MESSAGE from the Editors

This issue of Aurora Creates focuses on the Aurora Cultural Arts District (ACAD) with a “pull-out” section where you’ll be able to learn about most of the arts organizations that operate there.

A challenge every developing arts district faces is how to attract visual artists because they have the ability to live and work in the same space thereby creating economic activity both by attracting consumers and through their own local spending. To that end, the country’s foremost artist live/work spaces consultants, ArtSpace, was invited to Aurora and asked to prepare a preliminary feasibility report. Following are some excerpts.

“We heard repeatedly that artists need affordable studio/working, display and shared creative spaces. Though artists and arts activities abound in Aurora, at this time, there is nothing that ‘screams’ arts in the arts district. The dominance of performing arts spaces brings plenty of arts activity during event and performance times, but leaves the district quiet during the day.

The city of Aurora is well positioned to pursue an affordable live/work mixed-use facility for artists and creatives in the region. The impressive public art program brings visibility to the visual arts and a potential signage project will add to the cohesiveness and sense of arrival to the district. More 24/7 activity with more creative people working and living there will catalyze economic development and create a sense of place that attracts other professionals seeking an urban lifestyle.”

What do you think? Let us know at cultural@auroragov.org.

DO YOU Cover photos: Clockwise, Actor Jake Mendes in The Aurora Fox production of “Hedwing and the Angry Inch;” Deepali Lindblom, artistic director of Roshni; renowned drummer Paa Kow; student with Nueva Escuela de Música.

October is National Arts & Humanities Month, a national recognition of the importance of culture in America. NAHM was launched by Americans for the Arts more than 30 years ago to 1) focus on the arts at local, state and national levels; 2) encourage individuals and organizations to participate in the arts; 3) allow governments and businesses to show their support of the arts; and 4) raise public awareness about the role the arts and humanities play in our communities and lives.

We would like to add a fifth goal: thanking those in our community who understand the value of arts and culture and work to ensure their survival and growth through donations of their time and money.

The city of Aurora probably has thousands of such people who show their love and support for arts and culture every day. In particular, however, the Cultural Services Division would like to thank the members of the four Aurora City Council-appointed boards and commissions who are our best ambassadors and advocates: the Art in Public Places Commission, the Aurora Cultural Affairs Commission, the Aurora Fox Arts Center Board and the Aurora Historic Preservation Commission. We also want to thank the members of the Aurora Museum Foundation, a nonprofit organization whose members support the work of the Aurora History Museum and city leaders.

We recently heard a story about a mother and her 1 year old in a stroller at the Stanley Arts Festival. The mother paused the stroller in front of a work of art and allowed her child a good amount of time to really “take in” the whole experience. As the mother repeated this process with a few different works of art—each time allowing the child sufficient time to thoroughly engage with the piece—the observer (an artist herself) became enchanted as she watched the child’s expressions change with each new work, revealing her unique understanding of the art.

Do you have a parent, teacher or someone else in your life who helped you develop your love for arts and culture? If, yes, why not thank them this October? If, no, why not be that person?
Classical guitarist Peter Fletcher will perform Oct. 21 at the Aurora Central Library, 14495 E. Alameda Parkway. The recital is free and open to the public, but please reserve your spot at AuroraLibrary.org due to limited space. Fletcher, who as an artist, leans towards the passionate and romantic approach, is a frequent performer at Carnegie Hall.

AC: You have been playing since a young age. What inspired you in the beginning? Has the source of your inspiration changed over time?

PF: When I was 5, I just wanted to play. I was in love with the instrument. I began with the baritone uke and then began taking classical lessons when I was 7. When I had my first lesson with classical, I was deeply moved when I discovered that classical music could be played on the guitar.

Today, I still love the instrument, but I am more inspired by the repertoire that I play.

AC: How would you define your performing style? And what would you say is your core repertoire?

PF: In essence, I am more of a heart musician than a head musician. It took me a long time to figure this out. I love live performance, where there is a direct connection with the audience. My current CD, released in 2016, features mostly live recordings, and it is the one that I am most proud of. My repertoire runs the gamut from the Renaissance through to the 21st century. Right now, I am playing a lot of Bach as well as quite a lot of Spanish repertoire. I always try to include at least some modern music on the program; this year I will play the “Five Bagatelles” by William Walton.

AC: You have performed at Carnegie Hall for the last 10 years or so, one of the most prestigious venues in the world. Do you have any stories to share about performing there? Do you get nervous when you perform there or anywhere?

PF: Performing at Carnegie Hall is always a huge event, no matter who you are. In 2009, I had a guitar malfunction where one of the tuning gears on my guitar stripped, which would have prevented me from finishing the concert. Luckily, there were two students in the audience with guitars, and they were nice enough to let me borrow one! This concert was reviewed by Stage and Cinema.

I usually get a little nervous right before a performance, no matter where it is.

AC: Your performance in Aurora will be free of charge to the public. What’s your take on making the arts—in your case music—more accessible to all people regardless of their background or economic status?

PF: This concert will take place at the public library, and we are casting a wide net in order to offer this music to a wide audience. Some folks are not in a position to purchase a ticket, and this gives them an opportunity to hear classical guitar. Also, a free concert might encourage music lovers who have never heard classical guitar to attend and potentially increase the overall audience of the genre.

AC: Do you have a message you would like to share with those young music students developing a passion for the arts?

PF: Art is all about self-discovery. If you find something you really love, you should stick with it and try to improve. Try not to compare yourself with other artists, but rather pursue a commitment to personal excellence. Also, try to be realistic and honest with yourself.

AC: What should people expect from your performance in Aurora?

PF: The program I am presenting is audience friendly and has a wonderful arc. It’s extremely diverse, with Spanish music from the 17th and 18th centuries, some very profound works by J. S. Bach, the dazzling “Caprice No. 24” by Paganini, a famous concerto by Vivaldi, British music by William Walton, two of my transcriptions of Federico Mompou, the ever popular “Recuerdos de la Alhambra” and finally “Rumores de la Caleta,” which has got to be the most exciting Spanish piece ever played on guitar!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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| 04-06  | Quilt Sale                                                           | Thursday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
Friday, 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Saturday, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Aurora Center for Active Adults  
30 E. Del Mar Circle         |
| 05     | Opening Reception: “A Collection of Community: Creative Women of Aurora”  
Noon – 1 p.m.  
Aurora Municipal Center  
15151 Alameda Parkway  
Aspen Room, 2nd floor  
RSVP to cbanuelo@auroragov.org |
| 06-07  | Aurora Singers Presents “Another Opening”  
Saturday, 7 p.m.  
Sunday, 2 p.m. $  
East Middle School  
1275 Fraser St.          |
| 12     | Aurora Artists Guild Visiting Artist Lecture Series:  
Jo Ann Nelson  
7 p.m.  
Community College of Aurora, Fine Arts Building |
| 17     | Lecture: Women in the Military  
Noon – 12:45 p.m. $  
Aurora History Museum          |
| 18     | Aurora Artists Guild Visiting Artist Lecture Series:  
Julia Rymer and Jessica Loving Campos  
2 – 4 p.m.  
Community College of Aurora, Fine Arts Building |
| 19-20  | Aurora Fox Cabaret Series: Jake Mendes  
7:30 p.m. $  
Aurora Fox Studio Theatre |
| 21     | Classical Guitar Concert with Peter Fletcher  
4 p.m.  
Aurora Central Library  
Reservation is required at AurorLibrary.org |
| 22     | “Act V Radio Hour”  
7 p.m.  
The Wit Theatre Company  
The People's Building |
| 24     | Communication Word Jam: Poetry Slam!  
5:30 p.m.  
Community College of Aurora, Fine Arts Building |
| 26     | Aurora Artists Guild Broadway Cabaret  
7 p.m.  
Community College of Aurora, Fine Arts Building |
| 27     | Aurora Symphony Orchestra: “All Things Gershwin!”  
Saturday, 7:30 p.m  
Sunday, 3 p.m. $  
Aurora Fox Arts Center |
| 27-28  | Aurora Artists Guild Visiting Artist Lecture Series:  
Julia Rymer and Jessica Loving Campos  
2 – 4 p.m.  
Community College of Aurora, Fine Arts Building |
| 28     | Season Preview and Gala  
6:30 p.m. $  
Denver Art Song Project  
The People’s Building |
| 29     | “Killer Wigs From Outer Space”  
The Denver Actors Fund Benefit  
7:30 p.m. $  
Aurora Fox Arts Center  
Denver Dramatists Guild Discussion  
6 p.m.  
The People’s Building |

**Creative Women of Aurora**

**Jake Mendes**

**Ukulele and Hula Lessons**

1:30 – 3:30 p.m.  
Aurora History Museum
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td><strong>Día de Los Muertos in Aurora</strong>&lt;br&gt;3:30 – 7:30 p.m.&lt;br&gt;The People’s Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>Opening Night: <strong>“Snapshot”</strong>&lt;br&gt;7:30 p.m. $&lt;br&gt;Community College of Aurora, Larry D. Carter Theater</td>
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<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td><strong>Aurora Potters’ Guild Pottery Sale</strong>&lt;br&gt;Friday, noon – 8 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.&lt;br&gt;Ecotech Institute 1400 S. Abilene St.</td>
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<td>03</td>
<td><strong>Parol Lantern Making Workshop</strong>&lt;br&gt;9 a.m. – noon $&lt;br&gt;Aurora History Museum</td>
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<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td><strong>“Día de Los Muertos” (A Musical Play)</strong>&lt;br&gt;7 p.m. $&lt;br&gt;The People’s Building</td>
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<td>07</td>
<td><strong>“Native American Heritage Month and Día de los Muertos Celebration” with Rose Red Elk, Rita Wallace and Huitzilopochtli Aztec Dancers Noon</strong>&lt;br&gt;Presented by Metropolitan State University of Denver and the Colorado Folks Arts Council. Dancers will be joined by Aurora Fox Arts Center</td>
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<td>09</td>
<td><strong>Aurora Fox Cabaret Series: Anna High</strong>&lt;br&gt;Aurora Fox Studio Theatre</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td><strong>Flight of Fancy</strong>&lt;br&gt;2 p.m. $&lt;br&gt;Free mask workshop&lt;br&gt;Noon&lt;br&gt;The People’s Building</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td><strong>Lecture: Peak to Peak Tap and Brew</strong>&lt;br&gt;Noon – 12:45 p.m. $&lt;br&gt;Aurora History Museum</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Opera on Tap</strong>&lt;br&gt;6 p.m. $&lt;br&gt;The People’s Building</td>
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<td>16-17</td>
<td><strong>“Angela Delfini Explains It All To You”</strong>&lt;br&gt;7 p.m. $&lt;br&gt;The People’s Building</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td><strong>Student Concert</strong>&lt;br&gt;7 p.m.&lt;br&gt;Community College of Aurora, Larry D. Carter Theater</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td><strong>Ukulele and Hula Lessons</strong>&lt;br&gt;1:30 – 3:30 p.m.&lt;br&gt;Aurora History Museum&lt;br&gt;<strong>Free physical theatre workshop</strong>&lt;br&gt;2 p.m.&lt;br&gt;The People’s Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td><strong>Opening Night: “The Second City Twist Your Dickens”</strong>&lt;br&gt;7:30 p.m. $&lt;br&gt;Aurora Fox Arts Center</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Opening Night: “Mary Poppins”</strong>&lt;br&gt;7:30 p.m. $&lt;br&gt;Vintage Theatre</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td><strong>“Rock da Mic” Youth Talent Showcase</strong>&lt;br&gt;7 p.m. $&lt;br&gt;Free for participants&lt;br&gt;The People’s Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td><strong>Student Music Recital</strong>&lt;br&gt;7 p.m.&lt;br&gt;Community College of Aurora, Larry D. Carter Theater</td>
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**ongoing**

- **“Songs for a New World”**<br>Aurora Fox Arts Center Through Oct. 14 $ |
- **“1968: A Fifty-Year Retrospective”**<br>Aurora History Museum Through Nov. 4 |
- **“A Mosaic of Cultures: Aurora’s Salvadoran Community”**<br>Aurora History Museum Through Nov. 4 |
- **“Evidence”**<br>DAVA Through Nov. 21 |
- **“A Collection of Community: Creative Women of Aurora”**<br>Aurora Municipal Center, 2nd Floor Oct. 2 – 31 |
- **Aurora Artists Guild’s 24th Annual Gateway to the Rockies Art Show**<br>Community College of Aurora, Fine Arts Building Oct. 3 – Nov. 2 |
- **“Boston Marriage”**<br>Vintage Theatre Oct. 5 – Nov. 11 $ |
- **“Drink Local: Aurora’s Craft Beer Scene”**<br>Aurora History Museum Nov. 6 – Dec. 7 |
- **“Mary Poppins”**<br>Vintage Theatre Nov. 23 – Jan. 6 $ |
- **“The Second City Twist Your Dickens”**<br>Aurora Fox Arts Center Nov. 23 – Dec. 23 $
On Aug. 27, the Aurora City Council unanimously approved the city’s 28th Historic Preservation Landmark. The newly designated local landmark, known as the McMillan House, is located at 1629 Galena St. The 1600 block of Galena Street is within Original Aurora, four square miles originally platted as Fletcher in 1890. This neighborhood is among the oldest in the city.

Built in 1912, the McMillan House meets three of the six landmark criteria for designation: its representation of Aurora’s residential growth, architectural significance and its link to John M. McMillan, a former Aurora mayor.

Aurora’s population tripled between 1900 and 1910, increasing demand for housing like the McMillan House. The house is also architecturally significant, melding Craftsman architecture with Queen Anne design elements, including its fish-scale siding.

Alongside other city landmarks such as the Milliken House, the Centennial House and the Robidoux House, the McMillan House is an excellent addition to the historic preservation roster present on Galena Street.

For details about the landmark nomination process and a complete listing of the city landmarks, call 303.739.6661 or visit AuroraGov.org/HistoricSites.

The People’s Building, 9995 E Colfax Ave., has been transformed into a community arts resource and soon the front façade will undergo its own transformation with the addition of a colorful and dynamic mural by internationally-acclaimed Colorado artist David Garcia.

Garcia brings his unique style, perspective and visual energy to this project. The mural depicts people engaged in a variety of art activities including poetry reading, dance, printmaking, pottery, music and theatre. It serves as an external reflection of those kinds of activities that might be taking place inside this exciting new community arts resource. His style is dramatic, gestural, colorful and very rich, offering much to contemplate and capture each time you come by the People’s Building. He has described his approach as “abstract imaginism,” which brings together certain aspects of abstraction with his own creativity and imagination.

For this project, Garcia will be hand cutting aluminum panels into specific shapes followed by studio work to complete the painting of the mural on the aluminum panels. The completed mural will be installed on the yellow tile surface of the south facing façade of the building. He hopes to have the work installed before the end of the year.

For more information or to sponsor a wreath, email info@auroramuseumfoundation.org or call 303.739.6660.

This festive annual fundraiser, organized by the Aurora Museum Foundation, supports the Aurora History Museum’s exhibits and programs. Wreaths are generously sponsored and decorated by local businesses, organizations and individuals and then sold through an online silent auction.

Wreaths must be picked up from the Aurora History Museum, 15051 E. Alameda Parkway, by Oct. 30. For more information or to sponsor a wreath, email info@auroramuseumfoundation.org or call 303.739.6660.
"SONGS" and "TWIST" for your fall theatre cravings

The Aurora Fox Arts Center kicked off its 34th season with Jason Robert Brown’s “Songs For a New World.” This moving song cycle gives the audience a glimpse into the lives of people on the verge of great change. From immigrants on a ship bound for a new land in 1492 to a person staring death in the face from a ledge 52 stories above Fifth Avenue, each song shares a story from a single moment in time.

“Songs for a New World” features four of the Aurora Fox’s favorite actors playing an array of characters as well as internationally recognized composer and lyricist David Nehls, who has re-orchestrated much of the piece’s music. Nehls joins forces with director and Aurora Fox Executive Producer Helen R. Murray to present a unique and powerful evening of laughter, reflection and beauty. “Songs for a New World” runs through Oct. 14.

If fast-paced comedy and madcap goofballery is more your speed, the Aurora Fox has the show for you! “Twist Your Dickens” by Second City alums and “Colbert Report” writers Bobby Mort and Peter Guinn will open on Black Friday (Nov. 23) and runs through Dec 23. Scrooge, Tiny Tim and those famous seasonal specters are presented as every performance changes based on the feedback from audience suggestions. From what decade you want a scene performed in to what sins may be found in Marley’s chains, this wild ride is in the audience’s hands. Happily, this roller coaster experience is being performed by some of Colorado’s most talented comedic actors. This irreverently funny new take on “A Christmas Carol” will be helmed by nationally known director, Matthew R. Wilson, and will have you rolling in the aisles. But be warned: this is not your grandmother’s “Christmas Carol” so leave the children at home, and treat yourself to a night of big laughs.

For tickets to both shows, visit AuroraFox.org.
The Cultural Services Division’s Education and Outreach Program is excited to offer a new group guitar class at Aurora Hills Middle School this fall taught by professional musician, David Freshman. This program is a partnership with Aurora Public Schools and the Aurora Office of Youth Development and is part of the COMPASS program, which provides after-school arts programming to several Title I Aurora Public Schools.

There are many benefits for children who participate in group music classes, for example, they improve academic skills. Music and math are highly intertwined. By understanding beat, rhythm and scales, children are learning how to divide, create fractions and recognize patterns.

Group music lessons help to develop physical skills. Playing an instrument helps children develop coordination and motor skills by requiring simultaneous movement of the hands, arms and feet and frequently demanding different actions from the right and left hands simultaneously.

Group music lessons cultivate social skills by requiring peer interaction and communication, which encourage teamwork, for example, as children collaborate to create a crescendo or an accelerando. It’s important for children to know and understand their individual part in a larger ensemble and to learn how to interact and problem-solve as part of a group.

Group music lessons refine discipline and patience. Learning an instrument teaches children about delayed gratification and teaches kids to persevere through hours, months and sometimes years of practice before they reach specific goals, such as performing with a band or memorizing a solo piece.

Group lessons, in which students learn to play the same instruments in an ensemble, also improve patience, as children must wait their turn to play individually.

Finally, group lessons provide a forum where children can build their self-esteem by learning to listen to their classmates play, showing (and receiving) their peers’ respect, and accepting and giving constructive criticism. Group lessons help children understand that nobody is perfect, and that everyone has room for improvement.

The Cultural Services Division would like to express its gratitude to the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District, which provided funding for the purchase of 12 new guitars; Children’s Services Desk at the Aurora Central Library; Melissa Christensen, Leroy Leonard, Brandi Patrick, Matt Wheatley and Jeff Wingo for donating guitars; and to Drake Brownfield and Jeff Wingo who volunteered to repair guitars.

To learn more about the arts education programs in Aurora, visit AuroraGov.org/Arts.

The seven featured artists are Dominique Bargaineer, Emilie Luckett, Terrilynn Moore, Eileen Roscina Richardson, Kim Waters, Corianne Wells and Satya Wimbish. The exhibition opens Tuesday, Oct. 2. The opening reception will take place from noon to 1 p.m., Friday, Oct. 5, in the Aspen Room on the 2nd floor of the Aurora Municipal Center.

Art in Public Places is now booking artists to exhibit for 2020. Please contact Carina for inquiries at cbanuelo@auroragov.org.

The Aurora Municipal Center 2nd floor Mezzanine Gallery, 15151 E. Alameda Parkway, will host seven Aurora women artists during the month of October with the exhibition “A Collection of Community: Creative Women of Aurora,” curated by Public Art Assistant Carina Bañuelos-Harrison.

There are numerous women artists working, teaching, studying and creating in the diverse community of Aurora. “As a female artist myself, curating this exhibition was an honor and an act of love,” said Bañuelos-Harrison.
Experience Arts and Culture in Aurora

City of Aurora Cultural Services Division
The largest single provider of arts and culture in the city of Aurora.

Aurora Dance Arts • Art Classes • Aurora Fox Arts Center • Aurora History Museum
Art in Public Places • Aurora Rhythms Summer Concerts • Bicentennial Art Center
Historic Sites • AuroraGov.org/Arts
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- Professional Modern Dance Company
  Original Choreography/Performances
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  Residencies, Lect/Dem Performances, Workshops
- Academy of KRD
  Ages 4-Adults, All Levels, Modern, Ballet, Jazz, Tap
  303-825-4847
  Info@KimRobardsDance.org

The Aurora Cultural Arts District encourages artistic and cultural creativity through advocacy, promoting programs and activities, supporting our multicultural urban communities, and providing opportunities for diverse expression. For more information please visit www.auroraculture.org

Instagram: @atownartists
Facebook: facebook.com/auroraculturalartsdistrict

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October-November 2018
**TINTY TOTS**

GET INSIDE THE ORCHESTRA AT TINY TOTS!

Geared towards kids 6 and under, Tiny Tots audiences get an up close and personal experience with a professional orchestra as they are surrounded on all sides by performers during this interactive and immersive 45-minute concert.

Performances October through July all around metro Denver and Boulder.

Scholarship and group discounted tickets are available upon request.

Find out more information and register online at:

insidetheorchestra.org

Inside the Orchestra is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

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**DAVA**

downtown aurora visual arts

Arts education programs for urban youth ages 3 to 17 in Original Aurora

- On-site art classes
- Art-based job training
- 21st century career
- building skills
- Gallery

DAVAarts.org

1405 Florence St.

303-367-5886
Encouraging and Promoting Ideals of Visual Fine Arts

The Aurora Artists Guild, founded in 1960, is a non-profit organization designed to foster and perpetuate the ideals of visual fine arts. Opportunities are provided to associate together, to realize the advantages and pleasures of art, to impress a sense of obligation for the arts; to maintain a state of constructive criticism and helpful advice; to instill a spirit of friendship and community loyalty; to receive, preserve, and display art for a greater knowledge and appreciation; to provide instruction and education through workshops and classes.

The AAG meets on the Second Monday of the month at The Garden Plaza, 14221 East Evans Avenue, Aurora, CO 80044 from 7-9 PM.

Contact: Aurora Artists Guild, PO Box 440457, Aurora, CO 80044 www.auroraartistsguild.com

Aurora Singers Presents:

The Nutcracker Ballet
Dec. 7-9

- Live music by the Aurora Symphony Orchestra
- Only 3 performances

Robert L. Troutman Theater, Aurora Central High School

Tickets: $15
AuroraSymphony.org

Aurora Potters’ Guild Pottery Sale

Friday, Nov. 2 • Noon - 8 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 3 • 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Ecotech Institute, 1400 S. Abilene St.

A portion of the sale is donated to a local charity.

The Aurora Potters’ Guild is an inclusive community of potters and ceramic artists. We encourage all clay enthusiasts to share their experiences and knowledge of clay with all members of the guild.

For information about joining the guild email us at aurorapottersguild@yahoo.com or at Facebook.com/AuroraPottersGuild