



For Immediate Release

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2007 MIDWEST ARTS CONFERENCE COMING TO COLUMBUS, OHIO

PERFORMING ARTS CONFERENCE/TRADE SHOW SETS THE STAGE FOR MIDWEST PERFORMANCES

August 29, 2007 (Minneapolis, MN) – The 20th annual Midwest Arts Conference will be held in Columbus, Ohio, from September 5–8, 2007. The only event of its kind in the Central United States, the Conference is one of the largest convenings in the nation for performing artists, artist managers/agents, theater and facility managers, and arts administrators from throughout the United States and beyond to strengthen business contacts, enhance professional knowledge, and coordinate performing arts tours and series. The event will convene at the Hyatt Regency Columbus and Battelle Hall at the Greater Columbus Convention Center.

One of the Conference’s major components is the Marketplace exhibit hall, which is filled with organizations representing thousands of performing artists and ensembles ranging from world music, ballet, and touring theater companies to percussion ensembles, illusionists, and youth and family entertainment. During Marketplace hours, conversations between artists, agents, and representatives from venues ranging from small community colleges to major performing arts centers will focus on booking future dates and venues. Much of what Midwest audiences will see on stages in the 2008–2009 season and beyond will be determined at the Midwest Arts Conference.

In addition to the Marketplace, attendees can choose from a comprehensive slate of professional development sessions. Fee-based full- and half-day seminars are offered on using e-marketing tools, fundraising, the art of leadership, and evaluating your organization, while a wide range of free workshops, discussions, and meetings run the gamut from legal issues in the arts to outdoor festivals to marketing ideas. The Conference welcomes Next Generation Consulting Founder and CEO Rebecca Ryan, whose keynote address titled “MTV Meets Mozart: Engaging Next Generation Audiences and Patrons” will headline the plenary session. The plenary session will also feature the student-comprised Dublin (Ohio) Taiko Group.

Among the highlights of this year’s event are:

- Opening-Night Party at North Market, generously sponsored and planned by the Greater Columbus Arts Council
- All-Conference luncheon featuring a performance by The London Quartet, a British vocal group
- Saturday Brunch featuring gospel singer Robert Robinson, along with the Twin Cities Community Gospel Choir
- Field trips to The King Arts Complex and BalletMet

Performance Showcases

Performance showcases are a vital part of the Conference, offering presenting venue representatives the opportunity

to see live performances of a wide range of artists while providing artists with a forum for presenting their work to a large and diverse audience. The Conference's Spotlight Showcases feature mini-performances by 24 panel-selected dance, music, theater, and performance art ensembles and artists. In addition to Spotlight Showcases, dozens of independently arranged showcases will also take place at venues across Columbus.

Support & Sponsorship

Arts Midwest is very pleased to announce acknowledge its 2007 sponsors, including the Greater Columbus Arts Council; The London Quartet, represented by Agence Station bleue; Robert Robinson, represented by Dow Artists, Inc.; CAPA; IMG Artists; Defending the Caveman, represented by Theater Mogul; Delegation du Quebec a Chicago; Riders In The Sky, represented by New Frontier Touring; Opus 3 Artists; CMI Entertainment, Inc.; Victoria Theatre Association; Agency for Creative Talent Strategies, Inc./ACTS Inc.; Americans for the Arts; LVanHart Artist Productions; and Lazer Vaudeville. The Conference also benefits from support from the Canadian Consulate General – Detroit, in conjunction with the Canadian Consulates General of Chicago, Dallas, and Minneapolis; the National Endowment for the Arts; and partnership and planning assistance from the Ohio Arts Council and the Greater Columbus Arts Council.

Conference Leadership

The 2007 Midwest Arts Conference is co-chaired by Tina McPhearson of the Victoria Theatre Association in Dayton, Ohio, and Art Waber of Artsource Management in Cary, North Carolina. The local Host Committee is co-chaired by Kathy Cain and Katherine Eckstrand of the Ohio Arts Council and Paul Hoy of Class Acts Entertainment, all based in Columbus. The Conference is administered by Arts Midwest.

About Arts Midwest



Arts Midwest connects the arts to audiences throughout the nine-state region of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. Through strategic alliances, key programs also reach Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas. One of six regional arts organizations in the United States, Arts Midwest's mission is to connect people throughout the Midwest and the world to meaningful arts opportunities, sharing creativity, knowledge, and understanding across boundaries. Cultural programs initiated by Arts Midwest—including performances by high-quality theater, dance, and music ensembles; educational arts activities; visual arts exhibitions; and conferences—reach close to one million people annually, enhancing the quality of life in hundreds of cities, towns, and rural areas across the Midwest. Throughout its programming, Arts Midwest maintains a commitment to artistic quality and to reaching underserved audiences and communities.

**Complete information on the Midwest Arts Conference and Arts Midwest
is available online at www.artsmidwest.org.**