



City of Charleston
South Carolina

JOSEPH P. RILEY, JR.
MAYOR

BARBARA W. VAUGHN
DIRECTOR
PUBLIC INFORMATION

For Immediate Release: Jan. 4, 2010

Save these Dates! 2010 Piccolo Spoleto Festival is May 28 to June 13, 2010

CHARLESTON, S.C.—Now in its 32nd season, the Piccolo Spoleto Festival will run May 28 to June 13, 2010, offering a variety of arts and cultural programs, including theatre, blues, jazz, chamber music, early music, dance, literary, visual arts and many, many free and family-friendly events.

Since its founding in 1979, Piccolo Spoleto's mission has been to provide access to the Spoleto Festival USA experience for everyone, regardless of their economic, social or physical circumstances. As a result, many of Piccolo Spoleto's offerings are free or have minimal ticket prices. These free events are offered by the City of Charleston as a public service that enriches the cultural diversity of the Lowcountry and brings the community together in a vibrant arts celebration. The 2010 Festival features many favorite annual admission-free events including the popular **Sunset Serenade**, an outdoor pops concert, featuring the Charleston Symphony Orchestra, overlooking the Charleston Harbor at the U.S. Custom House on Friday, May 28; the **Children's Festival** in Marion Square on Saturday, May 29; the **Piccolo Spoleto Finale** on Saturday, June 12, which this year will be a central part of a community wide project called **Unity Day**. The Unity Day activities will take place at Brittlebank Park, Hampton Park and The Joe Riley Stadium.

Popular series returning for the 2010 season include the **Spotlight Concert Series**, featuring the finest chamber musicians from the Southeast performing works by American composers in historic venues throughout downtown Charleston as well as two very special concerts at Mepkin Abbey in Moncks Corner. Other returning series include: **Theatre, Early Music, Dance, Young Performers, Film and Literary Arts, Blues, Jazz and Traditional Music of the Old South**. The 2010 Festival will feature a variety of **Visual Arts**, including **Contemporary Charleston** at the City Gallery at Waterfront Park, the **Outdoor Juried Art Exhibition** in Marion Square, the **Piccolo Spoleto Crafts Fair** in Wragg Square and many special events.

"We are so fortunate to show off the work of many of the best local and regional artists, performers and writers through the Piccolo Spoleto venue, alongside Spoleto Festival USA's international arts luminaries," says Ellen Dressler Moryl, director of the City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs. "The 2010 season promises to be full of excitement and magic that have characterized the Festival for the last 31 years."

Applications are being accepted for the **Piccolo Spoleto Crafts Fair, Piccolo Spoleto Outdoor Juried Art Exhibition** and a new series, **Piccolo Spoleto Rising Stars**, showcasing South Carolina's artistically talented youth. These applications are on the Piccolo Spoleto Web site, www.piccolospoleto.com.

-MORE-

Volunteer applications are also being accepted and those interested in volunteer opportunities should call (843) 724-7305.

The full 2010 season schedule will be announced in the spring. To request a ticket brochure and more information on Piccolo Spoleto, call the Office of Cultural Affairs at (843) 724-7305 or visit www.PiccoloSpoleto.com. Facebook members can also sign up to become a fan of Piccolo Spoleto, where they can receive updates on ticket availability, schedules and other Festival news.

Produced and directed by the City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs since 1979, Piccolo Spoleto is the official outreach program of Spoleto Festival USA. Piccolo's mission is to provide access to the Spoleto Festival USA experience for everyone, regardless of their economic, social or physical circumstances and to provide the opportunity for excellent local and regional artists, writers and performers to be showcased in the Piccolo Spoleto Festival venues. Piccolo Spoleto receives support from the City of Charleston, the County of Charleston, the South Carolina Arts Commission, the National Endowment for the Arts and major corporations and foundations. Piccolo Spoleto **Title Sponsors** are Publix and Publix Super Market Charities.

###

Editor's Note: High res images available upon request

FOR MORE INFO:

Barbara W. Vaughn, Director
Media Relations/Public Information
Phone: (843) 724-3746 Fax: (843) 724-3734
Email: vaughnb@ci.charleston.sc.us