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**** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ****

Central MN Arts Board awards Project Grants to area organizations

At their December 10th meeting, the Central Minnesota Arts Board (CMAB) awarded \$85,886 in support of seventeen regional arts projects. Three criteria are used in evaluating applications: Artistic Quality and Merit; Ability of the Organization; and the Needs of the Community.

Applicants may request up to \$7,000 with a 30% match required 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. **Boys and Girls Club of Central Minnesota**, \$3,262, to provide Learning and Literacy through the Arts programming for 9 hours over 12 weeks focused on providing academic gains as well as increasing engagement in the arts both in the club and community.
2. **Buffalo Community Theatre**, \$7,000, for the production of Disney's Winnie the Pooh Kids February 12-14 and 19-21, 2016 at Discovery Auditorium that will include youth, artists, technicians and volunteers from Buffalo and surrounding communities.
3. **Central Minnesota Youth Orchestra**, \$5,632, for "German Expressions" educational program and concert offered to grade school age students in the spring of 2016. The student concert will be comprised of 3 ensembles that will perform German pieces from many eras at St. Cloud State University in April 2016.
4. **Chamber Music Society of St. Cloud**, \$7,000, Calmus, a German vocal quintet, will conduct community outreach programs for students and adults and a concert on April 9, 2016, at St. Mary's Cathedral, St. Cloud.
5. **Friends of the Bryant Library**, \$735, Storyteller and artist educator Danielle Daniel will work with five groups of children encouraging self-discovery, social interaction and free expression through storytelling while promoting cultural diversity at Sauk Centre Elementary and Holy Family Schools in Sauk Centre January 2016.
6. **General Federated Women's Club of Delano**, \$3,550, to present a series of six "Concerts in the Park" that will feature a variety of performers at Central Park in Delano Wednesday evenings July through August 2016.
7. **Great River Educational Arts Theatre**, \$7,000, for the production of "Mary Poppins" featuring breathtaking dance numbers, astonishing special effects and musical hits January 15-24, 2016 at Escher Auditorium, Benedicta Art Center in St. Joseph.
8. **Minnesota Center Chorale**, \$4,293, "Postcards from Minnesota" concert with guests St. Johns Boys' Choir Sunday, February 21, 2015 at the Paramount Theatre in St. Cloud.
9. **Minnesota Dance Ensemble**, \$7,000, "In These Shoes" modern dance production on April 29, 2016 at the Paramount Theatre in St. Cloud.
10. **Oak Ridge Elementary School-Sartell-St. Stephen School District**, \$5,114, MathsmARTs program using dance and visual arts to improve the attitude and proficiency of students in both math and the arts, February through May 2016 at Pine Meadow and Oak Ridge Elementary.
11. **Paramount Arts Resource Trust**, \$7,000, "Requiem for the Living" concert that will perform a brand new 45-minute choral and orchestral music work prepared by the Youth Chorale of Central Minnesota in April 2016 at the Paramount Theatre in St. Cloud.

12. **St. Cloud Symphony Orchestra**, \$7,000, to perform a concert entitled "The Anniversary" that will feature the 2016 Young Performer Competition winner and Great River Chorale, on Saturday, March 19, 2016 at 7:30 pm in Ritsche Auditorium at St. Cloud State University.
13. **St. John's University - Fine Arts**, \$7,000, "Red Baraat" performances and workshops January 22 – February 22, 2016. Red Baraat will perform for the St. Cloud Veteran's Affairs Health Systems, lead a range of music workshops for college students as well as youth at the St. Cloud Children's Home and provide a public performance at Stephen B. Humphrey Theater, College of Saint Benedict, Collegeville in February 2016.
14. **The St. John's Boys' Choir**, \$4,917, "KidSing" festival that consists of gathering more than 200 area students for a day of singing, socializing and a public performance January 9, 2016 at Sauk Rapids-Rice High School Performing Arts Center in Sauk Rapids.
15. **Visual Arts Minnesota**, \$5,226, 36th Annual High School Exhibition and Competition that will feature the art works of students from Central Minnesota high schools in the Paramount Theatre Lobby, St. Cloud March 22 through April 18, 2016.
16. **Wirth Center for the Performing Arts**, \$7,000, "School of Rock" summer camp is for students in grades 6-12 to learn the art of being a musician in a rock band. Camp consists of 6 - 3 hr. sessions in which the students interact and learn from professional musicians and perform a public concert in August 2016 at the Paramount Theatre in St. Cloud.
17. **Youth Chorale of Central MN**, \$4,157, "Youth Sing Out" concert featuring over 200 Central MN singers from the Youth Choral of Central Minnesota Mixed and Women's Chorales, St. John's Boys' Choir Junior Varsity and Concert Choir, and Cantabile Girls' Choristers and Concert Choir May 1, 2016 at Ritsche Auditorium, St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud.

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.