



ARTS BONITA (Centers for the Arts Bonita Springs)

VISUAL ARTS CENTER, 26100 OLD 41 RD

PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, 10150 BONITA BEACH RD

[ARTSBONITA.ORG](http://ARTSBONITA.ORG)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## Chuck Bergeron kicks off Arts Bonita Residency Program

An Unforgettable Night of Jazz with

### Chuck Bergeron

Featuring Kate Reid, vocalist

with special guest Rick Howard, guitar

Saturday, August 12, 2023, 7:30pm, Tickets \$35

Performing Arts Center, Moe Auditorium  
10150 Bonita Beach Road, Bonita Springs, FL



#### [Photos in Dropbox](#)

Arts Bonita kicks off its Residency Program with a performance from renowned Jazz bassist Chuck Bergeron on Saturday, August 12. He will be joined by acclaimed Jazz vocalist Kate Reid, and special guest artist and local favorite guitarist Rick Howard, for a spectacular program called “Bass and Face” which will feature a wide variety of jazz classics performed in an intimate setting.

“It is such a great honor to launch our Residency Program with such an internationally renowned artist,” said Alyona Ushe, Arts Bonita Executive Director. “Chuck is one of the most active and innovative musicians working in the field of jazz today.”

With eight albums under his belt, Bergeron began his career performing with Buddy Rich and Woody Herman before landing in New York City and spending years working with some of the premier talents in jazz. Since 2000, Chuck has been working at the University of Miami, running the Jazz Bass Studio. He is also the current leader of the critically acclaimed South Florida Jazz Orchestra.

As a featured name in jazz, Bergeron toured and performed all over the world for over four decades.



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Featured alongside Bergeron is vocalist Kate Reid, a working studio/session singer in Los Angeles. Her film credits include *Tinkerbell: Legend of the Neverbeast*, *Planes*, *Star Trek Into Darkness*, *Oz-The Great and Powerful*, *Epic*, and *Men In Black III* featuring the music of composers Danny Elfman, Michael Giacchino, John Powell, and Joel McNeely. Reid has worked with many noted artists, including John Clayton, Robin Eubanks, Jon Hendricks, Grady Tate, Mercer Ellington, Don Shelton, Mark Murphy, and the Duke Ellington Orchestra.

Joining the incredible duo as a special guest artist is Rick Howard. Howard's fifty-plus years of guitar playing and vocalizing have put him into every situation and every musical genre. Rick toured extensively with many artists and shared the stage with Keith Emerson, Birelli Legrene, Chico Hamilton, John Entwistle, and others. Rick was heavily involved in the jazz and blues scene in New York City.

### **About the Arts Bonita Residency Program**

Arts Bonita is proud to highlight its growing Residency Program, which helps foster artists and expand the cultural landscape within the Southwest Florida community.

With two state-of-the-art facilities, artists have immersive access to spacious studios, rehearsal spaces, exhibition areas, and a range of specialized equipment to support their artistic practice. In this program, artists will be encouraged to interact with the community through a series of workshops, exhibitions, lectures, and public performances.

Arts Bonita is committed to embracing the pool of incredible talent in the region and to evolving into an intimate, beautiful cultural mecca of SWFL.

"I've been a lecturer, exhibition juror, and a conduit for other educators to come and share the arts said 2023-24 Resident Artist Theresa Girard. "Arts Bonita is a source of great inspiration, and the sustainment of the art center is a critical goal of my practice."

Through dialogue and cultural exchange, Residency Program expands the reach of the artist's work by providing exposure and recognition. The artists are able to boost their creative vision by bringing their talents to a wider audience.

### **Featured Resident Artists—**

**Chuck Bergeron** has been a featured name in jazz that has included touring and performing all over the world for over four decades. With eight albums under his belt, Bergeron began his career performing with Buddy Rich and Woody Herman before landing in New York City and spending years working with some of the premier talents in jazz. Since 2000, Chuck has been working at the University of Miami running the Jazz Bass Studio. He is also the current leader of the critically acclaimed South Florida Jazz Orchestra.



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**Dr. Zachary Bartholomew** is an award-winning jazz pianist, composer, and music educator who will be back to Arts Bonita on Thursday, September 28 to celebrate the music of Chick Corea. Dr. Bartholomew is a highly sought-after pianist who has performed at a wide variety of international jazz festivals and was even a finalist at the highly regarded Jacksonville Jazz Piano Competition. Each performance with Arts Bonita will be individually curated for that particular show, giving a unique and unforgettable show each time.

**Gulfshore Opera** has been bringing high-quality theatre and vocal performances to Southwest Florida since 2014. Its goal is to make Opera accessible to residents across Lee, Collier, and Charlotte County through affordable tickets and community engagement.

**Theresa Girard** is a master artist whose paintings have been featured in multiple galleries across the country. She also worked to provide help to fellow artists through her "Support Female Artist" initiative which has underwritten scholarships exceeding \$4000 for students. Girard also provides support to the Arts Bonita education department.

**Rick Compton & Betsy Bennett** have written and performed nearly a dozen Southwest Florida-inspired musical shows since 1995. The show *Assisted Living: The Musical* garnered tremendous praise and has been performed across Florida. They also wrote and star in their most recent stage show, *A Cracker at The Ritz* which is performed every other Tuesday at Arts Bonita.

### **Join Arts Bonita Residency Program**

Individuals or groups interested in joining the Residency Program can do so by filling out an application on [artsbonita.org](http://artsbonita.org). You will be asked to detail the performance or visual art program you would wish to be part of and show off your portfolio. From there, a selection committee of art experts and staff members will review and select the artists who will be admitted into the program.

### **ABOUT ARTS BONITA**

Arts Bonita is committed to enriching the lives of the community by providing artistic expression, education, and appreciation opportunities. With two Arts Bonita locations dedicated to the visual and performing arts (26100 Old 41 Road and 10150 Bonita Beach Road), visitors can enjoy year-round programming, which includes live concerts, theatre, comedy, film, lectures, and classes for artists of all ages and levels. Arts Bonita offers three Art Festivals in Downtown Bonita Springs each year in January, February, and March.

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