

Marblehead Festival of Arts

For Immediate Release

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Marblehead Festival of Arts Awards Two Scholarships

Marblehead MA (July 11, 2012) – As part of supporting our community, the Marblehead Festival of Arts awards two scholarships annually to deserving students. Since 1986, the Festival has given a scholarship, now worth \$3,000, to a high school senior who resides in or attends school in Marblehead, and is pursuing higher education in visual arts, performing arts, crafts, music, drama or writing. For the past three years, the Festival has had an additional art scholarship program, in the amount of \$500, made possible by contributions to a special fund in memory of Milton Bloom. A student in grades 7-11, residing in or attending school in Marblehead, receives assistance in paying tuition for programs in the arts.

Rebecca Purchase is the 2012 winner of the Student Art Scholarship. A recent graduate of Marblehead High School with high academic standing, Rebecca will attend Columbia College of Chicago where she intends to major in Technical Theatre and Costume Design.

During her high school career, she was founder and president of the Art Club, a member of the National Art Honor Society and earned technical kudos and art recognition for a number of school productions. She was voted “most artistic” by her class mates this year. Her volunteer experience includes Salem Hospital, Marblehead Festival of Arts and Marblehead Little Theatre.

“Since nursery school, my passion for the arts has shaped my development as a person, and the Festival of Arts has always been part of my life. I really feel that the Festival is the center of the Arts in Marblehead, and I am proud and excited to have been recognized for my work by this wonderful organization.”

Craig Vanremoortel has won this year’s Milton Bloom Student Art Scholarship. Now entering his freshman year at Marblehead High School, he has been playing the guitar for half his life. Also a singer, Craig belongs to the Youth Choir of Old North Church and has performed at Boy Scout events and school talent shows. Other instruments in his impressive repertoire include the piano, drums, sax and ukulele. He will be attending the Berklee College of Music summer music program this year.

Craig’s involvement with the Festival of Arts includes performances in the Local Artists Showcase at Crocker Park. Previously, he performed on stage with his sister; and, this year he played guitar and vocals with his band, Afterthought. Craig has enjoyed being part of the Festival, and he’s glad we have it in Marblehead. “It’s an honor to win this scholarship, and I’m really looking forward to being at Berklee this summer.”

CUTLINES: Rebecca Purchase with her mother, Susan; Craig Vanremoortel

CREDITS: Mike Raftus

About Marblehead Festival of Arts (MFoA)

Founded in 1962, the Marblehead Festival of Arts has a rich history of 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 (painting, sculpture, photography, drawing and other

media) outdoor music concerts overlooking Marblehead Harbor, Writers' World, 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 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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