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SaratogaArtsFest News Release

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SaratogaArtsFest announces community partner grants

SaratogaArtsFest is already ramping up for the fourth annual citywide celebration of the arts scheduled for June 10-13, 2010, with the announcement of six programming support grants to be awarded to performing arts partner organizations. The grants, totaling nearly \$10,000, are designed to assist these organizations in enhancing their performances and events for the four-day festival, which will once again offer some 100 events spanning music, dance, visual art, film, theatre, and literary art.

The grant recipients are the Albany Symphony Orchestra, Caffè Lena, the Empire State College Foundation of the State University of New York, Home Made Theater, Lake George Opera at Saratoga, and the Saratoga Chamber Players. The recipients were selected by a grant review committee made up of local grant administrators and artists.

“The ArtsFest is truly the product of community collaboration, and seeing such a wide array of groups come together with a common goal is remarkable,” said Marie Glotzbach, president of the SaratogaArtsFest board of directors. “The partnership of arts organizations that is the basis of SaratogaArtsFest plays a crucial role in generating quality programming. These grants ensure that the ArtsFest is working toward its mission of showcasing local arts organizations and bringing audiences to Saratoga.”



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The Albany Symphony Orchestra will participate in SaratogaArtsFest by presenting a performance of its brass quintet, which will offer a varied program ranging from Renaissance and Baroque selections to big band jazz and Broadway show tunes.

Home Made Theater will present *Runyonesque*, based on the writings of Damon Runyon, whose work inspired the musical *Guys and Dolls*. The hour-long play will be an adaptation of several short stories and additional Runyon writings that focus on Saratoga, gambling, and horse racing. The performance will be a revised and expanded version of one the group premiered at ArtsFest 2008.

The Empire State College Foundation of SUNY will present a performance titled *Flashback*, which explores the psychic repercussions of war from the point of view of six women who were married to Vietnam veterans and lost their husbands to suicide. As post-traumatic stress injuries afflict a new generation of soldiers, *Flashback* is particularly relevant.

Lake George Opera at Saratoga will present arias from a sampling of operas performed by artists from its 2010 summer season. The Saratoga Chamber Players will perform an all-Russian program, and Caffè Lena will offer two shows with nationally touring acoustic bands or solo artists.

"We're an organization with a small budget, so this grant is extremely helpful," said Stacie Mayette, general manager of Home Made Theater, this year marking its 25th season in Saratoga Springs. "We're situated between the worlds of a true community theater and a semi-professional theater, with a small paid staff and some 200 volunteers annually. The extra funds give us more flexibility to work."



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Added Mayette, "We're happy that the ArtsFest is bringing more attention to Saratoga Springs, highlighting all that the city has to offer. The festival helps us to connect to other arts organizations in ways that otherwise might not happen."

Sarah Craig, director of Caffè Lena, the legendary folk and acoustic music venue, called the venue "the community's portal to the national folk scene" and said the funds from the ArtsFest grant will enable her to "present two bands that are truly representative of the exciting national acts we bring in year round. For the ArtsFest I'm aiming for high energy, fun, new American roots music. The shows will be appealing for all ages and energizing."

The mission of SaratogaArtsFest is to strengthen the position of Saratoga Springs as a premier destination for the arts. The festival, which draws on local, regional, and national talent, is committed to increasing appreciation for the arts and strengthening cultural tourism in the Saratoga region. The ArtsFest is designed to appeal to a wide range of audiences, from the seasoned arts enthusiast to the casual arts consumer, including families with children.

"The diverse array of art experiences we are funding through these grants represents the excellence in the arts that already exists in our region," said Glotzbach. "These grant recipients will provide a splendid, eclectic mix of experiences for SaratogaArtsFest audiences in June."