

ENTERTAINMENT

WEEKEND PREVIEW

WaFoo jazz, Met Opera plan weekend soundtrack

Diverse event schedule includes nature walk, fishing and traditional cuisine

By JODIE LEE REIFER
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

Jazz comes in many flavors: Cool, hot, fusion and Japanese. WaFoo, a New York-based ensemble, will dish up a sampling of Japanese folk songs this weekend.

WaFoo (a pun on the Japanese term for "wind instrument" and "mind of harmony and kindness") will play Saturday at 2 p.m. in the Jacques Marchais Museum of Tibetan Art, 338 Lighthouse Ave.

Formed in 2001, the group consists of bassist Kazuo Nakamura, drummer Yutaka Uchida, pianist Taskeshi Asai, soprano saxophonist Tsuyoshi Niwa, flutist Yuuki Koike, calligrapher Sanae Asai, guitarist Masahi Sonodo and bassist Ipppei Ichimaru. The group plays original compositions that fuse traditional Japanese melodies with American jazz rhythms.

The show is part of Junefest, a series of free performances and exhibits presented annually by the Council on the Arts and Humanities for Staten Island. For more information call (718) 447-3329.

BALLPARK OPERA

The Metropolitan Opera will conclude its 38th annual free series of summer concerts in area parks with a performance Saturday at 8 p.m. in the Richmond County Bank Ballpark at St. George.

The company will present Verdi's "Nabucco" with Joseph Colaneri conducting; Andrea Gruber (Abigaille), Wendy White (Fenena), Jiayni Zhang (Ismaele), Mark Delavan (Nabucco), Raymond Aceto (Zaccaria), Claudia



ASSOCIATED PRESS

The audience holds lighted candles as a performance of Giuseppe Verdi's opera 'Nabucco,' featuring soprano Andrea Gruber, gets underway in the 16,000-seat Arena di Verona, in Verona, Italy. The Metropolitan Opera brings the same production — and leading lady — to the Richmond County Bank Ballpark, St. George, this Saturday.



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE FILE PHOTO

LILLIES; Staten Island Botanical Garden continues its Sunday lecture series

No tickets are required.

HISTORIC FOOD

Chicken parmesan appears on so many restaurants menus. But how many dish up split-roasted beef, Dutch cabbage salad and churned butter? The Staten Island Histori-



The New York-based ensemble WaFoo will perform Japanese folk/jazz Saturday as part of Junefest.

and musicians will provide music, games and toasts from over a century ago.

Pre-paid reservations are required and are \$45 for the public and \$40 for society members. The historic village is located at 441 Clarke Ave. For more information call (718) 351-1611 or visit www.historicrichmondtown.org.

GARDEN SUNDAY

The Staten Island Botanical Garden continues its lecture series, "Sunday in the Garden," this week. The event

through Clay Pit Ponds State Park/Preserve Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. Find out why Protectors urged the preservation of this parkland how the group got its name in 1975. The park has pine barrens, rare southern oak trees and a few unusual wildflowers. Meet at the park office at the end of Carlin Avenue off Sharrotts Road in Rossville. For more information call Dick Bueglar at (718) 761-7496.