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MAYOR

City of Charleston
South Carolina

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PUBLIC INFORMATION

For Immediate Release: May 1, 2013

PICCOLO SPOLETO ANNOUNCES 35TH FESTIVAL PROGRAM AND UNVEILS POSTER IMAGES

Charleston, SC—Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr. and the Piccolo Spoleto Festival Artistic Director Emeritus, Ellen Dressler Moryl, announced highlights of the 2013 Piccolo Spoleto Festival and unveiled this year's official poster image at a press conference Wednesday, May 1, 2013 at 10:00am in Washington Square, adjacent to Charleston City Hall. They were joined by the new Director of the City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs, Scott Watson. The Piccolo Spoleto Festival, which is celebrating its 35th year of "Bringing the Arts to the People," runs May 24-June 9, 2013.

"The year 2013 marks the 35th season for Piccolo Spoleto! This year's festival will be an especially exciting time for our community with many new programs and offerings, along with some wonderful echoes from the past 35 years. It provides an excellent opportunity for everyone to experience the wonder and beauty of the arts. I invite you to join us in celebrating the 35th year of this high-energy and exhilarating local component of Spoleto Festival USA," Mayor Riley said. "Everyone who comes to Piccolo Spoleto is better for the experience," he continued.

Riley and Moryl also unveiled the official 2013 Piccolo Spoleto poster image, "Piccolo Suono Bartholomeux" by artist Nathan Durfee. "Mr. Durfee's wonderful image is perfect for this year's 35th festival year. It evokes the vitality, imagination and whimsy of Piccolo's 700+ performances and exhibits. His original painting will become part of the city's collection of Piccolo Spoleto poster images, which have been created by some of South Carolina's finest visual artists. Each artist has interpreted the essence of the Piccolo Spoleto Festival and its programs in his or her own unique way," said Mayor Riley.

Ellen Dressler Moryl, founding director of Piccolo Spoleto, said, "Piccolo Spoleto adds that special ingredient of magic to Spoleto Festival USA which lets everyone know when they get to Charleston that there is an exciting, world-class arts festival going on, entertaining and inspiring everyone who comes to partake of it. The 2013 festival features a huge array of performances and events to please everyone's tastes. Classical music, contemporary music, organ recitals, choral music, world music, dance and theatre, including musicals and comedy improvisation, along with jazz, blues, crafts shows, visual arts, film and children's activities...there's something for every person of every age and walk of life. In total, the Piccolo Spoleto 2013 program is vibrant, colorful and lively."

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Two additional poster images were unveiled at the press conference. Harold Kessler's fanciful piece "Who Filled It Up" depicts his son's interpretation of how the moon appears to be a balloon that's been filled up with air and is an imaginative image to represent the 2013 Children's Festival: "Reaching for the Stars." The Spotlight Concert Series' poster image "Aspirations" by artist Cheryl Baskins Butler, aptly illustrates Piccolo's use of Charleston's beautiful historic churches as concert venues.

Also during the press conference, Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr. introduced the new Director of the City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs, Scott Watson, who began his duties in mid-January coinciding with the retirement of Ellen Dressler Moryl on February 1st. Watson provided a comprehensive overview of this year's Piccolo Spoleto marketing program and ticketing system.

"With today's program announcement and poster unveilings, Piccolo Spoleto 2013 has officially launched and I encourage all of you to take advantage of our different marketing platforms and information tools as you make your plans for this year's Festival," Watson said. "Ticket brochures with detailed information about individual productions and special events are routing to our past attendees' mailboxes and will be readily available throughout Charleston -- most notably at our Box Office located at the Charleston Visitor Center at 375 Meeting Street, and also in-store at Charleston-area Publix stores. Our Box Office will be available for walk-up in person sales from Tuesday, May 7 through the run of the Festival, while our Ticket Hotline and Piccolo Spoleto Website will allow you to book tickets at your convenience from a home computer, mobile tablet, or cell phone. Also, be sure to follow us on Twitter and Facebook for late-breaking news, promotions, and updates, and join our e-news list for periodic reminders and special offers throughout the Festival. For those of you who prefer to make your decisions closer to curtain time, keep an eye out for our comprehensive Piccolo Spoleto program guide, which will be available at venues, our box office, and Piccolo Spoleto events when the Festival commences on May 24."

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2013 PICCOLO SPOLETO FESTIVAL PROGRAM INCLUDE:

SPOTLIGHT CONCERT SERIES, CHORAL & SPECIAL EVENTS

The SPOTLIGHT CONCERT SERIES continues to showcase a selection of the region's excellent, highly skilled, classical chamber musicians and choral ensembles in concerts performed in beautiful and historic churches and other unique spaces around Charleston. These include two special events at Mepkin Abbey, a Cistercian-Trappist monastery in Moncks Corner. These include a concert, a reception and a guided tour of the Abbey grounds.

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The NANCY D. HAWK MEMORIAL DAY CONCERT AT MEPKIN ABBEY features The Ensemble of St. Clare at Mepkin Abbey performing works by Albinoni, Handel, Mozart, Telemann; Bryars; and Villa-Lobos. Yuriy Bekker leads the Ensemble; soloists are Michael Smith, trumpet; Brandon Nichols, French horn; Charles Messersmith, clarinet; John Cunningham, countertenor; Tacy Edwards, flute; and Christopher Teves, guitar. The second concert at Mepkin features the TAYLOR FESTIVAL CHOIR led by founder Dr. Robert Taylor, in a concert of spiritual music featuring James MacMillan's setting of the Mass, as well as sacred motets by Michael McGlynn and Tarik O'Regen. Regarded as the greatest living Scottish composer, James MacMillan's compositions have been heard in virtually every major concert hall in the world.

A centerpiece of this year's Spotlight Concerts is a BRAHMS RETROSPECTIVE concert at Grace Episcopal Church, performed by music faculty from the College of Charleston: Yuriy Bekker, violin; Natalia Khoma, cello; Volodymyr Vynnytsky, piano and Brandon Nichols, French horn. This is a recreation of a 1979 chamber music concert at the first Piccolo Spoleto Festival which set the highest of artistic standards for Piccolo's chamber music offerings over the 35 year history of the festival. A champagne reception follows the concert in the College of Charleston Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Center located across the street from Grace Episcopal Church.

FILM/LITERARY

The PICCOLO SPOLETO LITERARY FESTIVAL returns with Charleston favorite Dorothea Benton Frank and other special guests from around the world including Dr. David T. Gleeson, a Reader in History from Northumbria University-UK and John Avlon, a CNN commentator and senior columnist for Newsweek and the Daily Beast and others. SUNDOWN POETRY is still going strong with its presentations of poets from around the U.S. in the intimate setting of the Dock Street Theatre courtyard with receptions immediately following in art galleries around the French Quarter district. Piccolo Spoleto teams up with The Charleston Parks Conservancy to present a special admission-free, outdoor film screening on June 1st in Hampton Park of the documentary "OLMSTED AND AMERICA'S URBAN PARKS." This film by Rebecca Messner, George deGolian and Michael White features the voices of Kevin Kline and Kerry Washington and documents the life of Frederick Law Olmsted whose adopted son, John Charles Olmsted, designed Hampton Park where the film will be screened for Piccolo Spoleto Festival audiences.

TRADITIONAL MUSIC OF THE OLD SOUTH, JAZZ AND BLUES

Festival favorites such as the CSO Gospel Choir, CSO Spiritual Ensemble, Choraliers, and Mt. Zion AME Spiritual Singers return in the TRADITIONAL MUSIC OF THE OLD SOUTH SERIES, joined by Buncombe Turnpike from Asheville, NC and a multidisciplinary collaboration called *Nine Ways to Cross a River* which includes three women on a collaborative journey through words, music and art. LOWCOUNTRY BLUES CRUISES, PICCOLO SPOLETO JAZZ CRUISES and JAZZ AT HALLS CHOPHOUSE feature The Lyndsey Goodman Jazz Trio, Lonnie Hamilton, New South Jazzmen, Shrimp City Slim and more.

EARLY MUSIC, CELTIC ARTS, WALKING TOURS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

The EARLY MUSIC SERIES continues to present the finest artists performing Renaissance and Baroque music and the CELTIC ARTS SERIES introduces festival goers to new regional artists along with familiar local favorites. College of Charleston presents the YOUNG ARTIST SERIES and A WORLD OF JEWISH CULTURE. SPECIAL EVENTS include the annual sell-out Charleston Men's Chorus Memorial Day concert; The Sound of Charleston presentations; Piccolo Spoleto Rising Stars; and a new "Churches of the Holy City Walking Tour."

THEATRE

Over the years, theatre has become a centerpiece of Piccolo Spoleto, and this year's Piccolo Spoleto Theatre offerings continue to showcase the best in a widely diverse series of productions: Piccolo Spoleto Theatre Series, Theatre 99's Piccolo Fringe, Social Art, and the College of Charleston's Stelle di Domani Series. Performances take place in a variety of settings: Charleston Acting Studio (James Island), Creative Spark Center for the Arts (Mt. Pleasant), and Downtown Charleston venues - Chapel Theatre, Circular Congregational Church, Footlight Players Theatre, Gatch Hall, PURE Theatre, Theatre 99, Theatre 220, Threshold Repertory Theatre and the new Woolfe Street Playhouse. In addition to The Have Nots! presenting some of the nation's finest comedy and improve acts in the Piccolo Fringe Series, the eclectic Theatre series also includes children's theatre offerings like *Peggy the Pint Sized Pirate* and *Jack & The Beanstalk*, to a serious and grownup Italian opera version of *Pinocchio* (from Spoleto, Italy) and much more.

VISUAL ARTS

This year's series includes exhibits by artists practicing in a variety of mediums and at varying stages of their careers. Featured artists include Christian Thee, Cheryl Baskins Butler, Mary Edna Fraser, Andrea Stanislav, Nathan Durfee, Lillian Trettin and Judy Mooney. Additional exhibits include THE ART OF HEALING featuring artwork created by individuals living with mental illness; award-winning SC artists in the JURIED ART EXHIBITION and the OUTDOOR ART EXHIBITION, and artists and artisans from across the U.S. in the OUTDOOR CRAFTS SHOW. The 2013 PICCOLO SPOLETO SAND SCULPTING COMPETITION Celebrates 25 Years of Temporary Art in the Sand on June 1st at the Front Beach of the Isle of Palms. This fun, family-oriented event features sand sculpting teams competing for prizes in six different categories.

FREE OUTDOOR EVENTS

During Spoleto Festival USA, it is Piccolo that truly brings the whole city to life with its wide variety of free outdoor events and programs, many heavily oriented to families. These activities create the magic and lively atmosphere, which is what makes Spoleto unique among arts festivals throughout the world. Charleston's tourism industry is bustling and as the #1 visitor destination in the country and the world by Conde Nast Traveler Magazine.

Piccolo's annual curtain raiser is an admission free outdoor concert behind the U.S. Custom. This year, the SUNSET SERENADE concert is Sunday evening, May 26 at 8pm behind the U.S. Custom House and showcases highlights from *West Side Story* performed by the Charleston Symphony Orchestra with guest soloists Melissa Bapalles-soprano, Jennifer Luiken-mezzo-soprano, Eric Margiore-tenor, all of whom are rising stars in the world of opera. Yuriy Bekker, CSO concertmaster and acting artistic director, will conduct.

On Saturday, May 25th, Piccolo Spoleto's CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL in Marion Square runs from 10am-3pm coinciding with America's favorite farmers market, the CHARLESTON FARMERS MARKET, which offers extended days and hours of operation during the festival. Also in the park throughout the festival are over 80 artists with mini art galleries set up in tents surrounding the park for the OUTDOOR JURIED ART EXHIBITION and across the street, guests can enjoy the OUTDOOR CRAFTS SHOW.

On Monday, May 27th, Piccolo Spoleto presents a MEMORIAL DAY CONCERT featuring patriotic performances by the Charleston and Columbia Community Bands.

On Saturday, June 1st, Piccolo Spoleto presents a new event in Hampton Park, a PICCOLO SPOLETO JAZZ PICNIC IN THE PARK. The ambiance will be casual and relaxed with patrons encouraged to bring blankets and lawn chairs; children and grandchildren, along with beach balls or Frisbees, etc. and enjoy the excellent concert in that beautiful setting. The event features an interesting mix of food, merchandise vendors, jump castles and the like. Performances are admission-free, featuring local and regional jazz artists.

Additional outdoor free events include A TOUCH OF JAZZ, CONCERT IN THE PARK AT ALLAN PARK, PICCOLO SIDESHOW, and the PETITE PERFORMANCE PAVILION.

The last big musical extravaganza of this year's Piccolo Spoleto Festival is a huge favorite! The PICCOLO SPOLETO FINALE at Hampton Park is scheduled for Saturday, June 8th from 5-10pm. The event starts off with two hours of Reggae music which segue into MotownMadness, a group based in Bowling Green Kentucky and appearing at Piccolo Spoleto's Finale for the fourth consecutive year! MotownMadness brings to life favorite Motown, R&B and soul artists such as Stevie Wonder, Michael Jackson, Aretha Franklin and more. Last year, they attracted 15,000 cheering fans to this admission-free, family friendly, fun event. They are accompanied by members of the Charleston Symphony Orchestra.

HOW TO BUY TICKETS

Piccolo Spoleto tickets are on sale online at www.piccolospoleto.com and by phone through OvationTix at (866) 811-4111 starting May 1st with in person ticket sales starting on May 7th at the Charleston Visitor Center, located at 375 Meeting Street in Downtown Charleston. Box Office Hours of Operation will be May 7-May 23: Open Mon.-Sat. 9am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm; May 24-June 9: Open Daily 9am-5pm. For a ticket brochure and information on Piccolo Spoleto, call the City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs at (843) 724-7305, email CulturalAffairs@charleston-sc.gov or visit www.piccolospoleto.com.

ABOUT PICCOLO SPOLETO

Piccolo Spoleto, the official outreach program of Spoleto Festival USA, was founded in 1979 by the City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs under the direction of Ellen Dressler Moryl and has been produced and directed by the Office of Cultural Affairs over its 35-year history. Piccolo's mission is to provide access to the Spoleto Festival USA experience for everyone, regardless of their economic, social or physical circumstances and to provide the opportunity for excellent local and regional artists, writers and performers to be showcased in the Piccolo Spoleto Festival venues as the outreach arm of Spoleto Festival USA.

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Editor's Note: High res images available upon request

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