

Wintergreen Performing Arts
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Wintergreen Summer Music Festival Adds Good Tastes to Orchestral Feast

For immediate release

Wintergreen, VA – What do a French chef, a Spanish Ambassador’s wife, and the owner of Staunton Grocery have in common? They’ll all be part of the expanded Wintergreen Summer Music Festival to be held July 7- August 3, 2008 at Wintergreen Resort in Wintergreen, VA.

Enhancing the musical and cultural explorations of “Old World, New World - Spain, France, Italy and the Americas - A Journey of Discovery,” will be a menu of cooking classes and wine tastings guaranteed to bring out the flavor of the extensive musical feast offered at this year’s festival. Each week during the four-week festival, cooking classes will be offered on Tuesday and Thursday afternoon from 2:00-4:00 pm and wine tastings on Saturdays from 3:30-5:00 pm.

Ludmila Arias, wife of Ambassador Inocencio F. Arias, will lead off the creative cuisine with the succulence of Spain. Mark Gresge, owner and chef of *l’Etoile* restaurant in Charlottesville, VA, will entice his audience with a palate of French delicacies, and the intricacies of Italian cooking will be revealed by Melissa Close, Executive Chef, *Palladio Restaurant*, Barbourville Vineyards in Barbourville, VA. Closer to home, *Staunton Grocery* owner and chef, Ian Boden, will remind us of our roots through the food of The Americas. And what would be a culinary “Journey of Discovery” without wine? The Saturday tastings will explore wines that are appropriate to the international theme of the week.

Cooking class attendance is limited and costs \$25 per class. Reservations for each class are available by calling (434) 325-8292. Wine tasters must be 21 or older to participate and the cost is \$10 per person. Further information and a complete schedule of the 150 festival events can be found at www.wintergreenperformingarts.org.

Located in Virginia’s Blue Ridge Mountains, Wintergreen Performing Arts, Inc.(WPAI), under the Artistic and Executive direction of Larry Alan Smith, is a non-profit organization that produces a high-quality summer music festival featuring symphonic and chamber concerts, as well as other performing arts programs throughout the year. Education is a major part of the organization’s mission, reflected both in the Wintergreen Summer Music Academy and in outreach programs for those living in the surrounding area. By attracting first-rate musicians to participate as performers and educators, WPAI strives to enrich the lives of all—residents and visitors alike—who share the unique Wintergreen experience.

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