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For immediate release

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### **QUAD CITY ARTS ANNOUNCES THE 36th SEASON OF THE VISITING ARTIST SERIES!**

The 36th season of the Visiting Artist Series will bring 38 artists in 7 residencies to the Quad Cities, reaching more than 60,000 people in schools and community locations. Residencies will feature everything from historical theater to Irish music to jazz and more. "Since the beginning of the series in 1974, more than 275 artists have performed for over two million people of all ages," said Performing Arts & Arts-in-Education Director Susan Wahlmann. "Children who grew up with Visiting Artists in their schools now have children of their own who are experiencing these high-quality live performances. For many students, this is their only chance to meet and see nationally-touring artists perform right in their own schools."

The Visiting Artist Series brings artists of international acclaim to the Quad City region, offering community members the opportunity to see professional performances by professionally-touring artists. One- to two-week residencies provide in-depth and often repeated contact between the artist and audience. Artists give 45 minute educational performances in three schools or community sites each day, creating personal connections between the artists and the community.

Outreach performances occur mostly in schools, but also at business locations, social service organizations and public facilities. The series offers programs for workers in factories, members of civic organizations and after-school programs, senior citizens, the disabled and underserved youth, including alternative school students and youth at Arrowhead Ranch.

Each residency concludes with a public concert in a traditional concert hall. All of the concerts are free or at a low ticket price. This provides community members with the opportunity to hear and see a longer performance which reinforces what they have seen during the educational sessions during the week. Families often take this opportunity to enjoy together the artists the students have seen earlier at their own school.

The Visiting Artists are selected based on the quality of their work and the ability to interact with audiences of diverse backgrounds and ages. Artists are included in the development of each residency. We receive many letters throughout the year that the artists make a significant impact in the lives of area students - often inspiring them to take up the performing arts on their own. "I recently received a letter from a young cellist who grew up in the Quad Cities. Seeing the Cavani String Quartet perform during their Visiting Artist residency inspired her to pursue cello as a career. She later studied at Juilliard, and now is living and working in New York City as a professional musician," said Wahlmann.

Quad City Arts is a nonprofit local arts agency dedicated to the growth and vitality of the Quad City region through the presentation, development and celebration of the arts and humanities. All Quad City Arts programs are partially supported by Festival of Trees, Quad City Arts Partners Annual Giving Program and operating grants from the Illinois Arts Council (a state agency) and the Iowa Arts Council, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs. Quad City Arts also receives

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significant support for the Visiting Artist Series from the following: National Endowment for the Arts, Arts Midwest's Performing Arts Fund, Iowa Arts Council, Scott County Regional Authority, Rock Island Community Foundation, Rauch Family Foundation I, Riverboat Development Authority, Target, Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine and the Davenport Noon Optimists Club.

Local car dealerships donate rental vehicles and hotels provide rooms. Performance space is provided by St. Ambrose University, First Presbyterian Church, Davenport, John Deere and Redeemer Lutheran Church. Additional support comes from service fees paid by school districts, Parent Teacher Associations, service clubs and businesses as well as paid subscriptions to VAnguard. GENESIS sponsors tickets for the public concerts.

The Tom Dugan and Quartet San Francisco residencies are supported by the Performing Arts Fund, a program of Arts Midwest funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional contributions from the Illinois Arts Council (a state agency) the Iowa Arts Council (a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs), General Mills Foundation, and Land O'Lakes Foundation.

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