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## **Piccolo Spoleto**

*Celebrating 32 years of bringing the Festival to the people!*

December 1, 2009

Dear Arts Educator,

It is with a great deal of pride that I tell you of an exciting new program to be unveiled at the 2010 Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston, S.C., this coming May 28th through June 13th. The program is called "Piccolo Spoleto Rising Stars" and will showcase South Carolina's artistically gifted students ages 9 through 18 who are enrolled in public or private schools in South Carolina.

There will be six different programs in the series, each one featuring four to six presentations by students gifted in visual art, theatre, dance, writing, vocal and instrumental music or vocal and instrumental ensembles. Each program will last approximately 75 minutes. The series is being produced and hosted by veteran arts administrator, Larry Barnfield, with whom many of you are familiar. For each program Larry will not only introduce the performers but will briefly interview each young artist so that the audience can gain perspective on how they stay focused on working hard work to develop their talent and achieve artistic excellence.

This project is enthusiastically endorsed by the City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs which has produced and presented Piccolo Spoleto since its founding in 1979. We are convinced that our artistically gifted youth deserve the opportunity to demonstrate their high level of discipline and dedication to their art in the high visibility venue that Piccolo Spoleto offers them. This new program will provide that opportunity as well as give these wonderful young artists the chance to serve as role models for their peers.

I hope you will assist us in spreading the word about the Piccolo Spoleto Rising Stars program by distributing the enclosed materials to students, colleagues and others who have contact with artistically gifted youth. You may also get information from the Piccolo Spoleto website which is [www.piccolospoleto.com](http://www.piccolospoleto.com) or by contacting Larry Barnfield at 843-832-5532.

This is an exciting venture for us at Piccolo Spoleto and we look forward to showing off South Carolina's best and brightest young artists and performers at the 2010 Piccolo Spoleto Festival. We hope you will join us in this wonderful new project.

Sincerely,

Ellen Dressler Moryl, Director  
City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs

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*Piccolo Spoleto, the official outreach program of Spoleto Festival USA, is a project of the City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs.*