

News Bulletin

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The Tennessee Arts Academy, the nation's premier summer professional development institute for arts education, will officially open its 30th anniversary session on July 10, 2016 and run through July 15. The over 325 K-12 public and private school teachers from across the state who have been chosen to attend the weeklong session represent the largest number of participants in the institution's history. A program of the Tennessee Department of Education, the Academy has been held annually since 1987 on the campus of Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee.

The Academy's nationally and internationally renowned instructors and artists come from across the United States. They will teach a diverse range of classes in music, theatre and visual art as well as special classes in arts leadership, administration and assessment.

There will be many special moments throughout the week. Kicking off the Academy week on July 10, the internationally acclaimed Boston Brass will perform. On Monday, legendary bandleader Doc Severinsen will address TAA participants and receive the Arts Academy's Distinguished Service Award. The Bravo Awards Banquet and Performance on Wednesday night, July 13, will honor groundbreaking photorealist painter and sculptor Audrey Flack; celebrated composer, lyricist, performer, producer, and writer Andrew Lippa (*The Addams Family*, *Big Fish*, *The Wild Party*); and Belmont University, in recognition of their strong support of and belief in the arts and for their 30-year partnership with the Tennessee Arts Academy. Following the awards, an inspired performance by one of Broadway's biggest stars, Stephanie J. Block (*Wicked*, *9 to 5: The Musical*, *The Pirate Queen*, *The Boy from Oz*) will conclude the evening. Reservations and ticket information may be obtained by calling the Academy office at 615-460-5451 or visiting online at <http://www.tennesseeartsacademy.org>.

Other notable events include "musing" sessions presented by award recipients Audrey Flack and Andrew Lippa and performer Stephanie J. Block. The Academy will sponsor four on-campus art exhibitions. *'Pataphysical Ponderings* by Craig Nutt will be featured in Belmont's Leu Art Gallery, co-sponsored by the Belmont University Department of Art. *The Best of the Best Tennessee Student Art Exhibition* and *Tennessee's Best of the Best Retrospective Exhibition - Ten Years of Excellence in Student Art* will hang in Gallery 121 and the Lobby Gallery of the Leu Center for the Visual Arts. *Connections: The Tennessee Art Education Association Teacher Exhibition* will be on display in the lobby of the Leu Art Gallery. All three exhibitions are co-sponsored with the Tennessee Art Education Association. Daily performances throughout the week will be presented by Appalachian Ballet, Voices of the South, and Portara Ensemble. At Friday's concluding Finale Luncheon, the Joe W. Giles Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to nationally known Tennessee artist and author Ted Rose, followed by a performance of the Tennessee Arts Academy Chorale, under the direction of Karen Kennedy.

The teachers and administrators trained at the Tennessee Arts Academy each year impact over 150,000 Tennessee students all across the state when they return to their individual school districts and classrooms in the fall. The Academy's advanced curriculum, cutting-edge methodology and unique philosophical perspective maximize participants' learning experiences. With renewed energy and knowledge, educators trained at the Tennessee Arts Academy are better equipped and motivated to raise achievement standards and effect positive and lasting change for Tennessee students, providing them with the necessary skills to become creative and productive members of our work force and society.

Several Academy events are free and open to the public. Visit www.tennesseeartsacademy.org or call 615-460-5451 for more information.

Tennessee Arts Academy

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