



APPLETON ART CENTER

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All-Star Panel to Speak about Baseball and Art *Thursday, April 17 at 7 p.m.*

(Appleton, WI)—In conjunction with the exhibition, *Art of the Diamond: Baseball*, Appleton Art Center is hosting a panel discussion about art and baseball on Thursday, April 17 at 7 p.m. The event is free with admission to Appleton Art Center. Seating is first-come, first served.

An all-star lineup of panelists will share their thoughts and views about the game from various points of view. “We will have an American historian, several internationally known jazz musicians, and the 1957 American League Rookie-of-the Year, who later went on to play in six World Series with the Yankees,” said art center executive director, Timothy Riley, who will moderate the discussion. “We are honored to have such a distinguished panel for this program.”

The point of departure for the conversation will be fourteen photographs included in the *Art of the Diamond* exhibition by the late Chicago-based photographer, George Brace. Between 1929 and 1993, Brace captured images of over 10,000 baseball players. “The photos in the Brace Collection are a window to the lasting fascination that Americans have with the sport of baseball,” said Riley. “Brace’s photographs remind us that professional baseball players were not only gifted athletes, but they were also musicians, clowns, and soft-hearted celebrities who often went out of their way to look after the game’s youngest fans.” The panel includes:

Fred Sturm, Kimberly-Clark Professor of Music, Director of Jazz Studies at Lawrence University, and Artistic Director of the Baseball Music Project, which will be performed by the Fox Valley Symphony at the Performing Arts Center on May 3.

Jerald Podair, Robert S. French Professor of American Studies at Lawrence University and author of the soon-to-be-published book (Princeton University Press), *The Operator: The Life and Times of Walter O'Malley*, about the (in)famous owner of the Dodgers who moved the team from Brooklyn to Los Angeles in the 1958.

Tony Kubek, who played in six World Series with the New York Yankees in the late 1950s and 1960s. Kubek, a Milwaukee native and current Appleton resident, was named the American League Rookie-of-the-Year in 1957. His father, Tony Kubek, Sr., played for the Milwaukee minor league team (called the Brewers) in the 1920s and 1930s.



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After his playing career with the Yankees, Tony Kubek (Jr.) was the face and voice of baseball for NBC television's Game of the Week. Several items from Kubek's personal collection are included in the exhibition, *Art of the Diamond: Baseball*.

Steve March Tormé An avid baseball player and fan growing up in Westchester County, N.Y., Steve dreamed of playing for the Yankees.

Steve March Tormé was born in New York City to the multi-talented Mel Tormé and the former model, Candy Tockstein. They were divorced when Steve was two-and-a-half years old. Shortly thereafter, Candy married the actor/comedian Hal March, who was the host of NBC-TV's *The \$64,000 Question Show* and subsequently starred in Neil Simon's *Come Blow Your Horn* on Broadway.

Following the early death of his stepfather, Steve rekindled his relationship with his father, the Mel, and soon realized they had a great deal in common, including a love for music and performing, along with an avid interest in vintage planes, trains and automobiles.

Steve, now a Wisconsin resident, has wooed audiences in everything from intimate jazz clubs to festivals and performing arts centers across the country.

Bob Levy, Lawrence University professor of music *emeritus*, has been life-long passionate fan of the game of baseball since his childhood, when he was a fan of the New York baseball Giants. Bob is currently working on a documentary film about American composer, Alec Wilder.

Vince Biskupic, attorney/partner with Hinshaw & Culbertson, together with his father, has worked closely with George Brace and members of his family. Vince will share some of the stories about the George Brace Photograph Collection from the Brace family's perspective.

Appleton Art Center was established in 1960 to promote, teach, and nourish the creation and appreciation of the visual arts through exhibitions, educational programming, and information resources. From its five-story, 25,000-square-foot gallery and teaching facility in downtown Appleton, Appleton Art Center offers exhibitions, classes, cultural programming, special events, and other initiatives that draw people from throughout the Midwest.

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