

La Gazette du Moulin à Nef

Number 4, May 2002

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

As the early morning spring light gently rises to illuminate the river, I hear birds twitter in low tones to neighbors close by. Today's beautiful weather in The Port will be followed by a gorgeous spring of bright flowers and a reprieve from winter's solitude. Promise is in the air!

With spring comes a sense of fresh beginnings. It is hard to believe that this will already be the ninth summer that Auvillar has welcomed these cultural exchanges with artists from the United States. Time has flown!

In 1999, The Donnell-Kay Foundation charged the CECA with the tough job of overseeing the renovations of the two buildings in The Port now known as the Moulin à Nef and the even tougher job of finding a new owner and manager. We have been working on this during the winter even as we have been planning the activities of Summer 2002.

The CECA is looking for an owner who will respect the spirit in which the Moulin à Nef was built, to sponsor and encourage cultural exchange through the arts and humanities. There is a lot to do before all of this is possible, and we are still looking for interested parties and accepting proposals!

While the Sunday afternoon petanque players are not out strategizing under the trees yet, today's weather is a preview of summer in Auvillar with all of its activities.

Four artists in residence are coming to Auvillar in June. David Schmal, last summer's composer of The Auvillar Suite, will be returning the end of June to plan a concert to coincide with the Feast of Saint Peter. Also, we are polishing up plans for a small Franco-American film festival to be held that very same weekend in July.

I will be the resident ceramist for this summer, and as such would welcome the opportunity to teach children from Auvillar about clay, glazes and a little history. (Perhaps M. Labau would help us out with this, since his family was part of it all!)

August will welcome our own Lynn Pauley back again, and she has promised to put on an art exhibit. Please come to visit! We'll offer you a grand crème or a glass of local wine, regale you with



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*Unless otherwise indicated,
articles have been written by
members of the CECA Board*

stories of Marcabrun, the local minstrel hero, or challenge you to a game of petanque: all of this in the very best French tradition of hospitality and enjoyment of life!

—Susan Saarinen



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**La Gazette on
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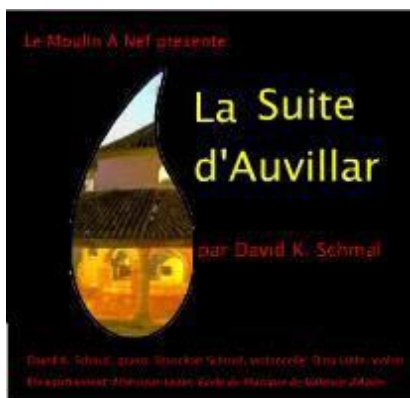
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out the color version, it is
available on our website:

[http://
www.moulinanef.org](http://www.moulinanef.org)

**The Auvillar Suite
on CD**

The live recording of the
concert given last summer in the
Church in Auvillar by David
Schmal (piano), his wife
Shushawn Tourayan (cello), and
Dina Likht from the Conservatory
of Music in Toulouse (violin) is
now available at the price of 10
euros.

The CD consists of David's
original composition entitled The
Auvillar Suite which honors the
village and its history.



Copies of the CD and jack-
ets with photos of the musicians
have been made by the Com-
puter Club of Auvillar. Once the
expenses of production (paper,
blank CDs, ink, software, etc.)
have been covered, the profits
will go to the composer and a
small percentage to the Com-
puter Club.

The CD will also be avail-
able for purchase at the Office
of Tourism in Auvillar.

**Marché Potier
2002**

In October 2002, the
Auvillar Ceramics Festival cel-
ebrates its 10th anniversary. The
organizers of this event have
plans to commemorate the oc-
casion in honor of this gather-
ing that draws people from all
over the world.

These plans could extend
from the center of the village
down the Peyrat to the Port to the
neighborhood where the
memory of the great period of
Auvillar ceramicware still lives.

The ceramics studio at the
Moulin à Nef will be open during
that weekend and we hope to
participate in the festivities.



**The Auvillar
Suite's American
Debut**

The Mercury Café in Denver,
Colorado was the site of the first
American performance of David
Schmal's composition, the
Auvillar Suite.

The concert took place on
February 24th 2002 at the Gen-
eral Assembly of the Alliance
Française of Denver. As Gazette
readers may recall, David re-
ceived a grant from the Alliance
which helped finance his trip to
France last year. Many friends of
Auvillar were in attendance and
the music evoked warm memo-
ries for all.

Jazz in Auvillar

Last summer, 2001, David Schmal animated a musical exchange program which resulted in the creation of the Auvillar Suite (see article on the CD from the concert). This summer, David has decided to return. His program will focus on the jazz idiom and his article in this issue of the Gazette explains his approach and his goals.

Shortly after his arrival in Auvillar, David will set to work with musicians from the School of Music in Valence d'Agén and the Conservatory of Music in Toulouse. Guillaume Gourmaud, who teaches at the school in Valence, has contacted David to propose the participation of the "All In Quartet", a diverse group of saxophonists formed in June 2000. (For more on this quartet: <http://perso.club-internet.fr/gourmaud>).

Following intense rehearsals in Auvillar and Valence, there will be a jazz concert Sunday July 7th to showcase David's newest composition. Don't miss it.

David Schmal is back!

Greetings from Denver to all of my friends in what I have come to regard as my second home in Auvillar. I am thrilled at the opportunity to return this summer. Having composed music for several documentary projects this fall and winter, as well as a number of jazz pieces and songs in French, I am excited to begin to design music for an Auvillar Jazz Fest. I have resolved to take the people of Auvillar on another musical journey, this time from the perspective of modern jazz.

Although jazz has its origins in America, it has become a truly international music, with each culture contributing its own unique cultural and musical traditions to the form. This is particularly true of the style of jazz that has been created by the musicians and composers of France. From Le Grand to Gershwin, from Grapelli to Petrucciani, jazz has impacted

popular music and cabaret music alike. As I compose and arrange new music for this concert event, I am excited to utilize a variety of styles and languages as I share my love for jazz along with students from the Ecole de

and toured with bands in the southeast of the United States and in Mexico. This will be his European premiere as a musician.

With a wide variety of original songs in both French and English, my desire is to share a diverse collection of modern Twentieth Century jazz compositions and arrangements, celebrating the rich beauty and grandeur of the French musical tradition, culture and language.

See you in Auvillar. You can also check out my website:



Musique de Valence as well as the Conservatoire de Toulouse.

In addition, I am hoping to bring another guest artist along with me - Aaron Stewart. He is an emerging musician who has just graduated from the University of Denver Conservatory of Music with a degree in saxophone performance. He has performed in a variety of ensembles

www.davidkschmal.com.

—David Schmal



The Moulin à Nef Gallery and the Ceramics Studio

Each year in our Artist in Residence program, we encourage the participants to contribute in some way to the cultural life in the village. This year each artist has been asked to prepare a small informal show, made up of past work as well as some work done during their stay in Auvillar. (Please see calendar, page 10).

In addition, the ceramics studio will be open for much of the summer. Susan Saarinen will be in charge and available for groups or associations who wish to organize workshops. A studio fee may be required.

Paradis in Auvillar

My name is James Paradis and I am looking forward to spending the month of June painting in Auvillar. Artist and Francophile, I have studied painting and French, here in Boston as well as in France.

I have had the good fortune to experience French culture first hand living with a French family in Amboise and attending the Eurocentre language school in 1997 and 1999.

To spend a month in Auvillar painting and getting to know the people and the cultural life of the village is extremely exciting to me

since it combines many different passions of mine at the same time.

Over the years, I have exhibited all around the Boston area and, most recently, have just completed a solo show of my work sponsored by a gallery in Boston. The work that I hope to accomplish and share with the people of Auvillar will also be exhibited at the French Cultural Center in Boston during the month of February 2003, which will coincide with my 70th birthday.

I look forward to my stay and the many new friends I hope to make.

—James Paradis



Now Playing... Auvill'art Cinema 2002

Since 1994, the cultural exchange between Auvillar and the United States has continued to develop. Artists in residence, folkdance and music, a mural, sculpture, painting and ceramics workshops, school exchanges... these are examples of the diversity and vivacity of the program.

This summer we plan to explore a new cultural domain: the seventh art. The first Auvill'art Film Encounter series will take place the weekend of July 5th, 6th, and 7th.

This pilot program has been made possible thanks to the support and participation of two people: Dominique Laffitte, president of the AC2A (Atelier de Création Audiovisuelle Auvillaraise) who also organized the Festival de Films Video last fall, and Anicette Touillez whose Auvillar roots and

boundless enthusiasm made the project seem quite possible.

Two film makers, one French (Eddy Matalon), one American (Mark Wilkinson) will meet in Auvillar to present some of their work. We will have the pleasure of listening as they share their experience and their impressions and then the opportunity to ask questions about their careers, their films and their projects (see articles, page 5).



This festival will be part of the program offered during the Festival of Saint Peter, which will offer the people of Auvillar as well as tourists passing through an extraordinary variety of cultural activities. (see also the article on Jazz in Auvillar) Vive la St. Pierre!



"T'inquiète pas, ça se soigne!"

The first Auvill'art Film Encounter Series is proud to announce the participation this summer of Eddy Matalon, a well-known French film maker, who will be presenting a film many of you may already be familiar with: **T'inquiète pas, ça se soigne**, a classic French comedy. Many of the actors were not known at the time the film was made but have since become famous. Perhaps not as famous but locally known, two women from Auvillar participated in the realisation of this film: Anicette Touillez, now Director of the UGC theater at Convention in Paris, and her mother Elyane Villes-Mirowski, who worked on the costumes in this very funny movie. Elyane has recently retired and is living in Valence d'Agen.

We may have the opportunity to see another of Mr. Matalon's films during this entertaining weekend in July. It was made for NBC and has been shown very little in France: **Le Show Bardot**. Among his other successes are: **Le Chien Fou** with Claude Brasseur and **Trop Petit Mon Ami** with Jane Birkin as well as numerous other feature films and television shows. Mr. Matalon has made at least one film, **New York Blackout**, in the U.S.

We look forward to having him in Auvillar to answer questions and compare experiences with Mark Wilkinson and with us.

From Hollywood to Auvillar

We are pleased to welcome film maker-producer-screenwriter Mark Wilkinson who will present his films and share his ideas at the first Auvill'art Cinema festival.

Mark will join us from Hollywood to talk about his profession and how he got where he is today. He has studied at the Department of Theater and Cinema of the University of Paris and also has a degree in European History from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. After starting his career in the film business as a production assistant on feature films as well as advertising, ultimately, he created his own production company, Ivy Films.

Mark plans to show two films in Auvillar: **Dischord**, a thriller which won several awards including the Grand Prize Best First Feature at the Festival of Atlantic City and the Grand Prize Best Director at the Rhode Island International Film Festival, and **Sally and Angela**, a short 12-minute comedy, which was selected to be shown in Paris in 1998 at the "New Blood" festival as one of the 12 best shorts of the year.

To learn more about Mark before his visit to Auvillar, you can visit his well-designed website at: <http://www.ivyfilms.com>.



Lynn Pauley's St. Noé

St. Noé, Auvillar, France

Turning and weaving up the hill, women wear white chemises, long striped shawls or scarves. Grape or violet soaked shirts from the wine squirted on them. A long stain of purple running down their mouths and throats is a symbol of pride for this 3-day fête in the streets of Auvillar, France, commemorating the vineyards.

Everyone is there, mothers and daughters in the weaving dancing lines, sons and fathers in the procession behind them carrying rudimentary garden tools and the symbolic wine barrel through the streets. These men in the center are the rowdiest bunch and at each interval they call to the bystanders, 'drink, drink, you must drink!'

The procession begins by planting a tree and then they head with dancers to the top of the Rue de la Sauvetat. My street. A workhorse attached to a carriage stands ready with her foal. Alain Escudier and two other men hoist and carry a young boy atop the wine barrel.

They begin down the street. My street. Bump, bump, bumpa, bumpa, bumpa the music repeats over and over again. After each refrain the men and women stop laugh and drink before the music repeats bump, bumpa, bumpa, bumpa, it is methodical funny and long; it takes this procession three hours to descend

in front of my house to the clocktower, L'Horloge, and the center of town.

I stand amazed; did I mention this is my street? I stand just watching trying to remember the sound color movement soaking it all in. Packed on the Rue de la Sauvetat, it seems that there are easily 3-400 people. You can't



move at this point and everyone watching jams up against the houses and stone stoops. Even the kids dance and they seem proud in their costumes; boys and girls proud to partake and dance in this yearly tradition. Experienced folklore dancers arrive as well attired in sheepskin vests, some on stilts. The women wear hot wool stockings and their patterned dresses blur in the repeat

of their dance at each interval break. One older woman stands to the side and knits.

I am invited to dance and join the winding line of women twisting and kicking down my Rue. The line of women hold hands and it is much more difficult than it looks. I am wearing a long patterned blue skirt, a white shirt, and a striped apron tied around my waist which I was told in advance is what every women will be wearing. I join hands with Claire, Francine, la factrice's daughter, and we shriek with laughter and wind and bumpa, bumpa bumpa down the street. It reminds me of a procession of identical cut out paper dolls and dancing and flying in the wind.

La fête de St. Noé is a bacchanal in every sense of the word. In a visiting American's mind it is also the stereotype. Men in berets, women in brightly flowered skirts dancing singing laughing and all day drinking of wine in a small village in the southwestern portion of France. But I am not complaining. After a long winter living in New York City, laughing and singing and dancing and weaving down the street with everyone I know: neighbors, kids, animals, parents, grandparents, old friends, and instant new friends it is a great, amazing wonderful thing. Just when I think that I have experienced every fête in Auvillar I come to see



there is always so much more to experience. And laughing for three days can never be a bad thing.

Saturday night they host an open meal at La Halle where you buy what you want: frites, viande, sausages, goat cheese, salad. Long tables are set up and I meet the people from the large house with the coquille that hangs in stone over their door. I meet Robert Devaux's daughter who holds the honor of being the lead women in the train of dancers. I also for the first time meet the husband and wife who run the school for the handicapped children. So many names to remember I need a list in my pocket to remind me so I won't ever forget. She notices I have peach color paint on my arms and legs from where I painted the one main bedroom in my house on Sauvetat. "I used to draw", she tells me. I say you must always find time for that even if it is only fifteen minutes a day.

D'accord. After the meal we walk off to the church on the Rue St. Pierre and are all given candles covered by white square paper candle holders. The Ave Maria is printed in blue text on the side. All the candles are lit and it has become very dark.

Monsieur Catholique leads a procession that takes us to a

little stone chapel by the main school in town. We all sing in unison and when we get to the Ave Maria refrain, Monsieur Catholique raises his candle and we raise ours in triumph along with him.

It is a very beautiful sight, very moving with everyone lit by candles singing and walking. I am near the head of the procession surrounded by trumpeters.

At the chapel they ring the bell. You can't hear the bell gonging and swinging back and forth. You can only see the long, long rope from the street. There are more prayers and salutations and everyone blows out their candles and I think, 'that's it, right?' For I

am a little tired from the three hour street dancing, the huge incredible meal, singing and laughing for two days.

Of course, there is more. They have set up a platform, a disco, au plein air tucked down and around the Notaire's office. They have an outdoor bar and wooden tables and chairs fill the road where people can talk and drink some more.

American music fills the speakers, The Blues Brothers, Dan Akyroyd and John Belushi sing, Elvis, 'a little bit of Monica at my side, a little bit of Rita all night long,' Mambo # 5. It seems so unusual to know all of the songs and I sing along to each and every one.

I dance and dance and dance some more. Everyone dances and laughs and when your partner gets tired you change partners and dance with someone new. I laugh out loud in the night.

It is dark. Smoke comes out of the speakers and I know it has become very late. I don't care, I can be tired later.

—Lynn Pauley



Americans at school in Auvillar

In spite of the drama and concern which have colored the school year, students from Denver International School came to Auvillar for two memorable weeks in February. Daily reports accompanied by photos that told a bigger story were posted daily on the Internet to allow parents to be reassured that their offspring were doing just fine.

In this issue of the Gazette, we have included some remarks from Mlle. Galan, the director of the school in Auvillar, a report by one of the DIS teachers who accompanied the group and the impressions of some of the American parents.

If you did not follow the astounding adventures of this group of young people as it played out, you can catch up by visiting the Auvillar website: <http://www.auvillar.com> and clicking on the button marked: "des élèves américains à Auvillar".

Letter from Geneviève Galan

My pupils' parents, my colleagues and I are happy and proud of having been able to host Andrea, Arek, Catalina, Chase, Declan, Emilie, Gabrielle, Marine, Nyla, Sarah, Susan, Scott, Edith and JO for two weeks.

We took them to the train station in Agen this morning Saturday. Some kids were very sad on both sides and couldn't avoid crying.

Last night we organized a goodbye party in the village. For some of them that was their first party with their American friends.

All the children behaved very well during these two weeks.

This morning we discovered another article in the local paper. Even the bus driver was proud to drive American kids. All the people they met were really impressed by their command of the French language.

For the children from Auvillar it has been an unforgettable experience. They have made friends for life.

We are about to make a CD-ROM and we'll send it to you as soon as it is finished.

As far as next year is concerned we have got plenty of new ideas. We do hope to be able to pay you a visit in May 2003 with this pupils' group and next September/October's group together.

—Geneviève GALAN



Messages from Happy Parents

Thank you so much for making those kids so welcome. I will try to get Declan back to Auvillar this summer, as we are moving back to England. Anyway, best wishes! —Dermot Cooper



To Everyone at Auvillar School,

Susan and I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and everyone who helped to make this trip so successful. You have truly helped to bridge two wonderful cultures into one. As one of the DIS parents, we had concerns for the safety of the children. The host families and the staff at the school have been extremely wonderful to the children and very considerate to the parents in Colorado. You kept us well informed by the email and by the many wonderful photographs. Thank you from our heart to all in Auvillar... You are wonderful people. If we can extend the hospitality, please come to visit... and soon!

—Florian Walicki and Ann Tod

Our Trip to France

We have been back in Denver now for several weeks after spending two weeks in France.

We spent most of the time in Auvillar where the students stayed with families of the CM1/CM2 class (4th/5th grade) and friendships blossomed immediately.

Thanks to the energy of Geneviève Galan, we were always busy. There were trips to Carcassonne, Gruissan, the City of Space in Toulouse, Montauban, Moissac and Valence d'Agén. We visited a farm, the bakery, the police station. In short, an adventure the average tourist would envy.

The welcome we were given was incredible. There was a reception at the City Hall; the children had their pictures taken and received gifts. They loved the different meals prepared by the school food service.

During our stay, when we were not on a field trip, there was some other activity organized for us: folk dancing, wire sculpture, ceramics. In the studio at the Moulin à Nef, Susan helped us to create plaques to commemorate our stay.

This exchange owes its success to the excellent preparation



and organization, the support of the City Hall, the efforts of the host parents and the courage of Geneviève. For the children, it was marvelous, interesting, unforgettable and fun.

I join them in thanking you all for everything you did.

—Edith-Emilie Riedel

Building at the Moulin à Nef

No major construction is planned for this year.

The studios and workshops are virtually complete and ready to be used by artists and others in pursuit of cultural and artistic exchange. The time has come to breathe life into the space that has been created.

An architect has been asked to develop some ideas concerning the space between the two buildings and the creation of a façade that will unify the ensemble. Work could begin on this aspect sometime in 2002.

La Cebo and La Cloucado

Gazette readers may now recognize these two Occitan words as the names we have given to the two buildings of the Moulin à Nef. Soon they will be carved in stone.

Bruno Riboulot, our local calligrapher and stonecutter, will design and carve two signs to be placed near the entrances to the buildings during the summer 2002 for all to admire.

Vineyard Update

Quora lo beurem aquel vin?

"When will we drink the wine?" The time will come!

While we wait, René Dauty and Thierry Combarel have worked hard to prepare the terrain which has slept for many years under brambles and weeds.

We are now knocking at the door of the unavoidable ONIVIN, where René has filed for the authorizations required by law. When the administrative hurdles have been jumped, we can order the plants. If all goes well, the vineyard will be planted in 2003.

But when will we drink the wine of the Moulin à Nef ???

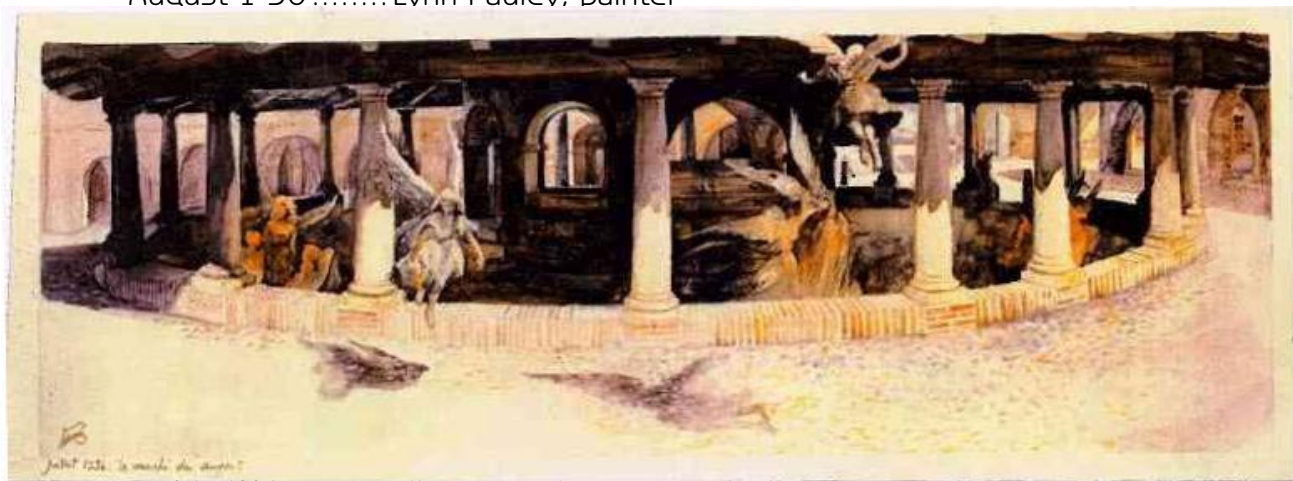


Calendar of Events for Summer 2002

(subject to change)

Sponsored by the Moulin à Nef

June 7-30 James Paradis, painter
June 15-29 Ken Dingwall, painter, David Morrison, printmaker, and
Eve Thomson, painter
June 15-July 27 .. Ceramics studio workshops with Susan Saarinen
July 5-6 Film Encounter
July 7 Jazz Concert
August 1-30 Lynn Pauley, painter



First prize of the 1994 Paint My Village contest, by Jean Bernard Lalanne

Jean Bernard Lalanne

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Our next issue will be sent in the fall of 2002