# Marblehead Festival of Arts

# For Immediate Release

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

**Marblehead MA (May 30, 2012) –** The Marblehead Festival of Arts Annual Champagne & Culinary Arts Reception will be held Sunday, June 24, 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 June 30-July 4.

Reception chairpersons Sandy McLaughlin and Alison Becker are excited about this year’s delicious food offerings. “We are happy to have both new, exciting restaurants and returning favorites join us. All of the restaurants will showcase their menu specialties. Reception guests will then be invited to vote on a People’s Choice Award winner,” McLaughlin said.

This year’s food establishments feature the best of the North Shore, including Becky’s Gourmet, Bonne Bouche Caterers, Caffe Italia, Edible Arrangements, The Hurricane, Hungry Betty’s, Jack-Tar American Tavern, Joey D’s, The Landing Restaurant, Little Red Store Catering, Maddie’s Bake Loft, Soall Bistro, Starbucks and Sweeney’s Retreat.

Ned & the Big Babies will entertain with red hot roots, rock and funk. Blending an eclectic mix of deep soul and rock covers to their unique original music, Ned and The Big Babies bring a passion, musicality and humor to their live performance that will further enliven the party atmosphere emanating from the stage at Fort Sewall. Legendary tenor saxophonist Henley Douglas Jr. will be joining Ned & the Big Babies, creating an awesome line up of musicians featuring Ned Nugent on bass and vocals, Henley Douglas on tenor sax, Charlie O'Neal on guitar and Kemp Dunn on drums.

The tradition continues as Marilyn and Sy 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,” McLaughlin said.

The Champagne & Culinary Arts Reception is a fundraising event for the summer Arts Festival. Invitations are available on June 24 for donations of $55 per person, and in advance for donations of $50 per person at these Marblehead locations from June 11 to 23: Arnould Gallery and Framery (111 Washington Street), Shubie’s Marketplace (16 Atlantic Avenue) and Spirit of ’76 Bookstore (107 Pleasant Street). For more information, visit [www.MarbleheadFestival.org](http://www.MarbleheadFestival.org).

PHOTO CUTLINE: The 2011 Champagne & Culinary Arts Reception

PHOTO CREDIT: Michelle Phillips

**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 holiday, 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 visit www.MarbleheadFestival.org.

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