

Marblehead Festival of Arts

For Immediate Release

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New Orleans Theme is set for MFoA Champagne Reception

Invitations are Available Online for this Festive June 25th Event

Marblehead, MA (May 25, 2006) – The Marblehead Festival of Arts (MFoA) announced today that a New Orleans theme will provide a colorful backdrop to this year's Champagne Reception, scheduled for Sunday, June 25th from 5 – 7 pm. Held under a tent at Fort Sewall, Marblehead with a uncompromised view of the entire Marblehead Harbor, the Champagne Reception is a festive tradition that kicks off the annual Marblehead Festival of Arts, while also providing funds needed to stage the Festival.

Visitors to past MFoA Champagne Receptions will recall very lively events with vibrant music, free flowing champagne and the most amazing array of epicurean delights set out on tables hosted by some of area's finest restaurants, food emporiums and chefs. This garden party is made even more colorful by the creative hats guests are invited to wear as they compete for top prizes in the Champagne Reception Hat Contest.

This year's Champagne Reception will feature a New Orleans theme and lively Zydeco music as a tribute to the struggles New Orleans residents experienced with Hurricane Katrina, and the strong musical tradition they have worked so hard to preserve.

As always, a wide range of gourmet delights from area restaurants, food emporiums and

chefs will be highlighted at this event. Participants committed to date include: Caffé Italia Trattoria, Coffey Ice Cream, Flynnies on the Avenue, Foodies Feast, Fruit of the Four Seasons, The Hurricane Restaurant and Bar, Jack-Tar American Tavern, Ladycakes, Robin Lange – Personal Chef, Shubie’s Marketplace, Starlight Creatives, Sticky Rice, Strega Restaurant & Lounge, Sweeney’s Retreat. Two featured sponsors will be J & S Brandi's and The Landing Restaurant and each will host their own extensive spread of delectables.

Among the participants are two bakeries that will participate at this year’s reception: Starlight Creatives, who will bake up batches of heavenly all natural, sugar cookies, that are hand cut, hand painted, hand decorated and hand packaged – rare confections in a cookie cutter world; and Ladycakes, a hometown bakery and cafe renown for its delicious cakes and goodies for all occasions.

Invitations to the Champagne Reception will be available at various stores in Marblehead, and also at the entrance to the event. Prior to the event, invitations will be offered at a \$35 donation per person, and a \$40 donation per person at the door. When available, a list of participating stores offering invitations will be posted on the MFoA home page:

www.marbleheadfestival.org.

Invitations are also among the benefits provided to individuals and businesses that support the Festival. You may contribute online and have invitations mailed to you. For more information on donations, visit: www.marbleheadfestival.org/donations.

Be sure to join us on Sunday, June 25th at this premier kick-off to the summer social season. Come support the Marblehead Festival of Arts in its efforts to produce a one-of-a-kind summer arts program.

Photo Caption:

Vibrant music, free flowing champagne, colorful hats and the most amazing array of epicurean delights all make for a “not-to-be-missed” 2006 MFoA Champagne Reception to be held June 25th at Fort Sewall.

Photo Credits for Attached Pictures: Herb Goldberg, Marblehead

About Marblehead Festival of Arts (MFoA)

Founded in 1962, the Marblehead Festival of Arts has a rich history in producing a premier summer arts festival that has become a unique forum for artistic expression. Traditionally held each year over July 4th weekend, the Marblehead Festival of Arts hosts a wide range of art exhibits (painting, sculpture, photography, drawing, etc.), outdoor music concerts overlooking Marblehead Harbor, Writer’s World, the Street Festival, Children’s Festival, Artisan’s Marketplace and many other 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 MFoA, a calendar of events, volunteer opportunities and sponsorship, please call: **781-639-ARTS (639-2787)** or visit: www.marbleheadfestival.org

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