

CRESTED BUTTE MUSIC FESTIVAL



PO Box 2117 Crested Butte, CO 81224
970.349.0619 www.crestedbuttemusicfestival.org

Contacts: Beth Buehler, Buehler Communications Inc.
970.901.6970 or bethbuehler4@gmail.com

Crested Butte Music Festival Awarded National Endowment for the Arts Grant Organization receives prestigious funding for second year in a row

CRESTED BUTTE, Colo. (May 7, 2015) – In the second major grant announcement of fiscal year 2015, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) will make a \$10,000 award to the Crested Butte Music Festival to fund opera education programs, including the Opera Children's Chorus and Crested Butte Opera Studio (formerly known as the Marcello Giordani Young Artists Program). The NEA is presenting 1,023 awards totaling \$74.3 million nationwide in this funding round.

This is the second year in a row that CBMF has received a grant from the NEA. Last year's award was a Challenge America grant of \$10,000 to support Gypsy Jazz In Paradise. "We are honored to receive this prestigious recognition again in 2015, this time for our growing Opera In Paradise mini-festival," says Festival Director Alexander Scheirle. "This is affirmation that our educational programming is well respected and on the right track."

Crested Butte Opera Studio provides gifted singers and pianists opportunities to study and perform with leading opera professionals during a six-week residency at CBMF from June 15 – July 26. Launched in 2008, the program has grown from 35 applicants to more than 400 competing for 11 positions this year. In 2015, participants will undergo a rigorous training program that includes 40 hours per week of vocal and dramatic instruction, along with fitness training and career counseling. Opera Studio participants perform roles in the main stage opera, *Don Pasquale* (July 22, 23, 25 and 26), present an evening of cabaret (June 30), sing a concert with the Festival Symphony Orchestra (July 16), and perform in public master classes given by CBMF Opera Music Director David Stern (June 27 and July 24), dramaturg Cori Ellison (July 17) and tenor Barry Banks (July 20).

Opera Children's Chorus (OCC) is a tuition-free, three-week intensive performance program for talented young singers, ages 8 to 18. OCC participants receive professional-level performance training and experience and access to Festival events. OCC will present a concert of choral favorites at Union Congregational Church on July 15 at 4 p.m. and *Getting To Know The Sound Of Music*, a children's version of the beloved Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, at the Center for the Arts, Crested Butte on July 25 at 11 a.m.

"The NEA is committed to advancing learning, fueling creativity and celebrating the arts in cities and towns across the United States. Funding these new projects like the

one from Crested Butte Music Festival represents an investment in both local communities and our nation's creative vitality," says NEA Chairman Jane Chu.

To view the entire 2015 Crested Butte Music Festival schedule and purchase tickets, visit www.crestedbuttemusicfestival.org. For additional information, call 970.349.0619.

[###]