

Marblehead Festival of Arts

For Immediate Release

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Marblehead Festival of the Arts Auction Preview Goes Online

Visit www.marbleheadfestival.org for an Exciting Look at What's on the MFA Auction Block

Marblehead, MA (March 30, 2006) – The Marblehead Festival of Arts announced today that many items and services donated to this year's Art Auction are now featured on their online preview. The brainchild of MFA webmaster, Jeff Kane, the Marblehead Festival of the Arts Auction Preview makes the excitement of this year's event come alive at:

www.marbleheadfestival.org/auctionpreview.html

MFA Art Auction 2006 will be on Sunday April 9th, at Abbot Hall (188 Washington Street) in Marblehead. As in past years, there will be a silent auction from 4 - 5:30pm and a live auction from 5:30 - 8:00pm. Back by popular demand, there will be a preview of auction items onsite at a reception on Thursday, April 6th (6 - 8pm) and on Friday, April 7th (9am - 1pm). All are invited!

The bidding action will be intense as Gene Arnould, owner of the Arnould Gallery & Framery once again headlines the annual Art Auction fundraiser as Auctioneer. Gene will be joined by guest auctioneers Leslie Gould (Marblehead Chamber of Commerce), State Representative Doug Petersen and Festival supporters Brian and Nancy McCarthy.

This year there are some very exciting offerings that generous artists have contributed to support the Marblehead Festival of Arts. Once again Nordia Kay and Herb Goldberg have teamed up to create a special collector's piece, which combines a watercolor and a black and white photograph to depict a Marblehead scene. This artwork is produced specifically for the Arts Festival Art Auction and many flock to the auction just to bid on this outstanding piece.

Other local contributing artists include Racket Shreve, Elaine Caliri Daly, Benneville N. Strohecker and Ulrike Welsch and many others whose art may be previewed on the MFA website. All media are represented with a vast array of oil paintings, water colors and photography, and crafts ranging from exquisite jewelry to metalware to fine woodworking.

Some of the more unusual pieces include a “Love Quilt” by Lucille Kravitz of Key West, FL. If you are looking for an adventure, you may pick from many fun outings: a stroll through the Peabody Essex Museum, a jazz brunch at Nathaniel’s Restaurant, or an overnight stay at the Harborside House Bed and Breakfast or at Tuscanino Bed and Breakfast. Chances to win art classes, sailboat cruises and store gift certificates also abound.

Live music by Brian Rolland will be featured during the Silent Art Auction. Brian Rolland is an eclectic acoustic guitarist whose sculptural and vivid imagery in sound both captivates and soothes listeners. His music is filled with Latin and West African rhythms, subtle virtuosity, and enormous warmth and uplifting spirit. Built on a lifetime's background in both American and Spanish guitar styles, his playing promises to bring enchanting sound to the event. Also playing will be Brian Rawlings’ lively classical trio who has been brought back by popular demand.

Photo Caption:

AuctionScene3.jpg: Delicious food, wine, live music, and lots of bidding makes the MFA Art Auction the biggest, most successful and fun fundraisers for the Marblehead Festival of Arts. Come to the April 6th or 7th Preview, and on April 9th for both the silent and live auctions.

Photo Credits for Attached Pictures: Herb Goldberg, Marblehead

About Marblehead Festival of Arts (MFA)

The MFA Art Auction is the key fundraiser for the Marblehead Festival of Arts, a premier summer arts festival held each year over July 4th weekend. The Festival plays host to a wide range of art exhibits (painting, sculpture, photography, drawing, etc.), outdoor music concerts, Writer’s World, the Street Festival, Children’s Festival, Artisan’s Marketplace and more. Founded in 1962, the Marblehead Festival of Arts has a rich history in producing a festival that is a unique forum for artistic expression. The Marblehead Festival of Arts hosts a wide range of cultural activities designed to provide a fun and enriching experience for the entire family.

The Marblehead Festival of Arts Inc is a not-for-profit organization comprised of area residents who volunteer their time and services in a variety of capacities. With the mission to promote and foster artistic events and activities in the town of Marblehead, this organization was launched in 1962 by producing an annual Arts

Festival. Today, in addition to its summer arts program, the Marblehead Festival of Arts sponsors events throughout the year, promotes area artists, supports up and coming art students via an annual scholarship and contributes to the overall cultural climate of Marblehead.

The Marblehead Festival of Arts is run by an all-volunteer organization comprised of more than forty committees and involving several hundred volunteers. It operates year round and relies primarily on donations to fund its operations. Individuals, families, and businesses may become Festival Sponsors by making a tax-deductible contribution. For additional information on MFA, a calendar of events, volunteer opportunities and sponsorship, please call: **781-639-ARTS (639-2787)** or visit: www.marbleheadfestival.org

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