

Summer Arts Festival faces a leaner year

Series kicks off Fri. with less funding

BY JANE HOLAHAN
Staff Writer

The 48th annual Lancaster Summer Arts Festival kicks off Friday with a noontime concert featuring the Blind Willies in Steinman Park. Events continue through the first week of July.

But this year's arts festival will be leaner than usual.

"Due to financial restraints, we've had to scale back," said Jerry Smoker, who helped organize the festival.

The photography show and the film series have been put on hiatus for a year, along with the evening concerts in Musser Park. And the bulk of the children's events have been moved from Musser Park to the YWCA at 110 N. Lime St. to save costs.

"We didn't get any of the support from the business community or financial institutions that have historically financed the festival," Smoker explained. "But we still wanted to proceed."

They were able to do that thanks to support from the James Hale Steinman Foundation and John Frederick Steinman Foundation.

"They are committed to the festival," Smoker said.

Caroline Steinman Nunan, who co-founded the arts festival in 1963 and had always been a strong supporter.

"We'd rather do a smaller, well-defined program than lose it altogether," he said. "We will live within our budget. We aren't going to spend beyond our means."

Arts organizations in Lancaster are still recovering from the financial downturn, and Smoker said several people he spoke to about donations mentioned "PAM fatigue," referring to the closing and bankruptcy of the Pennsylvania Academy of Music last year.

While there is less programming this year, the arts festival will still continue through the entire month of June and into the first week of July.

This year, the Open Art Awards show, which the arts festival co-sponsors with the Lancaster Museum of Art, will not open until Aug. 5.

The arts festival includes children's programming on most Mondays and Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. at the YWCA.

Tuesday will feature noon concerts and evening concerts from 7 to 10 in Steinman Park. Concerts will range from Trixi and the Matrix on June 7 to Amy Banks on June 28.

The Patriotic Concert, co-sponsored with the Long's Park Amphitheater Foundation, will be held July 3 at 7:30 p.m. at Long's Park,

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with the 257th Army Band and, of course, fireworks and a cannon brigade.

The Old Fashioned 4th, with the Malta Band Concert, will be held July 4 in Musser Park, beginning at 2:30 p.m.

The Patron Party has been renamed "Lawn Bowling" this year and will feature The Reese Project performing Claude Bowling's "Suite for Flute & Jazz Trio" and "Suite for Cello & Jazz Trio."

It will be held at Conestoga

House on Saturday, June 18, beginning at 7:30 p.m. and will feature a picnic supper. Tickets are \$50. RSVP by June 15 by calling 392-4843.

As always, the Patron Party is the only event of the entire Lancaster Summer Arts Festival that is not free.

Proceeds will fund next year's arts festival and Smoker says it is never too late to make donations. Send them to Lancaster Summer Arts Festival, P.O. Box 7514, Lancaster, Pa. 17604-7514.

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