

News Bulletin
2017 Tennessee Arts Academy
For Immediate Release

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Tennessee Arts Academy Set to Debut!

The Tennessee Arts Academy, the nation's premier summer teacher training institute for arts education, will officially open on July 9, 2017. More than three hundred 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 1987 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, administration and assessment.

There will be many special moments throughout the week, starting with TAA's opening performance on July 9 by the internationally acclaimed sibling piano quintet, The 5 Browns. On Wednesday night, July 12, the most anticipated event of the Bravo! Awards Banquet and Performance will be the presentation of awards to Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam and Broadway and Tony Award winning playwright Christopher Durang (*Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*). Governor Haslam will receive the Lamar Alexander Founder's Award of Distinction and Mr. Durang will receive the TAA Distinguished Service Award. Following the awards, an inspired performance will be presented by one of Broadway's brightest young stars, Bryce Pinkham (*The Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder, Holiday Inn*). 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) the Academy office.

Other major highlights of the week include a speech on Monday to the TAA participants by the Grammy Award-winning American soprano and opera star, Christine Brewer, followed on Tuesday by a presentation from Robert Mankoff, cartoon and humor editor for *Esquire* magazine and former *New Yorker* cartoon editor. Award recipient Christopher Durang and performer Bryce Pinkham will also address the participants. The Academy will sponsor three on-campus art exhibitions. *Dorothy Gillespie at Belmont: Twenty Years Later* (on loan from the Radford University Art Museum collection) 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 New Ballet Ensemble, Tennessee Shakespeare Company, and the Inversion Vocal Ensemble. At Friday's concluding Finale Luncheon, the Joe W. Giles Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to noted music educator, author, composer and conductor Margaret Campbelle-Holman, followed by a performance of the Tennessee Arts Academy Chorale, under the direction of Christine Bass.

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.