



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 10, 2008

New Theatre & Music Classes Offered at MCFTA

Registration begins October 20

MIDLAND – Two new series of classes are being offered this winter at Midland Center for the Arts, 1801 W. St. Andrews Rd., Midland. The first is a series of music classes for babies and preschoolers and the other is a series of technical theatre workshops for adults interested in working behind-the-scenes. **Registration** for all classes begins October 20, 2008 and will be available online at www.mcfta.org or by calling the MCFTA Ticket Office at 800-523-7649. For more information on any of these classes, contact Amy Behrens at 989-631-5930 ext. 1702 or email behrens@mcfta.org.

MUSIC CLASSES

Family Music for Babies - For ages newborn to 18 months – 12 weeks - January 21 through April 8, 2009 – 12:30 to 1 pm. A 30-minute weekly class for babies and their parents. Increase your child's curiosity about music. Develop listening skills and sense of beat. Establish a foundation for singing and musical thought. Features: bouncing and rocking songs, wiggle and peek-a-boo games, CD recordings by a fine children's choir, outstanding instrumentalists, a book describing the activities and games to play with baby, and a cloth instrument pouch with rhythm sticks, Musikgarten rattle, and colorful scarf. Cost: \$155, includes materials.

Family Music for Toddlers For ages 15 months to 3.5 years – 12 weeks - January 21 through April 8, 2009 – 1:15 pm to 1:45 pm. Participate with your toddler for 30 Minutes each week in singing, chanting, moving, dancing, listening and playing simple instruments. Help develop a strong musical bond with your child and closer family ties. Bridge the natural connection between music and movement. Enhance your child's musical aptitude and listening abilities. Lay the foundation of singing and vocal development, listening skills, and purposeful movement. Features: movement activities for coordination, body awareness, exploration of space, body control and joy of movement. Folk songs for singing, dancing and listening. Focused listening examples from daily life and music instruments. Instruments to explore: rhythm sticks, jingles, rattles, drums and resonator bars. Linda Hohner instructor. Cost: \$155, includes materials.

Cycle of Seasons – For ages 3 to 5 years - – 12 weeks - January 21 through April 8, 2009 – 4:30 pm to 5:15 pm.

Celebrate your child's love of nature and growing independence through activities involving the four seasons in this weekly 45-minute class. Nurture your child's ability to use language and participate in dramatic play within a musical context. Develop listening, focused attention, imagination, creativity and self expression. Features singing, chanting, moving, focused listening, musical games, exploring musical instruments, creative movement and storytelling. Linda Hohner instructor. Cost: \$155, includes materials.

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.

TECHNICAL THEATRE WORKSHOPS

Faux Painting – For ages 16 and up – 1 day – Saturday, January 24, 2009, 10 am to 4 pm. Theatre Guild technical staff members Jim Ely and Wendi Johnson will teach the art of faux painting. These techniques can be used in your home and on personal projects. Cost: \$57/Members \$47

Know Your Tools – For ages 16 and up – 1 day – Saturday, February 21, 2009, 10 am to 4 pm. Theatre Guild technical staff members Jim Ely and Wendi Johnson will demonstrate the proper handling and use of theatre shop tools currently used by the technical staff and volunteers to build show sets for the theatre productions. Cost: \$57/Members \$47

Theatrical Lighting – For ages 16 and up – 1 day – Saturday, May 2, 2009, 10 am to 4 pm. Theatre Guild technical staff members Jim Ely and Wendi Johnson will teach lighting techniques for theatre. Includes hanging, positioning, and computer light board operation. Cost: \$57/Members \$47

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.

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 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.

Contact:
Kristen Wuerfel
Marketing and Media Relations Manager
(989) 631-5930 x 1274
wuerfel@mcfta.org

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