

## Dr. Lori: Art and Antiques

I am often asked to evaluate autographs of famous people. There are some rules of thumb when it comes to assessing autographs.

For instance, content is always king. With all autographs, value is increased if the autograph is accompanied by some content relating to the famous person who signed their name. To have content that relates to the signer with an authentic autograph is more valuable to collectors than just a simple autograph. For example, a letter signed by Marilyn Monroe complaining about her failing marriage to husband and baseball great Joe DiMaggio is much more valuable than just a cocktail napkin with Marilyn Monroe's signature on it.

**Master of the Mouse**  
One of best known autographs is that of the American entertainment icon Walt Disney. Walt Disney's signature actually became the logo for the Walt Disney Company and for the Walt Disney Classics Collection. The logo is based on Disney's signature from the early 1940s and it was used on company artwork.

Walt Disney autographs were signed by both Walt Disney and by his authorized employees.



DR. LORI VERDERAME

Over the years, at least a dozen Disney Studio staff members signed Walt Disney's name to comics, fan items, promotional material, etc. The most common authorized signatures of Walt Disney were signed by Hank Porter during the 1930s and 1940s and later, by Bob Moore in the 1950s.

Artist Bob Moore joined The Walt Disney Studios as an apprentice animator in 1940. He contributed to animated classics such as "Dumbo," "The Three Caballeros" and "Make Mine Music." Moore was named head of the publicity and marketing department and designed Disney movie posters, Christmas cards, logos, and letterheads. He was

one of Disney's official "autographers" and he signed numerous items (photographs and letters) with Walt Disney's famous signature. He designed Sam the Eagle for the 1984 Olympic Games and murals housed in Walt Disney elementary schools located in Tullytown, Bucks County, and Anahaim, Calif.

Walt Disney never drew the popular Sunday newspaper Mickey Mouse comic strip or comic book nor did he sign all of his autographs. Every piece of artwork was "signed" with Walt Disney signature but Walt Disney did not provide every signature. Some signatures came from a production artist, not from Walt Disney himself.

### Sign here

Authentic Walt Disney autographs, those that Disney signed by his own hand, differ depending on the stage of his life. The signatures dating to the 1920s differ from those of the early 1960s. He signed his name in both cursive and block print (known as Roman lettering) and he used every type of writing instrument to sign his name including pencils, markers, fountain pens, ballpoint pens, and crayons.



Detail of a Mickey Mouse comic strip with Walt Disney signature.

Walt re-designed his own signature over the years, in very much the same way he changed the appearance of Mickey Mouse. The most common Walt Disney signatures date from the period after 1954 when Disney was seen regularly on television and up to the time of his death in 1967, at age 65. These autographs are among the most popular and collectible.

On Discovery channel's "Auction Kings," I will highlight a collection of famous autographs and their worth while demonstrating the tricks so you can spot a fake. It is interesting to note that an authentic Walt Disney auto-

graph can actually command more money from collectors than that of most autographs of our United States presidents. About 40 of our presidents' autographs are worth less on the collectibles market than an authentic Walt Disney autograph. What's more it has been said that Disney's autograph is the most recognizable in the world.

*Ph.D. antiques appraiser, author, and TV talk show host, Lori Verderame presents antique appraisal events nationwide. She is the star appraiser on "Auction Kings" on Discovery channel. Visit DrLoriV.com and Facebook or call 888-431-1010.*

## Bach Choir, Bel Canto Chorus create partnership

Melinda Rizzo

A new partnership between Bach Choir of Bethlehem and Bel Canto Chorus in Red Hill diversifies both programs, and increases their educational outreach and performance opportunities.

The new partnership, announced earlier this month, will operate as The Bel Canto Children's Chorus of the Bach Choir of Bethlehem.

It will allow more people to listen and participate, and further both Bach Choir and Bel Canto's commitments to train the next generation of vocal musicians, according to Joy Hirokawa, founder and artistic director of Bel Canto Children's Chorus and an assistant professor of music at Moravian College.

Bel Canto's first performance under the new banner will be alongside three other youth choirs in the annual Bach Choir Family Concert series in February.

The choirs will perform and have a chance to participate in master classes during the 2016 Bach Family Concert Youth Choir Festival, "Heart and Soul, Voices of the Future." The concert begins at 3 p.m. Feb. 28, at Zoellner Arts Center, on the Lehigh University Campus.

"One of our goals is diversity, to enlarge our outreach and reach a broader, more diverse population," Hirokawa said. A hallmark of the choir is to sing in a variety of languages, and learn about other ethnicities and cultures, according to



Greg Funfgeld and Bach Choir 2 perform in a Christmas Concert in 2014.

Hirokawa.

She said visibility, along with the Bach Choir's significant commitment to youth education, were pivotal reasons to join forces and create the new, permanent relationship.

"Joy called us over the summer

to discuss the idea of joining together," said Bridget George, Bach Choir of Bethlehem executive director.

Having previously performed together on occasion and recorded together, George said it made sense to formalize a new alliance. Bel

Canto recorded with the Bach Choir of Bethlehem on the group's latest compact disc, "A Child's Christmas in Bethlehem."

"We had been looking at creating our own choir, but (this) just feels so right," George said of the partnership.



The Bel Canto Chorus in 2015.

## Earth School offers adult workshops

Art of Spirit's Earth School offers a series of four Winter Workshops for Adults, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 2 to 28.

The four one-day projects include Mandalas, Prayer Rugs, Animal Totems and the Tree of Life. The themes draw upon the spiritual, physical and cultural aspects of the natural world.

Each project offers an opportunity to work in a different medium, such as painting, drawing, printmaking, mixed media or felting.

Based at the Bucks County Audubon Society in Solebury, Earth School workshops will include group time outdoors, as well as studio time indoors.

"The land at Audubon is beautiful year round, and taking group walks outside will set the tone and provide inspiration for our artwork," said Patricia Walsh-Collins, art educator and director of Earth School.

Earth School workshops are for everyone, with or without experience. All workshops are offered in a multi-layered approach to creativity. The "uniquely inspired projects" are integrated expressions of the natural world through artwork.

Anyone who feels drawn to explore their creative side is invited to step into their desire without any pressure. Participants may choose one or all four workshops.

For more information, visit the Earth School for Kids website.



Art of Spirit's Earth School offers four, one-day Winter Workshops for adults, with projects drawing upon the spiritual, physical and cultural aspects of the natural world.

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## Jacqui Naylor returns to Puck

Jazz vocalist and songwriter Jacqui Naylor returns to the East Coast this February to debut new music from her upcoming 10th album, "Ten," along with her fresh takes on pop classics and jazz standards.

Naylor will make stops in New York City, Philadelphia, New Brunswick, N.J., Washington, D.C., Peekskill, N.Y., and Doylestown, where she will perform at Puck on Feb. 13.

Naylor's recordings have made top 10 album lists in publications such as USA Today, Jazzy Magazine and the Washington Post. Her original compositions have been featured in films, national advertisements and political campaigns,

including her song, "Celebrate Early and Often."

Naylor has performed at venues and festivals around the world.

While very jazz-friendly but far from a rigid jazz purist, Naylor brings a long list of influences to her work - ranging from Billie Holiday, June Christy and Nina Simone to Tracy Chaplan, Natalie Merchant, Carole King and Sheryl Crow.

Naylor has a highly diverse repertoire; on stage, she is likely to perform a Tin Pan Alley standard right after something by the Rolling Stones or Talking Heads, in addition to performing songs of her own.

Naylor will even mix genres

within a song with an arrangement technique she calls "acoustic smashing," singing the lyrics and melody of a jazz standard over the groove of a well-known rock or pop anthem or vice versa.

For tickets to the show at Puck, 1 Printers Alley, Doylestown, at 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13, with Naylor on vocals, Art Klu on piano and guitar, Ken Pergendast on bass and Montez Coleman on drums, visit ticketweb.com/quejanaylor.

For information, visit the Puck Live website. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 day of show.

For other area tour dates and locations, visit Jacqui Naylor online.

## Soprano Angela Brown performs in New Hope

Soprano Angela Brown performs her show, "Opera From A Sistah's Point of View" at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 7, at St. Martin of Tours Church, 1 Riverstone Circle, New Hope.

Brown is on a mission to bring opera to everyone of all ages and backgrounds. "Her program of songs and arias may take your breath away, but her sassy commentary on the char-

acters and stories of famous operas may make you laugh out loud."

The drama of opera is as relevant today as when many were composed over 100 years ago; come see why.

Learn more about Brown on her website.

Sponsored by the Fred Beans Family of Dealerships, the show is part of the Riverside Sympho-

nia's 26th concert season. Programs are made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

Call 609-397-7300 or purchase tickets at riversidesymphony.org. There is special pricing for students and teachers.