

# epiphany

A Publication of HSPVA FRIENDS

Spring 2011

## COMMENTARY

### “I learned excellence at HSPVA!”

**t**his is just one of the many comments made by HSPVA alumni who participated in a recent national arts alumni survey. At a time when Texas public education and the Houston Independent School District are in financial crisis modes, and the threat of closing magnet schools has been discussed, it is interesting timing that this survey of HSPVA's alumni regarding their arts education experiences at HSPVA has been released. What better testimony to the effectiveness and quality of education at Houston's remarkable HSPVA than the experiences shared by its alumni!

After several years of planning, the Strategic National Arts Alumni Project (SNAAP) is in its third year and is administered by Indiana University. The project, funded by the Surdna Foundation and the Houston Endowment, was designed to isolate and define ideas, trends and needs of arts high schools across the country. Houston's HSPVA was invited to participate in the national survey of its alumni with nine other leading arts schools, including the Interlochen Arts Academy, Idyllwild Arts Academy, and the University of North Carolina School of the Arts – as well as art schools in New York, Boston, Chicago, and Baltimore.

In the survey, a random sample of HSPVA alumni from eight graduating classes, (1988, 1989, 1993, 1994, 1998, 1999, 2003, 2004) responded to questions about their arts education, ensuing work experience, and their overall sense of art engagement in other areas of their lives. Here are a few noteworthy comments from the randomly selected HSPVA alumni who opted to participate in the SNAAP survey:

- *I learned excellence at HSPVA!*
- *I now have three children and ensuring that they have an education in the arts is paramount!*
- *I work entirely outside the arts sector. However, I am grateful every day for the focus and discipline I learned through my artistic training at HSPVA!*

The extraordinary forty-year track record of excellence at HSPVA is fortified from many directions: the expressed pride of its alumni, the outstanding leadership of its staff and faculty, the pro-active efforts of articulate parents and students, and the exceptional loyalty of supportive community leaders. At a recent Encore for Excellence Luncheon, Annisse Parker, Mayor of the City of Houston, stated “Houston's HSPVA is one of the nation's best public schools, and all of us need to do our part in ensuring its bright future.” HSPVA Friends is proud to support the tradition of excellence at Houston's premiere High School For The Performing And Visual Arts, and we are committed to ensuring its bright future!

**Mary Martha Lappe**  
Executive Director  
HSPVA Friends

#### Cover Artist

**Ava Barrett** is a senior at The High School for the Performing and Visual Arts (HSPVA). She is a conceptual artist who has a passion for experimentation. In addition to having her pieces exhibited in 15 shows in HSPVA's own gallery, Ava has had work shown in many other venues outside of HSPVA such as the Contemporary Arts Museum of Houston, the Bayou City Art Festival, Lawndale Art Center, G Gallery, the Margulies Collection in Miami, Florida and the University of Texas Visual Art Center. She is also the art director of HSPVA's monthly school newspaper, *paper\** and plans on attending an art school in the fall.



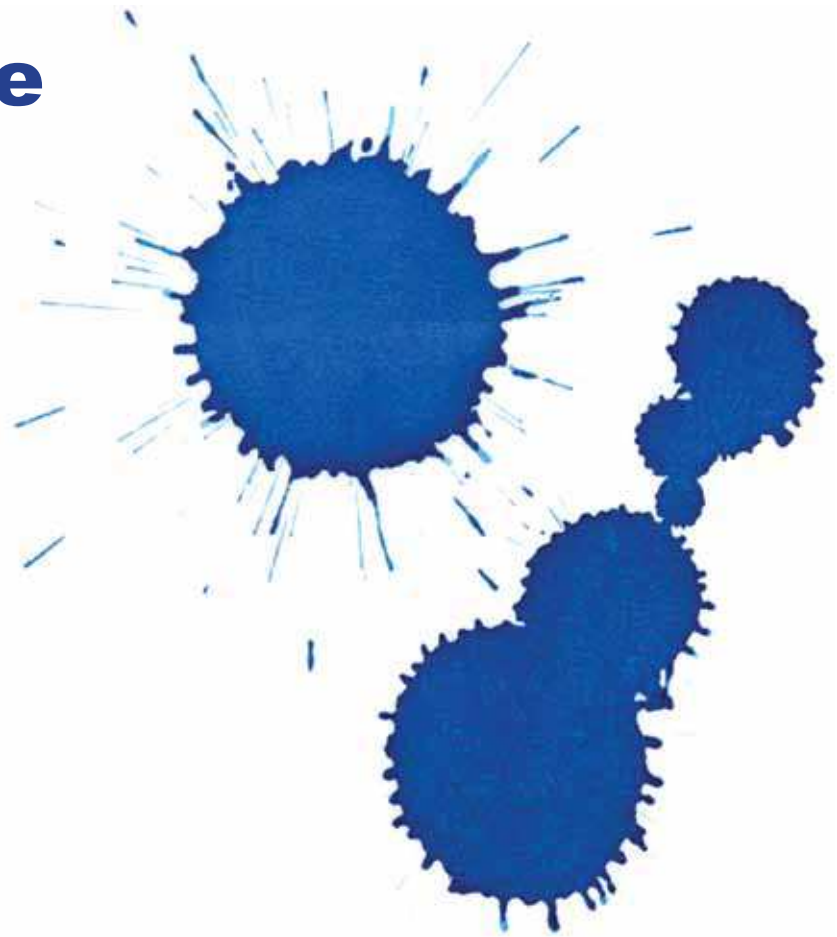
“My work is an exploration of the concept of change over time. I understand the world as a process. I use time as an element; change drives my work and dissolves it.”

# As We Leave

by **Mateo Mpinduzi-Mott**  
**11<sup>th</sup> grade HSPVA Theatre student**

Enter darkness, enter silence  
Enter stars, and moon, and sun  
Enter life, and trees, and ocean  
A fruitless battle has begun  
Enter men and mortal glories  
He seeks the answers of the end  
Enter God, an elaborate story  
Telling men what is wished by men  
Enter popes, and saints, and angels  
Enter a million heavens and hells  
Now men, from any point or angle  
Can, in some good faith, their stories tell  
Enter new worlds, conflicted ideals  
This world cannot be shared by men  
Now this world alone can fell  
Exactly how its life must end  
For all the lies and stories and tales  
Have no answers to be gained  
And as we leave this world alone  
Only darkness will remain

The above poem was published in *Collected Whispers*  
when this student was a 9<sup>th</sup> grader  
Copyright©2008 by the International Library of Poetry as a compilation



**"Untitled"**  
by **Adriel Ayala,**  
**12th grade,**  
**Visual Arts**

# Three HSPVA Students Named *YoungArts* Finalists

**V**isual Arts seniors Valeria Villanueva and Ava Barrett and Theatre senior Veronica Long have been selected *YoungArts* finalists in the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts annual competition. Finalists, who were selected from more than 5,000 applicants in the visual, literary, and performing arts, attended *YoungArts Week* in Miami in January. While there, they attended master classes conducted by well-known artists and performers and participated in performances and exhibitions.

As finalists in the *YoungArts* program, students are eligible to be selected as Presidential Scholars in the Arts. Only 20 Presidential Scholars are named each year, and they are chosen not only for excellence in their art areas, but also for academic achievement. Those who are named Presidential Scholars attend an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. during the spring. Visual artists and writers show their work in an exhibition at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, and the performing artists display their talents at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Students who are finalists and/or Presidential Scholars receive college scholarships as well. The High School for the Performing and Visual Arts has produced more Presidential Scholars in the Arts than any other school in the history of the program.



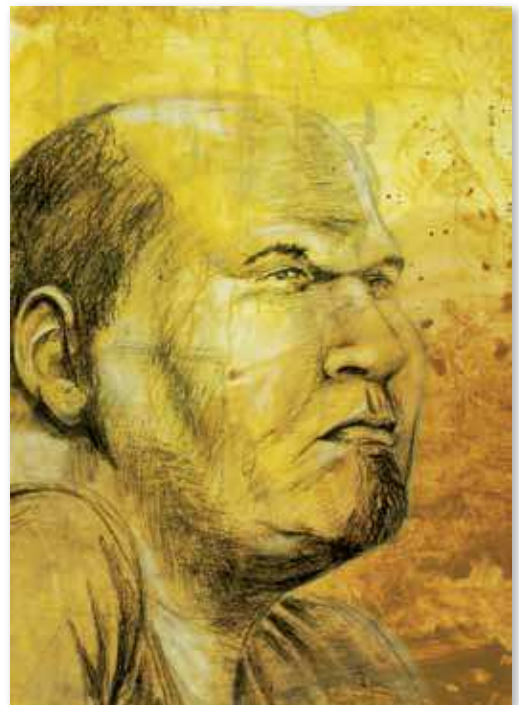
Photo courtesy of Tamara Thompson

*Valeria Villanueva, Ava Barrett, and Veronica Long, three HSPVA seniors, were selected as finalists in the national YoungArts program held in Miami.*



**"Seperate 1"**  
by Ellen Phillips,  
12th grade,  
Visual Arts

**"Untitled"**  
by Jesus  
Hinojosa,  
12th grade,  
Visual Arts





## The Bridge Society Provides for Future Needs of Students and Programs

*The Bridge Society has been modeled after similar legacy programs at universities and major arts organizations that have planned giving programs as a part of their development plans.*

**C**reated in 2010, The Bridge Society is the Planned Giving Program for HSPVA Friends. Administered by the Friends Board of Trustees and staff, the Bridge Society enables HSPVA supporters to help students and programs at The High School for the Performing and Visual Arts through wills, trusts, insurance, and life income gifts, as well as scholarship endowments, planned annual gifts of \$5000 or more, and other forms of deferred planned giving.

The Bridge Society has been modeled after similar legacy programs at universities and major arts organizations that have planned giving programs as a part of their development plans. The stated goal of the Society is to meet the requirements of students and programs at HSPVA both now and in the future, providing planned giving that bridges the gap between HSPVA's needs and available resources. Funding provided by The Bridge Society is especially necessary in times of public school funding cuts. To date, there have been five bequests made to HSPVA Friends and five endowments donated to and administered by HSPVA Friends.

For further information about HSPVA Friends' Bridge Society, call 713.847.0087 or email [m3lappe@hspvafriends.org](mailto:m3lappe@hspvafriends.org)

## HSPVA Vocal Music Student Receives \$5000 Summer Workshop Scholarship from the Guida Foundation

**t**he John E. Guida Foundation presented HSPVA Friends \$5000 for the purpose of sponsoring an outstanding 11th grade vocal or instrumental musician at a top summer arts workshop. With summer workshop deadlines pending, the awardee was selected and announced mid-March by the HSPVA Scholarship Committee after members of the music faculty submitted names of possible candidates for consideration for the scholarship. Eleventh grade vocal music major Kirk Murrell is the recipient of the scholarship.



**Kirk Murrell**

# Noted Sculptor Helps HSPVA

Internationally renowned sculptor, John Henry, was in Houston for the opening of his one-man show at Gallery Sonja Roesch on March 22. He is the subject of a new book, *John Henry*, which showcases his extensive list of sculptures from the past four decades. Henry notified HSPVA Friends Executive Director, Mary Martha Lappe, that the proceeds of this book would be donated to Houston's High School for the Performing and Visual Arts through HSPVA Friends. The Tennessee-based sculptor is not a stranger to HSPVA. He has visited the school on several occasions. In 1999, a delegation of thirty Houstonians, including several representatives from HSPVA (Dr. Herbert Karpicke,



Eileen Montgomery, and Pat Bonner) and HSPVA Friends representatives (Ralph O'Connor, Terri Brown and Mary Martha Lappe), accompanied Mr. Henry to Shen Zhen, China where his 80 foot sculpture *Shen Blue* was installed in the city square. The sculpture was the City of Houston's gift to its Sister City in China. John Henry is considered one of America's most influential and prolific sculptors. His massive steel sculptures are firmly established in the early 20th century Constructivist and Bauhaus traditions. His works are on display in individual collections and in public spaces in major cities on five continents. The book, *John Henry* can be purchased at the Gallery Sonja Roesch in Houston.

*HSPVA Friends Executive Director, Mary Martha Lappe and sculptor, John Henry.*

## On Lucid Things

by Amy Mattox

I know nothing of this existence.  
I do not know the reasoning of dreams,  
the thoughts that live in blindmen.  
The assumptions of color and deprecating eyes  
unused  
and shuttered, occult movement behind soft lids.  
I work clay on Thursdays.  
It rolls itself, remembers each push and each  
finger.

You had better mean what you do.  
*You had better mean what you do.*

Then watch an older woman strip herself  
of a robe,  
and sit bare on a stool.  
Vulnerability can be a beautiful thing,  
skin pooling at the edges of each line  
and the sag of bones,  
God-  
I have never seen anything so beautiful.  
On Thursday night I remember dreams of  
the skin,  
of the clay and dead eyes-  
I will not know that they are true,  
I do not think I ever can.



# Untitled

by Fernando Grimaldo

Never could someone define happiness  
For it has no true definition.  
It's a word made up  
Used to describe an emotion,  
No one could really explain

For some, they ignore the rest of the world's issues.  
Go on living  
In ignorance  
Without a care  
For the rest of us  
Like a pigeon.  
They go on flying and will eventually run into a plane.

For some, happiness isn't enough or  
They don't have  
Enough of it.

For others, happiness is substantial  
But the overwhelming amount of despair  
And ridicule  
And the opposite of love,  
Whatever that is.  
Rejects happiness out of the heart



**"Figure"**  
by Meredith  
McGrath  
12th grade,  
Visual Arts

## IN MEMORIAM

**Norma Lowder**  
HSPVA Principal  
from 1976-1988

**Dr. Stina Merrill**  
HSPVA Assistant Principal  
from 1979-2001

Families of Mrs. Lowder and  
Dr. Merrill have requested that  
memorial donations to  
HSPVA be made to  
HSPVA Fiends

# Encore for Excellence!

## Fifth Annual Encore for Excellence Luncheon Honors HSPVA's 2011 Distinguished Alumna and The Immanuel and Helen B. Olshan Foundation

**O**n February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 300 HSPVA Friends of HSPVA gathered at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Encore for Excellence Luncheon at River Oaks Country Club to celebrate *Arts Day in Houston* and the many successes of Houston's respected arts school, The High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. *ABC Good Morning America* News Anchor, Bianna Golodryga, was honored as *The HSPVA 2011 Distinguished Alumna*. Also honored at the event was the Immanuel and Helen B. Olshan Foundation for its extraordinary philanthropy and support of the arts. Proceeds of the luncheon benefits HSPVA student needs and projects at the school.





1. Former HSPVA faculty member, James Boyce with Honoree, Bianna Golodryga 2. Mayor Annisse Parker flanked by Marty and Dr. Bob Stein  
3. Luncheon Co-Chairs, Cece Fowler and Frank Hood 4. Emcee Linda Lorelle 5. Becky and Ralph O'Connor and Andrew Abendshein  
6. Jerry Simon, Harvin Moore, and Bob Eury 7. Dr. Martha Salazar Zamora and Dr. Scott Allen 8. The HSPVA Inferno Quartet 9. Janet Collins,  
Elise Wilkinson Alvarez, and Vicki Pasternak 10. Sharona Koret and Vitaly and Zhanna Golodryga 11. Herb Pasternak, Elizabeth Sheppard,  
David Guidry, Sally Reynolds 12. State Representative Ellen Cohen and Samantha Barlow Martinez 13. Greg Meyers, David and Tamara  
Thompson with Larry Marshall 14. Seated: Sandra Goodwin, Bette Tiago, Kathryn Priest, Agelia Perez Marquez and Eileen Montgomery  
Back row: Rhoda Ferris, Joan Murrin, Caroline Neuhaus, and Kris Stockberger 15. Steve McNamara  
16. Dr. Michele Pola, Joe Nelson, and Lorraine Wulfe

# Encore for Excellence!



1



2



3



4



5



6



7

1. Cheryl and Bob Boblitt with Janie Carothers and LuAnne Carter 2. Pete and Patrice McKinney with Howard Speight  
3. HSPVA Dancers, Lenaa Escandon and Dana Thompson 4. Janie Alderman, Linda Lorelle, Sharon Ferranti, and Bob Singleton  
5. Trish Eramo and Roxanne Stanley 6. HSPVA Luncheon Committee members: Shirley Colona, Sally Feist, Shannon Bohny, Blair Adams, Amani Escandon, and Kelley Self 7. Dr. Cathy Mincborg and Linda Walter

# Encore for Excellence Luncheon Underwriters

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Linda Walter  
Lorraine Wulfe



"Untitled"  
by Avery  
Davidson,  
12th grade,  
Visual Arts

## HSPVA Alumna Receives GRAMMY®

By Barbara Haverkamp

Jessica Bodner (Class of 2001 - Instrumental) and her music group, the Parker Quartet, won a GRAMMY® for their CD in the Chamber Music category at the 52nd annual Grammy Awards. She attended Parker Elementary, where she studied violin, Lanier Middle School, where she switched to viola study, and the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, where she continued performing viola with the orchestra. From there she went on to study at the New England Conservatory, where she earned her undergraduate degree and two masters in musical performance in 2005. While at the Conservatory, Jessica and fellow classmates Daniel Chong, Karen Kim, both violinists, and cellist Kee-Hyun Kim formed a quartet. The Parker Quartet has won many competitions internationally. It has been the Quartet-in-Residence with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra (Minnesota) and the Artists-in-Residence with the Minnesota Public Radio and American Public Media. The quartet has performed in venues around the world.

According to her mother, Jennifer Bodner, the group named itself after Dorothy Parker, American poet and satirist and founding member of the Algonquin Roundtable in the 1920s.



Jessica Bodner, left, Karen Kim and Daniel Chong of the Parker Quartet won the GRAMMY® for Best Chamber Music Performance for Ligeti String Quartets Nos. 1 and 2.

Photo by Mario Anzuino/Reuters



# HSPVA Friends Fund for the Future

## 2010-2011

**HSPVA FRIENDS** supports a wide array of needs at **HSPVA**. Over the past ten years, **HSPVA FRIENDS** and the **HSPVA** Office of Development have generated almost 7 million dollars to assist the school with a variety of projects including:

- Electronic marquee for front of school
- Theatre sound and lighting equipment
- Computers, art supplies, and specialized equipment
- Support for school radio station equipment
- Alumni art exhibits and alumni relations
- Support for tours to Toronto, Boston, New York, and China
- Art publications, newsletters, and event mail-outs
- Summer arts workshops for underclassmen
- Annual college scholarships
- Master classes by professional artists
- Support for musical theatre productions
- The Office of Development to raise and coordinate private support
- Support for school and faculty participation in national programs
- Faculty seminar on art facility design and construction

*Our sincere thanks to the following individuals, corporations, and foundations that have provided support for the unique needs of Houston's internationally renowned **High School For The Performing And Visual Arts** from March 1, 2010 to our publication deadline, March 31, 2011.*

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**\$100,000 - \$400,000**

Ed and Birdie Dawley  
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     In memory of Betty Lewis  
 Rickey and Julie Campbell  
     For Doug Hattox History  
     Scholarship  
 John and Dorel Carter  
 Thomas and Mrs. Chiles  
     In honor of Kristen Chiles  
 Alicia B. Church  
 Mike Ciszek  
 Charles and Cathy Cole  
 Sarah L. Cook  
     In memory of Lanning Laing  
 Charlotte Cosgrove  
 Laura Daily  
 Sara Daniels  
     In honor of Scott Daniels  
 James and Andrea Davidson  
     In honor of Alyssa Davidson  
 Brenda Edmonds  
 Marc B. Edwards  
 James Fantz  
 Alan Feiveson  
 Geraldine Fawoo  
     In memory of Norma Lowder

*Continued on page 14*

## HSPVA Friends Fund for the Future *Continued*

Dr. Hilda A. Gentry  
Christian Gibson  
In memory of Doug Haddox  
Jan Glenn  
Sanjuanita Gonzales and Emmett Doherty  
Sandra Goodwin  
Jean Graham  
For Andrea Guenther Piano Fund  
Thomas Gray  
Rebecca Halpin  
In memory of Brian Christopher Hall  
Janet Harasim Worth  
In honor of Sonja M. Harasim  
Laura Harlow  
Kristina Holt  
In memory of Norma Lowder  
Susan Howison  
Carol Hunter  
Carolyn Hunter  
Richard Jenkins and Beth Alfredson  
Suzanne and Rix Jennings  
In memory of B. Chris Hall for Theater Fund  
Peter W. Johnston  
Mary Lynn Jones  
Travis P. King

David and Mindy Klein  
In honor of Julia and Laura Klein  
Michael Krebs  
In honor of Aileen Frost  
Jane L. Laping  
Ray and Carleen Laurentz  
In memory of Norma Lowder  
Cynthia Lavenda  
Amy Lawch  
In memory of Norma Lowder  
Greg and Kim Lesniewicz  
Leon and Beverly Levinson  
Susan Levy  
Morton and Carol Lipman  
Marcia Livingston  
In honor of Scott and Nikki Allen  
William Lovejoy  
In honor of Patrick D. Lovejoy  
Kristin Lucas  
Blanca E. Martinez  
Shirley McMillan  
Margie Medlin  
For Danny Frank Music Fund  
In honor of Hilda and Bobby Frank  
Irving Mermel  
Arthur and Mary Minas  
In honor of Nicholas Minas  
Catherine Mitchell  
In honor of Bryce Harper  
Robert Molloy

Dr. Robert Morgan  
In memory of Norma Lowder  
In honor of Rob Seible and Jason Moran  
Martin Morin  
Carole Nelson  
Lisa J. Noyes  
Paul and Sue Ofield  
Charles F. and Judy Oudin  
Jennifer and Rick Overton  
Benjamin and Elizabeth Pawlik  
Natalie Keyes Pfeifer  
Lawrence and Judy Pirtle  
John R. and Kathleen D. Pyper  
In honor of Deborah Pyper-Reynolds, Rebecca Pyper Busselberg  
Lisel Radoff  
Alexander and Christine Reeds  
David and Linda Renner  
In honor of Patrick Renner  
Lynn Reynolds  
Bradley D. Robertson  
Paul and Amy Roch  
Nancy Kay Rose  
Leonard Rosenberg  
Annabella and Vahe Sahakian  
For the Danny Frank Music Fund in honor of Bobby and Hilda Frank  
Lamelle Sartain

Mary Schulze  
Susan Schwaizberg  
In honor of Scott and Andrew Schwaizberg  
Cissy Segall Davis  
Maxine and Herman Silberstein  
In honor of Lu Anne Carter and the dance staff  
Julian Silverblatt  
In honor of Terri Brown  
Donna E. and Dean A. Smith  
Sylvia W. Strong  
J.T. Tepolt  
In memory of Melinda Lee Chattin  
Susanne Theis  
David Waddell  
Linda Wald  
Tandelyn Weaver  
Melanee and David Weiser  
Lewis E. Wilkenfeld  
Rebecca Willis  
Linda Woods Wilson  
Irv and Marcia Wishnow  
For the Danny Frank Music Fund  
In memory of Danny Frank  
Diana Young-Murray  
Zelda Zinn  
In honor of David Sheard  
George Zombakis and Julietta Ducote

## Over a Million Dollars in Scholarships for HSPVA

In 1979 a Houston philanthropic organization called Musicfest began holding a yearly gala to raise scholarship money for outstanding students in each of HSPVA's art areas. That started a long lasting and vigorous relationship benefiting the gifted seniors of Houston's respected arts school. To date, more than one million dollars in scholarships have been awarded to deserving students.

In 1997, Musicfest morphed into what is now today HSPVA Friends, a nonprofit organization whose mission has expanded well beyond the initial once-yearly support of scholarships for graduating seniors. In recent years HSPVA Friends has raised almost seven million to support a wide variety of programs and projects that serve all HSPVA students from the Greater Houston area. However, a broad range and growing list of scholarships and memorial funds still remain at the core of its support. Donations toward specific endowed scholarships, memorial funds, and art disciplines are most welcome and may be sent to HSPVA Friends.

### Among the scholarships given this year are:

Dawley College Scholarship (\$4000)  
Dawley Summer Arts Scholarships in Music, Dance, Theatre, and Visual Arts (five at \$1000 each)  
DiSuvero Sculpture Scholarship (\$1000)  
Danny Frank Music Fund (on-going support of guest artists and master classes)  
The John E. Guida Foundation (\$5000 summer music workshop)  
Andrea Guenther Piano Studies Scholarship (\$2000)  
Mozart Hammond Scholarships in Piano and Voice (\$1000)  
Mary Martha Lappe Dance Scholarship (\$1000)  
Amanda May Musical Theatre Scholarship (\$1000)  
Jason Moran Jazz Scholarships (\$1000 and \$500)  
Immanuel and Helen B. Olshan Summer Arts Workshop Scholarships in Music and Dance (\$500 each)  
Bob Ostrum Jazz Scholarship (\$1000)  
Sermonjoy Theatre Scholarships (two at \$2000 - renewable for four years)  
Bob Singleton Theatre Education Scholarship (\$1000 for graduate students)  
Rachel Speight Vocal Music Scholarship (\$2000)



# HSPVA FRIENDS

SUPPORTING A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

## epiphany

### Magazine

An art-literary-news publication produced by HSPVA Friends to showcase the artistic achievements of artists from the Greater Houston Area

**Editorial Staff:** Rhoda Ferris, Sandra Goodwin, Betty Alice Key, Mary Martha Lappe, Susan Marblestone, Mary Jane Orsburn, Kathryn Priest, and Bob Singleton

**Designer:** Janie Alderman

**HSPVA Friends** is a private, nonprofit organization comprised of prominent Houstonians whose aim is to encourage, inspire, support, and celebrate excellence in the arts and in education. The organization has supported a myriad of projects which address the needs of young artists, not only for the 650 students at Houston's famous HSPVA, but also for elementary school, middle school and high school students from up to ten counties in the Gulf Coast Area. In recent years, HSPVA FRIENDS has raised almost seven million dollars in private funds for art supplies and equipment, musical instruments, college art scholarships, master classes and lectures by professional guest artists, art exhibits, ballet shoes, summer arts workshops, private music lessons, and art publications.

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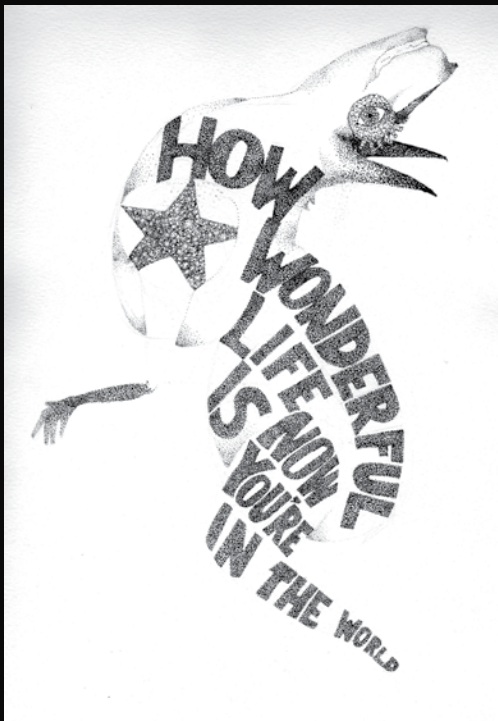
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by Gray  
Crawford,  
12th grade,  
Visual Arts



**"Untitled 2"**  
by Lauren  
Kramer,  
12th grade,  
Visual Arts



**"Untitled"**  
by John Owens,  
12th grade,  
Visual Arts

