



Father Ryan Arts Center

of Focus On Renewal

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Press Release

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Winter Winds: A Holiday Homecoming Concert to Benefit the Father Ryan Arts Center

McKees Rocks, PA, October 6, 2009 — The Father Ryan Arts Center will welcome the Rowan University Wind Ensemble, directed by McKees Rocks native and retired U.S. Navy Band Lieutenant Commander John R. Pastin who is returning home, for two very special concerts on December 5 and 6.

Sponsored by Rowan University, Commander Pastin plans to travel from Glassboro, New Jersey to McKees Rocks with his 47-member university wind ensemble for a holiday concert to benefit the Father Ryan Arts Center. For the tribute, Commander Pastin has arranged and composed five movements depicting the annual Italian events held in McKees Rocks' Norwood section when he was a child. In an effort to reach area youth interested in music, Commander Pastin has extended an invitation to members of the Sto-Rox High School band to perform.

As part of the Rowan University Music Department's outreach efforts and the brainchild of Commander Pastin, the holiday concert hopes to achieve two goals: raising funds for a Baby Grand piano and further developing the music program at the art center by engaging youth through music.

Commander Pastin will dedicate the performance to Aldo DiIanni, his former high school band director and the person he credits with influencing his decision to become a Navy musician, saying "This man had a tremendous influence on the lives of many people, those who studied music with him, and those who heard him perform. He was a musician who gave 100 percent in all that he did." Commander Pastin plans to arrange one of the late Mr. DiIanni's original pieces for the wind ensemble as a tribute to the man who was an inspiration to many.

The two concerts will also include a special guest appearance by Danielle Pastin, a vocalist with the Pittsburgh Opera Company, who will perform alongside her father Commander Pastin.

Commander Pastin says he was "just a kid from Norwood who was able to achieve success through music. I'm so fortunate to have accomplished so much, and the best thing that I can do is to give back. The support I received when I was young might not be there for some of the rising stars of today. I had many places to go and people who would spend time with me talking about music and

what is 'out there' for a musician to experience. I see the Father Ryan Arts Center as a place that will serve similarly."

Winter Winds: A Holiday Homecoming Benefit Concert

Saturday, December 5, 2009 (Limited tickets available)

Father Ryan Arts Center, 420 Chartiers Avenue in McKees Rocks

Reception 6:30 p.m.; Tribute Concert 7:30 p.m.; Holiday Dance 9:30 p.m.; Tickets: \$75

Sunday, December 6, 2009

Sto-Rox High School Auditorium, 1107 Valley Street in McKees Rocks

Community Concert; 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.; Tickets: \$8

Tickets are on sale now and all proceeds benefit the Father Ryan Arts Center. For more information or to reserve your tickets, call 412.771.3052.

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Focus on Renewal (F.O.R.) is a non-profit human service agency that has served the McKees Rocks community for 40 years, and is nationally recognized as a model of comprehensive services to low-income people of all ages.

The Father Ryan Arts Center, a program of Focus On Renewal, is a multi-level facility in the heart of McKees Rocks committed to providing artistic education, enrichment and entertainment.