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For immediate release

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QUAD CITY ARTS ANNOUNCES THE 33RD SEASON OF THE VISITING ARTIST SERIES!

The 33rd season of the Visiting Artist Series will bring 41 artists in 9 residencies to the Quad Cities, reaching more than 70,000 people in schools and community locations. Residencies will feature everything from jazz to Shakespeare to Brazilian dance.

The Visiting Artist Series brings artists of international acclaim to the Quad City region, offering community members the opportunity to see professional performances by nationally-touring artists. One- to two-week residencies provide in-depth and often repeated contact between the artist and audience. Artists give 45 minute educational performances in three schools or community sites each day, creating personal connections between the artists and the community.

Outreach performances occur mostly in schools, but also at business locations, social service organizations and public facilities. The series offers programs for workers in factories, members of civic organizations and after-school programs, senior citizens, the correctional center, the disabled and underserved youth, including alternative school students and youth at Arrowhead Ranch.

Each residency concludes with a public concert in a traditional concert hall. Most of these concerts are free, though donations are accepted at the door. This provides community members with the opportunity to hear and see a longer performance which reinforces what they have seen during the presentations during the week. Families often take this opportunity to enjoy together the artists the students have seen earlier at their own school.

As an addition to our regular Visiting Artist Series roster, Quad City Arts is proud to be participating as the Illinois site for Arts Midwest's Midwest World Fest in 2005-07. The Midwest World Fest is a global education and outreach performing arts initiative that provides inspiring arts enrichment and instills awareness and appreciation for other cultures. Beginning in fall 2005 and continuing for two years, the Midwest World Fest features four unique musical ensembles from different cultures. The ensembles will conduct week-long residencies consisting of public concerts, school concerts, and outreach activities in 10 selected Midwest communities. Two artists will visit the Quad Cities in 2006-07. The first residency October 15-21 will feature llays, music & dance from Somalia. The Japanese Bamboo Orchestra will visit four sites February 18-24, 2006. Both groups will give public performances at Augustana College's Centennial Hall.

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The Visiting Artists are selected based on the quality of their work and the ability to interact with audiences of diverse backgrounds and ages. Artists are included in the development of each residency . We receive many letters throughout the year that the artists make a significant impact in the lives of area students - often inspiring them to take up the performing arts on their own. One school administrator commented "The Visiting Artist Series is very beneficial to area students. For many, it is their only cultural experience."

Quad City Arts is a nonprofit local arts agency dedicated to the growth and vitality of the Quad City region through the presentation, development and celebration of the arts and humanities. All Quad City Arts programs are partially supported by Festival of Trees, Quad City Arts Partners and operating grants from the Illinois Arts Council (a state agency) and the Iowa Arts Council, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs. Quad City Arts also receives significant support for the Visiting Artist Series from the following: National Endowment for the Arts, Arts Midwest/Performing Arts Touring Fund, Iowa Arts Council, HNI Industries Charitable Foundation, Geneseo Foundation, Oscar Mayer Division/Kraft Foods, Scott County Regional Authority, Target Stores, Rock Island Community Foundation and the Rauch Family Foundation I.

Local car dealerships donate rental vehicles and hotels provide rooms coordinated through the Quad City Lodging Association. Performance space is provided by Augustana College, Redeemer Lutheran Church, St. Ambrose University and Scott Community College. Additional support comes from service fees paid by school districts, Parent Teacher Associations, service clubs and businesses as well as paid subscriptions to VAnguard. KWQC-TV 6 provides public service announcements for the formal concerts. GENESIS sponsors tickets for the public concerts.

Midwest World Fest is made possible with leadership support from the 3M Foundation, the William Randolph Hearst Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. Major sponsorship has been generously provided by Amstore Corporation, Hanon McKendry, Verizon, the Consulate General of Israel to the Midwest in concert with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Israel, and the *Muskegon Chronicle*. Additional support from WKK Fund of Dorothy A. Johnson, the Muskegon Rotary Club and Muskegon Jewish Community.

Residencies by Terence Blanchard and Tom Dugan are supported by the Performing Arts Touring Fund, a program of Arts Midwest funded by the National Endowment for the Arts with additional contributions from General Mills Foundation, Land O'Lakes Foundation, Sprint Corporation, from the Illinois Arts Council (a state agency) and the Iowa Arts Council, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs.

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