

Michigan Youth Arts Festival
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UNIQUE IN NATION

Michigan Youth Arts Festival -- Bringing Together the Best of the Best

KALAMAZOO, Mich. (May 2, 2008) – Nearly 1,000 high school student artists from both public and private schools in Michigan have been selected to attend the 46th Annual Michigan Youth Arts Festival, considered by the state’s arts education community as its most prestigious honor.

The students, chosen from more than 250,000 students across the state, were announced by the Michigan Youth Arts Festival’s executive director, Kim Dabbs. The Festival will take place from May 8-10 on the campus of Western Michigan University.

“It’s great to see the energy and enthusiasm the students bring to Festival,” said Michigan Youth Arts Festival’s executive director Kim Dabbs. “The students selected to attend the Festival are indicative of the creativity, innovation and commitment to quality in the Michigan arts education community.”

The Michigan Youth Arts Festival differs from other student awards programs because the students are selected based solely on their artistic merit, rather than through a nomination process. Selection is done by each participating arts education organizations through their organization’s yearlong adjudication processes.

The eleven organizations involved in adjudication processes are:

- Digital Arts, Film & Television
- Michigan Art Education Association
- Michigan Council Teachers of English
- Michigan Dance Council
- Michigan Federation of Music Clubs
- Michigan Interscholastic Forensic Association
- Michigan Music Educators Association
- Michigan Music Teachers Association
- Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association
- Michigan School Vocal Music Association
- Michigan Unit, American String Teachers Association
- VSA arts of Michigan
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The students selected are involved in a wide range of artistic disciplines including creative writing, dance, film/video, instrumental and vocal music, theatre and visual arts.

Among the many school groups and students selected to attend this year's Festival are: drama students from Bay City's John Glenn High School for their performance of "Antigone", the Grand Haven High School Chamber Choir, Elizabeth Dugan, a vocal musician from the Home School Music Association, and the dancers from Kalamazoo's Education For the Arts – along with a host of other student visual artists, dancers, creative writers, filmmakers, singers, instrumentalists and actors.

Dr. Timothy Lautzenheiser is serving as this year's featured Artist in Residence. Lautzenheiser is a well-known name in the music education world as a teacher, clinician, author, composer, conductor, consultant, and, above all, a trusted friend to anyone interested in working with young people in developing a desire for excellence. He presently holds the Earl Dunn Distinguished Lecturer position at Ball State University. Lautzenheiser also is the Executive Director of Education for Conn-Selmer, Inc. His books, produced by G.I.A. Publications, *The Art of Successful Teaching*, *The Joy of Inspired Teaching*, and *Everyday Wisdom* are bestsellers in the educational world. He is also co-author of Hal Leonard's popular band method, *Essential Elements*. Lautzenheiser is a graduate of Ball State University and the University of Alabama. He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate Degree from VanderCook College of Music. Additional awards include the distinguished Sudler Order of Merit from the John Philip Sousa Foundation, Mr. Holland's Opus Award and the Music Industry Award from the Midwest Clinic Board of Directors.

Richard Hughey, Jr from the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation will also give welcoming remarks.

In recognition of the students' accomplishments Governor Jennifer Granholm has proclaimed the week of the Festival "Michigan Youth Arts Festival Week" with local schools across the state participating in a celebration of the arts.

The Michigan Youth Arts Festival is made possible with the support of the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. MYAF also receives support from the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation, The Burdick-Thorne Foundation, Pfizer Global Research & Development, Psi Iota Xi, Kalamazoo Community Foundation, Ladies Library Association, Howard Printing, Kendall College of Art and Design, MEEMIC Insurance and Western Michigan University.

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About the Michigan Youth Arts Festival

The Michigan Youth Arts Festival is an annual showcase that recognizes supports and celebrates the artistic excellence of young artists in Michigan.