



RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY
Office of Institutional Advancement
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Ramapo College's Berrie Center Receives Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation Grant for SQUONK Opera

MAHWAH, N.J. – The Berrie Center for Performing and Visual Arts at Ramapo College of New Jersey has received an \$8,000 grant from the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation to restart live performances with SQUONK Opera's *Hand to Hand* on Tuesday, October 5 and Wednesday, October 6 at the Ramapo campus band shell lawn. There will be four performances with additional opportunities for backstage tours, an artist's workshop, and Q&A's with the artists over the two-day period. All events are free and open to the public but reservations are required. For more information or to make a reservation, patrons can go to the Berrie Center website at www.ramapo.edu/berriecenter

SQUONK has been seen in 35 of the United States, on 3 continents, and on network TV. They've performed their original work both on and Off-Broadway. The New York Times has called them "a multimedia troupe of infinite jest with an imagination to match." Reviews include "surreal and poetic" (*USA Today*), "insane majesty" (*The Scotsman*), and "Rust Belt dada" (*The Buffalo News*). SQUONK's newest show is a timely, boisterous music spectacle for the shared experiences that we have missed during the pandemic. With a pair of giant puppet hands as big as houses and music that blows the roof off, *Hand to Hand* welcomes audiences back to festive public life. We will celebrate the grandeur and tomfoolery of size and scale: big things little and little things big, the universe contained in the music of a 30" Moog synthesizer and hands that are larger than life.

This engagement of SQUONK is funded through the Mid Atlantic Tours program of Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation with support from the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional funding support comes from the Ramapo College Foundation.

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Ramapo College of New Jersey is the state's premier public liberal arts college and is committed to academic excellence through interdisciplinary and experiential learning, and international and intercultural understanding. The College is ranked #1 among New Jersey public institutions by College Choice; is recognized as the state's top college on the list of Best Disability Schools by *Great Value Colleges*; was named one of the 50 Most Beautiful College Campuses in America by *CondeNast Traveler*; and is recognized as a top college by *U.S. News & World Report*, *Kiplinger's*, Princeton Review and *Money* magazine, among others. Ramapo College is also distinguished as a Career Development College of Distinction by CollegesofDistinction.com, boasts the best campus housing in New Jersey on Niche.com, and is designated a "Military Friendly College" in Victoria Media's *Guide to Military Friendly Schools*.

Established in 1969, Ramapo College offers bachelor's degrees in the arts, business, data science, humanities, social sciences and the sciences, as well as in professional studies, which include business, education, nursing and social work. In addition, the College offers courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels, and offers graduate programs leading to master's degrees in Accounting, Business Administration, Creative Music Technology, Data Science, Educational Technology, Educational Leadership, Nursing, Social Work and Special Education, as well as a post-master's Doctor of Nursing Practice.