a single cent in repayment and very little praise. And in big organizations, they're the ones who answer the telephone, hang the art and clean the building.

Remember, the person who hands you a fast-food sandwich, probably came to work at 5 o'clock that morning. Do you ever give him or her a tip? A dollar from each car would give that person a living wage.

First and foremost at Snake Nation Press, there is Jean and Paul Arambula, who stepped in and took over back in 1994. I was

working as director of the L/VAC Art Center and did not see how I could keep doing that job and publishing Snake Nation Review.

Jean said, "Roberta, you cannot let the Snake die," and she and Paul took it from there, making the house on 110 W. Toombs St. a real home for the Snake and all its publications. Now, that building with the help of John Bennett and the Price Campbell Foundation is turning it into the Barbara Passmore Literary Center because it was that woman who also stepped in and kept Snake Nation Press and many other art organizations and programs in Lowndes County going for over 15 years.

Later, there were innumerable others besides Barbara. There were Dean Poling, Wilby Coleman, Spanky Whitfield, Adann-Kennn Alexxandar, Charles Duff, Leona Abood, Cheryl Oliver, Susan Grooms, and recently Lee Henderson, Bill & Joan Stone, Bill Herring, Trent Bush, Robert Earl Price, John Bennett, Sementha Mathews, Cheryl Carvajal and so many others that I should remember. Some of those people, the Snake published, some just said "good job," others gave both financial and moral support.

After all these years, I ask myself, what is it that work here that has kept the Snake alive? To me it's the Holy Spirit who gives those hard-working people the inclination to do the little things and give the donations that keep the wheels turning. Often they hold down full-time jobs but the inclination toward being creative and supporting creativity burns within them.

They doodle on napkins, they write in journals after

everyone else is asleep, they tell an after-dinner story almost every night. And they read, read, read. So don't let the work of theirs and others vanish into a drawer or a closet.

Remember, it was Stephen King's wife, who saved the story "Carrie" hidden away in a drawer. Remember the philosopher, Eric Hoffer, who spent his days as a stevedore on the New York docks also spent his nights writing. How did he do it? He said he thought about writing all day as he did hard physical labor.

Remember Solzhenitsyn, who with his masterpiece, "One Day in the Life of Ivan Denesovich," defied the Soviets. How did he do it? After freezing days, working outside in the cold, he committed his thoughts to memory and wrote them down, sometimes on toilet paper.

The written word will never be dead, my friends. So many things can happen to electronics: bad weather, a solar flare and just advanced age and technology can make it impossible to retrieve files. Guard and protect your letters from friends and relatives, guard and protect your books and magazines. What else will you be able to read by candle light?

Now, Snake Nation Press is going to publish a free quarterly publication, The Valdosta Voice, of all the arts and artists in South Georgia, and there are so many. So write about the people and situations in your life, the mothers and fathers who kept you going. Read [valdostavoice.com](http://valdostavoice.com) and send your poems, your short articles, your art work for one-time publication and recognition to [valdstavoice.com](http://valdstavoice.com). The copyright will still belong to you.

*Deacon King Kong:  
James McBride Roberta  
George is the founder of the  
Snake Nation Press and a  
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nette Howell Turner Center  
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