

AMERICAN SPIRITUAL ENSEMBLE

THIS TUESDAY
January 25 at 7:30 p.m.

“Holds listeners in a joyful spell.”

—Sewanee Today

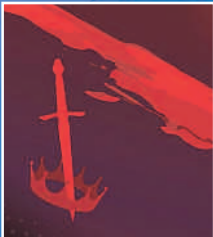
New facility-wide air filtration system
Masks required
Flexible ticket policies for returns
Proof of COVID vaccination required

UP NEXT:



AQUILA THEATRE

in F. Scott Fitzgerald's
THE GREAT GATSBY
February 4



in Shakespeare's
MACBETH
February 5

WORTHAM
CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

(828) 257-4530 • worthamarts.org



The cuisine at La Guinguette is French and Latin. Named after 18th century open air venues in Paris, a guinguette offered everything from alcohol to food often accompanied by dancing. ANGELA WILHELM/ASHEVILLE CITIZEN TIMES

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La Guinguette

www.laguinquettecreperie.com, 105 Richardson Blvd., Black Mountain

Atmosphere: Casual, quaint, and homey.

What to try: The pork tamales accompanied with cilantro salsa made for the combo of the day.

Beverage notes: Beer, wine, nonalcoholic choices.

Prices: \$5-\$14

Service: Welcoming.

The bottom line: If you're in Black Mountain and are looking for casual but comforting fare in a cozy setting, La Guinguette ticks all the boxes. While you are going to find yourself deciding between crepe, tamale or empanada, don't overlook the soup menu. But, if this visit teaches anything, get there early or face sold out soup.

Black Mountain, I plan to visit the French side of the menu.

If you absolutely must be historically accurate and feel the need to dance at La Guinguette, I'd recommend getting an outside table.

Matthew DeRobertis is a chef, writer and father to a kid who loves food more than her dog. Contact him at matt@chefdero.com.

ion, the greens were all evenly coated without being drenched or finding any superfluous dressing on the plate.

Warm, with a golden sheen, the empanadas lay next to the straightforward salad. The tomate was unembellished, relying on a few simple fillings, and if you are looking for an Instagram-worthy cheese pull, this is the empanada to order. Laced with Swiss, mozzarella and parmesan, it's the cheese lovers go-to order.

Despite loving cheese, the pollo empanada was our favorite. Shredded chicken cooked with onion, tomatoes and roasted peppers are all stuffed inside the flaky pastry. While not cheesy like the tomate, the flavor excels.

The tamales come served next to the same salad as was on the empanada plate. Unwrap the tamales from the corn husks and the steamed masa envelops the filling of choice. The chicken in the tamale, while still with tomato and onion is mixed in a mole sauce. It is a richer bite with more notable spice than the pollo empanada.

The pork tamale, chosen as the second option was combined with chiles and tomatillos. This one paired well with the cilantro salsa that accompanied the tamales.

More French flavors show up in the crepe selection. The next time I find myself on this side street in downtown

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Local artists celebrate album release

It's been only about two years since Jeremy Boger and the Golden Eagles began to play together, and the group has already dropped an album.

Boger and his bandmates released "The Race To Mars" last November and will celebrate its release at 8 p.m. Jan. 27 at The Grey Eagle.

The group is made up of Boger (who sings and plays a multitude of instruments), Kevin Rumley (vocals, drums, percussion), Billy Sheeran (vocals, piano, electric piano, harpsichord, organ, orchestral arrangements) and Joshua Carpenter (vocals, electric guitar, acoustic guitar).

On the group's Bandcamp page, it states that proceeds from album sales this month will be donated to the Buncombe County Veterans Treatment Court, which is directed by Rumley.

Big Something set for 2 nights

One night just isn't enough for Big Something to play locally.

The Burlington-based group is set to start its six-week Escape From The Living Room tour with two nights in Asheville. The group, which released its sixth studio album in 2020, will play at 8 p.m. Jan. 21 and 22 at Salvage Station. Little Stranger will open the show.

The group recently released a nine-song collection of live recordings, which shares a title with the current tour's name.

The six-piece Big Something mixes alternative rock and jam elements to its music and are known for a high-energy live experience.



Ugandan singer/multi-instrumentalist Kinobe. SPECIAL TO BLACK MOUNTAIN NEWS

AT THE WORTHAM CENTER



American Spiritual Ensemble performs Jan. 25 at Wortham Center for the Performing Arts. PROVIDED BY HENRY HUHTULAG PHOTOGRAPHY

American Spiritual Ensemble highlights the Black experience through music

Courtesy of Wortham Center

Special to Asheville Citizen Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

American Spiritual Ensemble has thrilled audiences across the globe with a dynamic and soul-stirring repertoire that highlights the Black experience — and, now, it's Asheville's turn to be inspired. This critically acclaimed group, which comprises more than a dozen of the finest singers in the classical world, is set to perform at the Wortham Center for the Performing Arts at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 25.

Founded in 1995 by tenor Everett McCorvey, American Spiritual Ensemble is dedicated to performing provocative, dynamic concerts around the world in celebration of the American Negro Spiritual, and it does so while honoring and maintaining the integrity of the music pioneered by enslaved African people. The group's live performances — combining the singers' talents with an accompanist and African drums — range from spirituals to jazz, dance and Broadway numbers. Each of the group's vocalists are accomplished soloists in their own right, and, together they create musical magic that "holds listeners in a joyful spell," wrote Sewanee Today.

"Music has always been a prominent part of my household and life," wrote McCorvey, the ensemble's founder. "Growing up in Montgomery, Alabama, during the Civil Rights Movement, I had the opportunity to witness first-hand music's powerful storytelling; to comfort people, to change lives, and

to spur a movement. The American Spiritual Ensemble began as a dream I had of preserving the music of the American negro slaves. ASE's mission is to keep the American Negro Spiritual alive.

"We also celebrate the many forms that this music has taken since its creation," he continued. "Enslaved people were not permitted to speak their native language, sing their traditional songs, or play their instruments. Oftentimes, individuals were separated from their families and stripped of their ways of life, forcing them to create new ways of communication in order to survive. ... As they adjusted and incorporated some of their culture into their lives, spirituals were born. These songs became sources of comfort, hopes, and communication — songs of direction and faith. ... Today, it is our privilege to be able to perform these songs, tell their stories, and share our love for the beautiful creations with the world."

American Spiritual Ensemble brings together a group of incredible vocalists and soloists, who have individually performed in prestigious venues such as Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, Houston Grand Opera, San Francisco Opera, Boston Opera and the Atlanta Civic Opera, as well as abroad in England, Germany, Italy, Japan, Scotland, and Spain.

For tickets (\$42 regular; \$37 student; \$20 child; \$10 student rush tickets, day-of-show with valid ID), call the Wortham Center Box Office at 828-257-4530 or visit worthamarts.org.