

Golden Globe winner Amanda McBroom at Orinda Theatre, March 1

By Derek Zemrak



Photo provided

The next “Live at the Orinda Theatre Concert Series” will be March 1 with Golden Globe winner Amanda McBroom and musical director Michele Brouman. Described by the New York Times as “... the greatest cabaret performer of her generation, an urban poet who writes like an angel and has a voice to match” and “... one of the greatest night club performers of all time” by Broadway World, noting McBroom’s lyrics are “profound and express human emotions in glorious poetry. Her humor is so smart and she sings and acts it all brilliantly.”

McBroom came to the attention of music lovers in 1979 when Bette Midler’s version of McBroom’s song, “The Rose,” became the No. 1 hit all over the world. In addition to Midler, her songs have been recorded by a wide variety of artists including Amy Poehler and Jack Black, Barry Manilow, Judy Collins, Barbara Cook, LeAnn Rimes, Anne Murray, Harry Belafonte, Betty Buckley, Stephanie Mills, The Manhattan Transfer, Donny Osmond, Kurt Cobain, Nana Mouskouri, Conway Twitty, the Chipmunks and the Baby Dinosaurs in “The Land Before Time” (she wrote all the songs for 16 Universal Cartoon videos with longtime collaborator Michele Brouman).

McBroom’s performance of “The Rose” on the Golden Globes convinced audiences worldwide that the best interpretations of McBroom songs are by McBroom herself and they applaud her in concert halls around the world from Carnegie Hall to Angel Place Recital Hall in Sydney, Australia.

Her love of musical theater (she starred in the New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco and European productions of “Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris,” on Broadway in “Seesaw,” and in productions of “Sweeney Todd,” “A Little Night Music” and “Mame”) compelled her to create a musical based on her songs. “Heartbeats” made its debut in 1989 in Los Angeles, and the play has enjoyed more than 15 regional theater productions around the U.S. The original cast recording was released in 1994 on Varese Sarabande Records and is represented by the Rogers and Hammerstein Music Library. Amanda’s musical, “A Woman of Will,” made its off-Broadway debut in 2005.

McBroom recently celebrated the release of “Voices,” her sixth recording on Gecko, the label she established in 1985. Other Gecko recordings include “Dreaming,” “Midnight Matinee,” “A

Waiting Heart,” “Portraits,” and “Chanson.” In addition, she has recorded “Live from Rainbow and Stars” (DRG), and “A Woman of Will” (LML Music). Her first two groundbreaking vinyl recordings, “Growing Up in Hollywood Town” and “West of OZ,” were recorded direct to disc for Sheffield Labs and made McBroom an audiophile darling.

“Amanda McBroom is a legend in the cabaret world. The definition of a true artist – her own compositions are like mini-movies, the kind that become your favorite films. And when she sings, it’s as if she’s painting a beautiful picture, you can see the colors in your mind and you feel the passion and the nuance in the many layers that she unfolds,” stated Producer Michael Williams.

McBroom follows the inaugural sold-out “Live at the Orinda Theatre Concert” that featured Tony Award winner John Lloyd Young in the 190-seat auditorium in the Orinda Theatre on Feb. 1. On the evening of the March 1 concert, Cine Cuvee Wine Bar will be having food and drink specials before the show. Tickets, which range from \$45 to \$100 (VIP), are available online at www.lamorindatheatres.com or at the Orinda Theatre box office.

In addition to McBroom’s March 1 performance, “Live at the Orinda Theatre Concert Series” remaining shows include: Amanda King (“A Salute to Ella Fitzgerald: The Early Years”) on April 5; and Tony-nominated Broadway star Andrea McArdle (“Annie” and “Les Misérables”) on May 3. Subscriber and sponsorship packages are available.

“Live at the Orinda Theatre Concert Series” is produced by Zemrak Pirkle Productions, LLC and Michael Williams.

Service Clubs Announcements



February 9
Rocket Lady Mouzima
Mousumi and
NASA Aerospace
Scholar.

BREAKFAST MEETING:
Friday mornings, 7:00 am.
The Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa,
Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. More info.
at www.lamorindasunrise.com

February 16
By popular demand we bring you **TED KLAUBER** presents his dazzling and fun analysis of the 2018 Super Bowl Ads.

Happy Valentine’s Day

Please submit events to:
calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

Lamorinda Weekly

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Contact us:

Letters to the editor (max 350 words): letters@lamorindaweekly.com
 Delivery issues: homedelivery@lamorindaweekly.com
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Publishers/Owners: Andy and Wendy Scheck;
andy@lamorindaweekly.com, wendy@lamorindaweekly.com
Editor: Jennifer Wake; jennifer@lamorindaweekly.com
Copy Editor: Nick Marnell; nick@lamorindaweekly.com
Sports Editor: sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com
Advertising: 925-377-0977, Wendy Scheck;
wendy@lamorindaweekly.com
Staff Writers:
 Sophie Braccini; sophie@lamorindaweekly.com,
 Cathy Dausman; cathy.d@lamorindaweekly.com
 Pippa Fisher; pippa@lamorindaweekly.com,
 Nick Marnell; nick@lamorindaweekly.com
 John T. Miller; john@lamorindaweekly.com,
 Sora O’Doherty; Sora@lamorindaweekly.com
 Digging Deep: Cynthia Brian; cynthia@lamorindaweekly.com
 Thoughtful Food: Susie Iventosch; suziventosch@gmail.com
Contributing Writers:
 Conrad Bassett, Diane Claytor, Michele Duffy, Amanda Eck, B.B. Kaye,
 Michael Lupacchino, Mona Miller, Kara Navolio, Alexandra Reineke, Victor
 Ryerson, Moya Stone, Jon Kingdon, Derek Zemrak
Calendar Editor: Jaya Griggs; calendar@lamorindaweekly.com
Photos: Tod Fierner, Gint Federas
Layout/Graphics: Andy Scheck. Printed in CA.
 Mailing address:
 Lamorinda Weekly, P.O. Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570-6133
 Phone: 925-377-0977; Fax: 925-263-9223; email: info@lamorindaweekly.com
 website: www.lamorindaweekly.com

◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

OTHER ... continued

Contra Costa Tale Spinners at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 22 in the Orinda Library Garden Room – includes a story swap with featured teller, Lois Kincy. Her story, an adaptation of “Little Match Girl” is dedicated to the grandmothers who have stepped up to raise their grandchildren. Share, listen, expand your universe.

Volunteers are needed to prune Fire Blight from the Moraga 104-year-old pear orchard from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24 from at 1000 Camino Pablo (cross street Canyon). Instructions, gloves/tools provided. Wear sturdy shoes/bring water; bring loppers, gloves, hand/pole pruners, and orchard ladders if you have them. For info, contact Bobbie Preston at (925) 376-8474 or barbarampreston@comcast.net.

The City of Orinda will host its annual Summer Camp Fair from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24, at the Orinda Community Center located at 28 Orinda Way in Orinda. Find out about summer programs offered through the City of Orinda, meet summer day camp staff plus a variety of specialty camp instructors.

Managing Headaches without the Pharmacy with Tim Appleford, PT, MSPT, OCS, ATC. The Feb. 27 lecture will touch on migraines, tension headaches and bad habits that may contribute to headaches. He will also give an in-depth look at how physical therapy could be ben-

eficial for this ailment through postural correction and tension release with exercise and stretching. Free. Seating is limited; call (925) 284-6150 to register today.

“Me Too” Founder Tarana Burke to speak at Saint Mary’s College of California at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 27 in the Soda Center. Burke is senior director for the nonprofit Girls for Gender Equity and director and founder of Just Be Inc., a youth organization focused on the well-being of young women of color. Burke’s appearance at Saint Mary’s College is part of the ongoing 44 Days Honoring Black History celebration series. Cost: \$15 general public; free for SMC students, staff, faculty and alumni. For more information, visit stmarys-ca.edu/inclusive-excellence/44-days-celebration.

The Elfenworks Center for Responsible Business invites you to its fourth annual conference from 12:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 1 in the Soda Activity Center to explore how businesses have defined and honored human rights. Learn what actions businesses have taken to comply with standards and prevent violations of human rights. Explore models and practices that can inspire other businesses. The conference check-in will begin at 12:30 p.m., followed by panels exploring the interdependence of business and human rights, a keynote address, and ending with a networking reception. The event is \$20 (free for current SMC students, staff and faculty) and open to all, but registration is required.

Lamorinda Arts Council (LAC) will now host their 3rd Annual ShortDocs Film Fest at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center at 3 p.m. on April 15. Originally scheduled for Feb. 11 this year, this documentary film festival provides local filmmakers an opportunity to create new work as well as showcase it at a community screening. The extended deadline for Entries for the Lamorinda ShortDocs Film Fest is now March 18. To learn more about the Lamorinda ShortDocs Film Fest competition and to enter go to <http://www.lamorindaarts.org/shortdocs>.

SENIORS

The Stroke Support Group of Contra Costa County will hold its February meeting in the Ball Auditorium at John Muir Medical Center, Walnut Creek Campus (1601 Ygnacio Valley Rd.) from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday, Feb. 12. The speaker will be Eileen Nevitt LCSW, who will discuss “Ongoing Care Management.” After the program, attendees will break up into three coping groups: stroke survivors without aphasia, stroke survivors with aphasia, and caregivers and families of stroke survivors, each group led by a trained professional. For further information about the Stroke Support Group, contact Ann Dzuna at (925) 376-6218. Free.

Veterans’ Benefits, presented by Contra Costa County Veteran Services Office from 10:30 a.m. to noon Wednesday, Feb. 21 at the Lafayette Community Center, Cedar Room. If you are a veteran or a family member of a veteran,

you should be aware of the potential benefits available to you. The Contra Costa County Veteran Services Office provides assistance to the men and women who served in the Armed Forces of America, their dependents and survivors, and the general public, in obtaining benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Defense, California Department of Veterans Affairs, and other programs for veterans and their families. Free

Join LOPC for Men’s Breakfast at 7 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 28. Andy Amstutz from Lamorinda Village will speak on the topic of “Over 55? What can Lamorinda Village do for you?” Bring friends and family. \$5 donation at the door for breakfast. RSVP by noon on Feb. 27 to janet@LOPC.org. Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. (925) 283-8722. LOPC.org.

GARDEN

Lafayette Garden Club General Meeting from 9:45 to noon Thursday, Feb. 8 at the Lafayette Veteran’s Building located at 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Program: “WELO, the Water Efficiency Landscape Ordinance and How it Effects California Gardeners and Homeowners.” Lafayette Garden Club is pleased to present Lori Palmquist, irrigation designer and consultant, who will discuss how everyday gardeners can deal with the challenges of water conservation and be part of the solution. Visitors are welcome. For info, email Carolyn Poetzsch cpoetzsch@gmail.com.

The Walnut Creek Garden Club meeting beginning at 9:45 a.m. Monday, Feb 12 will feature a presentation, “Why are Millions of Trees Dying in the Sierras (and what are we doing about it)?” by Brenda Kendrix, US Forest Service starting with a business meeting at 9:45 a.m.; social at 10:30 a.m. and program at 11 a.m. The club meets at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Road, Walnut Creek. For info, email mslittle44@gmail.com.

The Montelindo Garden Club of Orinda is pleased to host a free presentation by Leslie Buck, a Berkeley-based gardener and author beginning at 9 a.m. Friday, Feb. 16 at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephens Drive, Orinda. Buck has recently published a New York Times-reviewed memoir currently in bookstores called “Cutting Back: My Apprenticeship in the Gardens of Kyoto.” For info, visit www.montelindogarden.com. (See story page B5)

The Moraga Garden Club will hold their monthly meeting at 9:30 a.m., Thursday, Feb. 15, at the Holy Trinity Church, 1700 School Street, Moraga. The guest speaker will be Heath Bartosh, senior botanist at Nomad Ecology in Martinez, who will discuss “East Bay Floral and the Stories of Early Botanists.” Interested parties are welcome to attend the 9:30 a.m. social hour and the 10 a.m. meeting, as well as the presentation by Bartosh immediately following the meeting.