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Eighth Annual Charlotte Gadberry Award Recognizes Judge Barry Hyde and Jeanne Hyde

ACANSA's Eighth Annual Charlotte Gadberry Award Presentation

Honorees: Judge Barry Hyde and Jeanne Hyde

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

6 pm dinner and performance showcasing Bonnie Montgomery

Argenta Contemporary Theatre

405 Main Street, North Little Rock

Individual Tickets: \$150

Sponsorships & Tables Available

Tickets & Information: www.acansa.org / 501.663.2287

(Central Arkansas) ACANSA's Eighth Annual Charlotte Gadberry Award, named for ACANSA's founder, will be presented to Pulaski County Judge Barry Hyde and Mrs. Jeanne Hyde on Wednesday, March 5, 2025, at the Argenta Contemporary Theatre. Arkansan Bonnie Montgomery, renowned musician and composer, will perform during the event. Proceeds support ACANSA's arts education programs for Arkansas's youth, including Free Spring Break Arts Camps, in-school guest artist visits and free tickets for students 18 years old and younger to attend the ACANSA Arts Festival of the South.

The Charlotte Gadberry Award Honorees

An ardent supporter of local arts, **Jeanne Hyde** founded The Printing Department in 1995 and is a devoted community advocate, providing leadership through the years to the Vogel Schwartz Foundation, the establishment of Little Rock River Market's Sculpture Garden, North Little Rock Parks and Recreation Commission, Lakewood Recreation Improvement District, and Argenta Downtown Council. She uplifts artists through her personal and professional endeavors, seamlessly blending her entrepreneurial spirit with her love for creativity.

Currently in his fourth term as Pulaski County Judge, **Barry Hyde** is committed to ensuring a welcoming community for people to live, work, start a business and raise their families. As Arkansas

State Representative and chair of five legislative committees, he championed fiscal restraint, improved educational opportunities for children, expanded services for the elderly and promoted opportunities for economic development. He shares with Jeanne an enduring dedication to supporting the arts throughout our community.

Prior Gadberry Award recipients include ACANSA Founder Charlotte Gadberry, Linda Newbern, Sharon Heflin, Craig O'Neill, Garbo Hearne & Dr. Archie Hearne III, Vincent Insalaco, and Melissa & Martin Thoma.

Bonnie Montgomery

Guests will enjoy a buffet dinner, drinks and a performance by Arkansas's own Bonnie Montgomery.

With roots in White County, Arkansas, and a firm foothold on forward-thinking audiences in Texas, Arkansas and around the world, Montgomery is armed with a poet's phrasing, a soprano's crystalline timbre and a revolutionary's spirit, and her repertoire ranges from high romantic ballads swaddled in violins to anthems and spaghetti western-inspired vignettes.

Montgomery was named 2020 Entertainer of the Year with the Arkansas Country Music Awards, the 2019 Americana/Roots Artist of the Year, and 2018 Best Female Vocalist. Audiences enthusiastically laud her parlor songs, country barnburners, classical music and operatic arias.

With a new album ready for release and a catalogue of classical music soon to be premiered, Montgomery continues on - with effortless diversity - to pioneer a modern, post-genre world, while staying firmly grounded in the New South.

Beneficiaries

Proceeds from this celebratory evening support free student tickets and in-school guest artist visits during the ACANSA Arts Festival of the South, as well as ACANSA's Free Spring Break Arts Camps so that more Central Arkansas youth can enjoy the life-long benefits of first-rate arts education. Free Spring Break Arts Camps in 2025 will be conducted March 24 - 28 in partnership with Argenta Contemporary Theatre, Arkansas Cinema Society, Arkansas Regional Innovation Hub, Ballet Arkansas, Big Piph (Epiphany Morrow) and jewelry artist Stacey Bowers.

More information

Visit acansa.org to purchase \$150 single tickets and to support arts and cultural enrichment for youth. For more information about the Charlotte Gadberry Award and sponsorships, visit www.acansa.org or contact ACANSA's director, Leslie Golden, at (501) 663-2287 or by email to lgolden@acansa.org.

Through arts programming, ACANSA strengthens the cultural vitality of the entire community. Founded in 2014, ACANSA Arts Festival of the South showcases artists from around the globe and right here at home in dozens of multidisciplinary arts experiences on both sides of the Arkansas River every September. Acansa Gallery hosts emerging to renowned local and regional artists in month-long exhibitions. In-school artist workshops, complimentary tickets for all students 18 and younger, and Free Spring Break Arts Camps complement ACANSA's efforts to build a more dynamic and engaging community through the arts. "Acansa" emanated from the Quapaw word for "southern place."
www.acansa.org

FULL BIO: Bonnie Montgomery

Bonnie Montgomery is a creative nomad, lauded as enthusiastically for her polished parlor songs as she is for her lawless country barnburners — or for the classical opera arias she penned at the piano.

With roots in White County, Arkansas and a firm foothold on forward-thinking audiences in Texas and around the world, Montgomery is armed with a poet's phrasing, a soprano's crystalline timbre and a revolutionary's spirit, and her repertoire ranges wherever it damn well pleases — from high romantic ballads swaddled in violins to fiery anthems of dissent to spaghetti western-inspired vignettes.

Dale Watson called her "a sophisticated badass who was born to sing." Counterpunch Magazine hailed her operatic compositions as "white trash arias, soaked in alcohol and sex."

Her 2016 short-length opera about Bill Clinton's youth in Hot Springs has earned accolades from The New Yorker and Huffington Post, and her second full-length album "Forever" drew praise from Paste magazine for its "timeless songwriting."

Montgomery secured the title of 2020 Entertainer of the Year with the Arkansas Country Music Awards, ACMA 2019 Americana/Roots Artist of the Year, the title of Outlaw Female at the 2016 Ameripolitan Awards and the titles of Best Americana Artist and Best Female Vocalist at the 2018 Arkansas Country Music Awards.

As a classical composer, her opera, Billy Blythe, about the teenage years of Bill Clinton growing up in Arkansas, took the classical world by storm, getting worldwide coverage from dozens of networks and

news sources from the BBC to CNN. The opera had its world premiere at Opera Ithaca after developmental workshop performances in Arkansas and New York City and has gone on to be performed by opera companies and colleges and universities around the country.

Her vocal work for two voices, piano and steel guitar, "Song Beyond Words: A Vocalise", was commissioned for Carnegie Hall in 2019 and has gone on to be recorded and released as a music video which has played film festivals around the world. It is featured on the virtual album CALL OUT, a celebration of female composers originally scheduled for Carnegie Hall by celebrated Broadway and Metropolitan Opera star Zachary James. The composition is the first to use steel guitar in an operatic medium.

Montgomery has supported major acts in the US and abroad, including The Gossip, Billy Jo Shaver, Ray Wylie Hubbard, Ramblin Jack Elliot, Hayes Carll, Sturgill Simpson, Chris Stapleton, Shovels and Rope, Joe Ely, and many more.

And, with two singles produced by rockabilly legend Rosie Flores with debuts on Sirius XM's Outlaw Country, and a touring collaboration with Texas troubadour Ray Wylie Hubbard in her rearview mirror, Montgomery's leaving little doubt that she's a master in the making — a charismatic collaborator, a commanding bandleader and a prolific, sensitive conduit for big ideas about beauty, defiance and power.

With a new album ready for release and a new catalogue of classical music soon to be premiered, Montgomery continues on - with effortless diversity - to pioneer a modern, post-genre world, while staying firmly grounded in the New South.

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