



EASTERN AND WESTERN MUSICAL TRADITIONS MINGLE TO DELIVER MESSAGE OF PEACE



Kanniks Kannikeswaran leads community choir

Music will be used as a metaphor for the interconnectedness of humankind in Cincinnati-based musician and composer Kanniks Kannikeswaran's new multimedia work *Shanti – A Journey of Peace*. The project is supported in part by an Artists Projects grant from the Ohio Arts Council.

Kannikeswaran has combined ancient Indian musical traditions with western influences to create a unique choral piece for more than 110 singers. In addition to mixing diverse musical traditions, the project has drawn singers from varied cultural backgrounds. Members of the Greater Cincinnati Indian community

have begun to rehearse the music along with singers from the St. John's Unitarian Church Choir and the Martin Luther King Coalition Choir. Accompanying the choir will be an Indian music ensemble consisting of ethnic Indian instruments and a 12-member chamber orchestra. Dr. Catherine Roma, a distinguished musician and conductor, will be directing the combined choir and was an inspirational force in the fusion of musical traditions.

The word *shanti* means peace in several Indian languages. The combination of various communities and customs in the project is symbolic of the greater message of peace that (con't page 3)

PRESIDENT BUSH REQUESTS \$18 MILLION BUDGET INCREASE FOR NEA

First Lady Laura Bush recently announced that President George W. Bush is requesting an \$18 million budget increase for the National Endowment for the Arts to fund a major new initiative, *American Masterpieces: Three Centuries of Artistic Genius*. This three-year program will combine arts presentations with education programming to introduce Americans to the best of their cultural and artistic legacy.

American Masterpieces will sponsor presentations of the great American works across all art forms, and will reach large and small communities in all 50 states.

The President's request would raise the Arts Endowment's budget by \$18 million from \$121 million in FY 2004 to \$139.4 million, the largest increase since 1984.

President Bush also proposed budget increases for the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Office of Museum Services. However, the budget proposal eliminates support for the Department of Education's arts education program. For more information visit www.arts.gov or www.nasaa-arts.org.



LeadershipSpotlight

Senator Jeff Jacobson

Republican

OFFICE Ohio Senate, District 6

YEARS IN OFFICE

State Representative,
1992 – 2000; State Senator,
2001 – present

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES

Health, Human Services & Aging
(Vice Chair); Public Utilities; Rules

PERSONAL 42 years old; married
to Susan Wilson; One son, Alex

EDUCATION

B.A. in Economics and Political
Science, Yale University; J.D. from
University of Dayton School of Law

RECENT HONORS

Honorary Doctor of Law Degree,
Ashland University; Recipient of
Ohio Coalition of Career and Adult
Education *Public Exemplary
Servant of the Year Award* for 2002

ARTS SUPPORT

Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra

MOST MEMORABLE ARTS

EXPERIENCE

Seeing Brian Dennehy in “Death of
a Salesman” on Broadway

OTHER COMMENTS

“The Arts are an essential part of
our society and are critical to the
quality of life of all Ohioans.”

STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN ARTS DAY 2004

Eight Ohio high schools have been selected to participate in Arts Day 2004, sponsored by Ohio Citizens for the Arts Foundation, in partnership with the Ohio Arts Council and the Ohio Alliance for Arts Education. Held in conjunction with the Governor’s Awards for the Arts in Ohio, Arts Day 2004 aims to demonstrate public value and support for the arts and will include an arts advocacy briefing, legislative visits, workshops, Statehouse tours and student exhibitions. In addition to educating young people about the legislative process, participation in Arts Day provides students the opportunity to share with their legislators the impact the arts have had on their lives.

Participating schools are Toledo School for the Arts, Lucas County; Vanlue Local School, Hancock County; Unioto High School, Ross County; Winton Woods High School, Hamilton County; Crooksville High School, Perry County; Canal Winchester High School, Franklin County; Ostego High School, Wood County; and Canfield High School, Mahoning County. More than 60 high schools expressed interest in the event.

Prior to Arts Day, each participating school will host a state legislator who will share information regarding the state government process and receive information on the school’s arts and civics programs. On Arts Day, March 24, the student advocates will travel to Columbus to spend the morning speaking with legislators about the importance of the arts in their lives. The students also have been invited to attend the 2004 Governor’s Awards for the Arts in Ohio ceremony. For more information on Arts Day 2004 visit www.OhioCitizensForTheArts.org or call 614/221-4064.

JOIN US FOR FAMILY DAY!



A youngster proudly displays a thumbprint drawing created during *A Carnival of Animals: Beasts, Birds and Bugs* in *Original Illustrations from Children’s Books* opening celebration.

Children and their adult companions are invited to the Riffe Gallery for Family Day, Sunday, March 28, 2004. The event is held in conjunction with the gallery’s wildly popular current exhibition, *A Carnival of Animals*. Ohio native and award-winning illustrator Christopher Canyon will interpret one of John Denver’s best-loved tunes, *Sunshine On My Shoulders*, through illustration and song. Activities will begin at 1:30 and 2:30 p.m. The event is FREE! For more information visit www.riffegallery.org.

The Cleveland Film Society will present the **Cleveland International Film Festival** March 18 – 28. The Midwest's premier film event features more than 200 new films from over 40 countries on six continents. The diverse festival also includes American independent, documentary, Eastern European, family, lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender, and Pan-African films. Visiting directors, panel discussions, student screenings and a conference for area filmmakers are all CIFF highlights. For more information visit www.clevelandfilm.org or call 216/623-3456.

The Gateway Arts Council will host the **2004 Spring Fling Fine Arts and Crafts Sale** March 20 – April 3 at the Ross Historical Center in Sidney, Ohio. The sale includes fine art by area artists and a student exhibition. Work in the exhibition is judged by museum curators who award cash prizes. For more information visit www.bright.net/~artsgate/ or call 937/498-1653.

OPPORTUNITIES

The Fitton Center for Creative Arts' Riverbank Poetry Project is **accepting applications** for the second annual Riverbank Poetry Project Scholarship Program. The competition will award a \$1,000 scholarship to a 2004 high school senior planning to major or minor in writing in college. Deadline for applications is April 1, 2004. Applicants must submit two letters of recommendation from teachers, 12 original poems and a 500-word essay. The scholarship has been made possible through the generous support of Red Squirrel Restaurants and Dennis & Robin Kurlas. Entry forms are available at www.riverbankpoetry.com.

CITYFOLK GROWS WITH COLLABORATION

CITYFOLK, Dayton's traditional and ethnic arts organization, the City of Dayton, and Five Rivers MetroParks recently announced a five-year collaboration that will merge the CITYFOLK Festival and the City of Dayton's annual fireworks display, resulting in a fun-filled, family-oriented Fourth of July weekend at RiverScape. The 2004 CITYFOLK Festival will take place July 2, 3 and 4.

"With budgets and resources being tight for every organization these days, this partnership effort is an excellent example of doing more with less," Dayton city manager Jim Dinneen said. "Money and staff time for each of our three organizations will be used more wisely. The result is a savings of precious taxpayer dollars and an enhanced entertainment program for the community."

The two-and-a-half day festival will be held at RiverScape, Dayton's signature downtown venue along the river, in partnership with Five Rivers MetroParks. It will feature Ohio's three Heritage Fellowship recipients chosen by the Ohio Arts Council. In addition, musicians, dancers and traditional and ethnic artists from around the world will perform on three different stages during the two and a half days. The festival is free and open to the public. For more information visit www.cityfolk.org or call 937/223-3655.

OAC Deadlines & Panel Meetings

deadlines

APRIL 1

- Literature – Operating and Project Support
- Performing Arts on Tour – Presenters

panel meetings

MARCH 17

- Operating Support II – all disciplines

APRIL 28–29

- Project Support – Community, Traditional, Visual, & Performing Arts

MESSAGE OF PEACE (CON'T)

Kannikeswaran hopes to convey. Kannikeswaran hopes that the piece will foster an understanding between diverse members of the community.

Shanti will be presented on Saturday, May 1, 2004 at the University of Cincinnati in conjunction with Worldfest 2004, a weeklong celebration of world cultures. It also will be presented at St. John's Unitarian Church in Cincinnati on Sunday, May 2, 2004. The Indian Ambassador at Large for Persons of Indian Origin, Dr. Bheeshma Agnihotri will be a guest at the performance on May 1. For more information call 513/315-9286.

The second annual **Regional Appalachian Ohio Festivals Conference** will take place Saturday, March 27, 2004 at Hocking College in Nelsonville. The Appalachian Ohio Reinvestment Corporation, the Ohio Arts Council, the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio, Ohio River Border Initiative and Hocking College are partnering to provide this regional opportunity for art festival presenters and promoters to exchange information, attend workshops and to learn about organizational resources available for support of community festivals. Mark Derry, an American with Disabilities Act expert, will be a featured presenter. "A Night At Stuart's Opera House" will take place Friday, March 26, at Nelsonville's historic Stuart's Opera House on Public Square. The event will provide an opportunity for networking and celebrating with great Appalachian food, music, and fun. Conference fee is \$25. For more information visit www.appalachianohio.org, or call 740/753-1111.

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Susan R. Sofia, OAC Board Chair
Wayne P. Lawson, Executive Director

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



With support from the National Endowment for the Arts.