



ARTS BRÈVE

MAY-JULY 2026
FALL-WINTER 2026-27
PROGRAMMING EDITION



**FROM REVOLUTION
TO RENEWAL
NOVEMBER-JANUARY
TRENDS**

**IMPACTFUL WINTER
ARTS PROGRAMMING
IDEAS**

**HOW TO CREATE
A WINTER FESTIVAL**

COLOR COVER

JACKSON POLLOCK



Pieter Bruegel the Elder: The Census at Bethlehem, 1566

CONTENTS

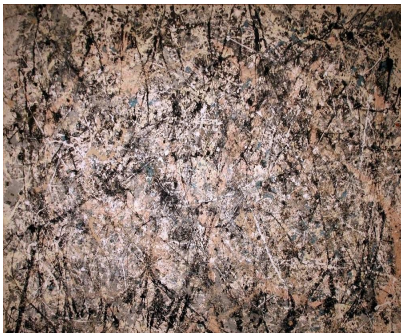
3
AB NATIONAL TRENDS
 The Latest in the
 National Arts Scene

4
THINK AHEAD
 Arts-related Program Ideas
 for Fall 2026– Winter 2027

6
READS & STREAMS
 The Latest classical music
 albums & books in the arts
 to enjoy

10
**PROGRAMMING
 CORNER**
 How to create a successful
 Winter Festival

COLOR COVER FEATURE



Color Cover Inspiration: Jackson Pollock’s Lavendar Mist, 1950

Jackson Pollock (1912-1956), the pioneer of the "drip" technique, sought to capture the raw physical energy of creation by translating his internal emotional state directly onto the canvas. For Number 1: Lavendar Mist (1950), he was inspired by the rhythmic patterns of the natural world and the concept of "all-over" composition, where no single point of focus dominates the viewer’s eye. Despite its name, the painting contains no actual lavender pigment; instead, the titular "mist" emerges from the masterful layering of black, white, russet, and silver, creating a shimmering optical effect that defines the height of Abstract Expressionism.

“I have no fear of making changes, destroying the image, etc., because the painting has a life of its own.”



*From
Revolution to Renewal
November—January*

Pieter Bruegel the Elder, *The Harvesters*, 1565

A

As the sweeping national focus on the 250th anniversary begins to move on to another chapter, this edition of Arts Brève’s National Outlook—“*From Revolution to Renewal*”—offers a reprieve and a pivot toward quiet reflection, cultural celebration, and creative inspiration through both digital and on-site events. Spanning the late-fall transition to the dawn of a new year, we created a comprehensive “Winter Festival” article on pg10, designed to inspire your seasonal programming. Late autumn preserves the unsung local arts community and re-examines Native American Heritage. It also to embraces diverse traditions of creating crafts for unique giving throughout the winter holiday season. This guide also provides actionable, community-focused ideas. Ultimately, we trace this path of winter reprieve into January, looking ahead to the deeply artistic and collaborative spirit of the upcoming Chinese New Year of the Fire Goat in 2027.

Re-examining Americana in November

-The "Americans" Touring Exhibition (National Museum of the American Indian)

Location: Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition Service (Touring various states through 2026 and 2027; originated at the National Museum of the American Indian).

The Tie-In: If programmers want to tackle the November timeframe, this exhibition provides the definitive framework. *Americans* explicitly deconstructs national myths, featuring a dedicated section on “The Invention of Thanksgiving” and the complex realities behind the Trail of Tears. It challenges visitors to look at how Indigenous imagery permeates American culture, offering a template for libraries hosting critical, cultural-based discussions around November holidays.

-Artists Sunday (November 29, 2026)

Strategically nestled between Black Friday and Cyber Monday, Artists Sunday is a nationwide movement dedicated to supporting local artists and recognizing their impact on the community and economy.

The Tie-In: Instead of focusing on the historical gravity of the 250th, use this weekend to launch your “Unsung Local Artists” exhibitions or performances. You can frame it as an urgent, community-driven call to support the living, breathing creators who are writing the *next* chapter of local history right now.



Gifting the Holidays in November-December

Artisans of Light: A Showcase of Diverse Traditions (Winter Festival)

The 2026 Timeline: Diwali (November 8), Hanukkah (December 4–12), Christmas (December 25), Kwanzaa (December 26–January 1).

The Programmer’s Hook: “Illuminating the Local Lens.”

Program Ideas: Because the 2026 calendar spaces these festivals out perfectly from early November through the New Year, programmers can host an ongoing, rolling “Festival of Light.” Libraries and arts centers can dedicate distinct weeks to different traditions, commissioning local artisans to create and display Diyas for Diwali, Menorahs for Hanukkah, or Kinaras for Kwanzaa. To tie it all together, host a localized “Light & Shadow” gallery featuring local photographers, stained-glass artists, or candle-makers discussing the cultural significance of light in their work.



Examining Renewal and Change in January

“Unsung” Local Artists: Continue to celebrate local artists by highlighting local community stories that represent the arts and how it influences the local arts scene. Ideas include a local artist exhibition, performances and interviews.

MLK Jr. Day: Host lectures on the concept of activism through Art and Music. Library programs include how to compose music with a message and how to create art that promotes the messages of Dr. King like artists did in the 1960s.

THINK AHEAD: FALL-WINTER 2026-27 PROGRAMMING IDEAS

Sponsored by Opera Talks (operatalks.com)



OCTOBER

A haunting prophecy sets the stage for one of Shakespeare's Famous classic plays

OPERA: Verdi's "Macbeth" at the Metropolitan Opera

Experience the chilling plot of Verdi's Macbeth that plunges into a world of supernatural shadows and ruthless ambition, where the haunting prophecies of the three witches collide with the visceral power of Italian melodrama. This is a perfect match for Halloween/ Italian heritage month

PROGRAM IDEA:

Host an opera talk and/ or performance of Verdi's Macbeth

Host an opera talk on Shakespeare and Opera



OCTOBER

Pop Power! Roy Lichtenstein and the bold new American canvas

ART EXHIBIT: Whitney Museum
October 2026– April 2027

Celebrate the vibrant legacy of an American icon at the Whitney, where Roy Lichtenstein's oversized comic-strip panels and signature Ben-Day dots redefined what art could be for a modern nation. This high energy exhibition is a perfect fit for fall programming, offering library patrons a colorful and accessible entry point into the story of American innovation as we celebrate the nation's 250th anniversary.

PROGRAM IDEA:

Host an art lecture series on Pop art

Host an art talk on Roy Lichtenstein

OCTOBER

Echoes in the Vault: Cryptic History

TRAVEL TALK: St. Patrick's "Old" Cathedral

Descend into the shadows of St. Patrick's Old Cathedral to uncover the intersection of 19th-century artistry and the legacies of New York's elite. This immersive experience blends haunting subterranean exploration with a creative workshop on preserving historical narratives through modern media.

PROGRAM IDEA:

Invite a professional historian or cathedral archivist to lead an illustrated talk on the architectural secrets and notable figures hidden within the vaults.

This presentation brings the mysteries of the catacombs to life through a curated visual journey and a community Q&A session.



OCTOBER– JANUARY

Abstract Legacies: The Echo of Pollock & Krasner

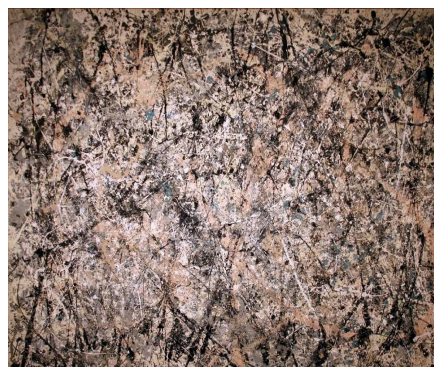
ART EXHIBIT: MET Museum
Krasner and Pollock: Past Continuous
(Oct 4, 2026 – Jan 31, 2027)

Experience the rhythmic energy of Lee Krasner and Jackson Pollock as their revolutionary abstract expressionism returns to the New York stage for the first time in two decades. This landmark exhibition invites you to explore the creative dialogue between two titans who forever reshaped the landscape of modern art.

PROGRAM IDEA:

Host a local art historian for an illustrated presentation that examines the symbiotic relationship between Pollock and Krasner and their lasting impact on the New York art scene.

Host a "Rhythm & Color" Abstract Workshop with a local artist leading an introductory painting class where participants experiment with the gestural movements and layered techniques pioneered by the duo.



NOVEMBER

Lenape Artistry & Ancient Woods

TRAVEL TALK & ACTIVITY:
NY Botanical Garden-
Plantways of the Lenape People

Discover the enduring botanical legacy of the Lenape people through an immersive journey into the heart of the New York Botanical Garden's fall forest. This seasonal celebration bridges ancestral plant knowledge with the tactile beauty of traditional woodworking and indigenous craftsmanship.

PROGRAM IDEA:

Partner with an Indigenous educator to host a live demonstration where patrons can observe traditional woodworking techniques and the preparation of plant-based dyes.



NOVEMBER

Ancestral Echoes: 12,000 Years of Indigenous Artistry

MUSEUM TALK: National Museum of the American Indian

Celebrate the vibrant, living cultures of the Western Hemisphere through a journey across the National Museum of the American Indian's vast historical and contemporary collections. From ancient artifacts to modern artisan markets, this spotlight honors the deep-rooted traditions and artistic resilience of Native communities in Lower Manhattan.

PROGRAM IDEA:

Invite a guest educator or local Indigenous artisan to lead a discussion on the symbolism behind specific artifacts in the museum's permanent collection. The session will conclude with a curated screening of short films from the museum's archives, highlighting the evolution of traditional music and storytelling through the centuries.



NOVEMBER

La Stupenda: A Centennial Celebration of Joan Sutherland

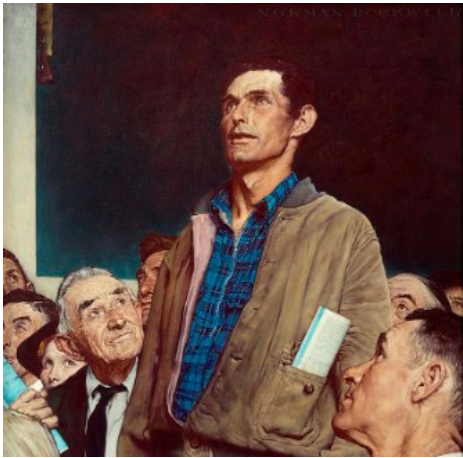
OPERA: Joan Sutherland Centennial (11/7/1926)

Honor the legendary "Voice of the Century" as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of one of opera's most dazzling coloratura sopranos. This tribute traces the incredible journey of Joan Sutherland from her Australian roots to her reign as the undisputed queen of the world's greatest stages.

PROGRAM IDEA:

Host an opera talk on the

"Art of Joan Sutherland by inviting a vocal expert or historian to host a multimedia presentation exploring Sutherland's technical mastery and her pivotal role in the 20th-century bel canto revival.



NOVEMBER/ DECEMBER

The Canvas of Community: Rockwell and the American Worker

ART TALK: Norman Rockwell

Explore the profound ways Norman Rockwell chronicled the dignity, duty, and spirit of the American workforce throughout the 20th century. This presentation deconstructs his most iconic imagery to reveal how he transformed everyday labor into a powerful narrative of national identity and social progress.

PROGRAM IDEA:

Host an art talk that analyzes the symbolism behind masterpieces like Rosie the Riveter and the Four Freedoms to understand Rockwell's role as a visual historian of American labor. The session will explore the evolution of his subjects—from the local policeman to the wartime industrialist—and discuss how his work provided a sense of shared purpose during the nation's most transformative eras.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER
*Biblical Epics & Grand Romantics
The Winter Opera Season*

OPERA: Carmen, Samson et Dalila and Tosca

Explore the sweeping grandeur of the season's most intense dramas as the Met's Samson et Dalila and LA Opera's Carmen bring tales of power and obsession to life this December. These masterworks of the biblical and romantic stage offer a profound look at the legendary figures whose choices changed the course of history and heart.

PROGRAM IDEA:

Join Tanisha Mitchell from OperaTalks.com for an evocative lecture that deconstructs the archetypal "Femme Fatale" through the lens of Dalila, Carmen, and Tosca. This immersive session blends historical storytelling with archival clips and live vocal demonstrations to prepare audiences for the season's premier productions.

Host an opera talk on Samson et Dalila, Carmen or Tosca.



DECEMBER

A Grand Finale for the Holidays

ORCHESTRA:

New York Philharmonic: Sounds of the Season
December 12, 2026 at 2:00 PM

From the sophisticated tradition of the New York String Orchestra on Christmas Eve to star-studded Broadway guest appearances, the 2026 winter season offers a diverse tapestry of symphonic splendor. Whether you are seeking a grand afternoon at David Geffen Hall or an evening of "Sleigh Bells Ring," these events capture the unparalleled spirit of Christmas in the city.

PROGRAM IDEA:

Partner with a local music conservatory and a professional educator to host a live performance featuring a chamber ensemble of gifted young string players. The educator will provide scholarly insights between pieces.

DECEMBER

Masonic Mysteries: The Enchantment of The Magic Flute

OPERA: Mozart's The Magic Flute presented by the Metropolitan Opera

Journey into Mozart's final masterpiece, a whimsical yet profound fairy tale that masks a sophisticated exploration of enlightenment and brotherhood. This deep dive into the trials of Prince Tamino reveals why this blend of high art and comedy remains one of the most beloved operas in the repertoire.

PROGRAM IDEA:

Join Tanisha Mitchell from OperaTalks.com for an engaging talk that unmask the Masonic symbolism and musical genius hidden within The Magic Flute. This presentation features archival performance clips and historical insights to help audiences navigate the opera's journey from a humble suburban theater to the world's greatest stages.

JANUARY

Year of the Goat: Artistry and Ancestry

ARTS & CRAFT: Chinese New Year Craft for the Year of the Goat

Celebrate the arrival of the 2027 Lunar New Year by exploring the rich symbolism and tranquil spirit of the Year of the Goat. This festive spotlight connects ancient Chinese customs with modern creative practices to welcome a season of peace, harmony, and renewal.

PROGRAM IDEA:

Create a "Lunar Heritage" Craft Studio
Invite a local artisan to lead a hands-on workshop focused on traditional paper-cutting and lantern-making techniques specific to the 2027 zodiac. Participants will learn the cultural significance of these crafts while creating their own symbolic decorations to bring prosperity and good fortune into their homes for the new year.

JANUARY

Anthems of the Movement

MUSIC: The MLK Freedom Songs

From the spirituals of the deep South to the defiant choruses of the 1960s, discover how music became the heartbeat of social change across America. This retrospective offers a deep dive into the historical context and emotional resonance of the songs that sustained a generation of activists.

PROGRAM IDEA:

Invite a music historian to lead an interactive presentation on the origins of iconic freedom songs and their strategic use during key protests led by Dr. King. The session will feature rare archival footage and group analysis of lyrics to show how these compositions mobilized the masses and influenced American social policy.

The "Songs of Resilience" Community Sing-In
Collaborate with a local choir director to host a community workshop where participants learn the harmonies and history of traditional freedom songs.

READS & STREAMS

presented by Arts Brève

Reads & Streams in the Arts by the Arts Brève Team

Oftentimes, books and audio-visual materials in the arts aren't at the top of the list for public librarians to see when ordering books from large distributors. Nowadays, public libraries lean towards popular or trending books because their demand is higher. This new list is our quest to present books and albums in the arts that may be trending in the arts world or can be used to create programs for the public. Each item contains the audience that would most likely be interested in using the material. We also outlined different ways to market each item to the public. Enjoy!

Who is Your Audience?

Knowing your residents and how they use your collection can make a huge difference when offering the arts in your collection or in programming. Below are some helpful categories to help you make a better decision when choosing items or introducing items to library patrons.

NOVICE



A novice is a patron who does not know about the arts but is looking for new interests. Items pertaining to novices are for public collections that call for the library to introduce the arts

to these patrons and ignite their interests. They often know much more about popular culture than what's happening in the arts.

EXPLORER



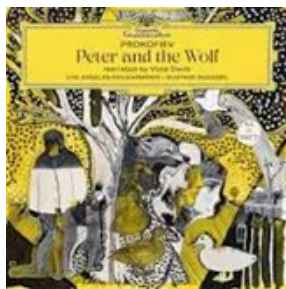
These items are for customers who have some knowledge of the arts and want to learn more. Oftentimes, explorers stream music from library streaming services. They may take out music and art biographies and may attend music and art programming at your library.

AFICIONADO



Ordering for aficionados requires knowledge about their habits when consuming the arts. These patrons are aware of the arts through museums, classical music, jazz and more... Oftentimes, these patrons attend music and art programming at your library. Aficionados are enthusiasts in the arts world with thorough knowledge of visual and/or the performing arts.

Classical Music Album Picks



Prokofiev: Peter and the Wolf – Gustavo Dudamel/ Viola Davis

Format: Compact disc
Release: 5-22-2026
Label: Deutsche Grammophon

*may also be available in library music streaming databases

Audience:



“A Modern Legend Meets a Musical Fable: Peter and the Wolf Reimagined .”

How to present this to library patrons:

To enchant your patrons, pitch this recording as a vibrant, contemporary revival of Prokofiev’s beloved classic that pairs the commanding, soulful narration of Viola Davis with the world-class energy of the Los Angeles Philharmonic. You can market it as an essential family listening experience in a parent-child program where Gustavo Dudamel’s expressive conducting, making the story feel fresh and cinematic for a new generation. Encourage listeners to rediscover this symphonic fairy tale as a celebration of storytelling and orchestral brilliance that is as educational as it is emotionally stirring.

Label Description

To mark his final season as Music Director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, conductor Gustavo Dudamel and the orchestra present their two-part release featuring works by Prokofiev. On the first album, the orchestra and Dudamel deliver a breathtaking recording of Prokofiev’s Romeo and Juliet, captured at Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles. On this second album, they join forces with Hollywood legend Viola Davis for a unique interpretation of Prokofiev’s Peter and the Wolf, with Davis providing a compelling narration alongside the music. Listen to a second pre-release track, Act 3: On a Branch of a Big Tree Sat a Little Bird.



Mozart: Piano Concertos – Jan Lisiecki

Format: Compact disc
Release: 4-17-2026
Label: Deutsche Grammophon

*may also be available in library music streaming databases

Audience:



“Elegance in E-Flat: Lisiecki’s Luminous Return to Mozart...”

How to present this to library patrons:

To pique the interest of your patrons, pair this new release with other Mozart recordings in your collection. You can market it as a celebration of the composer’s 270th anniversary, highlighting how this recording balances “youthful exuberance” with a decade of artistic growth since Lisiecki’s acclaimed debut. Encourage listeners to experience the conversational brilliance of the Ninth and Twenty-Second concertos, between the piano and orchestra. Create programs where they can identify the instruments or describe what they see in their imagination as they hear when listening to the concertos.

Label Description

Canadian star pianist Jan Lisiecki announces his upcoming album, on which he revisits Mozart’s oeuvre more than a decade after he devoted his DG debut album to the composer. Celebrating Mozart’s 270th birthday anniversary, the album features the Piano Concertos Nos. 9 & 22. “Within the extensive collection of 27 concertos composed for the piano by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, these two concertos, both in the key of E flat major, emerge as singular masterpieces...”



Martinů: The Symphonies – Jakub Hrůša

Format: Compact disc
Release: 5-15-2026
Label: Deutsche Grammophon

Audience:



“Rhythms of the Heart: The Cinematic Grandeur of Martinů...”

How to present this to library patrons:

To captivate your patrons, frame this definitive collection as a rhythmic journey through the soul of a composer who blended Czech folk traditions with the sophisticated pulse of mid-century Paris and New York. You can market it as a “must-hear” for fans of epic, cinematic soundscapes, highlighting that these recordings are led by Jakub Hrůša—the prestigious new Music Director of the Royal Ballet and Opera—whose deep Czech roots bring an unparalleled authenticity to the music. Encourage listeners to explore this album along with other composers who use folk influences in their classical compositions like Mussorgsky.

Label Description

On their upcoming album, conductor Jakub Hrůša and the Bamberg Symphony explore the six symphonies of Czech composer Bohuslav Martinů – one of the 20th century’s finest symphonic cycles. Composed during the composer’s American exile, these mature works encompass poetic lyricism, epic tragedy, and Bohemian colour and energy. The Bamberg Symphony traces its artistic lineage to Prague, with roots reaching back to the Estates Theatre and the city’s rich musical culture. Based in Bamberg since 1946, the orchestra has brought its rich and warm sound to music lovers worldwide. In a close artistic partnership, Hrůša and the orchestra bring this shared heritage to life with clarity, depth, and expressive power.



Raphael Sublime Poetry by Carmen C. Bambach

Imprint: Metropolitan Museum of Art
Publisher: Yale University Press, London
Release: 3-14-2026
Format: Hardcover
428 Pages

Audience:



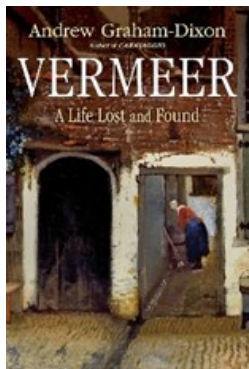
“Renaissance Redefined: The Lyrical Genius of Raphael”

How to present this to library patrons:

To captivate your patrons, emphasize that this work transcends a typical biography by treating Raphael’s visual masterpieces as a form of “visual poetry” that rivals the literary greats of his time. You can create a compelling display by pairing this volume with biographies of his contemporaries, Leonardo and Michelangelo, to illustrate how Raphael’s unique harmony and grace shaped the High Renaissance.

Publisher Description

The definitive survey of one of the masters of Italian Renaissance art, featuring groundbreaking new research by a leading expert on Raphael’s life and work. Raphael (Raffaello di Giovanni Santi; 1483–1520) is unquestionably one of the most important artists of the Italian Renaissance. Despite living only thirty-seven years, he quickly emerged as a peer to both Leonardo and his avowed rival, Michelangelo. Raphael: Sublime Poetry spans his short but spectacular life and career, from his early training amid the culture of his native Urbino, through his prolific years in Florence, to his final, magnificent decade at the papal court in Rome.



Vermeer: A Life Lost and Found by Andrew Graham-Dixon (Author)
 Publisher: W. W. Norton & Company
 Press Release: April 7, 2026
 Format: Hardcover
 496 pages

Audience:



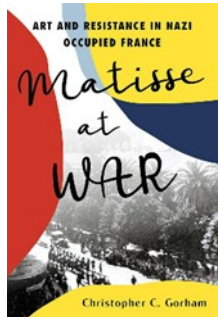
“The Master of Light: Unveiling the Enigma of Delft”

How to present this to library patrons:

To spark interest among your patrons, frame this book as a historical mystery that tracks how one of the world’s most celebrated artists nearly vanished from history for two centuries. You can enhance the appeal by highlighting other Dutch artists and Vermeer’s famous paintings. Suggest it as the perfect companion for fans of narrative non-fiction who want to understand the private life and quiet domestic world behind the artist of Girl with a Pearl Earring.

Publisher Description

Following new leads and drawing on freshly uncovered evidence from Dutch archives, acclaimed art historian Andrew Graham-Dixon fills these long-standing gaps in art history, presenting a dramatic and transformative new interpretation of Vermeer’s life and work. Dixon considers Vermeer holistically, placing him in his complex historical, social, religious, political, and artistic context in order to understand what spaces he occupied in his life and how the texture of these spaces inspired his paintings and distinguished him from his artistic contemporaries.



Matisse at War: Art and Resistance in Nazi Occupied France by Christopher C. Gorham (Author)
 Publisher: Citadel Press Accessibility
 Release: 9-30-25
 Format: Paperback
 387 Pages

Audience:



Brushes Against the Darkness: The Canvas of the French Resistance

How to present this to library patrons:

To engage your patrons, present this book as a gripping wartime drama that reveals how Henri Matisse used his creative spirit to navigate the dangers and moral complexities of life under Nazi occupation. You can create a powerful display by connecting his bold, vibrant artwork with the clandestine activities of famous spies like Josphine Baker who risked everything for the French Resistance. Invite readers to look past the "joyful" colors of his masterpieces to discover a story of quiet defiance, resilience, and the life-saving power of art during humanity's darkest hours.

Publisher Description

In 1940, with the Nazis sweeping through France, Henri Matisse found himself at a personal and artistic crossroads. His 42-year marriage had ended, he was gravely ill, and after decades at the forefront of modern art, he was beset by doubt. As scores of famous figures escaped the country, Matisse took refuge in Nice, with his companion, Lydia Delectorskaya. By defiantly remaining, Matisse was a source of inspiration for his nation.



Fashioning the Crown: A Story of Power, Conflict, and Couture by Justine Picardie
 Publisher: Pegasus Books
 Press Release: 2-24-26
 Format: Hardcover
 464 pages

Audience:



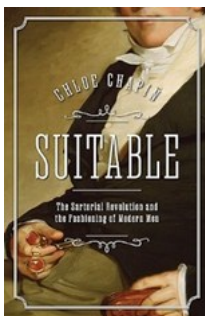
“Threads of Sovereignty: The High Stakes of Royal Style ”

How to present this to library patrons:

To capture your patrons’ interest, pitch this book as a high-fashion journey through the history of the British monarchy where every garment serves as a strategic tool for diplomacy and power. You can market it as a "behind-the-seams" look at how iconic figures used couture to navigate political scandals, wars, and the intense scrutiny of the public eye. Encourage readers to see royal attire not just as luxury, but as a carefully crafted armor that defined the image of the Crown across centuries of triumph and turmoil.

Publisher Description

Fashioning the Crown tells the story of a tumultuous half-century of British history through the lens of royal fashion and image-making. Informed by Justine Picardie's entirely original research in the Royal Archives, as well her own interactions with Elizabeth II and her family, it will reveal how, from the outbreak of the First World War to 1960, the soft power of clothing played a crucial role in helping the Royal Family, and the nation, to navigate seismic changes and challenges.



Suitable: The Sartorial Revolution and the Fashioning of Modern Men by Chloe Chapin
 Publisher: Oxford University Press
 Release: 6-1-26
 Format: Hardcover
 352 Pages

Audience:



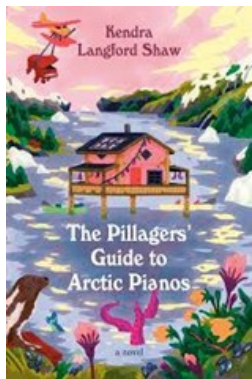
From Tailoring to Transformation: The Architecture of the Modern Man

How to present this to library patrons:

To intrigue your patrons, frame this book as a fascinating cultural history that reveals how the evolution of the suit mirrored the changing definitions of masculinity and social power. You can market it as a "wardrobe biography" that explains how once-radical sartorial shifts became the standard uniform for the modern professional world. Encourage readers to discover the hidden symbolism in everyday menswear, showing them that what a man wears has always been a strategic statement about his identity and his place in society.

Publisher Description

Suitable traces the shift from the colorful, flamboyant attire of the eighteenth century to the plain dark suit of the nineteenth century, characterizing this style evolution as a "Sartorial Revolution." In this book, American historian and costume designer Chloe Chapin traces the evolution of masculine style from the American Revolution through the Civil War and shows how men’s suits shaped relationships of gender and power. Drawing on a wealth of visual and written sources, she shows how the plainness of suits symbolized new ideals of rationality and democracy and played a crucial role in framing the lasting identity and authority of American men.



The Pillagers' Guide to Arctic Pianos
by Kendra Langford Shaw

Publisher: Pantheon
Press Release: 5-5-26
Format: ???
304 pages

Audience:



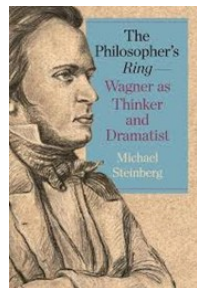
“Echoes in the Ice: The Surreal Journey of the Frozen Keys”

How to present this to library patrons:

To captivate your patrons, present this book as a cultural mystery that follows the improbable trek of grand pianos across the treacherous, frozen landscapes of the Arctic frontier. You can market it as a testament to human resilience and the desperate need for beauty, highlighting how pioneers prioritized music and art even in the most extreme and unforgiving conditions. Encourage readers to discover a forgotten chapter of history where the haunting melodies of a piano served as a lifeline between isolated outposts and the civilized world they left behind.

Publisher Description

In the far reaches of the Territory of the Arctic, the Spahr family lives on a fjord accessible only by kayak and float plane, in a landscape rapidly changing as glaciers melt and sea levels rise. Their home is Jubilation House, aptly named: they are a family of free spirit and full-hearted love, descendants of the homesteaders who came to this place in a reckless scheme to civilize the Glacial Front. They live off the grid in a converted fisherman's shack, selling pickled octopus and sea crops, barely scraping by. With every day, their livelihood seems ever more precarious.



The Philosopher's Ring: Wagner as Thinker and Dramatist

by Michael Steinberg Publisher: Camden House
Release: 1-20-26
Format: Hardcover
166 Pages

Audience:



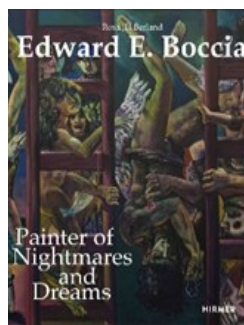
“The Architect of the Total Artwork: Wagner’s Intellectual Odyssey”

How to present this to library patrons:

To engage your patrons, frame this book as a profound exploration of how Richard Wagner blended philosophy and music to create the "Gesamtkunstwerk," or total work of art, that changed the course of history. You can highlight it as a must-read for those who want to understand the complex ideas—from Schopenhauer to revolutionary politics—that underpin the epic storytelling of the Ring Cycle. Pair this book with Wagner's famous recordings available in your collection or through your streaming databases.

Publisher Description

Few figures of the nineteenth century were more influential than Richard Wagner, and few works of art have the scope and historical significance of The Ring of the Nibelung. Wagner himself said that it expressed his entire philosophy of life. Yet little attention has been paid to him as a philosopher, aesthetic theories aside. Instead, the Ring has been viewed in the light of Schopenhauer, Feuerbach, or even Hegel. Wagner's own ideas do not deserve this neglect, and this book addresses that omission.



Edward E. Boccia: Painter of Nightmares and Dreams
by Rosa JH Berland (Author), Alice Boccia (Contributor), Charles Grund (Contributor), Ben Street (Contributor)

Publisher: Hirmer Publishers
Press Release: April 19, 2026
Format: Hardcover
232 pages

Audience:



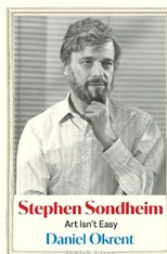
“Shadows and surrealism awaken the haunting visions of Edward E. Boccia...”

How to present this to library patrons:

Market this book as a "Halfway to Halloween" highlight or a "Winter Gothic" essential by pairing Boccia's haunting, dream-like canvases with the eerie aesthetics of masters like Francis Bacon, Max Beckmann, or Francisco Goya. Encourage patrons to explore the thin line between the subconscious and the macabre, using the book's release to bridge the gap between fine art history and the enduring popularity of dark, atmospheric horror. It serves as a sophisticated anchor for displays focused on the "Art of the Nightmare," inviting readers to study how Boccia's mid-century surrealism echoes the psychological intensity found in the works of Salvador Dalí or Hieronymus Bosch.

Publisher Description

An intimate journey of discovery of the life and work of American painter Edward E. Boccia. Edward E. Boccia (1921–2012) is a widely collected yet often overlooked American artist whose compelling pictorial language reveals a vision of universal experience, love, loss, and suffering as well as a deep connection to literature, mythology, and the canons of art history.



Stephen Sondheim: Art Isn't Easy
by Daniel Okrent (Author)

Publisher: Yale University Press
Release: March 17, 2026
Format: Hardcover
320 Pages

Audience:



“The relentless genius of Stephen Sondheim...”

How to present this to library patrons:

Bridge your Biography and Music sections by showcasing this definitive look at the man who reinvented American theater, focusing on the meticulous "work" behind his iconic lyrical precision. Use this March release to create a multimedia display that pairs Okrent's narrative with the original cast recordings and librettos of Sondheim's masterpieces, such as Sweeney Todd, Company, and Into the Woods. By highlighting the struggle and craft described in the title, you can draw in both seasoned theater aficionados and students of creative writing who are eager to understand how a legend composed his most complex harmonies.

Publisher Description

Stephen Sondheim (1930–2021) was a towering figure in American musical theater. Celebrated for such iconic Broadway shows as Company, Sweeney Todd, and Into the Woods, his accolades include eight Tony Awards, multiple Grammy Awards, an Academy Award, and a Pulitzer Prize. In this intimate biography, Daniel Okrent follows Sondheim through the tumult of his upbringing and his parents' divorce, his life-changing relationship with Oscar Hammerstein II and subsequent immersion in musical theater, and his rise to fame as both a lyricist and composer.



The Library Programmer's Guide to a Successful Winter Festival Turning the Winter Season into Community Connection

By Tanisha Mitchell

For many public libraries, winter is a season of paradox. While the drop in temperature—even in milder climates where the air hovers around a crisp 40 degrees without snow—can act as a deterrent for casual visitors, it also presents a unique opportunity. When the days grow shorter, communities naturally crave warmth, light, and social connection. A Winter Festival transforms the library from a quiet repository of books into a glowing hub of holiday spirit. By strategically leveraging the season, libraries can attract new demographics and deepen existing relationships through a mix of indoor comfort and brisk outdoor excitement.

Phase 1: Conceptualization & Community Buy-In

Every great festival begins with a vision. Start by deciding the scope: will this be an Indoor-Only Cozy Retreat or an Indoor/Outdoor Hybrid Gala?

How to collaborate with the Friends of the Library:

Before a single flyer is printed, meet with your "Friends" group. They are your primary engine for fundraising, volunteer staffing, and community networking. Present the festival as a way to increase library visibility and foot traffic. Their buy-in ensures you have the budget for "extras" like professional musicians or animal handlers.

Choosing Your Path:

Indoor-Only: Best for smaller branches or locations with unpredictable rain. Focus on "Hygge" (comfort)—sound healing sessions in the reading room, acoustic concerts, and craft stations in the children's area.

Indoor/Outdoor Hybrid: Use the library grounds for light shows, "winter games" (like giant chess or bean bag toss), and food trucks. This expands capacity and creates a high-visibility event that draws in passersby.

Phase 2: Gathering Talent & Activities

Curate a diverse lineup to ensure there is something for every age group.

Entertainment: Look for local school choirs, brass quintets, or even a local "Sound Healing" practitioner to offer a relaxing 30-minute meditative session to combat holiday stress.

Animals: A visiting petting zoo with cold-hardy animals (llamas, goats, or owls) provides an unforgettable outdoor experience.

The "Light" Factor: If outdoors, invest in LED string lights or projection mapping on the library's facade to create a "Glow Walk."

Holiday Food: Partner with local bakeries for cookies or set up a supervised "Hot Cocoa Bar" inside.

Phase 3: The Planning Timeline To avoid a last-minute scramble, follow this 6-month countdown

Timeframe Actionable Steps

6 Months Out: Define goals, set the date, and secure "Friends" funding. Book "high-demand" talent (musicians, animal handlers).

4 Months Out: Apply for city permits if using outdoor space/parking lots. Recruit a volunteer coordinator.

2 Months Out: Finalize activity list. Order craft supplies and decorations. Start "Teaser" marketing.

1 Month Out: Launch full marketing campaign. Confirm all vendors and volunteers. Walk through the floor plan.

1 Week Out Print maps and schedules. Prepare "Winter Survival Kits" for outdoor volunteers (hand warmers, etc.)

Phase 4: Multi-Stage Marketing Strategy

Your marketing needs to evolve as the event approaches to maintain momentum.

Before the Event (The Hype)- Use "Countdown" posts on social media. Feature "Artist Spotlights" on the performers. Distribute flyers to local schools and coffee shops. Create a Facebook Event to track RSVPs and allow community members to invite their friends.

During the Event (The Live Experience)- Assign a staff member or volunteer to be the "Live Reporter." Stream short clips of the concerts or the light show on Instagram or Facebook Stories. Use a custom hashtag so attendees can share their own photos in real-time.

After the Event (The Legacy)- Within 48 hours, post a "Thank You" gallery featuring the best photos. Send a special note of gratitude to the Friends of the Library and sponsors. This builds the foundation for an annual tradition.



Phase 5: Contingency Planning-What if...?

Weather Shifts: If the temperature drops below 40°F or rain begins, have an "Inward Shift" plan. Map out exactly where the outdoor games and food service will move inside (e.g., the community room or foyer).

Talent Cancellation: Maintain a "Backup Playlist" of festive music and a secondary craft activity that staff can lead if a performer falls ill.

Overcrowding: If the event is more successful than anticipated, have a "Queue Manager" volunteer ready to pulse-entry into the building to maintain fire code safety.

A New Library Tradition A Winter Festival is more than just a party; it is a demonstration of the library's role as a "Third Place"—a vital community space outside of home and work. By combining meticulous planning with the support of your Friends group and a touch of seasonal magic, you can turn a cold winter evening into the highlight of the community's year. Start small if you must, but dream big—the warmth you create will last long after the lights are packed away.



Color Cover Inspiration: Jackson Pollock's Lavender Mist, 1950

Jackson Pollock (1912-1956), the pioneer of the "drip" technique, sought to capture the raw physical energy of creation by translating his internal emotional state directly onto the canvas. For Number 1: Lavender Mist (1950), he was inspired by the rhythmic patterns of the natural world and the concept of "all-over" composition, where no single point of focus dominates the viewer's eye. Despite its name, the painting contains no actual lavender pigment; instead, the titular "mist" emerges from the masterful layering of black, white, russet, and silver, creating a shimmering optical effect that defines the height of Abstract Expressionism.

"I have no fear of making changes, destroying the image, etc., because the painting has a life of its own."