

Marblehead Festival of Arts

For Immediate Release

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Children's and Street Festivals Top Family Activities at Marblehead Festival of Arts

Marblehead MA (June 9, 2011) – Family fun for all ages is a highlight of the Marblehead Festival of Arts, to be held this year on July 1-4. Children's Festival is set for Saturday, July 2, from noon until 3 pm outside Abbot Hall. Street Festival will take place on Monday, July 4, from noon until 4 pm on lower Washington Street. These two events will welcome kids and their parents for outdoor delight and enjoyment.

By popular demand, Children's Festival returns after a three-year hiatus on Saturday. According to chairperson Sharman Pollender, children ages 10 and younger will come to Abbot Hall for a studio-like experience geared totally to them, including crafts, performers and movement fun.

There is a full schedule of talent lined up for children's pleasure:

- Noon to 1:00: Fortune teller Sarah Cook
- 12:00 to 12:30: Story teller Kacy Pierce
- 12:30 to 1:00: Kid Zumba, led by Jen Nicosia
- 1:00 - 1:30: Story teller Jenn Dennett
- 1:30 - 2:00: Kid Zumba, led by Jen Nicosia
- 2:00 to 3:00: Musical Activity by Marblehead/Salem Schools of Music

During the entire event, kids' crafts activities will include puzzle pins, masks, ziti necklaces and face painting along the perimeter of Abbot Hall lower grounds. Please note that, to preserve the landscape, there will be no strollers permitted on the grounds. Instead, there will be a sectioned-off area reserved for those who may need it.

On Monday, down on Washington Street – which will be open only to foot traffic from Abbot Hall to the Old Town House – we'll have the Street Festival. "It is a happy affair, a family block party, where crowds will enjoy comedy, magic, roving artists, juggling, music, dance, face painting and balloon twisting," said Greg Triplett, chairperson. Additionally, the Wellness Committee of the Marblehead Chamber of Commerce will be there to discuss the healing arts and massage for everyone's total well-being.

Returning popular performers include Bonaparte, the strolling magician whose act is filled with mystery, excitement and laughter. The Merj, a popular North Shore band, serves up classic and folk rock. Their wide repertoire brings back lots of memories and has everyone singing along and dancing.

Chris Yerlig is a strolling mime and statue artist. Dressed in traditional white-face make-up and black and white attire, this master of silent comedy never ceases to delight and amaze his audiences. Kai Le and the 5th Element features New York-style contemporary dance, including hip hop and break-dancing. Look for Ukoiya, who is quite visible as a nine-foot-tall stilt-walker wearing exceptional costumes and masks.

There will be balloon artists at the Festival treating old and young to their talents. Jake, the Balloon Kid, is a local celebrity who delights in making balloon animals; and Royal Events Balloons of Peabody will mesmerize onlookers with their new dimension to the art of balloon sculpture.

Juggling by Tony Duncan will have street strollers laughing and wondering how he defies gravity with his antics. Brent McCoy, the working clown from Vermont, will amaze audiences with his comedy, circus and performing stunts.

Refreshments will be part of the event. Look for Terry's Ice Cream Truck, where Carlos will make you smile; and visit Devereux House to sample their award-winning chowder.

Other family activities during the Festival are the Kite Festival and the Sand Sculpture Competition at Devereux Beach on Saturday and the Model Boat Building Workshop and Regatta at Abbot Hall and Redd's Pond on Sunday.

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 (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.

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