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**** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ****

CMAB awards Community Arts Support Grants to fifteen area arts organizations

The Central Minnesota Arts Board (CMAB), at their March 13, 2013 meeting, awarded fourteen Community Arts Support Grants totaling \$112,144.

The CMAB Community Arts Support Grant program provides funds of up to \$10,000 or 15% of the last completed fiscal year's annual operating expenses, whichever is less, for nonprofit arts organizations located in Benton, Sherburne, Stearns or Wright County. These are unrestricted grants for arts organizations that do not receive general operating support from the Minnesota State Arts Board and that demonstrate programming of high artistic quality and efficient management while enhancing arts opportunities within the communities they serve. These funds may be used for administrative, operating and capital expenditures.

Award recipients:

- Buffalo Community Orchestra - \$5,313
- Buffalo Community Theater - \$10,000
- Chamber Music Society of St. Cloud - \$10,000
- Command Performance Choirs - \$5,935
- Elk River Arts Alliance - \$10,000
- Elk River Community Theatre - \$7,574
- Granite City Folk Society - \$3,578
- Great Northern Theatre Company - \$6,715
- Great River Chorale - \$4,994
- Minnesota Center Chorale - \$6,593
- Minnesota Dance Ensemble - \$3,342
- Pioneer Place Theatre Company - \$10,000
- St. Cloud Symphony Orchestra - \$10,000
- Visual Arts Minnesota - \$9,145
- Youth Chorale of Central MN - \$8,955

The CMAB is one of eleven regional art councils in the State of Minnesota with the purpose of supporting and promoting art appreciation throughout Benton, Sherburne, Stearns and Wright counties. 2013 funding for the Community Arts Support Program came from the Arts & Cultural Legacy funds as appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008.

For more information about the Central MN Arts Board grant opportunities and services go to www.centralmnartsboard.org or call the office at 320-968-4290 or toll free at 1-866-345-7140.