



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 24, 2008

MCFTA Announces 2007-08 Community Theatre Award Winners

MIDLAND – On Saturday, June 21, 2008, Midland Center for the Arts' community theatre member groups celebrated another exciting season and honored their volunteer performers and crew with a festive awards banquet. Winners for Best Performance in a Leading Role, Best Performance in a Supporting Role, Best Performance in an Ensemble, Most Dedicated Volunteer, The Jo Harrigan Volunteer Award, The Caparon Stagecrafter Award and The Wee Kinderspiel Award had been selected by Midland audiences, award panelists and volunteers.

In addition, a special **Lifetime Achievement Award** was presented on behalf of Music Society to **Bonnie Sitter** of Midland for over 40 years of invaluable dedication to the organization. Sitter has played keyboard for almost 100 shows including *Nunsense* and *Sweeney Todd* and was the musical director for *Evita*, *Into the Woods* and *My Way* as well as several Teenage Musical Incorporated productions. Last year's recipient of the award was Mary Jane Wagner; the first Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Jan Huff in 1998.

Music Society 2007-08 Award Winners

- Best Performance in a Lead Role: **Emily Anderson** of Midland as Guenevere in *Camelot*
- Best Performance in a Supporting Role: **Brian Farnham** of Midland as Mordred in *Camelot*
- Best Performance in an Ensemble Role: **Adam Gardner** of Auburn in *Camelot*
- Most Dedicated Volunteers: **Sue Hearn** of Midland for *Godspell* and **Dan Tempas** of Midland for *Camelot*.
- Jo Harrigan Volunteer Award: **Joe Mattler** of Midland for long-term dedication and participation in many capacities with Music Society, including musical theatre, choir and administration.

Theatre Guild 2007-08 Award Winners

- Florence Slagh Curtain Call Award for Best Performance in a Leading Role: **Cathie Stewart** of Midland as Catherine in *The Heiress*
- Mahlon E. Sharp Award for Best Supporting Actor: **Gabe Secrist** of Midland as Brother Olf in *Incorruptible*
- Caparon Stagecrafter Award: **Bart Jones** and **Linda Jones** of Midland in honor and recognition of their many years of volunteer technical theatre service to Theatre Guild.

Peanut Gallery 2007-08 Award Winner

Kathy Mallory of Midland was honored with The Wee Kinderspiel Award in recognition of her dedication and outstanding contribution to children's theatre. "Wee Kinderspiel" is German for "small children's theatre."

Peanut Gallery **scholarships** were awarded to the following Midland residents: **Nils Klykken** son of Paal and Christine Klykken, studying music education at the University of Michigan; **Karleigh Kroll**, daughter of

Kevin and Kerry Kroll, studying vocal performance at the University of Michigan; **Maribeth Robertson** daughter of Bill and Linda Robertson, studying music education at the University of Michigan; and **Andrew Wollner**, son of William and Jan Wollner, studying music theory at the University of Michigan.

Community theatre of the Midland Center for the Arts is unique in offering music, drama, comedy and youth theatre with professional entertainment and educational opportunities to its volunteers and the mid-Michigan community.

Music Society of the Midland Center for the Arts is a premier, volunteer musical arts organization serving mid-Michigan. It provides volunteers and audiences with exciting, quality musical events, utilizing professionals to educate and develop its talented, community-based participants.

Theatre Guild is one of the most successful and exciting community theatre companies in the Midwest. Established in 1929, Midland's oldest and most innovative theatre organization presents a main season of five plays, a children's theatre season and a continuing program of community service, school residencies, senior theatre, theatre classes and workshops.

Peanut Gallery is the youth theatre division of the Theatre Guild, a resident organization of the Midland Center for the Arts. Peanut Gallery produces multiple shows a year, as well as classes, all designed to build young people's theatre skills and to introduce young people and their families to live theatre.

Midland Center for the Arts, Inc. is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation formed under the laws of the State of Michigan incorporating six groups: Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art, MATRIX:MIDLAND, Midland County Historical Society, Midland Symphony Orchestra, Music Society and Theatre Guild. Activities at the Midland Center for the Arts are supported in part by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. For the latest Center news, visit our web site at www.mcfta.org.

#

Midland Center for the Arts • 1801 W. St. Andrews Rd. • Midland, MI 48640 • (989) 631-5930 • (989) 631-7890 fax • www.mcfta.org