

Solace The Art of Asking the Beautiful Question



Poet, Author, Lecturer
David Whyte

GLADDENING LIGHT SYMPOSIUM 2016

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Using his own and other's poetry, **David Whyte** brings the understandings of the poetic tradition to bear on the fruitful discipline of first finding, then asking, ever keener and more beautiful questions; questions that do not produce easy answers but which help us to re-imagine ourselves and reshape our identities as we grow and mature.

Joining David are the Irish a cappella duo
Owen and Moley Ó Súilleabháin.

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David Whyte Photo Credit: Scott Garen

Another GladdeningLight Trip

from LETTER BOX
the editor

In Praise of Patronage

Happy new year to all! I began working on this magazine in 1998 shortly after my third child was born. Over the years I've been amazed at the growth of not only the sophistication in local programming, but also in the business savvy of those who lead the various arts organizations. Although a few groups are experiencing a changing of the guard, our community continues to rally around the importance of all art forms and even embrace a few new ones. It's a new year, a new time and a new plan for many. Although change is constant, many things remain the same. We have always been grateful for the generosity of those that support the importance of culture in our community. It is vital to the health of our economy, as well as to our spirits.

Community support dates back to the Greeks who founded theater. They relied on financially established citizens to sponsor plays by paying a tax called the *choregia*. And just like Pisistratus, the tyrant who established the "City Dionysia" to enhance his own popularity, many of these wealthy patrons hoped that the success of the play they sponsored would provide them with a way into politics. We are fortunate that most art donors today contribute because they value the importance of the art form, not because they want to run for office. The arts would not exist without the patronage of all that give. Nationally, charitable giving to cultural organizations hit a record high in 2014, which is somewhat surprising since many are still recovering from the recession. Americans gave \$358.38 billion in 2014. This reflects a 7.1 percent increase.

As we begin 2016 with community favorites such as the Bach Festival and the Zora Neale Hurston Festival of the Arts, please consider a gift to your favorite arts organization. Time, talent or treasure is always appreciated. The arts color our community, our world and enhance our quality of life. Let's pause and celebrate the talent that surrounds us. Cheers!

Cindy Bowman LaFronz
Editor
Orlando Arts Magazine



PHELAN M. EBENHACK