



April 1, 2010

As Arts Midwest begins to look toward warmer days, we realize how busy we've been over the past few months and how much wonderful programming we have on the horizon! Please allow me to update you on our progress so far in 2010.

First, we are thrilled to introduce the addition of Emily Maltz (Minneapolis, MN) and Bruce Bernberg (Racine, WI) to the Arts Midwest Board of Directors. Emily and Bruce are life-long patrons of the arts who bring strong financial and planning expertise to the Board and a passion for connecting people to theatre, music, and visual arts experiences. They have already made a great impact on the Arts Midwest team, and we look forward to hearing their ideas at future board meetings.

The Arts Midwest **DEVELOPMENT** team is pleased to announce that we have received \$30,000 from the Lilly Endowment of Indianapolis to support educational and artistic programming initiatives at the 2010 Midwest Arts Conference. We would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to the staff, board, and constituents of the Lilly Endowment for their generous contribution.

Arts Midwest Development staff continue to pursue support from a variety of corporations and foundations. We have recently submitted proposals to The Japan Foundation, Faegre & Benson, General Mills, Ameriprise Financial, US Bancorp (Minnesota and Ohio offices), Irwin Andrew Porter Foundation, the John P. and Eleanor R. Yackel Foundation, the Minnesota State Arts Board, The N. Bud and Beverly Grossman Foundation, the Christel DeHaan Family Foundation, and Land O'Lakes.

Planning for the **MIDWEST ARTS CONFERENCE** is underway! The Conference will take place Monday, September 13 – Thursday, September 16 in Indianapolis, Indiana. We look forward to seeing you there. We are also excited to share that our first David J. Fraher Future Leader, Megan Vetsch, recently got a full-time job as the Operations and Marketing Manager in the College of St. Bens - St. John's University Fine Arts Programming Department. Congratulations, Megan!

In December, Kat Duvic and I traveled to China with the **MAJOR UNIVERSITY PRESENTERS (MUPs)** Exchange Program's 2009 Delegation. MUPs participating in this delegation include: ASU Gammage, Arizona State University; Center for the Performing Arts, Penn State University; Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, University of Maryland; Lied Center of Kansas, University of Kansas; Northrop Auditorium, University of Minnesota; Texas Performing Arts, University of Texas- Austin; University of Florida Performing Arts, University of Florida; and University Musical Society, University of Michigan. While in China, the delegation visited Shanghai, Chengdu, and Beijing, where they met with performing artists and managers, and discussed their current partnership with the Ministry of Culture of the People's Republic of China. The next phase of the project will be working with the MUPs on artist selection and booking.

If you would prefer to receive an electronic version of this newsletter, please contact Anne Romens, development associate, at anne@artsmidwest.org

ARTS MIDWEST WORLD FEST is in the midst of another great season. Mauvais Sort, a Québécois ensemble who features a unique blend of contemporary and folk rhythms, just completed their first tour of the 2009-2011 cycle. Between February 20th and March 20th, the group conducted residencies in Valley City, ND; Aberdeen, SD; Alexandria, MN; and Knoxville, IA. Mauvais Sort's public concert in Alexandria, MN was sold out several days in advance- a first for our program! The Agatsuma ensemble from Japan will begin a nearly six-week tour in early April with stops in Chicago, IL; Marquette, MI; Hartford, WI; Bloomington, IL; Terre Haute, IN; and Sandusky, OH. The ensemble, led by master shamisen musician Agatsuma, infuses traditional sounds with contemporary musical influences of blues, rock, dance music, folk, flamenco, and funk. More information on artists, communities and engagements can be found online at www.artsmidwestworldfest.org.

"As I looked at the audience [for Mauvais Sort] on Saturday night, I KNOW there were first time concert-goer's there. There were people there whose lives have never had these connections before. The children and their families came because they were excited about what they learned and heard in school. That exposure ignites fires in kids to learn and hear more about these people and their arts. Who knows where these connections may lead!"

—Jane Herth, Voyager Elementary School, Alexandria, MN



Beauty and Melody perform in Hartford, WI.

Photo credit: Shigeyo Henriquez



Beauty and Melody conduct a workshop in Aberdeen, SD.

Photo credit: Shigeyo Henriquez



"My wife and I just got home from the community concert presented by the Israeli Ethnic Ensemble, as part of the Arts Midwest World Fest. WOW! FUN! WOW! The impact of your organization on a small Iowa community such as ours is tremendous. We can't wait for the next group to arrive."

— Gary and Mary Anderson, Residents, Knoxville, IA

Israeli Ethnic Ensemble at a school workshop in Bloomington, IL.

Photo credit: Eric Veal, Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts



Susan Chandler, our jazz advisor Willard Jenkins, and I traveled to New York in January to participate in a ceremony and concert for the **NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS JAZZ MASTERS LIVE** program. The concert, which took place at Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York City, featured the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis in a program dedicated to the honorees' works. NEA Chairman Rocco Landesman and Mr. Marsalis were the co-hosts for the evening of music.

Arts Midwest received 292 applications for the 2010-2011 **THE BIG READ** cycle. The granting process will be highly competitive this year, with an expected 75 awards distributed to grantees. We also received 71 applications from theater companies across the country wishing to participate in the 2010-2011

SHAKESPEARE IN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES initiative, Shakespeare for a New Generation. We will announce grant awards on our website, www.artsmidwest.org, in the coming weeks.

For those of you in Minnesota, allow me to share some updates on our local capacity building initiatives. **ARTSLAB**, supported by The McKnight Foundation, Bush Foundation, The Saint Paul Foundation, Mardag Foundation and F.R. Bigelow Foundation, has ended its first full year of programming and is now into year two. We look forward to the upcoming programs and continue to explore how we can extend these learning opportunities to the broader arts sector. Fourteen mid-sized arts organization have been selected for participation in the **ARTS LEARNING XCHANGE** Advanced Training Program: American Composers Forum, Cantus, Forecast Public Artworks, History Theatre, Illusion Theater and School, Inc., Interact Center for the Visual and Performing Arts, Lyric Arts Company of Anoka, Minnesota Fringe Festival, Mu Performing Arts, Park Square Theatre, Pillsbury United Communities/ Pillsbury House Theatre, Springboard for the Arts, Theater Latté Da, and Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus. We have already begun to work with these great organizations and are eager to collaborate on marketing and audience building strategies.

We are pleased to announce that our program grant with the United States Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs for **THE BIG READ EGYPT/U.S.** has been extended for the 2010 calendar year! The program's 2010 phase will feature new activities in Egypt and the U.S., and will introduce additional books into the programming.

Big Read Egypt/U.S. Program Director Adam Perry and I traveled to Egypt in March to formalize program plans for the coming year. During the trip, we attended an event at one of our community partners, the Egyptian Association for Educational Resources. More than 300 students from 20 schools throughout Egypt participated in event competitions, which featured original poetry, theatrical skits, book reviews, and artwork inspired by Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*. I gave opening remarks and awarded prizes to the winners at the event, which was a wonderful example of the power of cultural exchange in shaping the minds of our future global leaders.



I hope this update finds you well, and I encourage you to visit www.artsmidwest.org for further details—subscribe to our RSS feed or the online version of this newsletter, and much more. Thank you for your continued support, and I hope to see you soon!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David J. Fraher', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

David J. Fraher
Executive Director