



Saturday "Cornucopia: Ceramics From Southern Japan" opens • **Sunday** Bret Littlehailes at Zoo Bar • **Sunday** Colonial Handbell Ringers

PHOTOS, FROM LEFT: FREER AND SACKLER GALLERIES; CONNIE OLESAK WARNER; LYCEUM

CLASSIC ROCK VIDEOPALOOZA

Friday
Relive the glory days of music videos Friday at 8 p.m. with an evening of classic rock videos from the likes of the Doobie Brothers, Queen and Guns N' Roses. State Theatre, 220 N. Washington St., Falls Church. 703-237-0300. www.thestatetheatre.com. \$10.

MARTHA GRAHAM CRACKER

Friday-Saturday
Dito van Reigersberg brings his ultimate diva alter ego, Martha Graham Cracker, to the stage Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. The night of cabaret features van Reigersberg strutting across the stage in a mini dress and wig, performing works inspired by Judy Garland and Elton John. GALA Theatre-Tivoli, 3333 14th St. NW (Metro: Columbia Heights). 202-234-7174. www.galatheatre.org. \$25-\$30, \$18 students.

"TAKE JOY!"

Friday-Saturday
If you've seen John Michael Higgins in "A Mighty Wind," "Best in Show" and NBC's "Community" and "Kath and Kim," you won't want to miss him in his latest role: actor dressed as a shepherd. Higgins stars in Strathmore's world premier pageant "Take Joy!" a humorous, poetry-and-music-filled take on holiday productions. Performances are Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. For every ticket purchased,

Strathmore will spread the joy and give a ticket to groups that support people in need. Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda (Metro: Grosvenor). 301-581-5100. www.strathmore.org. \$15-\$35.

"CORNUCOPIA: CERAMICS FROM SOUTHERN JAPAN"

Saturday-Jan. 9 FREE
Around the year 1600, kilns in Japan began working overtime. People living as far away as Europe and Southeast Asia were demanding ornate ceramics for their tea ceremonies. The island of Kyushu became the center of the ceramic boom, and works from that area will be on display Saturday through Jan. 9. Freer Gallery of Art, Jefferson Drive and 12th Street SW (Metro: Smithsonian). 202-633-1000. www.asia.si.edu.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Saturday-Sunday
Chart-topping gospel singer Marvin Sapp leads an all-star cast including Crystal Aiken, Terrell Hunt and Clifton Ross III in a Broadway-style Christmas production. The show closes this weekend with performances Saturday at noon, 4 and 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 5 p.m. Sapp performs only on Saturday. Evangel Cathedral, 13901 Central Ave., Upper Marlboro. 301-249-9400. www.evangelchristmascelebration.com. \$32-\$40.

"WINTER LIGHT: A CELTIC SOLSTICE CELEBRATION"

Saturday-Sunday
Do the long, dark winter nights get you down? "Winter Light: A Celtic Solstice Celebration" gives you a reason to enjoy the darkest days of the year. The multiple Washington Area Music Award-winning group Ocean Quartet brings foot-stomping Irish music to Corner Store on Saturday and Sunday at 8 p.m. The Corner Store, 900 South Carolina Ave. SE (Metro: Eastern Market). 202-544-5807. www.cornerstorearts.org. \$20.

HARMONIC(A) CONVERGENCE

Sunday
Harmonic(a) convergence will occur Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. at Zoo Bar. No, it's not a planetary alignment; we're referring to mouth organists Mark Wenner, Bruce Ewan, Bret Littlehailes and Allen Holmes performing a harmonica jam. Money raised will help fund a trip to Memphis for Littlehailes's group, the Big Boy Little Band, which won a DC Blues Society competition to represent the city in the National Blues Foundation's International Blues Challenge in January. Zoo Bar, 3000 Connecticut Ave. NW. 202-232-4225. www.zoobardc.com. \$5.

COLONIAL HANDBELL RINGERS

Sunday FREE
This time of year just about everyone — from tubas to rock

bands to orchestras — is performing holiday music, but for a different experience check out the Colonial Handbell Ringers. The group uses 79 hand bells to perform traditional favorites and original works. They will perform Sunday at 2 and 4 p.m. The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria (Metro: King Street). 703-838-4994. oha.alexandriava.gov/lyceum.

"THE NUN'S WOOD"

Monday FREE
It might be hard to believe that a play with nun in the title could include "dangerous beauty, savage lovers and ancient sacrifice," but that's exactly what Solas Nua is promising with its reading of Fishamble theater company's "The Nun's Wood." The reading is Monday at 7 p.m. Flashpoint, 916 G St. NW (Metro: Gallery Place). 202-315-1305. www.fishamble.com.

— By Amy Orndorff

IT'S FREE!

WATER-SKIING SANTA

Thursday
Santa Claus is coming to town — but not by his usual mode of transportation. The jolly old elf will make his Christmas Eve entrance at 1 p.m. via water skis. The reindeer, the Grinch and Frosty the Snowman will also be in attendance, arriving on knee boards, jet skis and a dinghy, respectively. National Harbor Marina. 703-280-1788. www.waterskiingsanta.com.



BILL O'LEARY/THE WASHINGTON POST

Santa and a reindeer water-ski during last year's event.

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