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Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival receives NEA grant to support Shouse Institute for emerging musicians

Grant part of NEA announcement of 863 grants and \$22.543 million in funding nationwide

SOUTHFIELD, Mich. - The Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival is one of 863 grantees that will receive an Art Works grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). On November 17, NEA Chairman Rocco Landesman announced that the agency will award a total of \$22.543 million to organizations and individual writers across the country. The grants encompass 15 artistic disciplines and fields, and support projects in 47 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival will receive a grant of \$13,000 to fund the Catherine Filene Shouse Chamber Music Institute for emerging artists.

“We’re very pleased to have the support of the NEA,” said Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival Executive Director Maury Okun. “With their help, we’re able to continue our initiative to assist young musicians in reaching professional stature.”

The Shouse Institute is an intensive 2-week coaching and performing experience for young, up-and-coming chamber ensembles. The institute is directed by Paul Katz, Professor of Cello and Chamber Music and Director of the Professional String Quartet Training Program at The New England Conservatory of Music. Shouse fellows enjoy rigorous coaching and performing opportunities with some of the world's most renowned chamber musicians and, with the help of the NEA grant, are able to receive support for lodging, transportation and daily expenses.

“Art Works is the guiding principle at the NEA,” said agency Chairman Rocco Landesman. “And I’m pleased to see that principle represented through the 823 Art Works-funded projects included in this announcement. These projects demonstrate the imaginative and innovative capacities of artists and arts organizations to enhance the quality of life in their communities.”

In March 2011, the NEA received 1,686 eligible applications for Art Works requesting more than \$84 million in funding. The resulting funding rate of 49 percent of eligible applications reflects both the significant demand for support and the ongoing vitality of the not-for-profit arts community despite current financial challenges. Art Works grants are awarded based on the applications received by the NEA and how those applications are assessed by the review panels.

For a complete listing of projects recommended for Art Works grant support, please visit the NEA web site at arts.gov.

The Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival was formed in 1994. The festival is led by the artistic direction of pianist James Tocco, and has been since its inception. With a rotating contingent of world-class musicians, the Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival has become an event of national significance. The festival is held for two weeks each June, and presents nearly 20 concerts in Southeastern Michigan. The festival highlights both established and new chamber music artists. For more information, visit www.greatlakeschambermusic.org.