



Association of Performing Arts Presenters

April 1, 2008

Dear Member of Congress:

Today, we need your help. Through a variety of very important upcoming political decisions, many Americans may be potentially denied the opportunity of experiencing the artistic expression and outstanding performances that are so vital to the health, vitality and economic fabric of our communities. On behalf of the Association of Performing Arts Presenters (Arts Presenters), a National Co-Sponsor of Arts Advocacy Day, I urge you to enhance and strengthen the performing arts in America by taking action in the areas mentioned in the following issue pages including:

- Increase funding for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)
- Increase funding for our national arts education programs through the U.S. Department of Education
- Increase funding for international cultural exchange through the U.S. Department of State
- Help ease burdensome delays in visa processing for foreign artists
- Promote charitable giving to nonprofit organizations

Arts Presenters is the leading national service and advocacy organization for the presenting and touring field representing nearly 2,000 performing arts presenters, artists and artist managers throughout the world. Arts Presenters Members hail from all 50 states and more than 28 different countries, representing both the nonprofit and for-profit sectors of the industry, including large performing arts centers in major cities, rural community-focused organizations, outdoor festivals and academic institutions. Our members, regardless of their backgrounds, foster an environment conducive to artistic success and demonstrate the power of imagination and creativity.

Arts Presenters members bring performances to more than 2 million audience-goers each week, generating an excess of \$2.5 billion dollars in revenue annually, while the presenting and touring field serves more than 6 million audience members each week for over \$8.5 billion in revenue each year.

We are asking you to be an advocate for the performing arts. In addition to attending a performance or donating funds to a local theater, we need your help on Capitol Hill to ensure that the performing arts remain vital and accessible to all Americans.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to your support throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Sandra Gibson
President and CEO