



**CONTACT:** Lauren Lampa/Katrina Limbaugh  
THE TREISTER MURRY AGENCY  
(305) 531-5720  
lauren@tma-pr.com  
katrina@tma-pr.com

## **NATIONAL STUDENT ARTS AWARDS ORGANIZATION HOLDS FIRST COLORADO ARTS FEST**

*Talented Young Artists Invited to Learn How to Win Cash Awards,  
Watch Past Winners Perform On-Stage*

**MIAMI, FL (July 27, 2006)** – Calling all talented high school juniors, seniors and arts educators...The National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (NFAA), an organization that identifies and rewards talented exceptional student artists across the U.S., is hosting its inaugural Colorado ARTS Fest, a morning of performances and questions and answers about the renowned NFAA Arts Recognition and Talent Search® (ARTS) program. Individual NFAA ARTS Awards range from \$100 to \$10,000.

The event will be held **Thurs., Sept. 14, 2006** from 10 a.m. – 12 noon at the **Denver School of the Arts**, 7111 Montview Boulevard. NFAA staff members and NFAA ARTS alumni will lead the session. Also on hand will be local philanthropists Robert and Judi Newman, members of NFAA's Board of Trustees who are hosting the event.

Recognizing nine art disciplines – dance, film and video, classical, pop and jazz music, photography, theater, visual arts, voice and writing – NFAA grants a total of more than \$500,000 in cash awards each year, the chance to be named a U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts and national recognition opportunities for additional scholarships totaling \$3 million. Eligible artists must be high school seniors during the 2006-2007 school year. Students who will not be attending high school are eligible for NFAA ARTS only if they are 17 or 18 years old on December 1, 2006.

"We are most appreciative of the Newmans, who share our commitment to empowering the arts for America's future." said NFAA Vice President Christopher Schram. "Colorado ARTS Fest is an ideal opportunity for emerging young artists and their teachers to learn about the life-changing opportunities that the NFAA ARTS program has to offer. Students will hear directly from recent Colorado winners about their personal experiences as an NFAA ARTS Winner, and NFAA staff will explain the details of participating and offer tips on how to make a successful submission."

Each January, the Miami-based not-for-profit invites up to 135 finalists to participate in NFAA ARTS Week, a once-in-a-lifetime experience consisting of performances, master classes, workshops, readings, exhibits and enrichment activities with renowned artists and arts educators.

The NFAA ARTS 2006-2007 registration deadline is **October 2, 2006** and the deadline to submit audition/portfolio materials is **November 1, 2006**.

For more information about Colorado ARTS Fest or NFAA, call (800) 970-ARTS (2787) or visit [www.NFAA.ARTSawards.org](http://www.NFAA.ARTSawards.org).

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**ABOUT NFAA:**

Dedicated to empowering the arts for America's future, the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (NFAA) is a non-profit organization founded in 1981 by businessman and visionary Ted Arison. NFAA's mission is to identify emerging artists and assist them at critical junctures with their educational and professional development; and to raise the appreciation for, and support of, the arts in American society.

Arts Recognition and Talent Search (ARTS) is a program of the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (NFAA). The NFAA ARTS program is sponsored, in part, by: Carnival Cruise Lines; The Coca-Cola Company; Gibson Guitar Corporation; Baldwin Piano; Gibson Baldwin Music Education; The Gibson Foundation; The Jacques and Natasha Gelman Trust; The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; and SunTrust.

ARTS Week 2007 is being sponsored, in part, by: American Airlines, The National Endowment for the Arts, the State of Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Arts Council; and the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs; the Cultural Affairs Council; the Tourist Development Council; and the Mayor and the Miami-Dade County Board of Commissioners.

For more information about NFAA and ARTS, visit the website [www.NFAA.ARTSawards.org](http://www.NFAA.ARTSawards.org).