

Letters: Oates praises arts center

Saturday, October 31, 2009

Singer encourages support of center

I wanted to write to all the citizens of the Lansdale/North Penn area about my recent experience at the Lansdale Center for the Performing Arts.

I was engaged to do a solo acoustic performance on Oct. 24 immediately following a rather big concert at Philadelphia's Spectrum with my partner Daryl Hall.

The contrast in venues was dramatic and, frankly, having the opportunity to enjoy the excellent sound qualities and intimate ambience of the LCPA was both refreshing and artistically satisfying after playing in a large arena where there is such a disconnect between the performer and the audience.

I wish there had been such a place when I was growing up here. My only real chance to hear and see professional performers was in Philadelphia and New York.

Think about the impact and prestige the North Penn area can have with a first-class facility that could become a sought-after destination for world-class artists.

Lansdale should be proud to have such a versatile and well-run center available to all its residents. The potential for diverse community use is unlimited and I would encourage everyone from adults to children to visit and participate in LCPA's wide variety of offerings.

As education is very important to me both as a parent and musician, I was pleased to be able to host a songwriting seminar for some of the local students. The idea of mentorship and sharing experience is critical to the development of young creative minds and here again the LCPA can be a valuable forum in this community.

A facility like this is only as strong as the support it receives from its citizens so I would encourage anyone who values art, music and theater to please support the LCPA either through donations or by becoming a member supporter.

John Oates

