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Arts & Travel

Sunday, December 10, 2006 - Last Updated: 7:53 AM

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Troubleshooter works to build up CSO

BY DOTTIE ASHLEY

Laura Deaton unabashedly describes her new role at the financially beleaguered Charleston Symphony Orchestra.

"I'm a troubleshooter," says the Atlanta native who moved with her husband from the San Francisco Bay area to Summerville 18 months ago.

It sounds like the perfect fit for an organization so deeply in debt and in danger of folding that Charleston Mayor **Joe Riley** has been spending a large chunk of his time appealing to local businesses for donations, as has Tommy Baker of Baker Motor Co.

Since the CSO has been without a development director since April, and without an executive director since the middle of August, Deaton was hired the first of November to temporarily and partially fill both positions.

"My title is chief operating officer," says Deaton. "I am in charge of searching for a new executive director and also for appealing to individual donors for funds."

Deaton, 41, who has a law degree from Duke University but doesn't practice, makes it clear she is not in the running for the executive director position.

"I call myself a troubleshooter because I come in temporarily and get nonprofits back on track so that when a new leader comes in, he or she will have a good chance of making it work," she explains.

Deaton recently completed a six-month management consulting contract with the YWCA of Greater Charleston, which was about to close its doors, and helped solve some of the problems before a new director was hired.

In the Bay Area, the consultant changed the fortunes of the nonprofit group Big Brothers Big Sisters by leading the group through a turnaround and a subsequent merger with two other local organizations, resulting in the formation of a new \$1.2 million regional agency.

Having previously worked in marketing and public relations in the for-profit sector, Deaton noticed that often nonprofits lacked expertise in that field, so she decided to dedicate her time in that area.

Ten days ago, Deaton wrote a letter to potential individual donors to the CSO and is pleased that the effort has so far garnered a total of \$40,000.

She considers the recent forced move of the CSO eight-member administrative staff into rent-free office space a major step forward. In the summer of 2005, the CSO had moved into the Old Cigar Factory on East Bay Street, but then was told last summer all tenants should vacate by the early part of 2007 because the building has been sold and possibly will be turned into condominiums and shops. The King & Queen Co. offered the orchestra a four-year rent-free location at 145 King St., Suite 311.

"We cannot fully express our gratitude to **David Simmons**, **Sharon Rittenberg** and **Leonard Goldberg** of the King & Queen Co. for their generosity at a most pivotal time for the organization," says **Leo Fishman**, CSO board president.

The mailing address, P.O. Box 20397, and phone number, 723-7528, remain the same.

The CSO needs to raise about \$425,000 to finish the fiscal year, which ends June 30, in the black. But even if that money is raised, there still would be debt, according to **Ted Legasey** director of finance. Right now, the organization has the money to pay its bills through December.

Christmas concert

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PETC.	In the midst of its traumatic financial upheaval, the CSO has been busy preparing musically to celebrate the season.
Food	
Family Life	
Fashion	
High Profile	The orchestra, conducted by Scott Terrell , will present a Christmas Spectacular concert at 8 p.m. Saturday at the Gaillard Auditorium, 77 Calhoun St. The CSO will be joined by the CSO Chorus, the Chamber Choir and the Charleston Children's Chorus.
Automotive	
Homes & Real Estate	
Columnists	
ENTERTAINMENT	This special event is part of the Charleston Pops Series and is designed for children and adults.
TV Listings	
Preview	Concert tickets range from \$15 to \$35. Student tickets are \$5. All tickets may be purchased by calling Ticketmaster at 554-6060, by visiting the Gaillard Auditorium box office, at any Publix Supermarkets or online at www.charlestonsymphony.com .
Movies By Zap2It	
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INTERACT	Visual arts going strong
Internet Access	
Feedback	On the visual arts front, activity is stronger than ever.
About Us	
SERVICES	
About Us	The Charleston Artist Guild will hold its second holiday exhibit and fundraiser with a juried show of paintings by artists in the South from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday at the Charleston Visitor Center, 375 Meeting St.
Archives	
Classifieds	
NEWSPAPER	
Get Home Delivery	Todd Smith , executive director of the Gibbes Museum of Art, judged the show and selected 80 paintings in representational and contemporary styles.
Letters To The Editor	
Contact Us	The holiday exhibition is open to all artists in the South and will include the work of a number of Charleston artists. The guild has 488 members, which is up 100 members over last year.
Staff Directory	
Advertising	

A reception and awards ceremony, with winning paintings announced, is open to the public. Donations will be accepted, and proceeds will go to the guild's community outreach programs.

'Fresh Fish'

With all the professional and amateur fishermen in the Lowcountry, fish art should be considered a great catch.

Now through Dec. 15, the Corrigan Gallery LLC is exhibiting a solo show, "Fresh Fish," consisting of new artwork by **Sue Simons Wallace** at the 62 Queen St. gallery.

Wallace began printing fish more than 16 years ago after viewing an exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art of the artwork by Japanese masters. She has said that having a fisherman in the house at the time aided her adventure into the world of translating shimmering fresh fish into ethereal, permanent, nonodiferous creations.

The Japanese process of "gyotaku," which means "fish rubbings," involved paper and ink placed on the fishing boats so that the catch of the day could be documented.

The artist must first complete a laborious preparation of the fish for printing and then create a print with hand-applied details for the fish's eyes and color touches for the fins.

Wallace says she strives for a balance between an elegant, understated look and a refreshingly contemporary presentation of an ancient tradition.

For gallery hours, call 722-9868 or go online at www.corrigan-gallery.com.

Reach **Dottie Ashley** at 937-5704 or dashley@postandcourier.com.
