

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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features@record-eagle.com

FUNDRAISER

The moon gets its musical due

Big band will perform themed songs for Generations Gala

By MARTA HEPLER DRAHOS
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TRAVERSE CITY — “Moon River.” “Moon Dance.” “Fly Me to the Moon.”

If a song has a “moon” in it, the Bay Area Big Band All-Stars likely will play it at the Moonlight on the Bay Generations Gala. The Grand Traverse Pavilions Foundation fundraiser comes full circle this year when it returns to the big band music theme it started with 10 years ago.

“It’s music that’s uplifting,” said

Chris Bickley, founder and director of the Bay Area Big Band, which features vocalist Miriam Pico. “When things were uncertain, it brought a sense of peace and unity, and people remember that.”

This year’s gala is Saturday from 6-10 p.m. at the Hagerty Center. Its big band music — and the opportunity to dance to it — already have attracted more than 200 attendees and record corporate donations of over \$42,500, said Grand Traverse Pavilions development and marketing coordinator Patti D’Agostino.

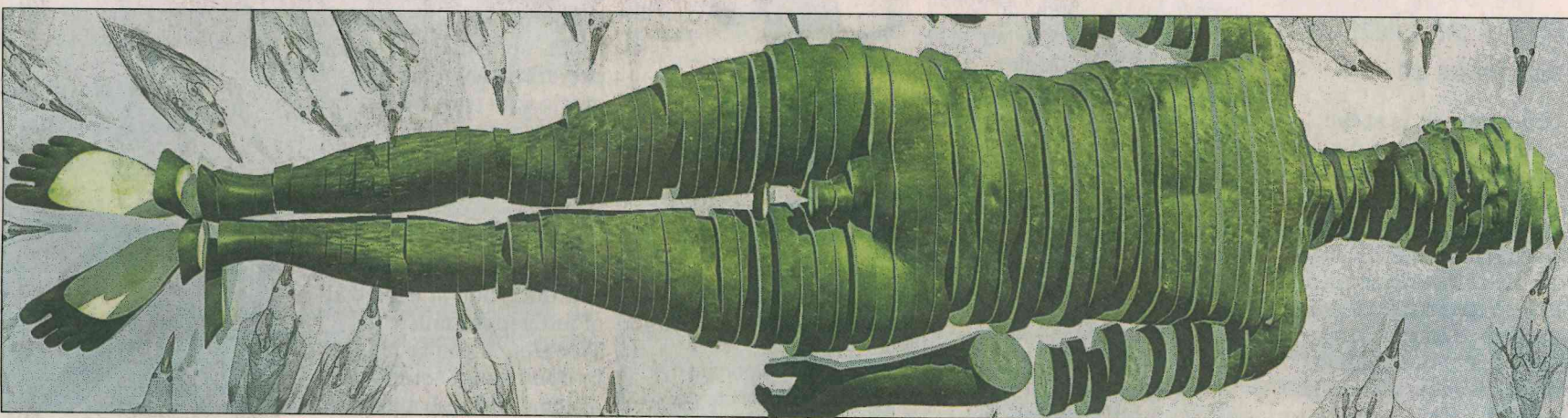
Guests can nibble on hors d’oeuvres like brie en phyllo and smoked whitefish canapes, and

SEE BAND PAGE 2C



Special to the Record-Eagle
Vocalist Miriam Pico and guitarist Phil Tarzon perform with the Bay Area Big Band at the Grand Traverse Pavilions. Pico and the band’s All-Stars will headline the Moonlight on the Bay Generations Gala, a fundraiser for the Grand Traverse Pavilions Foundation, Saturday at the Hagerty Center.

Dennos Museum Center



Special to the Record-Eagle

A computer animation still from “Microcosm” by Chinese new media artist Miao Xiaochun. The image is based on Hieronymus Bosch’s Garden of Earthly Delights, with Xiaochun standing in for the original figure.

CHANGING CHINA

Exhibition showcases a new country through new media



Special to the Record-Eagle

The Chinese-Mongolian folk-rock group Hanggai performs its contemporary interpretation of traditional music Saturday at the Dennos Museum Center.

TRAVERSE CITY — Another Chinese revolution is under way — only this one involves art instead of social rebellion or political conflict.

“The art world in China has gone through a major revolution in the media and subject matter presented by emerging artists,” said Dennos Museum Center Director Gene Jenneman, who made several forays to China in recent years. “It’s fascinating to see how artists there are combining their experience with Western art and bringing their own interpretation to it and at the same time

exploring new media and different expressions.”

Local audiences can get a look at what’s happening on the Chinese art front when the Dennos presents its first major solo exhibition by one of Beijing’s most influential contemporary artists, along with a concert by one of the capital city’s most popular contemporary performing groups.

The exhibition of new media works by artist Miao Xiaochun will open Saturday at 7 p.m., followed by a concert of Mongolian folk-rock music by Hanggai at 8 p.m.

SEE CHINESE PAGE 2C

By MARTA HEPLER DRAHOS

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CHINESE

Artist Miao Xiaochun exhibit opens at Dennos

FROM PAGE 1C

Xiaochun, 48, is at the forefront of new media. He has exhibited his photographic and 3D animation works in Australia, New Zealand and Europe, most notably at The Museum of Modern Art in New York and Venice Biennale, the most prestigious contemporary visual arts show in the world. He is a graduate of the Kunsthochschule Kassel about 200 miles west of Berlin and a professor of photography and digital media at the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing.

"When he applied for art school in China he was turned down because he was considered too much of a dreamer," said Jenneman, who visited the artist's Beijing studio in 2011. "So he goes off to Germany and that's where he was exposed to Western art and museums."

Xiaochun's most recent work involves taking Renaissance paintings by artists like Hieronymus Bosch (The Garden of Earthly Delights) and Michelangelo (Last Judgement), developing them into computer models and reinterpreting them in different ways — using himself as a stand-in for the original figures in the paintings and using computer animation as a means of artistic expression.

Jenneman said he first saw digital video projections of Xiaochun's works in 2010 at the contemporary Today Art Museum in Beijing and was struck by their size and creative scope.

"They were really quite stunning and very different than other things I was seeing. One of my interests, in bringing exhibitions here, is how computers and digitization are changing expression. It sort of brought that statement of a Chinese artist breaking out of a traditional Chinese art and imagery and using new media to make those statements as an artist," Jenneman said. "If you're a computer gaming person, a kid, you're going to be looking at his work differently because a lot of it looks like it could have come out of a computer game. And if

Sketches, sculptures exhibit

TRAVERSE CITY — The iconic imagery of one of the 20th century's most prominent Michigan sculptors is coming to the Dennos Museum Center.

"Sketches to Sculptures, Rendered Reality: Sixty Years with Marshall M. Fredericks" opens Sept. 30 and runs through Jan. 6. It features 30 small sculptures that became public outdoor pieces, like the "Spirit of Detroit" and the Cleveland War Memorial Fountain known as "The Fountain of Eternal Life." The exhibition also includes related drawings and sketches that showcase the creative process of Fredericks both as a designer and sculptor.

"What you're seeing in this exhibit is how he thinks, how he develops his pieces around their settings," said Dennos Museum Center Director Gene Jenneman.

Fredericks taught at the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills from 1932 until he enlisted in the armed forces in 1942. Following his discharge he began his



Marshall M. Fredericks' Spirit of Detroit.

long career as a designer and sculptor of public monuments with studios in Royal Oak and Bloomfield Hills. In northern Michigan he is best known for his Cross in the Woods in Indian River and his Two Bears in front of Corson Auditorium at the Interlochen Center for the Arts.

Fredericks died in 1998 and the contents of his studios were donated to the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum on the campus of Saginaw Valley State University. The Dennos exhibition was organized from those collections.

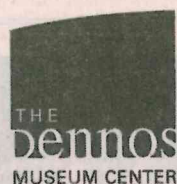
— Marta Hepler Drahos

you're a highbrow intellectual type you're going to be trying to figure out what he's saying."

The Dennos exhibition will consist of digital video projections of four of Xiaochun's works. The largest will use three projectors

and is expected to be 40 feet wide.

The exhibition will run through Feb. 9. Xiaochun will be in residence at the museum Nov. 10-14, where he'll give a public lecture and present programs for schools, in collaboration



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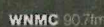
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with the Confucius Institute at the University of Michigan.

Exhibition opener Hanggai is a group of musicians who left the punk rock clubs of Beijing to re-discover their roots in Inner Mongolia. Now they perform Mongolian folk music with traditional and western instruments combined with raspy deep throat singing and a loosely rock-based structure.

"The music is very accessible," said Jenneman, who saw the group at a festival of indigenous music in Toronto. "If you're frayed by (the twangy sound) of traditional Chinese music, this is nothing like that. This is more like Celtic drinking-song music. In fact, one of their big hits in China is their drinking song."

Tickets are \$25 in advance at www.dennosmuseum.org or (231) 995-1553, and \$28 at the door.



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