

Marblehead Festival of Arts

For Immediate Release

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Marblehead Festival of Arts Five-Day Festival to Open July 1

Marblehead, MA (June 26, 2009) The Marblehead Festival of Arts (MFoA) will host its 44th annual Arts Festival in downtown Marblehead from July 1–5. This North Shore favorite is home to fine arts and crafts exhibits, afternoon and evening musical performances in Marblehead's Crocker Park, a two-day crafts show, street performers at Street Festival, a Film Festival, a Literary Festival, a Theatre Festival, a Kite Festival, Sand Sculpture Competition, and a Model Boat Building Workshop.

The 2009 Festival opens Wednesday evening, July 1, at 6:00 PM, with an awards presentation outside Abbot Hall. At 7:15 PM, the Art Exhibits will open, giving visitors an opportunity to chat with the artists and view their works during the cool of the evening. By special arrangement, a chamber group from Symphony by the Sea will perform music-to-browse-art-by in Abbot Hall. Exhibits include crafts, painting, drawing, printmaking, photography, mixed media, sculpture, logo art, senior art, youth art, and student art. This year, the MFoA is hosting a guest exhibit by ArcWorks, a guild for artists with physical or intellectual challenges.

Thursday morning, *plein air* artists will begin their day with breakfast at the Marblehead Arts Association, and then go to selected locations around town as Painting-the-Town gets underway, giving people an opportunity to view art in the making.

Thursday evening, Performing Arts opens at Crocker Park, overlooking Marblehead Harbor, featuring Overboard, an eight-member, *a capella* group, followed by another captivating program put together by the Film Festival Committee: 12 short films by filmmakers hailing from locales ranging from Marblehead to California.

Friday, July 3—the first full Festival day—art exhibits open at 10:00 AM. The Unitarian Universalist Church (28 Mugford Street) will host Senior Art, Logo Art, and ArcWorks, as well as Writers' World and Theatre Festival. At 2:00 PM, the Mugford Street Players will put on Linda Weltner's one act play, *Dr. Love*. Visitors are invited to drop into the Literary Arts Café, where they can settle down and read the works submitted to Writers'

World, engage in conversation, and partake of the Café offerings which include iced tea, lemonade, coffee, light sandwiches, and sweets. The Café features an exhibit of this year's Logo Contest finalist and semifinalist entrees, as well as logo art from past years.

Visitors wishing to purchase products featuring the 2009 logo can visit the Festival's Logo Stores, set up in tents outside the entrance to Abbot Hall and outside Premier Incentives (opposite Old Town House in Market Square). This year's logo line includes T-shirts (adult, youth and tots), Onesies for babies, hats (youth and adult), sweatshirts in a rainbow of new and exciting colors, fleece jackets, polo shirts for both men and women, tank tops, adult bucket hats, tote bags, wine glasses, and aprons.

New this year, the MFoA will co-sponsor a Tea Room, serving iced drinks and desserts in the Wine Cellar of the historic King Hooper Mansion, home of the Marblehead Arts Association (MAA). Festival goers may view the Art Association's Summer Member Show, *A Day at the Shore*, in the first and third floor galleries. On the second floor, Friday afternoon, Painting the Town will hold an artist reception and award presentation, followed by the opening of this year's Painting the Town Exhibit.

Friday evening, Performing Arts opens at 6:00 PM with Rocco & The Stompers, playing pure swing music to get you tapping your toes and moving on your blankets and the grass "dance floor" of Crocker Park, with compositions and arrangements from the 30s and 40s "swing era" of music! At 8:00 PM, the Boston Horns Big Band takes the stage.

Leveraging the cream of the crop of local musicians, BHBB plays modern virtuoso big band jazz sound mixed with be-bop and swing, spiced with Latin flavors! Led by Henley Douglas Jr, their roaring sound has made them one of the hottest Big Bands around! The BHBB welcomes special guests, Marblehead vocalist Rachel Taylor and guitarist/vocalist Thaddeus Hogarth, who will be perform a set of classic Jimi Hendrix "charts" from the legendary jazz performer and arranger Gil Evans.

Saturday morning, July 4, features the Sand Sculpture Competition and Kite Festival at Devereux Beach, from 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM. Meanwhile, outside Abbot Hall, Artisans' Marketplace opens the first of a two-day show, with more than forty artisans whose crafts and fine art include handmade jewelry, blown glass, textiles and tapestry, photography, watercolors, weaving, basketry, and more. On the other side of Abbot Hall, the very popular Model Boat Workshop gets underway at 11:00 AM, as families congregate to work on their one-designs in preparation for the afternoon regatta at Redd's Pond.

Performing Arts concludes its program with a double bill on Saturday night. At 6:00 PM, the program opens with Bird Mancini, Boston's accordion/guitar rock duo, led by the husband-wife team of Ruby Bird on accordion, melodica, harmonica and vocals, along with singer-guitarist Billy Carl Mancini, joined tonight by long time friend John Bridge on bass and former Bentmen drummer Larry Harvey. At 8:00 PM, the Chad Hollister Band takes the stage, with a break for harbor illumination and fireworks. Chad's style infuses rock and roll with flavors of the blues, funk and reggae, producing a groove stew of originals that always sounds familiar. Chad's July 4th lineup includes hometown hero

and “Festival House Drummer” Dave Mattacks, Boston guitar legend Steve Sadler, and special guests.

The free Festival Trolley will be operating Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, shuttling between satellite parking at Marblehead High School and the exhibit sites. The Trolley also will operate Saturday evening, shuttling between Crocker Park and the High School.

Sunday’s schedule includes a second day of Artisans’ Marketplace, giving people an opportunity to go back and get what they wish they had purchased the first day. Art Exhibits will open at noon, when the People’s Choice Award winners are announced.

The 2009 Marblehead Festival of Arts concludes Sunday afternoon with Street Festival, featuring children’s craft events, yo-yo master Brett Outchunis, street performer Steven Baird, mime Chris Yerling, airbrush logo artist Gayle Rosen, henna tattoos by the Henna Hut, message and relaxation therapy by the Marblehead Wellness Committee, giant puppets and stilts by Maak, the painting of a vehicle donated by the MHD Auto School, music by the Merj. and Street Festival’s “grand finale that cannot be missed.”

For more information, visit www.MarbleheadFestival.org.

About Marblehead Festival of Arts (MFoA)

Founded in 1962, the Marblehead Festival of Arts has a rich history in producing a premier summer arts festival that has become a unique forum for artistic expression. Traditionally held each year over the July 4th weekend, the Marblehead Festival of Arts hosts a wide range of art exhibits (painting, sculpture, photography, drawing, etc.), outdoor music concerts overlooking Marblehead Harbor, Writer’s World, the Street Festival, Artisans’ Marketplace, and many other cultural activities designed to provide a fun and enriching experience for the entire family.

The Marblehead Festival of Arts is run by an all-volunteer organization comprised of more than forty committees. It operates year round and relies solely on donations to fund its operations. Individuals, families, and businesses may become Festival Sponsors by making a tax-deductible contribution. For additional information on MFoA, a calendar of events, volunteer opportunities and sponsorship, please call 781-639-ARTS or visit www.MarbleheadFestival.org.

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