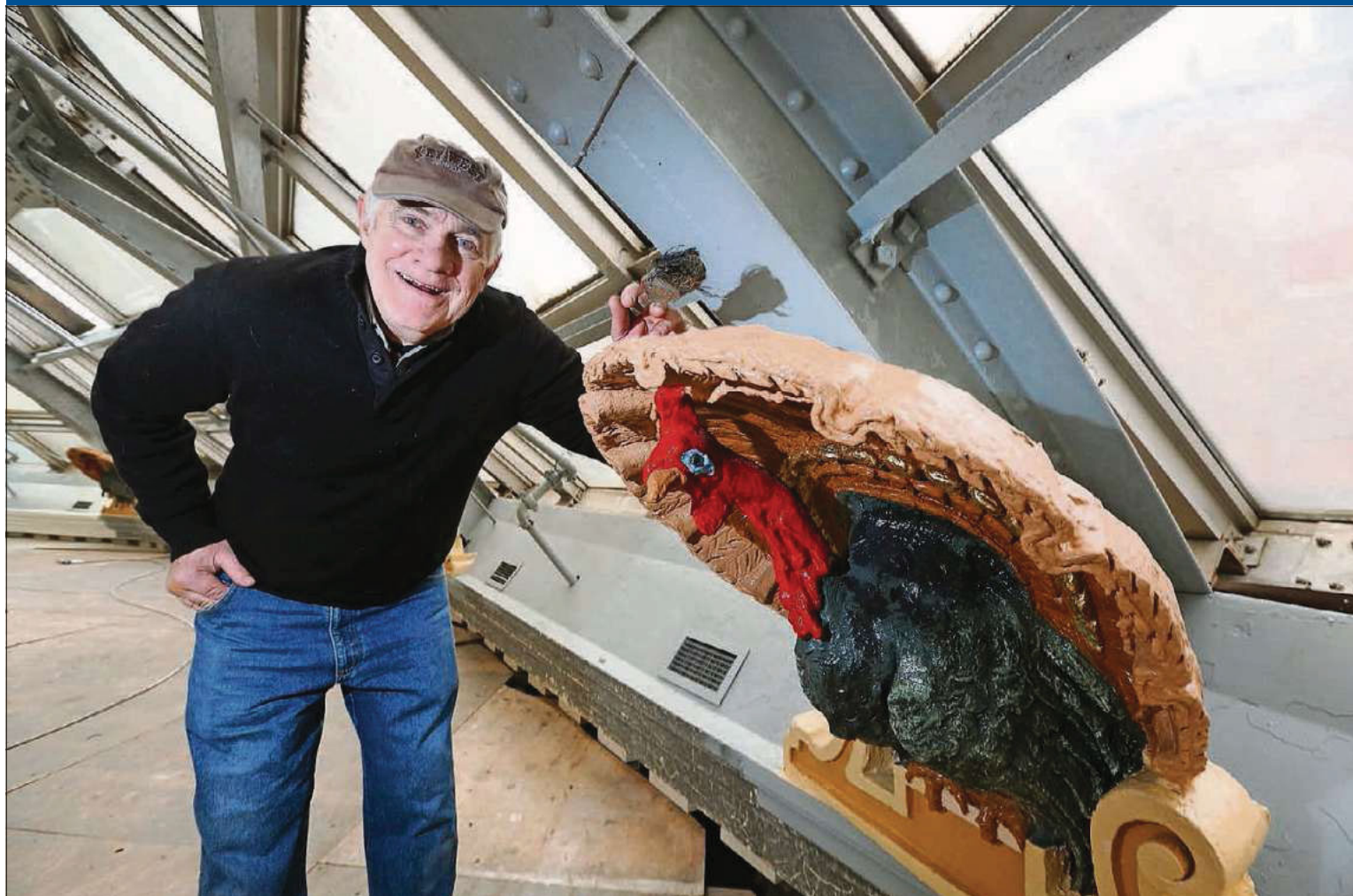




BEHIND THE SCENES



Local artist John Landsiedel has refurbished 16 plaster turkeys that circle the top of the dome in the Dayton Arcade. Landsiedel's grandfather, Byron Landsiedel, created the turkeys more than 100 years ago. PHOTOS BY LISA POWELL / STAFF

Local artist restores grandfather's work inside Dayton Arcade

John Landsiedel rehabilitated 16 plaster turkeys created more than 100 years ago.

By Lisa Powell
Staff Writer

For weeks, local artist John Landsiedel has climbed through a labyrinth of scaffolding to reach the top of the iconic dome of the Dayton Arcade.

Working on a wood deck constructed high above the Arcade's floor, he has rehabilitated 16 plaster turkeys created by his grandfather, Byron Landsiedel, more than 100 years ago.

Byron Landsiedel was a man of many talents, working as a glass and ceramic artist and playing violin in the Cincinnati symphony. Working within the solitude of the dome gave Landsiedel time to reflect on his grandfather.

"As a little kid, I just heard stories. I never met him before he died, but by being up here I think I had some nice conversations with him," he said. "I don't know if he heard them, but since I was the only one here I could talk out loud and we had some nice talks."

The turkeys his grandfather created were placed at the base of each of the 16 beams that ring the dome. The Arcade, Dayton's crowning jewel, opened in 1904 and was called "one of the country's most modern and complete structures of its' kind," in a Dayton Daily News story published



Since the Dayton Arcade opened in 1904, few people have had an up-close view of the top of the dome. A temporary wood deck has been constructed for renovation.

March 3, 1904. The glass dome is 90 feet in diameter and 70-feet high.

Landsiedel said he was surprised the turkeys were in good shape considering they were installed 116 years ago.

"Cosmetically there were a lot of holes that had to be filled and some of the bracing used to hold them onto the beam was re-secured," he said. "They are solid up here to last another 100

Artist continued on E4



Local artist John Landsiedel has refurbished 16 plaster turkeys that circle the top of the dome in the Dayton Arcade. Landsiedel's grandfather, Byron Landsiedel, created the turkeys more than 100 years ago.



Meredith Moss
On the Arts



"My joy in playing keyboards has continued ever since" he was a child, says R. Alan Kimbrough, the accompanist for the Bach Society for the past 40 years.
CONTRIBUTED

Bach Society to present 'St. Matthew Passion'

Longtime accompanist R. Alan Kimbrough will be honored at the upcoming show.

When he was a toddler, R. Alan Kimbrough's mother taught piano students in their Illinois home.

"Mother, teach ME!" the frustrated 3-year-old finally insisted, reportedly tired of having all of the older kids coming in and out of his family's house and playing their piano.

Happily, she did and the Miami Valley arts community continues to reap the benefit of those early lessons.

"My joy in playing keyboards has continued ever since then," says Kimbrough, a longtime English professor at the University of Dayton and the accompanist for the Bach Society of Dayton – and its precursor, the Dayton Bach Society – for more than 40 years.

Kimbrough will be honored at the society's upcoming performance of J.S. Bach's choral masterpiece, "St. Matthew Passion" under the direction of John Neely on Sunday, March 31, at Kettering Adventist Church. Bach's setting of Christ's last days before crucifixion is widely considered to be the most significant choral work in the canon of Western music. The first part includes the Last Supper and the betrayal and arrest of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. The second part depicts the trial, crucifixion and burial.

The sacred oratorio, written by Johann Sebastian Bach in 1727, sets chapters 26 and 27 of the Gospel of Matthew to music with interspersed cho-

Bach continued on E2

MUSIC

Local Irish dance troupes celebrate anniversaries, culture, community

'Irish dance is aerobics on fire,' according to group co-director.

By Russell Florence Jr.
Contributing Writer

A common love for Irish dance and Irish culture connects three notable Irish dance troupes in the Miami Valley. Here's a chance to get to know them as they celebrate culture and community.

Celtic Academy of Irish Dance

For 30 years, Celtic Academy of Irish Dance (formerly Hibernian Irish Dancers) has provided training for all ages from beginner to championship level. Particularly instilling self-confidence in its instruction, the troupe currently has over 140 dancers and

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has notably performed with many national and international bands such as Gaelic Storm, The Elders and Scythian.

"Irish dance is aerobics on fire," said co-director Mary Laffey Beemsterboer, who shares leadership duties with her sister Lauren Laffey and began her Irish dance career at age 5 with Hibernian. "Irish music and Irish dance is just so infectious. As soon as you hear Irish music you want to dance! It's a genuinely happy feeling. As we put specialized dance to that music, we try to make the (movement) happy, joyful and enjoyable. It's been a wonder-

ful 30 years."

A significant aspect of Celtic Academy is its motto: "Dance like champions, love like family." Beemsterboer values the connections the troupe has made through the years, creating meaningful memories for families that will last a lifetime.

"We particularly have a lot of military families within our studio because we are near Wright-Patterson Air Force Base," she noted. "When these families move out of the area, we receive notes saying they hadn't found another dance studio that had the same family atmosphere. We promote togetherness."

The troupe travels heavily throughout greater Dayton, especially on St. Patrick's Day with scheduled appearances at Dub-

Dance continued on E2



Celtic Academy of Irish Dance co-director Mary Laffey Beemsterboer pauses to calm nerves at the troupe's March 9 performance at 2nd Street Market. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

