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Beaver Island Cultural Arts Association
aglendon2@gmail.com

Island Festival Receives Significant State Arts Grant

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

January 16, 2015 – Beaver Island, MI — The Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) has announced that the Beaver Island Cultural Arts Association (BICAA) has received an operational grant of \$23,500 in support of next summer's Baroque on Beaver Festival (B-on-B), the organization's signature event. The mission of BICAA is to promote and encourage participation in the cultural arts and make them available to the entire Beaver Island community, with Baroque on Beaver Festival as its signature event. It is one of a select number of Michigan artistic and cultural organizations to receive MCACA funding in this category.

Three local organizations earned MCACA funding in 2015. The BICAA award was the largest and only fully-funded Charlevoix County request. Baroque has received previous MCACA mini-grants up to \$4,000 but this is their first major operating grant.

About the Baroque on Beaver Festival: Festival dates for 2015 are July 24-August 2. Now in its 14th consecutive season, B-on-B has grown from a single concert in 2001 to a ten-day series of performances led by Music Director Robert Nordling and Choral Director Kevin Simons. Members of the orchestra and chorus are primarily based in Michigan, hold prestigious positions in the state's major symphony orchestras and ensembles, and many have large studios attracting some of the area's top students. Soloists include principals from the orchestra and internationally known artists.

"Over the past several years B-on-B has gained statewide recognition for creative programming and musical performances of the highest caliber. Each year it draws increasing audiences to Beaver Island from across the state and beyond. People seem to love both the main stage concerts and pop-up performances, and each year there are a few new surprises," said Anne Glendon, Chair of the BICAA Board of Directors. "We are grateful to have this vote of confidence by MCACA and consider it an honor to receive their support. This grant will help us increase modest stipends to our professional musicians, soloists, operational personnel and address rising costs for promotion, printing and presentation."

More information about the Baroque on Beaver Classical Music Festival and other BICAA activities may be found at www.baroqueonbeaver.org or by calling 231.448.2149.