



**KANSAS CITY
YOUNG AUDIENCES**

Friday, April 21, 2006

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Kansas City Young Audiences to Celebrate its 45th Year of providing arts education to youth on May 13, 2006 with an event featuring Honorary Chairman Michael Stern, Musical Director of the Kansas City Symphony.

The evening celebration will take place at The InterContinental Hotel (formerly The Fairmont) and will feature dinner, awards and a silent and live auction called by Bill Shapiro, host of KCUR's Cypress Avenue. The auction will include works of art from local and national artists including Rita Blitt and Ken Ferguson. Guests will have the opportunity to bid on an 18th Century farm house in France, a week in Telluride, Colorado, a 1920's home in the Adirondacks on Lake George. There is a private rehearsal with Yo Yo Ma and Michael Stern and the highest bidder can visit the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History in Washington DC with private tours from the Curator for African Art and the Curator of the National Gem Collection. There is a private collection of port wines and a dinner party hosted by Lennie and Jerry Berkowitz featuring Lou Jane Temple and conductor Charles Bruffy and the KCYA Community School of the Arts Youth Chorale. Many of Kansas City Young Audiences teaching artists have contributed their time and artistry to be auctioned off to perform for private or corporate special events.

Awards: The KCYA Distinguished Educator Award will be presented to Dr. R.D. Mallams, principal of Thomas Hart Benton Elementary School in Independence, MO for his strong support of arts in the classroom. Susansylvia Scott will receive The Lighton Prize for excellence as a teaching artist. And previous honoree, Adele Hall, will present The Trudy Award to David H. Hughes, Jr. for his work to support arts in the Kansas City community.

The Gala Chairman is C. Stephen Metzler. Underwriting producers of this event are Mr. and Mrs. Landon Rowland, Mr. and Mrs. Guy Townsend, American Century Foundation, and DST Systems Inc. Sponsoring directors include the Muriel McBrien Kauffman Foundation and H&R Block.

Ticket prices for the celebration begin at \$150 per person. Please contact Heidi Nast for more information, 816-531-4022 ext. 1004 or by email at hnast@kcya.org.

Kansas City Young Audiences, organized in 1961, provides high quality in-school programs that integrate the arts with the core curriculum. KCYA also manages the Arts Partners program and the Community School of the Arts, where children can take classes in music, dance, drama, creative writing and the visual arts after-school, on Saturdays and throughout the summer.

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