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**** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ****

Central MN Arts Board awards Project Grants to area organizations

At the September 15th meeting, the Central Minnesota Arts Board (CMAB) awarded \$87,879 in support of fourteen regional arts projects. Four criteria are used in evaluating applications: artistic quality & merit, demonstrated need, outcomes & evaluation and ability to complete the proposal.

Organizations may apply for up to \$7,000 with a 30% 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**, \$4,768, "BCO- World Tour" performing music from Germany, Italy, France, Russia, the United States, and Mexico, October 30, 2016 at the Buffalo High School Performing Arts Center in Buffalo, MN.
2. **Buffalo Community Theater**, \$5,000, for the production of *The Sunshine Boys* by Neil Simon that will include actors, artists, technicians and volunteers from Buffalo and the surrounding communities, October 21-23 and 28-30, 2016 at Discovery Auditorium in Buffalo, MN.
3. **Centre Area Concert Association**, \$7,000 for a Performing Arts Series of three concerts and two student workshops that will include performances by Wylie and the Wild West, A Band Called Honalee, and New Odyssey in February, March, and April, 2017 in Melrose and Sauk Centre, MN.
4. **Chamber Music Society of St. Cloud**, \$7,000, for The Verona String Quartet to conduct educational and community outreach programs November 10-13, 2016 and a concert on Saturday, November 12, 2016, at Atonement Lutheran Church in St. Cloud.
5. **College of Saint Benedict**, \$7,000, for Hypnotic Brass Ensemble to present one public performance February 25, 2017 at the College of Saint Benedict and four residency activities with the Central Minnesota community between February 23 and March 25, 2017.
6. **Great River Chorale**, \$6,860, A Mosaic of Joy featuring traditional and new music from the home countries of Minnesota's early immigrants. Guests include the St. Cloud String Quartet, Cantabile Girls' Concert Choir, Charles Echols, organ, and Br. Paul-Vincent Niebauer, narrator on December 2, 2016 at St. Mary's Cathedral, St. Cloud, and on December 4, 2016 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in St. Cloud, MN.
7. **Great River Educational Arts Theatre**, \$7,000, GREAT Theatre Script-In-Hand Series that includes readings of classic, new and relevant theater scripts for one night only events at locations throughout central Minnesota November 6, 2016 – July 27, 2017.
8. **Helping Hands Outreach**, \$2,278, to increase Arts Access for older adults, adults with disabilities and their care givers in rural Stearns County through a Fall Concert Series in Holdingford, St. Stephen and a concert at

the historic Paramount Theater in St. Cloud, MN.

9. **Inaccurate Vernacular**, \$7,000, “NEVER ODD OR EVEN” film written as a palindrome to be shot in downtown St Cloud. The Film will premiere in April 2017 at the Pioneer Place Theatre and appear in the St Cloud Film Fest in November 2017 in St. Cloud, MN.
10. **Paramount Center For The Arts**, \$7,000, Paramount 101 Series of three free concerts; The Charming Cello 101 with Jeffrey Solow is on November 13th, 2016, Two-Piano Repertoire with the Hamaan Sisters on January 15, 2017, and the Minnesota Bach Ensemble presents The Baroque Era 101 on January 22, 2017 at the Paramount Theatre in St. Cloud, MN.
11. **SOAR Regional Art, \$6,338**, Beyond the Stage African Cultural Experience classes related to African puppetry, African drumming, and African culture in conjunction with SOAR Academy production of Disney's The Lion King Jr January 9 – March 6, 2017 at St. Michael - Albertville Middle School West Auditorium In Albertville, MN.
12. **St. Cloud Symphony Orchestra**, \$7,000, for the performance of “Russian Romance” conducted by Artistic Director candidate Eduard Zilberkant and featuring Principal Cellist Joel Salvo as soloist on Saturday, October 29, 2016 at 7:30pm in Ritsche Auditorium at SCSU.
13. **Visual Arts Minnesota**, \$6,635, 17th Annual Essential Art Exhibition and Celebration that brings together artists from throughout the state of Minnesota to exhibit their best two and three dimensional work in January 2017 at the Paramount Theatre Lobby Gallery in St. Cloud, MN.
14. **Wirth Center for the Performing Arts**, \$7,000, Wirth Center's School of Rock 2017 summer camp August 1-10, 2017 for students (grades 6-12) where students interact and learn the art of being a musician from professional musicians and concludes with a rock concert where the students perform.

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.