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FESTIVAL AWARDED GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR THE ARTS

The Lancaster Festival has been named the recipient of a 2011 Governor's Award for the Arts.

Seven winners were chosen to receive the 2011 Governor's Awards for the Arts in Ohio. Winners were selected from 73 nominations submitted by individuals and organizations throughout Ohio. The Awards will be presented at a luncheon ceremony honoring winners and members of the Ohio Legislature at noon on May 11, 2011 at the Columbus Athenaeum in downtown Columbus. The luncheon is hosted by the Ohio Arts Council and Ohio Citizens for the Arts Foundation. Winners will receive an original work of art by Dayton photographer Francis Schanberger.

The Lancaster Festival was chosen the recipient of the **Governor's Award for Community Development and Participation**. This award is given to an individual or organization that works to create or strengthen interactive arts participation among diverse community members while increasing public awareness about the role of the arts in community life.

Inaugurated in 1985, the Lancaster Festival is a multifaceted, 10-day event that transforms the historic city of Lancaster, Ohio, with musical performances and family activities while getting local businesses, museums and residents involved. With the help of nearly 800 volunteers and the support of corporate and individual donors, service contributors and program advertisers, the annual Festival supports the local economy as well as the local arts. By bringing in guest artists and featuring popular musicians, the Lancaster Festival is an exciting community event that increases public awareness and appreciation for the arts.

Every year, one of the event's major attractions is the Festival Orchestra. This group, conducted by artistic director Gary Sheldon, recently beat out 50 other orchestras representing 26 states to be named the first-ever recipient of the American Prize for Orchestral Performance (professional orchestra division), a prestigious award that recognizes and rewards the best performances by orchestras in the United States. Sheldon also received the American Prize for Conducting. In recognition of the Festival's great success, it received one of just 13 grants awarded by the PNC Arts Alive program. The grant will allow the Festival, in collaboration with BalletMet, to present Hungarian composer David Kiraly's music during a ballet performance of "Pinocchio" at the 2011 Festival.

Through a strong alliance with local organizations, the Lancaster Festival boasts the ability to provide most of its events to the public at no cost. This approach allows the Festival to reach an even larger

audience by bringing the arts to people where they live and work. By doing this, the Lancaster Festival has created a positive community environment with arts and culture as the cornerstone.

The other six award categories and recipients are: Arts Administration, **Art Falco**, PlayhouseSquare (Cleveland); Arts Education, **Michael Lippert** (Dayton); Arts Patron, **Mary Wolfe** (Perrysburg); Business Support of the Arts, **Freund, Freeze & Arnold** (Dayton); Individual Artist, **James Friedman, photographer** (Columbus); Irma Lazarus Award, **Dr. Wayne Lawson** (Columbus).

The 2011 Governor's Awards Selection Committee consisted of Ohio Arts Council Board members, including committee chair Charles McWeeny (Athens), Martha Appel Burton (Worthington), Charlotte Kessler (New Albany), Jeff Rich (Dublin) and Tom Schorgl (Cleveland).

More information about the Governor's Awards for the Arts in Ohio and Arts Day Luncheon, including a full list of past winners, is available on the Ohio Arts Council website at www.oac.state.oh.us/events/GovAwards.

The 2011 Governor's Awards ceremony and luncheon will be held in conjunction with Arts Day on Wednesday, May 11, 2011. This daylong event demonstrating public value and support for the arts is sponsored by Ohio Citizens for the Arts Foundation. Arts Day will include an arts advocacy briefing, legislative visits, Statehouse tours and student exhibitions and performances.

Arts Day was created to foster a greater awareness of the value of the arts in Ohio. Citizens are encouraged to participate in Arts Day by visiting with state legislators and communicating the need for public support of the arts and arts education. Each year on Arts Day, Columbus is filled with arts supporters who share the importance of the arts in their communities. For more information or to learn how to participate, contact Ohio Citizens for the Arts Foundation at www.ohiocitizensforthearts.org or 614/221-4064.

The 2011 Governor's Awards for the Arts in Ohio and Arts Day Luncheon are presented in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and Ohio Government Telecommunications.

About the Ohio Arts Council:

The Ohio Arts Council is a state agency that funds and supports quality arts experiences to strengthen Ohio communities culturally, educationally and economically.

About Ohio Citizens for the Arts Foundation:

Ohio Citizens for the Arts Foundation was formed in 1990 as a companion organization of the Ohio Citizens for the Arts, which was established in 1976. OCA is a volunteer, nonprofit grass roots organization working to increase public support of the arts in Ohio. Through the efforts of hundreds of individuals and arts and education organizations, Ohio Citizens for the Arts advocates on behalf of the Ohio Arts Council and the arts throughout the state.

About the Lancaster Festival:

The Lancaster Festival is an annual celebration of music and art held each July in Lancaster. The 2011 Festival will be held July 21-30. For concert schedules and ticket information, call 1-800-LANFEST or visit the web site at www.LancasterFestival.org. The Festival is supported in part through grants from the Fairfield County Foundation and the Ohio Arts Council.