



IMAGE COURTESY HOLYOKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

F. Scott Fitzgerald's iconic novel "The Great Gatsby" comes to the stage at Holyoke Community College on April 11-13, with backing by a jazz ensemble.

ARTS BRIEFS FROM B1

play his compositions from 6 to 7 p.m. at A.P.E.

At 33 Hawley, meantime, art from two exhibits will be on view: "Off the Walls," collected works by Valley muralists, and "Revelry at 33," a group show of over 30 local artists.

In addition, fiddler Lily Sexton, who's known for her work with local bluegrass favorites Mamma's Marmalade, will provide free music at the community arts center.

The smash hit of 1590

FLORENCE — Arcadia Players, the Valley ensemble that specializes in historically informed performances of Renaissance and early classical music, will be at the Bombyx Center for Arts & Equity April 14 to play compositions inspired by a popular and controversial drama of the late 16th century.

Giovanni Guarini's 1590 play "Il Pastor Fido" (The Faithful Shepherd) was a pastoral tragicomedy set in, well, Arcadia, with a narrative involving two star-crossed lovers: a shepherd and a nymph. The play in turn inspired musical works by many composers over the years.

Arcadia Players, led by artistic director Andrew Arceci, will present a related program including madrigals, a cantata by Bononcini, instrumental works by Van Eyck and Chedeville, and music from an opera by Handel.

The performance, at 4 p.m., also features mezzo-soprano Christina English, recorder virtuoso Aldo Abreu, and Cantabile Vocal Ensemble.

Tickets are \$35 at the door or online at arcadiaplayers.org; it's \$10 for student with a valid ID.

The Roaring Twenties at HCC

HOLYOKE — F. Scott Fitzgerald's iconic novel "The Great Gatsby" comes to the stage at Holyoke Community College this weekend in a student production that's boosted by a five-piece jazz band as part of the ensemble cast.

That live soundtrack provides an additional element to Fitzgerald's tragic tale of the mysterious, *nouveau riche* Jay Gatsby and his pursuit of love with the beautiful but unattainable Daisy Buchanan.

This theatrical version of "The Great Gatsby," which plays at the Leslie Phillips Theater April 11-13 at 7:30 p.m. and at 2 p.m. on April 13, was written in 2006 by playwright Simon Levy, according to HCC Theater Professor Patricia Sandoval.

"It's well written, it was approved by the Fitzgerald estate, and it uses a lot of Fitzgerald's language in it," Sandoval, the play's director, said in a state-

ment.

Sandoval said she also liked that Levy's stage directions include music, but that the cues don't call for specific songs or even that the music be live. That enabled Sandoval, choreographer Tiffany Joseph, and guitarist and HCC Music Professor Bob Ferrier, the play's musical director and band leader, to choose the songs.

Renowned poet wins further honors

AMHERST — Poet, essayist, and National Book Award winner Martin Espada, a professor of English at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, is one of four recipients of this year's Governor's Awards in the Humanities, which recognize significant contributions to civic and social life in the commonwealth.

The awards, made in partnership by Mass Humanities, the Northampton nonprofit organization, and Governor Maura Healey, will be presented Sept. 26 at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston.

Espada, who has published over 20 books, including some as a translator, has won numerous other honors for his work, including the Shelley Memorial Award, the Robert Creeley Award, an Academy of American Poets Fellowship, and a Guggenheim Fellowship. He was also a Pulitzer Prize finalist.



MARTÍN ESPADA

In his work, Espada, who lives in Shelburne Falls, has focused on using writing and storytelling to address

pressing issues and reclaim historical narratives, including those of the Puerto Rican community in Massachusetts.

Also winning Governor's Awards in the Humanities are Jackie Jenkins-Scott, a Boston-area leader in higher education and public health; Bob Rivers, CEO of Eastern Bank in Boston, who's been recognized for philanthropy and contributions to the humanities and social justice; and Cheryll Toney Holley of Worcester, a researcher, writer, and speaker specializing in the histories of African American and Indigenous peoples of New England.

"These individuals reflect the incredible ecosystem of the humanities in Massachusetts," Brian Boyles, executive director of Mass Humanities, said in a statement. "Our world is better due to their creative genius and commitment to serving our communities."

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