

SIP SOME WINE AS YOU SUPPORT THE ARTS

By Eric Feber
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GREENBRIER

How about a little splash of white wine with that Copland or a sip of red with that Beethoven?

Mike Gomori, owner of the restaurant Passion and a member of the Chesapeake Fine Arts Commission, is stepping up to provide libations at Sunday's Symphony Under the Stars.

The Greenbrier restaurateur is using his local vendor connections to arrange for eight cases of various red and white wines to be sold before the Virginia Symphony's 7:30 p.m. concert at a

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cordoned-off area near the Buddy Bagley outdoor stage.

The fourth annual Wine for the Arts will be hosted by Chesapeake Friends of the Arts, a nonprofit group that promotes arts in the city and supports arts education.

"The Chesapeake Friends are just regular people who have a passion for the arts, who want to help," Gomori said. "The Friends are very gracious with their monetary donations. The Fine Arts Commission doesn't have a lot of money to work with, so their help is invaluable."

All profits from Sunday's wine tasting will be earmarked for the Chesapeake Fine Arts Commission's Arts Education Grants program. The annual program awards money to students in middle school through college for continued arts studies; tutorships; private lessons; or fees for competitions, camps, shows or exhibitions.

In addition, the Friends will collect new or "gently used"

if you go

What Wine for the Arts at Symphony Under the Stars

Where Covered pavilion by Buddy Bagley outdoor stage at City Park

When 4 to 8 p.m. Sunday

Donations \$5 for the wine tasting. Gift basket raffle tickets: \$5 for six, \$10 for a "wingspan"

More info 548-0505, www.chesapeakefriendsofthearts.org

musical instruments to be donated to the Chesapeake Public Schools music program.

An art tent will showcase works by the Southside Artists Association. Young musicians will stroll around the grounds, and there will be themed gift baskets for sale.

Wine tasters will file past an ID checkpoint into a special tent.

"This will be an opportunity for people to try what they may like without costing them an arm and a leg, while helping support the arts in Chesapeake," Gomori said.

Eric Feber, (757) 222-5203,
eric.feber@pilotonline.com