

PRESS RELEASE

\$54,000 channelled to arts community by Region of Waterloo Arts Fund

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*Grant helps capture for posterity the phenomenal voice
of boy soprano Timothy Lanigan of Ayr*

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Famed stereoscopic photographer James Esson of Preston to be documented

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\$10,000 support for festival celebrating Einstein's "miracle year"

KITCHENER (June 20) -- The Region of Waterloo Arts Fund has made grants totaling \$54,000 to individual artists and arts organizations in its spring round. These included a documentary about the Preston photographer James Esson, a dub poetry series of readings and performances and a recording to capture the voice of a phenomenal boy soprano, Timothy Lanigan.

In all, 15 grants were announced to disciplines which included dance, choral and popular music, visual arts, filmmaking and theatre. Among those were grants for two very different festivals: \$10,000 to the Perimeter Institute for its "Einsteinfest"; and \$4,000 to support the emerging Songwriterfest, which was launched last year.

Since it was founded, in 2002, The Arts Fund has made grants totalling more than \$300,000 in support of the arts and artists in Waterloo Region.

The grants approved this week were:

- \$4,000 to Tundra Entertainment of Kitchener, towards a documentary called *The Lightman*, about the life and work of Preston-based photographer James Esson. Esson had an international reputation for his stereoscopic photography.
- \$3,500 to musician and producer Jeremy Ledbetter of Waterloo to create a new recording of Caribbean Latin jazz with his group *CaneFire*.
- \$3,000 to the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony to support outdoor performances marking its 60 years as a leading cultural institution.
- \$2,000 to *The New Quarterly*, a literary publication based at St. Jerome's University in Waterloo, to assist in a project called *Word & Image: an interactive exchange of visual art and poetry*. This will involve a six-month collaboration between poet Erin Noteboom and visual artist Jeffrey Burns, to be published in the magazine.
- \$4,000 to sculptor and printmaker Nicholas Rees of Kitchener to assist in publishing an illustrated book, made up of text and colour monoprints, documenting the great industrial demolitions and closures that occurred between 1993 and today in Waterloo Region.

- \$5,000 to produce a compact disc of the voice of 14-year-old Timothy Lanigan, of Ayr, Ontario, a boy soprano, accompanied by 25 mostly local musicians, including and involving compositions and arrangements made especially for this project by local composers Daniel Cabena and Michael Purves-Smith.
- \$10,000 in support of EinsteinFest at Waterloo's Perimeter Institute, a three-week one-of-a-kind celebration of the 100th anniversary of Albert Einstein's "miracle year" of 1905, when, at the age of 26, he published four groundbreaking papers in physics, including one setting forward his General Theory of Relativity.
- \$1,500 to the Society of Fine Artists and its Artery Gallery at the University of Waterloo, to support an evening of performance art.
- \$3,000 to Lost and Found Theatre of Kitchener to assist in the tour of a two-person production of *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe* to elementary schools throughout Waterloo Region.
- \$500 to the Alliance for Canadian New Music Projects to provide scholarship funding assistance for its Contemporary Showcase Festival.
- \$5,000 to The Notebook Project, a collaboration between visual artist Isabella Stefanescu of Kitchener, electro-acoustic composer Nick Storrington of Kitchener, sound engineer Rob Gorbet of Waterloo and electronic and web designer Nathan Saliwouchuk of Guelph. It is to develop "an image-sound-viewer interface that will allow a book to become an architectural space whose narrative sequence and sound is controlled and randomly influenced by the viewer."
- \$3,500 to the Registry Theatre to support a literary series called *dubscapes + other stories*, in collaboration with the Dub Poets Collective.
- \$2,000 to visual artist Melissa Doherty of Kitchener to support a new series of large paintings.
- \$3,000 to musician Mike Alviano of Kitchener, to help produce a new, independent recording
- \$4,000 to Songwriterfest, to assist the new event to grow. It enters its second year of existence as a showcase for regional songwriting talent.

The Region of Waterloo Arts Fund is a not-for-profit corporation created in 2002 to provide arm's length funding for the performing, visual and literary arts in the Region of Waterloo. It receives its funding from the Council of the Regional Municipality of Waterloo in the form of a per capita grant.

Twice a year (spring and fall) applicants are asked to first submit a brief (maximum two pages) letters of intent. Based on those letters, a shortlist of applicants is asked to submit detailed proposals.

The Arts Fund's aim is to "make art happen" (i.e. stimulate arts activity), both in the next 12 months and with projects that will enhance an individual or organization's ability to make even more art happen in the future.

Applicants are encouraged to create new works, to bring art to the public, to benefit the Region of Waterloo and create works that might not happen or might not happen as well without such support. All disciplines are welcomed and applications are encouraged from both individuals and arts organizations throughout the Region, made up of the cities of

Cambridge, Kitchener and Waterloo and the four townships of Wilmot, Woolwich, Wellesley and North Dumfries. Adjudication of applications is done by the broadly based 14-member board of the Fund.

For further information: David Scott, Chair, (519) 653-4813

For a brochure and application information, call Lee Ann Wetzel, Manager, Council and Administrative Services, Regional Municipality of Waterloo at (519) 575-4410. E-mail: wleann@region.waterloo.on.ca. or visit the website: www.artsfund.ca.

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<p>NOTE: The next deadline for application to The Arts Fund is Friday, September 16, 2005.</p>
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