

'State Of The Arts' Title Should Be Of No Surprise

By GLENN MAYS
Travel Editor

To say that North Carolina is "The State of the Arts" might surprise some people. But it should not.

North Carolina's folk art culture has been a mainstay throughout Tar Heel history. That image is pervasive. But the reality of the arts in North Carolina far exceeds the folk dancing, singing and craftsmanship of pottery, fiber, wood or metal.

The Tar Heel State has pioneered preserving and promoting many phases of the arts from folklife to the fine arts.

In 1815, for instance, the state's legislators appropriated \$10,000 to commission Antonio Canova to do a statue of George Washington. The piece sat in the state capitol rotunda until the building was destroyed by fire in 1831. Another piece to replace the one destroyed in the fire, was done in 1970 and today sits in the capitol rotunda.

North Carolina has been an arts leader in other areas too.

In 1932 North Carolina became the first state to have its own state symphony. The symphony continues as an educational and cultural asset today after more than 50 years.

In 1947 the state appropriated \$1 million for a public collection, the first state to allocate public funds for such a purpose. In 1983 the state's new Museum of Art opened to the raves of some 20,000 visitors in its first weekend, having moved from cramped quarters in downtown Raleigh occupied since the mid-1950s, to a location just off Interstate 40 west of the city.

The North Carolina School of the Arts in Winston-Salem, opened in 1965, was the first such facility in the nation operated by a state. The high school and college level program now attracts aspiring performing artists not only from North Carolina but from all over the country.

Speaking there in 1982 renowned actress Helen Hayes was asked "What is the 'state of the arts' today?" She commented without hesitation, "North Carolina."

Another "first" in the arts for the state each year brings history to life all across the state and the nation. The roots of the outdoor symphonic drama are firmly implanted into Tar Heel soil.

North Carolina native Paul Green penned the first such drama, "The Lost Colony" in the 1930s and it was first performed in 1937. The nation's second oldest outdoor drama "Unto These Hills" at Cherokee and third oldest "Horn In The West" at Boone were Kermit Hunter's works and play each year to thousands.

Green's inaugural work, commemorating the events of 1587 on North Carolina's Outer Banks, was the forerunner for some 50 outdoor dramas in the country today, 10 of which play to audiences in North Carolina.

The performing arts are evident everywhere in the state. Community theatre groups like those in Greenville, Charlotte, Raleigh, Greensboro and Winston-Salem play to full houses with a vast array of drama spanning the full spectrum of the theater from comedy to the most serious drama.

There's professional theater here too. A notable example is the North Carolina Shakespeare Festival in High Point which provides more than a fare of Shakespeare.

For almost two months each year the works of such playwrights as Moss Hart, John Steinbeck, Eugene O'Neill, Molier and Shakespeare delight audiences in High Point Theater. Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" is performed during the Christmas season, each year with a different twist.

As for music it too spreads across the state in long-running festivals like the Eastern Music Festival in Greensboro and the Brevard Music Festival.

Dance, too, pervades the North Carolina countryside. Folk dances like clogging and square dancing have long been a tradition here. But ballet now is almost as commonplace as the folk dances. In 1978 the American Dance Festival relocated to Durham from New London, Connecticut.

Another first for the arts also resides in Winston-Salem. It was there in 1949 that citizens founded the Arts Council of Winston-Salem, oldest of its kind in the country.

More recently, 1983 in fact, saw the grand opening of The Stevens Center, a renovated 1,380-seat theater in the heart of the city for use by the N. C. School of the Arts and other professional theater. The project took 10 years and \$9.8 million to complete.

As for government support of the arts in North Carolina another "first" emerges. The state's General Assembly in 1971 created the Department of Art, Culture and History (a name later changed to Department of Cultural Resources) to become the first state to give cabinet-level importance to the arts. In 1973 the N. C. Theater Arts Division became the nation's first state agency for support of professional drama.

Folk art in North Carolina has thrived for years and continues to be a growing success. From quilting and weaving to woodcarving and instrument making, North Carolina craftsmen are well known for their fine quality.

Several schools and craft guilds continue the tradition which has been well established for decades. The John C. Campbell Folk School in the tiny community of Brasstown in Cherokee County opened in 1925 as one of the first of its type. In the state's northwest mountains the Penland Craft School also carries on a long tradition of quality instruction in arts and crafts.

Throughout the state cities, towns and communities hold fast to the arts.

In Jugtown pottery is king. Charlotte's Spirit Square combines the performing and graphic arts in what once was a church saved from the wrecking ball. In the small towns of Snow Camp, Valdese, Kenansville and Waxhaw outdoor dramas bring history to life on summer nights. In Flat Rock the Flat Rock Playhouse has played as the "state theater of North Carolina" since 1961.

What North Carolina has done and continues to do with the arts is becoming more widely known. To some the Tar Heel State is viewed as a national model.

South Carolina officials pointed that out while seeking information about arts programs in other states for comparative purposes. "There was no need to look further than North Carolina, which has become one of the most fertile areas for cultural growth in the country during the past quarter century," their report stated.

North Carolina is "The State of the Arts."



Students at Brevard Music Center in Brevard experience the beauty of music and nature in a rustic setting. The center offers a six and one-half week music education program for talented young

musicians each summer. (N. C. Travel and Tourism Division Photo by Clay Nolen).

Your Week Ahead Horoscope

Forecast Period: 10/23 - 10/29/83

- ARIES**
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Focus is on personal and partnership financial dealings. Find ways to economize. Avoid a tendency to act hastily.
- TAURUS**
Apr. 20-May 20
Be prepared to make adjustments and meet the other person halfway. Get that chip off your shoulder.
- GEMINI**
May 21-June 20
A new work assignment spurs you on to greater achievements. Listen to the viewpoint of others.
- CANCER**
June 21-July 22
Dragging an issue on to a bitter conclusion strains relationships. Let people know you really care about them.
- LEO**
July 23-Aug. 22
There's a tug of war going on between domestic and public affairs. Use discretion and don't force your plans.
- VIRGO**
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
Caution is urged in local travel. Subtle changes in financial affairs call for a reassessment of needs.
- LIBRA**
Sept. 23-Oct. 22
Use diplomacy in financial dealing with others. Avoid an impasse that might threaten to upset the balance.
- SCORPIO**
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
Prying into a partner's closet of secrets can only stir up a hornet's nest. You'll be told when the time is right.
- SAGITTARIUS**
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Put a little more effort into getting along with people. You are not really the petulant soul you are portraying.
- CAPRICORN**
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
So much to do it's hard to know where to begin. Change your programming, allowing more time to handle fewer tasks.
- AQUARIUS**
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Unsettling news comes to you about a family matter. Tend to matters at home and the business end will straighten out.
- PISCES**
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
You should make plans for just one more vacation trip before the cold winter arrives. Satisfy the wanderlust in you.



The Warren County Chapter of the North Carolina Association of Educational Office Personnel sold chances recently on a vacuum cleaner, donated to the group by Warrenton Furniture Exchange, Inc. Having been selected as the winner, Mary Austell, kindergarten teacher at Northside Elementary School, receives her prize from David Gardner, vice-president of Warrenton Furniture Exchange, Inc. The proceeds from the project will be placed in the chapter's scholarship fund. (Community Schools Photo)

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	\$13.99	HI-DRI Paper Towels Earthtone	30/15	\$.69	\$ 4.7	\$ 6.71
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	\$19.56	DELSEY Bath Tissue Colors 4-Pack	24/45	\$1.19	\$.89	\$ 9.00
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	\$34.56	KLEENEX HUGGIES Daytime Diapers 18s	12/18s	\$3.39	\$2.88	\$ 6.12
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	\$24.84	KLEENEX Facial Tissue Colors 175s	36/175s	\$.99	\$.69	\$10.89
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	\$22.56	KLEENEX Facial Tissue Colors 250s	24/250s	\$1.39	\$.94	\$10.80
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	\$24.84	KLEENEX BOUTIQUE Facial Tissue Colors 100s	36/100s	\$.93	\$.69	\$ 8.64
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	\$23.88	KOTEX Lightdays Unscented PantLiners 30s	12/30s	\$2.49	\$1.99	\$ 6.00
	\$23.88	KOTEX Lightdays Deodorant PantLiners 30s	12/30s	\$2.49	\$1.99	\$ 6.00

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