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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

## **ARTS & CULTURAL TREASURES ABOUND IN** **OHIO'S LAKE ERIE SHORES & ISLANDS**

**LAKE ERIE SHORES & ISLANDS, OHIO** – Ohio's Lake Erie Shores & Islands is best known as a family fun destination, but did you know it is also a great place to experience arts and culture? The area boasts a well-established and ever-evolving arts mecca.

### ***The Performing Arts --- amazing!***

- In 2008, the Sandusky State Theatre, a 1,500 seat national landmark, will celebrated 80 years as a top entertainment destination for the region, presenting delightful “dinner and show” packaged productions. The 2009-2010 season is rounded out with amazing Holiday events, Broadway musicals, educational programs, children's programs, choral and orchestra programs, interactive comedies and more.
- Harlequins Community Theatre is the oldest continuously running community theatre in Ohio and has been entertaining since 1927. All performances since 1958 have been in the historic Coach House Theatre, an intimate setting with 97 seats.
- In its 61<sup>st</sup> Anniversary season, the Huron Playhouse is Ohio's oldest continuing summer theatre, presenting five full-staged productions each July featuring local residents and students from the theatre department of Bowling Green State University.
- Bellevue Society for the Arts hosts community theatre, as well as traveling productions, concerts, lectures, recitals, children's programs and many other cultural events in a 300-seat theatre.
- Playmakers Civic Theatre in Port Clinton offers four shows a season, between November and July and is currently celebrating its 62<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary season.

### ***The Musical Arts --- thriving!***

- Firelands Symphony Orchestra, the cornerstone of music in the Lake Erie Shores & Islands, offers the finest caliber classical and pop music to the region and in 2008 it welcomed new Musical Director and Conductor, Carl Topilow. Maestro Topilow is the highly acclaimed Music Director and Conductor of the Cleveland Pops as well as Director of Orchestral Activities at the Cleveland Institute of Music.
- In residence each August is the Lakeside Symphony Orchestra, composed of professional musicians from across the U.S. Performed at Lakeside's historic Hoover Auditorium as part of the summer family entertainment schedule at the Chautauqua resort, seasoned Conductor Robert Cronquist leads the orchestra.

- The Sandusky Concert Association serves the area with live, classical music and dance performances that enrich and inspire. The list of performers brought to the region by the Concert Association is long and prestigious.

***The Visual Arts --- breathtaking!***

- The Sandusky Cultural Center offers works of art in a large variety of media and styles by contemporary artists from around the world. Celebrating 42 years, this gallery features known and aspiring artists, with regional, national and international talent and showcases “Off Center,” a gallery devoted to the works of local students, thus encouraging young people in the pursuit of their artistic talents.
- Several renowned artists reside in the area, including Marblehead Lighthouse painter Ben Richmond and Kelleys Island sculptor Charles Herndon. Both offer galleries of their works.
- Galleries in Marblehead include original oils at the Dziak Gallery, whimsical prints by children’s book illustrator Jodie McCallum at her gallery and glass blowing demonstrations, cutting and jewelry at Ferguson’s Gallery and Studio.
- Area glass galleries include Tiffin’s Crystal Traditions, which does glass blowing and crystal hand cutting demonstrations and has a year-round showroom and retail outlet, and Tiffin Glass Museum and Shoppe, which offers tours and retail sales of Tiffin Glass and other fine glassware and collectibles.
- Wood carvings at Sandusky’s Merry-Go-Round Museum, quilts at the Milan Historical Museum and ornamental gardens at Elmore’s Schedel Arboretum are “must sees.”

Ohio’s Lake Erie Shores & Islands is always full of activities and special arts and cultural events. Many communities host “arts in the park” festivals as well as outdoor concerts during the spring and summer.

The latest event information, including hours of operation as well as information on all of the area’s art and cultural attractions, is available at [SHORESandISLANDS.com](http://SHORESandISLANDS.com).

**About Lake Erie Shores & Islands**

Lake Erie Shores & Islands, located in north central Ohio, is a destination for family fun and entertainment. From seasonal events to year-round attractions, the area is rich with history and activities for the whole family, including the Lake Erie Islands, Cedar Point amusement park, seven water parks, Perry’s Victory and International Peace Memorial, a wildlife safari and much more. Lake Erie Shores & Islands has been ranked in the top twenty family vacation destinations by Disney’s Family.com and is the only Ohio destination to receive this prestigious designation. More information is available at [www.shoresandislands.com](http://www.shoresandislands.com).

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