

Paul Murray 'Paints the Blues' for scholarships to the arts

Collaboration with Christian Vegh, WSYO tomorrow night at Capitol Theatre

By Matt Weingarden
Staff reporter

Last year, you may recall renowned artist Paul Murray teaming up with local blues band Cadillac Hooker to 'Paint the Blues' at the Capitol Theatre in Windsor.

During the performance, Murray painted freehand, super large images of the legendary BB King and Jimi Hendrix, while the band played live.

This time around, Murray returns to pass it forward with a new initiative – scholarships to the arts for local students.

This is a venture that has many different arms to benefit the community and Murray says that he and wife Kati-Jane Murray are in the early stages of putting the program together.

Murray, who grew up in St. Clair Beach, has made himself available to area schools to do workshops in art classes.

During the demonstration, he talks to the students of his beginnings, his art, and the business.

He then takes the time to answer questions, talks about technique and spends time to look at the student's artwork.

Last month, Murray performed his works at École secondaire l'Essor in Tecumseh.

One of his paintings was of Beatles John Lennon and Paul McCartney.

Murray then takes the paintings done on stage and sells them on Facebook and on his website.

A portion of the artwork sales

comes back to that school as scholarships in the arts and music.

He hopes to help out the students that need a little self-esteem boost, a student like he was – who has the talent, yet might just slip through the cracks – a talented student that may not even be thinking of the possibility of college or university.

"It's a great way for me to give back to the community," he said. "I can share my experiences over my 40 years as an artist and maybe help to steer some young students to pursue a career in the arts."

Murray is best known for his intricate work, capturing the everyday lives of a few who remain hidden from this world.

The Southern Appalachian mountain folk and the rural farmer, whose recluse Appalachian mountain lifestyle, are detailed in Murray's timeless faces.

Tomorrow night

Murray will be collaborating with local guitar prodigy Christian Vegh and the Windsor Symphony Youth Orchestra this Saturday, June 4 at 8 p.m. at the Capitol Theatre to support the arts in Windsor-Essex County.

In addition to supporting five scholarships, it is funding an arts education program for schools in need.

This is a non-profit event and Vegh and Murray both believe young artists, like athletes, should have scholarship opportunities.

While Vegh plays his music, Murray will be doing a speed paint-

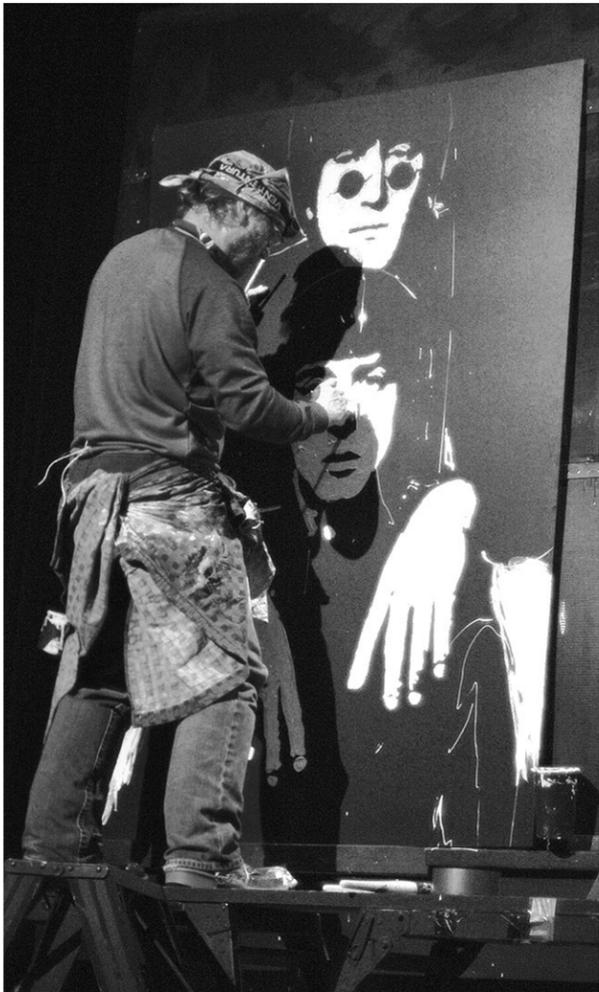


Photo courtesy of Don Martel
Artist Paul Murray puts the finishing touches on his Lennon and McCartney at last month's speed painting event held at École secondaire l'Essor.

All proceeds going to

- The Christian Vegh - Windsor Symphony Orchestra High School Education Program Sponsorship
- The Christian Vegh - Windsor Symphony Orchestra Scholarship for SoCA - University of Windsor
- The Christian Vegh - Windsor Symphony Youth Orchestra Annual Scholarships
- The Christian Vegh Scholarship for Sound Production at St. Clair College
- The Christian Vegh Scholarship for Drama/Theatre at St. Clair College



Shoreline Week file photo: Bill England
Local guitar prodigy Christian Vegh is pictured performing on stage at the 2015 Bluesfest Windsor.

ing performance.

There is a music themed art/photography display as well, involving professionals and local student talent.

It's also the CD launch of Vegh's debut album and the presentation of the Brotherhood of the Guitar Award, now that he is home from Berklee School of Music in Boston for the summer months.

Tickets are \$15 (\$10 for students) and available through Eventbrite or at the Capitol Theatre Box Office, 121 University Ave. W. For more information, please call 519-973-1238