

# ***Marblehead Festival of Arts***

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## ***For Immediate Release***

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### **Marblehead Festival of Arts Hosts Champagne & Culinary Arts Reception**

**Marblehead MA (May 30, 2011)** – The Marblehead Festival of Arts Annual Champagne & Culinary Arts Reception will be held Sunday, June 26, from 5 to 7 pm, under a tent at historic Fort Sewall, overlooking beautiful Marblehead Harbor. The Reception celebrates the opening of the Summer Season and the Marblehead Festival of Arts, to be held July 1-4.

Reception chairpersons Cathy Michael and Linda Hanwell are excited about this year's delicious food offerings. "We are happy to have both new, exciting restaurants and returning favorites join us. They will provide delectable tastings for our Reception guests, who will then be invited to vote on a People's Choice Award winner," Michael said.

This year's food establishments feature the best of the North Shore, including Becky's Gourmet, Le Bistro Café & Grille, The Blue Ox Restaurant & Bar, Edible Arrangements, Hungry Betty's Bar and Grille, The Hurricane Restaurant and Bar, Jack-Tar American Tavern, The Landing Restaurant, Manhattan Sandwich Company, Starbucks, Starlight Creatives and Sweeney's Retreat. Another highlight is last year's People's Choice Award winner, 5 Corners Kitchen.

Music by the Orville Giddings Band, whose sound ranges from soulful R&B to rock & roll to country funk, will further enliven the party atmosphere at Fort Sewall. The North Shore and Boston-based band features Orville Giddings on vocals & guitar, Brooks McPhail on vocals and bass, Steve Chaggarris on drums, Cliff Spencer on keyboard and organ, Amadee Castenell and Mark Earley on saxophone, and Tom Palance on trumpet.

The tradition continues as Marilyn and Cy Fishman once again judge the Champagne Reception Hat Contest. Guests are encouraged to have fun designing their special hats, always known for their originality, local color, history, and the July 4 celebration. This year's prizes, gift certificates to the Festival's Logo Store, will be awarded for the best Creative Hat and the best Fancy Hat.

"In addition to the wonderful restaurants, music, hat judging and overall festive ambiance of the Reception, the beautiful floral arrangements gracing the tent entry will be provided by the very talented Flores Mantilla of Marblehead," Hanwell said.

The Champagne & Culinary Arts Reception is a fundraising event for the summer Arts Festival. Invitations are available on June 26<sup>th</sup> for donations of \$55 per person, and in advance for donations of \$50 per person at these Marblehead locations from June 6<sup>th</sup> through 25<sup>th</sup>: Arnould Gallery and Framery (111 Washington Street), Shubie's Marketplace (16 Atlantic Avenue) and The Spirit of '76 Bookstore (107 Pleasant Street. For more information, visit [www.MarbleheadFestival.org](http://www.MarbleheadFestival.org).

PHOTO CREDIT: Joe Puleo

### **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 4<sup>th</sup> weekend, the Marblehead Festival of Arts hosts a wide range of art exhibits (including painting, sculpture, photography and drawing), outdoor music concerts overlooking Marblehead Harbor, the Film Festival,

Writers' World, the Street Festival, the Children's 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 40 committees and involving several hundred volunteers. 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](http://www.MarbleheadFestival.org).

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