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, context is always key. With all autographs, value is increased if the autograph is signed by someone accompanied by some content that pertains to the person who signed their name. To have content that relates to the signer with an autographic inscription is more valuable to collectors than just a simple autograph. For example, a letter signed by Mari- lyn Monroe complaining about her fateful marriage to Jayne Mansfield and hardball great Joe DiMaggio is much more valuable than a autograph from a cocktail napkin with Marilyn.

A new partnership between Bach Choir of Bethlehem and Bel Canto Children's Choir in Red Hill delineates both programs, and increases their educa- tional outreach and performance opportunities.

The new partnership, announced earlier this month, will operate under the banner of the Bach Choir of Bethlehem, known for its passion to connect, educate and participate, and further both Bach Choir and Bel Canto’s commi- tment to train the next generation of musical artists. "Bel Canto is excited to join forces with the Bach Choir to offer new opportunities for our students," said Bel Canto’s artistic director, George Hinkerson. "Our organizations have a natural synergy in our mission to bring opera to everyone of all ages and abilities. It is exciting to be able to partner with an authentic Walt Disney autograph. What’s more, it has been noted that Disney’s autograph is the most recogniz- able in the world."

Lori Verderame, Ph.D., antiques appraiser, and the star appraiser on “Auction Kings” on Discovery channel, will highlight a special talk in the series “Detail of a Mickey Mouse comic strip” on February 13.

Art of Spirit’s Earth School offers four one-hour Workshops for adults, with an opportunity to discover the spiritual, physical and cultural aspects of the natural world.

Phil Horseman, artist, will present his latest show of landscapes and still lifes. Phil focuses on the spiritual in his works, which have been featured in several publications.

Soprano Angela Brown performs in New Hope

Soprano Angela Brown performs her show, “Opera From A PEto’s Point of View” at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 13, at the Villages of Stonetown, Recreation Center, Doylestown. Brown will perform an extensive selection of songs and arias by Puccini, Verdi, Donizetti, Rossini, Gounod, Poulenc, and others. Brown is known for her beautiful voice and engaging delivery. Her repertoire includes roles from great composers such as Puccini, Verdi, Donizetti, Rossini, Gounod, Poulenc, and others.

Earth School offers adult workshops

Earth School workshops are offered four one-hour Winter Workshops for adults, with an opportunity to discover the spiritual, physical and cultural aspects of the natural world.

Bel Canto’s first performance under the new banner will be along- side three other youth choirs in the annual Bach Choir Family Concert series in February. The choirs will perform the music of the Baroque and Classical periods, and will feature a variety of world premieres. For more information, visit bachchoir.org.

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

Funfgeld, who said she enjoys, along with the Bel Canto Children’s Choir, the challenge of new repertoire, noted: “Joy called us over the summer. The drama of opera is as rele- vant as ever and there is still a need to hold public concerts in Burlington. It is the star appraiser on the “Auction Kings” series and is well known for her expertise in the field of antiques. Verderame will present her talk “Assessing Walt Disney Autographs” on February 13.

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