

Interactive Workshop:

# DRESSAGE AS Art

Experience Classically Trained Horses and Riders Accompanied by Musicians and Dancers at APAHA's 2019 Interactive Arts Workshop presented by Bettina Drummond and APAHA



Above: Kris and Errol  
Right: Bettina & Mimi  
Photos: Susan Goldfischer

Last September Bettina Drummond, a leading teacher in the French classical system, and riders of the Association for the Promotion of the Art of Horsemanship in America (APAHA) program, a non-profit founded by Bettina, joined several musicians in an event that was breathtaking and memorable. Experiencing highly skilled rides by all who rode to the live music of a cellist, violist and violinist was a special treat for all in attendance. Bettina rode her stallion Macho for the first ride of the day and shared the history of dressage from its beginnings in Europe, the role of the highly trained horses and their riders in both entertaining, but more importantly defending royalty. Bettina then worked with pairs of APAHA riders schooling piaffe and passage, accompanied by live music. The day continued with a breathtaking ride by Bettina and her mare Mimi. Each of the two musical freestyle rides by Allison Kavey, a CDI Grand Prix rider and former APAHA student, were mesmerizing; one on her horse Cacharel to the music of Alice and the second on Utopia. Several other musical rides by APAHA riders and a final ride by Bettina on Macho closed out the afternoon. Bettina wore different period attire for each ride and explained the purpose and meaning of various elements of both her garb and that of each of her horses. The fall event was so well received that APAHA's upcoming 2019 event will once again be pairing horses and riders with musicians, and this time will include dancers as well.

As part of APAHA's continuing mission to advance horsemanship as an art form, APAHA is hosting a two-day Interactive Arts Workshop April 27-28, 2019. A truly rare and special event, APAHA's 2019 Interactive Arts Workshop will bring together artists across several disciplines — riding, dance and music.

APAHA's students, alums several of the talented horses that participate in the program will once again be presenting musical rides accompanied by live music and dance starting on Saturday April 27th at the first day of the workshop hosted by Windhorse International in Bethlehem Connecticut. Saturday's event will focus on teaching and will feature French Para Olympian, former stunt rider and pianist Bernard Sachse'. Bernard is traveling from France to guide and share with the riders his perspectives on riding and artistry. Bernard and Bettina will start the day discussing how riders can prepare their minds, seat and emotions for exchanges with artists from the non-equestrian world. From there the workshop will move through two days of interaction between equestrian artists and those from the worlds of music and dance. Both Bernard and Bettina will be working throughout Saturday with several of the APAHA riders who are not experienced in riding to music or with artistic collaboration. Classical cellist Christine Gummere will be providing music to the ears of horses and humans alike. Included in Saturday's schedule is a mounted discussion with Bernard and

Bettina on how to prepare your sense of cadence to music and your horse's balance to accept new stimulus, as well as liberty work paired with dance.

The workshop continues Sunday, April 28th hosted by Rivendell Dressage in Millbrook, New York with joint performances. On Sunday Bettina and Allison Kavey with the APAHA riders and horses will be riding alongside dancers of The Equus Project and accompanied by musicians from ETHEL, a New York City based quartet. The day will include performances by APAHA riders presenting their artistic creations before a panel of esteemed judges including Bernard Sachse', Mendl Shaw, Dorothy Lawson of ETHEL and choreographer and dancer Elizabeth Streb, founder of the famous Brooklyn-based STREB and Bettina. The dancers of The Equus Project will be presenting an original work with Bettina and Macho. And there will be ample opportunities for those in attendance both days to ask questions and participate in discussions with the presenters, artists and riders. And each day is sure to fill your ears, eyes and hearts with wonder.

The artistry of these horses, riders, dancers and musicians is being presented for your educational enjoyment. Don't miss them! For more information and the schedule of each day's events visit [www.apaha.us/april-2019-workshop/](http://www.apaha.us/april-2019-workshop/)

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