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**\*\* FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE \*\***

**Central MN Arts Board Awards Arts Legacy Grants**

At their December meeting, the Central Minnesota Arts Board (CMAB) awarded \$86,216 in support of twenty regional arts projects.

Funding for these CMAB Grants are provided through appropriates from the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the state's general fund, and its arts & cultural heritage fund created by the votes of the people of Minnesota.

Three main criteria are used to evaluate applications: Artistic quality and merit; ability of the organization to carry out the proposal; and the need of the community.

**The following grants were awarded:**

1. **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central MN**, \$489, **A New Arts Experience**. Artist Lee Ann Goerss will lead a workshop for children, ages one to five, and their mentors to create masks in the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program.
2. **Buffalo Community Orchestra**, \$5,000, **"Conductor's Choice"** Orchestra Concert consisting of Rossini's "Overture to William Tell," Tchaikovsky's "Romeo and Juliet" Suite, and Bruch's "Violin Concerto 1 in G-minor," with a surprise "encore" of Smetana's "Dance of the Comedians" from "The Bartered Bride" opera on March 2 & 3 in the Performing Arts Center of Buffalo High School.
3. **Buffalo Community Theater**, \$5,000, **will** produce the classic comedy **"Harvey"** at the Discovery Auditorium in Buffalo MN, February 6-8 and 12-14, 2013 with actors, technicians, artists and volunteers from Buffalo and surrounding communities in Central Minnesota.
4. **Buffalo Schools Community Education**, \$3,983, **Community Arts Day** community groups will come together ~~and~~ to offer a variety of art related activities at the Discovery Education Center in Buffalo on Saturday March 2, 2013 from 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM.
5. **Chamber Music Society**, \$5,000, **Concert/Outreach by Diotima String Quartet** with violist James Dunham on April 6, 2013 at Atonement Lutheran Church, St. Cloud. There will also be a workshop for adult amateur and advanced student ensembles, and a meeting with music majors at St. Cloud State University.
6. **College of St. Benedicts**, \$5,000, **Simon Shaheen**, an Arab musician, performer, and composer will present an evening performance and eight residency activities, including two classes with undergraduate music and history students, one youth and parent music workshop with Hands Across the World, one mini-performance and introduction to Arabic Music with the Bethlehem Lutheran Church's Sudanese Community, a "Mommy and Me" arts-therapy music class with Anna Marie's Alliance, and two workshops/class assemblies at Talahi Elementary School in District #742.

7. **Dist. 2687 Howard Lake-Waverly**, \$5,000, Winsted Community Theater presentation of "**Fiddler on the Roof**", July 12-14, 2013 at the Laker Theater with artists, actors, and performers of all ages from the area communities and greater central Minnesota.
8. **Elk River Arts Alliance**, \$5,000, The 18th Annual "**Arts in Harmony**" Juried Exhibition held at Sherburne County Government Center in February and March, the largest juried exhibition for two and three-dimensional art in Minnesota with over 600 entries, 200 pieces juried in and over \$10,000 in awards.
9. **Elk River Community Theatre**, \$5,000, seven performances of "**The Odd Couple**" at the Elk River High School Little Theater from February 15-24, 2013.
10. **Great River Chorale**, \$1,301, **Love Through the Years**, a free outreach concert on Sunday, February 24, 2013 for the residents, families and caregivers of residents in The Special Care Unit at St. Benedict's Senior Community in St. Cloud.
11. **Great River Education Arts Theatre**, \$5,000, for the production of the musical "**Annie**" featuring the original Broadway sets, costumes and props on January 11 – 20, 2013 at CSB Benedicta Arts Center Escher Auditorium.
12. **Minnesota Dance Ensemble**, \$5,000, "**Hide and Seek**" will express the varied experiences and feelings concealed in everyday life through dance with a performance on April 12, 2013 at 7:30 pm at the Paramount Theatre in St. Cloud.
13. **Paramount Arts Resource Trust**, \$4,556, themed Juried exhibition "**Impact: Art as a Catalyst for Social Change**" in June 2013 with juried by NDSU Artist Michael Strand. Strand will also conduct a 2-day ceramics workshop in the Spring of 2013.
14. **Pioneer Place Theatre Company**, \$5,000, **Mark Twain: Life on the Mississippi** starring former WCCO news anchor, Don Shelby in collaboration with the Stearns History Museum January 11-13, 2012 at Pioneer Place on Fifth.
15. **Rooftop Theatre**, \$5,000, will present the musical "**Guys and Dolls**" in June 2013 at the Paramount Theatre in St. Cloud.
16. **SOAR Regional Arts SOAR**, \$5,000, SOAR Academy will present "**Disney's Jungle Book Kids**" at St. Michael Catholic School Stage February 28th - March 3, 2013
17. **St. Cloud Municipal Band**, \$5,000, **Summer Concert Series**, a Memorial Day Concert at the VA Center in Waite Park, the Fourth of July Concert at Hester Park in St. Cloud, a Sauk Centre and six concerts at Barden Park in St. Cloud.
18. **St. Cloud Symphony Orchestra**, \$5,000, "**Welcome Spring**" concert featuring the winner of the 2013 Young Performer Competition on March 23, 2013 7:30 p.m. with a preconcert discussion by Clinton Smith at 6:30 at St. Cloud State University Ritsche Auditorium
19. **Visual Arts Minnesota**, \$3,605, **High School Art Exhibition and Competition** will host young artists from high schools throughout central Minnesota April 1 - 22, 2013 at the Great River Regional Library Mississippi Room and Gallery. An art reception will take place on April 17, 2013, from 5:30-7:30pm with an award ceremony in the Mississippi Room
20. **Youth Chorale of Central MN**, \$2,282- "**A New Day**" collaborative exchange concert featuring the Youth Chorale of Central Minnesota's Women's Chorale, Mixed Chorale and St. Paul-based **VocalPoint Chorus** to bring awareness to the growing issues of homeless youth. The choruses will perform in St. Paul in early Feb.

2013, and in St. Cloud on February 24, 2013 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church

The CMAB is one of eleven regional arts councils in the State of Minnesota whose purpose is to support and promote art appreciation throughout region 7W, consisting of Benton, Sherburne, Stearns and Wright counties. For more information about the Central MN Arts Board grant opportunities and services visit [www.centralmnartsboard.org](http://www.centralmnartsboard.org) or call the office at 320-968-4290 or toll free at 1-866-345-7140.

Visit [AroundTheCloud.org](http://AroundTheCloud.org) Arts & Events Click & Go Guide to see when these arts events and more are happening in Central Minnesota.