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AAME

nurturing, advocating
& celebrating the arts

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AAME Goals

- To support artists and arts organizations throughout the Mountain Empire
- To promote collaboration among artists, arts organizations, and the community
- To improve recognition of the aesthetic, educational and economic value of the arts

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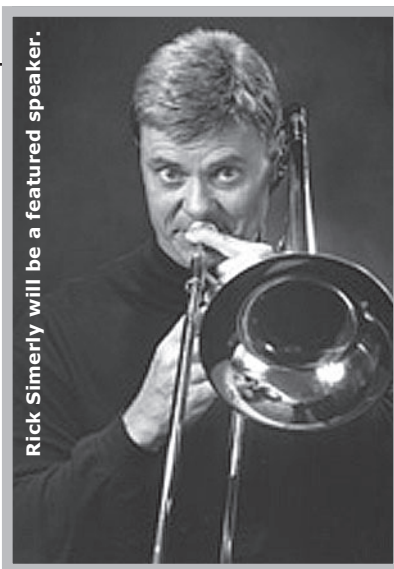
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“New Orleans: Have We Lost The Heartbeat of American Music?”

*Timely Topic part of
Arts in Education
Conference in Johnson City*

The arts are an indispensable part of a city's quality of life. How will the disaster in New Orleans affect that urban environment and the preservation of our cultural heritage? Join noted jazz musician Rick Simerly to learn about the historical influence that New Orleans has had on American popular music.

Simerly will discuss “**New Orleans: Have We Lost The Heartbeat of American Music?**” during the 2005 Arts in Education conference Monday, Nov. 14 from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Centre at Millennium Park, Johnson City, TN. In this session, participants will discover the historical influences that New Orleans has had on American popular music and how the recent catastrophe might affect these musical roots.

Simerly is a jazz trombonist and associate professor of music at Milligan College. For the past 25 years he has spent weekends and summers playing and touring with jazz musicians throughout the U.S., but his days have been spent teaching young musicians of the Tri-Cities region.

Whether you are an educator or someone who recognizes that it takes more than textbooks and tests to produce mathematicians, scientists and business leaders, this conference plays a crucial role in ensuring that arts education for our children is not a frill, but an essential part of the curriculum.

Participants will be encouraged to exchange ideas about the valuable role the arts play in developing and educating our children. They may choose from 21 concurrent workshops on a variety of topics:

- board book construction
- traditions influencing Umfundalai African dance
- interpreting the West African music tradition
- theatrical production using recycled clean trash
- basic vocal physiology training for choir directors
- how to stimulate knowledge acquisition and retention with music
- introducing opera to young students
- mosaics as a way to understand the Eastern culture
- arts advocacy
- drawing and writing using the metaphor
- using arts to dismantle stereotypes

Featured speaker for the noon luncheon will be **Gary Race**, director of the Martha-Ellen Tye Opera Theater at the University of Iowa. With 30-some years of experience directing more than 100 productions for regional companies, he serves as Education Consultant for the National Symphony Orchestra. Race's keynote speech is entitled “**The Creative Journey — Taking the Slow Road & Enjoying It.**” He will focus on art as a creative process, providing insight for dealing with high-speed technology and slow-paced creative development. Race will also present a special afternoon session entitled “**Integrating Opera into the Classroom.**”

Other highlights of the day will include North Carolina artist **Cheryl Stevens** whose workshops on the tradition of Umfundalai African dance incorporate ethics and values for students and impart a greater understanding of another culture. Nationally known painter **Peggy Root** will introduce and analyze methods of seeing through a painter's eye. Bulgarian artist **Neli Ouzounova** will teach participants about the history of Middle Eastern mosaics and how to create faux mosaic stories through color use and techniques. Art specialist **Becky Hope Mallory** will lead a discussion on classroom displays and exhibits. **Tina LaPadula**, program director of Arts Corps in Seattle, WA, will focus on how to use theater, writing and visual art to find new ways to illuminate learning. Professional actor **Matthew Wilson** will use the classic theatre of *commedia dell'arte* to teach communication and critical thinking skills. **Tracy Hoilman**, Tennessee's Teacher of the Year, will offer an imaginative session on recycling “garbage” for costumes, sets and props for informal classroom presentations. A panel discussion entitled “**Working Your 'BUTS' Off**” will spotlight inventive ways to accomplish classroom goals in spite of paperwork and bureaucratic obstacles. **Elizabeth Potter Spragins** of North Carolina will discuss her documentary that demonstrates how music can be used to stimulate knowledge acquisition and retention in all subjects.

The fee for the entire conference, which includes lunch and workshop materials, is \$50. Reservations for the luncheon only can be made without attending the full day's conference for a separate fee. To register, call 423-928-8229, e-mail jcarts@mounet.com or visit www.arts.org. *A!*

THE COVER

Betsy White talks about
“Great Road Style” in her
new book by the same name.
(see story page 4)

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