

**News Bulletin**  
**2018 Tennessee Arts Academy**  
**For Immediate Release**

For Additional Information Contact: Melody Hart  
Tennessee Arts Academy: 615-460-5451 or [taa@belmont.edu](mailto:taa@belmont.edu)

## **Tennessee Arts Academy Set to Debut!**

The Tennessee Arts Academy, the nation's premier summer teacher training institute for K–12 arts education, will officially open on July 8, 2018. More than 325 K–12 public and private school teachers from across the state have been chosen to attend the weeklong session. A program of the Tennessee Department of Education, the Academy has been held annually since 1986 on the campus of Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee.

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

There will be many special moments throughout the week, starting with TAA's opening performance on July 8 by the genre-defying string trio Time for Three. On Wednesday night, July 11, the most anticipated event of the Bravo! Awards Banquet and Performance will be the presentation of awards to Tennessee Senate Majority Leader Mark Norris and Oscar, Emmy, and Tony award-winning scenic and costume designer Tony Walton (*Guys and Dolls, Pippin, Mary Poppins*). Senator Norris will receive the Lamar Alexander Founder's Award of Distinction and Mr. Walton will receive the TAA Distinguished Service Award. Following the awards ceremony, an inspired performance will be presented by one of Broadway's brightest young stars, Laura Osnes (Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Cinderella, Bandstand*). Reservations and ticket information may be obtained by visiting the website online at <http://www.tennesseeartsacademy.org> or by calling (615-460-5451) or emailing ([taa@belmont.edu](mailto:taa@belmont.edu)) the Academy office.

Other major highlights of the week include a speech on Monday to the TAA participants by the Grammy award-winning American composer, Libby Larsen, followed on Tuesday by a presentation from Jon Moody, artist and athlete known for his innovative portraits. Award recipient Tony Walton and performer Laura Osnes will also address the participants. The Academy will sponsor three on-campus art exhibitions. *Life in Patterns: Works of Reclamation* by Laura Petrovich-Cheney 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 *Connections: The Tennessee Art Education Association Teacher Exhibition*, co-sponsored with the Tennessee Art Education Association, will hang in Gallery 121 and the Lobby Gallery of the Leu Center for the Visual Arts. Rounding out the week are performances by FALL, The Carpetbag Theatre, and Paulo Oliveira. On Thursday, TAA will sponsor a Vendor Fair, Artist Market, and Carnival, featuring booths hosted by arts-related businesses and organizations. Artwork, crafts, and jewelry created by TAA participants will be offered for sale. Entertainment and carnival-like snacks will enliven the afternoon proceedings. At Friday's concluding Finale Luncheon, the Joe W. Giles Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to the award-winning, long-serving Tennessee speech and theatre educator Linda Wilson Miller, followed by a performance of the Tennessee Arts Academy Chorale, under the direction of Michael Culloton.

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](http://www.tennesseeartsacademy.org) or call 615-460-5451 for more information.

**Tennessee Arts Academy**

c/o Belmont University • 1900 Belmont Boulevard • Nashville, TN 37212  
615-460-5451 • [taa@belmont.edu](mailto:taa@belmont.edu) • [www.tennesseeartsacademy.org](http://www.tennesseeartsacademy.org) • 615-460-6057 (Fax)