

Sunshine Coast arts scene

Babayaga, the group coming to the Arts Centre in Sechelt on Saturday, May 26, replaces the traditional and sometimes staid image of the string quartet with a new sound and a new look.

"We wanted to make a string quartet that feels like we're playing a club. It's more outgoing, more entertaining, more like a band," said violinist Claude Giguere. Babayaga is the realization of the dream of four classically trained musicians to take the string quartet in a new direction, expanding its appeal to a wider audience.

The four members of the group - Giguere and Paula Wise on violin, Marie-Claude Brunet on viola, and Kristel Armstrong on cello - are all active in Vancouver's classical music scene (The Vancouver Academy of Music, the Vancouver Opera Orchestra, the Vancouver Symphony, the CBC Vancouver Chamber Orchestra). Yet they have all sought challenges beyond the classical world, collectively striking out in new and exciting directions.

Their shared passion for jazz sparked the interest of composers in that field as well as those in pop and commercial circles. Together they have been developing a repertoire which transcends the boundaries of string quartet music.

As well, they have broken away visually from the traditional, classical mold with a new, modern and vibrant image. Eliminating the formal chairs, and attired in black spandex, Babayaga has discovered a new freedom to move and generate an upbeat and electric vitality.

If you like surprises, can enjoy having your expectations altered and are up for an entertaining evening, come to the Coffeehouse Concert May 26. Tickets are \$8 and can be purchased at the Arts Centre, Talewind Books, Books and Stuff, seaview Market and the Coast Bookstore.

The Young People's Own Show is in its last week at the Arts Centre, finishing May 20.

The pastel drawings of Natalie, Olivia and Evangeline Weatherill have received much comment for their precocity, the festive mask by Marcia Fromberg is as delicate and beautiful as any, and the pencil drawings of Yanya Lanauze-Wells demonstrate an ability which many older artists envy. These aren't just kids, they are artists with a future.

Arts Centre hours are 11 a.m. - 4

1-4 p.m. Sunday

1990

Gambier Island artist Gloria Masse believes that if the wilderness and wild things are to survive, we must be content to view them from afar or through pictures, to find out points of contact with them in our heads, our own ancient memories.

In her search for understanding of her subjects she has studied books, photographed skeletons and listened to recordings of wolves howling and barking.

The exhibition "Wild Flowers, Wild Wolves" will feature Masse's work at the Arts centre from May 23 to June 10. All are welcome to an exhibition preview and reception for the artist at 7 p.m. Monday, May 21.

From May 14-June 3 at the Hunter Gallery in lower Gibsons, Just Bowls

features work by members of the Coast Potter's Guild.

For about 17 years the guild has provided studio space, educational opportunities and inspiration to Sunshine Coast potters and clay artists at all levels. The guild also serves a broader community function by providing classes and limited studio use to a variety of groups from seniors to pre-schoolers.

Just Bowls presents only one facet of clay artistry - but one which depicts the exciting array of applications possible with this versatile medium. Works range from the traditionally functional to the unusual and sculptural.

The artists include Mary Glenn Charles, Elaine Futterman, Anne Gurney, Katie Janyk, Gale Woodhouse and a number of hitherto lesser-known guild members. The show opened Monday night with an informal reception at the Hunter Gallery.



GLORIA MASSE of Gambier Island will be exhibiting her artwork at the Arts Centre in Sechelt May 23 to June 10. An exhibition preview will be held May 21 at 7 pm at the Arts Centre. Everyone is welcome. See story above.