FEBRUARY 2021 – CULTURAL ARTS COMMITTEE REPORT

This is obviously a very “different” school year for the Cultural Arts Committee, since no Cultural Arts Showcases were held this year, and the pandemic has curtailed things such as school assemblies and workshops! However, I have been trying since early fall to find out whatever I could about artists who might be available for “virtual” performances. Doing school shows or workshops in this way is totally new for most of our performers; some are ready and available now, some are still trying to work out what they can do online. Here is what I have learned from speaking with the Superintendent’s Committee for Performances in MCPS, and also with the arts organization, Artivate:

If schools are interested in learning about what artists listed in the MCPS Performing Arts Catalogue may be able to do for them virtually, it is best to contact them directly, since it varies for each one.  Their contact information is in last year’s catalogue:

[**www.mccpta-epi.org/blog/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/0399.20\_Performing-Arts-Catalog-2019.pdf**](http://www.mccpta-epi.org/blog/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/0399.20_Performing-Arts-Catalog-2019.pdf)

Many of the performers who are listed in the MCPS Performing Arts Catalogue work under the auspices of "Artivate", a non-profit arts organization in Silver Spring.  Their outreach coordinator, Diana Schenck, says that most of their artists have been able to make at least some virtual options available, and she encourages school and PTA contacts to get in touch with her to explore options.  Her email is: **diana@goartivate.org**   She says that Artivate does not have a set "menu" of virtual options, but they have a general statement on their website.  See:  [**https://www.goartivate.org/schoolcommunityoutreach/**](https://www.goartivate.org/schoolcommunityoutreach/)   Each artist who can offer a virtual program has a brief statement on their own page on the Artivate website.  See "Programs" tab, at the top.

In November I sent out a message to the schools asking who was interested in having "virtual" performances by the artists who are available for Cultural Arts programming.  Only about a dozen schools replied, but all of those were a “yes”, and a few had already succeeded in making this happen for their students.

Any schools that would like to communicate with each other about what sort of performances they are arranging, or have questions for other schools on this topic, are urged to have parents and/or staff members join the MCCPTA Cultural Arts E-list. To sign up, go to:

**Cultural-arts+subscribe@mccpta.groups.io**

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