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**** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ****

Central MN Arts Board awards Project Grants to area organizations

At the September 14th meeting, the Central Minnesota Arts Board (CMAB) awarded \$84,303 in support of fourteen regional arts projects. Criteria used in evaluating applications include: artistic quality & merit, demonstrated need, outcomes & evaluation and ability to complete the proposal.

Organizations may apply for up to \$7,000 with a 25% match requirement for any one project or combined projects totaling no more than \$7,000 in any one grant round. Funding for these CMAB Grants is provided through an appropriation from the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the state's general fund, and its Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund created by the Voters of Minnesota.

1. **Buffalo Community Orchestra**, \$6,134, "Russian Treasures" workshop and concert with Buffalo High School concert Orchestra members concluding with a season opening concert on Saturday October 28th at the Buffalo Performing Arts Center in Buffalo, MN.
2. **Central Minnesota Youth Orchestra**, \$7,000, musician Mark Wood, former Trans-Siberian Orchestra performer, will work with three area high schools during a two-day clinic. Students will learn rock-style songs, dance steps, and musical improvisation along with Mark Wood and his band concluding with a community performance in January 2018 at the College of St. Benedict Escher Auditorium in St. Joseph, MN.
3. **Great Northern Theatre Company**, \$3,975, "Drinking Habits 2-Caught in the Act," dinner theater November 9-18, 2017 at the Great Blue Heron in Cold Spring, MN.
4. **Great River Chorale**, \$7,000, "Yuletide in the Americas" collaborative concert that includes two guest youth choirs, professional brass quintet, timpanist, organist and narrator. Concert consists of seasonal music that spans different eras, cultures and countries in the Americas on December 1, 2017 at Saint Mary's Cathedral, and December 3, 2017 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Saint Cloud, Minnesota.
5. **Great River Educational Arts Theatre**, \$7,000, The Nine Who Dared: Courage at Little Rock teen production January 2018 at the Helgeson Learning Lab Theatre in Waite Park, MN
6. **Independent Music Collaboration of Central Minnesota**, \$4,125 Jam and Connect Business Series pilot program intended to help musicians learn new methods to further their business, network and mentor with other musicians, and develop methods to build community held November 2017 through March 2018 in St. Cloud, MN.
7. **Land of Lakes Choirboys of Minnesota**, \$2,050, 2017-2018 Concert Series; "Christmas with the Choirboys" December 15, 2017 at St. Henry's Catholic Church in Monticello, MN; "Broadway and Beyond" March 17, 2018 at Elk River High School, Little Theater in Elk River, MN; "Stand Together" May 18, 2018 at Word of Peace Lutheran Church in Rogers, MN

8. **Paramount Center For The Arts**, \$7,000, Paramount 101 Series presents a free performance of the Minnesota Sinfonia on March 4, 2018 at the Paramount Theater in St. Cloud, MN.
9. **SOAR Regional Arts**, \$7,000, Broadway in the Park – 2018 led by the Teen Advisory group will include intensives, workshops, theater games, story time and performances July 2018 at Prairie Park in Otsego, MN.
10. **St. Cloud Film Festival**, \$7,000, 2017 St Cloud Film Fest celebrating independent local and global cinema with a combination of features and shorts selected from submissions by a panel with showings at Pioneer Place Theatre, Parkwood Cinema, St. Cloud State University and the Red Carpet Event Center November 4 through 11, 2017 in St. Cloud, MN.
11. **St. Cloud Symphony Orchestra**, \$7,000, "Taking Flight" concert Saturday, November 4, 2017 at St. Cloud State University, Ritsche Auditorium in St. Cloud, MN.
12. **St. John's University - Fine Arts**, \$7,000, Literature to Life outreach and production of "The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao" on October 27, 2017 at St. John's University Stephen B Humphrey Theater in Collegeville, MN.
13. **The St. John's Boys' Choir**, \$5,019, "A Ceremony of Carols" concert of seasonal selections, sung by three of the organization's choral ensembles, as well as a special Alumni Chorus December 16, 2017 at St. Mary's Cathedral in St. Cloud, MN.
14. **Wirth Center for the Performing Arts**, \$7,000, Wirth Center's School of Rock 2018, a two-week camp for 6-12th grade students in August 2018 at Calvary Community Church concluding with a public performance at the Paramount Theater in St. Cloud, MN.

The Central Minnesota Arts Board supports collaborative and innovative arts opportunities through partnerships and financial investments in Benton, Sherburne, Stearns, and Wright counties as one of eleven Regional Arts Councils designated by the Minnesota State Arts Board. The CMAB works with community partners to increase access to the unique cultural assets of Minnesota.

Visit <http://www.aroundthecloud.org> Arts & Events Click & Go Guide to see a full listing of these arts events and more.

For more information about the Central MN Arts Board visit www.centralmnartsboard.org or call the office at 320-968-4290, or toll free at 1-866-345-7140.