

PALM CITY/TESORO
YOUR VOICE
YourVoiceWeekly.com
NEWS & VIEWS

VOL. 3/ISSUE 43

YOUR INDEPENDENT LOCAL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 2015

Artists hold auditions for a cause



Photo by Steven Martine Photography

Mikaela Danchenko, a singer with Artists for a Cause, performs at a SafeSpace event. Artists for a Cause, a Palm City-based non-profit that helps visual and performing artists use their talents to help their community, will hold auditions for the first time Sept. 1-2.

Shelley Koppel

STAFF WRITER

skoppel@YourVoiceWeekly.com

PALM CITY — For the first time, Artists for a Cause will hold auditions for performing artists who want to be considered for special performance opportunities. The auditions will take place Sept. 1-2 at 6 p.m. at the South Fork High School auditorium.

Artists for a Cause, or A4aC, is a Palm City-based national organization founded by award-winning countertenor Terry Barber. It offers programs and services that support the community through the arts. The group sponsors the successful Dance for Food campaign, therapeutic arts programs and programs in area schools. The A4aC clubs encourage young people to get involved in the community through art and charitable endeavors that allow artists and nonprofits to work together for the benefit of all.

Terry Barber spoke about why they are holding auditions for the first time.

"It's because of the growth of the organization," he said. "There are more artists involved at every level: volunteer, student and professional. We're flinging the doors open. That way, when we come to each program, we can say who's ready and when we get a call, have

See ARTISTS page 22

ARTISTS from page 21

a list of who's been vetted."

Artists will be assigned a five-minute audition spot. Instrumentalists and singers should be prepared to perform two unaccompanied 16-bar selections or one selection of up to 32 bars. Artists with other performing arts skills should prepare one minute of material. Video submissions will also be accepted.

"Some people can submit videos if they're unavailable or if they have one that captures them," Barber said. "We've sent the word out to teacher sponsors for student clubs, band directors and all the high schools in Martin County. It will be for us to sift through and find people

ready for special opportunities."

Barber noted that while students are already involved, there are new ones coming in and some who were not ready before.

"They're just now ready at a different level," he said. "We're inviting people to be heard. Some people will be auditioning for Singing with the Stars, our chief fundraiser, which will take place Feb. 27 at StarStruck. We hope to hear from some local professionals who haven't been part of the program. It's a paid opportunity to mentor the amateur artists, who will also be auditioning."

Being paid is an important A4aC principle. Professional artists are never asked to donate their work

because it is their livelihood. The goal is to use the arts as a solution to problems in the community while helping artists earn a living.

A past member of the Grammy-winning ensemble Chanticleer, Barber has performed at the Metropolitan Opera House, Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center. He always has a busy schedule, including his Classical for Everyone program in the schools. Last year, he performed the program for 10,000 kids in the United States and Canada.

He and artistic director Anna Preston are also shepherding the 2015 Dance for Food program, which will be presented in Martin County Nov. 15 at Martin County High School and Nov. 22 at the

Kane Center. The event brings together many talented contemporary dancers and the only admission fee is a bag of unexpired, nonperishable goods.

Barber also will be recording with famed opera star Denyce Graves. The two will be collaborating on a Christmas duet.

Still, Artists for a Cause remains an important focus.

"We're continuing to grow," he said. "There are more people in every program and more services than we had last year."

To learn more about Artists for a Cause, or to register for the auditions, please visit the website www.a4ac.org, call (772) 419-8778 or email megan@a4ac.org.