The work of the Cincinnati Arts Association is vital to the quality of life in the Greater Cincinnati area. Without CAA’s vision and effort, Cincinnati would not see the nationally recognized talent or the caliber of visual arts and entertainment we’ve had the privilege of welcoming to our city. That is why The Union Central Life Insurance Company became CAA’s Founding Season Sponsor and remains committed to supporting this vibrant and progressive organization.

Steven J. Valerius,
President, The Union Central Life Insurance Company
Each year with our Report to the Community, we pause for a moment from our hectic schedules and to-do lists to reflect on another year in the life of the Cincinnati Arts Association. It is a time to thoughtfully reconsider who we are and what we do as one of the Tri-state’s leading arts organizations.

The mission of the Cincinnati Arts Association, as the region’s premier promoter of the arts and entertainment, is to use its expertise as a manager, presenter, and educator to:

- Offer a broad range of high quality performing and visual arts programs
- Develop diverse audiences
- Foster an appreciation of the arts and understanding of their forms
- Encourage the use of facilities by local and regional arts organizations

As the facility manager of Music Hall, we are currently involved in one of the most exciting and impactful projects in the recent history of our region and arts community – the revitalization of Music Hall. This project will have a significant impact on the future of this magnificent venue and the world-class resident arts groups that call Music Hall home: Cincinnati Symphony and Pops Orchestras, Cincinnati Opera, May Festival, and Cincinnati Ballet.

During our fifteen years of combined operations of the Aronoff Center and Music Hall, no one has better reflected our mission than the members of our community – those that create, administrate, and experience the art and entertainment in our venues. We are deeply grateful to our talented artists and technicians, loyal members, generous donors and sponsors, gifted resident companies, committed board of trustees, tireless staff members, dedicated volunteers, and appreciative audiences, all of whom are the lifeblood of CAA.

Within these pages, you will find a variety of reflections from members of our community about what CAA means to them and to our city. We hope you will take a moment from your busy day to revisit the 2009-10 Season and reflect on what CAA means to you.

See you at the theatre!

DEAR FRIENDS OF THE ARTS,

Stephen A. Loftin
President and Executive Director
Cincinnati Arts Association

Dudley S. Taft
Chairman, Board of Trustees
Cincinnati Arts Association
PRESENTING

2009/10

RAIN: A TRIBUTE TO THE BEATLES
Wednesday, October 14, 2009 ~ 8:00 PM
Aronoff Center ~ Procter & Gamble Hall

SHAOLIN WARRIORS
Sunday, November 1, 2009 ~ 7:00 PM
Music Hall

KENNY G: THE HOLIDAY SHOW
Wednesday, December 9, 2009 ~ 8:00 PM
Aronoff Center ~ Procter & Gamble Hall

THE IRISH TENORS CHRISTMAS SHOW
Saturday, December 12, 2009 ~ 8:00 PM
Aronoff Center ~ Procter & Gamble Hall

THE OPERA SHOW
Friday, January 29, 2010 ~ 8:00 PM
Aronoff Center ~ Procter & Gamble Hall

THE PEKING ACROBATS
Friday, February 19, 2010 ~ 7:30 PM
Aronoff Center ~ Procter & Gamble Hall

THE GERSHWIN’S PORGY AND BESS
Wednesday, February 24, 2010 ~ 8:00 PM
Aronoff Center ~ Procter & Gamble Hall

These intriguing additions to another vibrant Cincinnati arts season mirrored CAA’s long-standing mission of presenting an eclectic mix of alternative entertainment choices to Cincinnati theater-goers. The season featured the return of many audience favorites and offered something for nearly everyone.

The 2009-10 Season began with a night of classic rock – the return of **RAIN: A Tribute to the Beatles** (the band’s March 2008 show was a smash-hit sell-out); followed by the world’s original Kung Fu masters, the **Shaolin Warriors**.

The holiday season brought a selection of international superstars back to the Aronoff Center with the warmth and charm of Grammy® Award-winner **Kenny G** and the joyous harmonies of **The Irish Tenors**. In January, classic music met MTV in a spectacular new production of opera’s greatest hits, **The Opera Show**.

Rounding out the season were the astounding, awe-inspiring **The Peking Acrobats**; and one of America’s greatest operas, **The Gershwins’ Porgy and Bess**.

“Local 12 WKRC is proud to be a Season Sponsor of the Cincinnati Arts Association. From CAA’s first presenting season in 1997 to today, our partnership has reflected the mission of both Local 12 and CAA to provide Greater Cincinnati’s diverse audiences the very best in local news, arts, entertainment, and education.”

Jeanette Altenau, Director, Strategic Community Initiatives, Local 12 WKRC
2009-10 EXHIBITION SEASON

September 18 – December 6, 2009

- "I'll just ask Dad." - Recent Work by Ryan Mulligan – Drawing from autobiographical resources and historical obsessions, Ryan Mulligan (Cincinnati, OH) constructed a low-tech installation that relied heavily on dark comedy in mythologizing his daily experiences.
- Form as a Cognitive System: Frescoes by Michael Sharber – Whimsical examinations of everyday objects imbued with an energy of their own embodied these fanciful frescoes by Michael Sharber (Santa Fe, NM).
- Virtue in the Struggle: Installation & Works on Paper by Casey Riordan Millard – Continuing her investigation into human behavior motivated by fear, anger, and despair, Casey Riordan Millard (Cincinnati, OH) created a life-size history-museum-style diorama featuring her fantasy Shark Girl sculptures.

October 28 – December 6, 2009

- Works on Paper by Casey Riordan Millard – Featuring a huge 12'x12' installation that explored the psychology of the house as a fantasy setting.
- Paintings & Wall Drawing by Rick Mallette – Rick Mallette (Cincinnati, OH) presented colorful and expressive abstract paintings (loosely based on heads) and monumental 37' wide by 10' high wall drawing that was created on site.

December 18, 2009 – February 28, 2010

- Live Station: Site-Specific Installation by Steve Zieverink – Incorporating recycled building materials, Steve Zieverink (Chicago, IL) built a large-scale rustic cabin to serve as a research facility for artists to explore ideas of disconnecting from the grid and of reconnecting to nature.
- Paintings & Wall Drawing by Rick Mallette – Rick Mallette (Cincinnati, OH) presented colorful and expressive abstract paintings (loosely based on heads) and a monumental 37' wide by 10' high wall drawing that was created on site.
- Nightfall: Installations by Alice Pixley Young – Employing fragile and temporal materials along with found objects, Alice Pixley Young (Cincinnati, OH) created a series of three installation environments that explored space and sound and blurred the line between private and public space through the reflection of meaning, structure of memory, language, and narrative.

March 19 – June 6, 2010

- Disturbing Reality – Disturbing Reality was a group exhibition of nine artists who explored quirky and disquieting images, psychological dramas, and off-kilter environments. Participating artists included: Allison Grant (Chicago, IL); Allyson Klutenkamper (Portsmouth, OH); Nate Larson (Baltimore, MD); Mark Slankard (Cleveland, OH); Nick Sistler (Chicago, IL); and Cincinnati artists Chris Hoeting, Guennadi Maslov, Emily Hanako Momohara, and David Rosenthal.

June 18 – August 29, 2010

- The House in My Head – The House in My Head was a group exhibition that explored perceptions of the house as a fantasy architectural form, living environment, and psychological space. Participating artists included Tracy Featherstone (Oxford, OH); Lori Larusso (Lexington, KY); and Cincinnati artists Keith Benjamin, Elaine Lynch, Mark Patsfall, and Jennifer Purdum.

The Weston Art Gallery marked its fifteenth season with six solo and two large group exhibitions of painting, sculpture, photography, drawing, video and site-specific installations which delighted audiences throughout the year. Highlighting the season were Ryan Mulligan’s improbable cut-out cartoon sculptures and clunky constructions; Michael Sharber’s humorous and inventive frescoes; Casey Riordan Millard’s imaginative Shark Girl stage set; Steve Zieverink’s rustic, alternative-habitat cabin; Rick Mallette’s impressive 37’ wall drawing; Alice Pixley Young’s dreamlike installations; and a talented assemblage of local and regional artists who comprised the intriguing group exhibitions that ended the season, Disturbing Reality and The House in My Head.

Augmenting this diverse slate of exhibitions were the ever-popular CANstruction, a design-and-build competition to benefit the FreeStore FoodBank; eight informative Gallery Talks with the exhibiting artists; eight Families Create! workshops for parents and their children; four intimate Sunday afternoon recitals by Contemporary Performer’s Workshop; and the renowned summer youth docent program, Docentitos.

The 2009-10 exhibition season attracted 16,037 visitors to the Weston Art Gallery with 162 tours conducted for individuals, school groups, and seniors. The Gallery also served as a popular site for CAA Member Intermission Receptions and private functions. The Gallery’s annual fundraiser became the WAG It! Warehouse Party and energized an enthusiastic dance crowd.

When we receive the Weston’s season brochure each September, we buy our New Year calendar to mark every exhibition opening and gallery talk date. The artists’ works, ever-changing gallery design, and education through discussion, literature, and the Docentitos make the Weston Art Gallery an adventure we anticipate. The knowledgeable staff, gallery archive, and web site provide a continual resource. Their annual benefit is the best dance party of the year!
SCHOOLTIME

SchoolTime continued to provide high quality performances from around the world to Tri-state students. With funding that provided ticket and transportation assistance, CAA made it possible for many students to hear songs and stories from Uganda, learn basic scientific principles from Doktor Kaboom while bananas flew through the air, and experience the unique artistry of The Peking Acrobats.

These programs provided classroom teachers with valuable tools to reinforce academic areas, while exposing students to a totally different world, where a book becomes real before their eyes and a story is expressed in musical terms.

PROGRAM REACH: 59,000

Beyond the thousands of children CAA’s education program serves each year through SchoolTime and Artists on Tour, it is also a goal of the program to build collaborative relationships toward meaningful artistic experiences that make a life-long impact on students in the Tri-state. The education program continues to work with the Greater Cincinnati Alliance for Arts Education to provide training for emerging arts leaders, teaching artists, and classroom teachers. During the 2009-10 Season, we hosted a teaching artist workshop on 21st century learning skills for more than forty local artists.

Our education program has nurtured relationships with both the School for Creative and Performing Arts (SCPA) and Dixie Heights High School’s Visual Performing Arts and Media School of Study to support the missions of these schools. We have partnered on projects that allow CAA’s relationships with local, regional, and national artists to directly impact the educational activities in each of these schools. We serve not only as a provider of arts programming, but also as a resource for school administrators.

During the 2009-10 school year, CAA dramatically expanded its after-school programming at SCPA (which now offers classes in dance, drama, and visual art) in anticipation of the new Erich Kunzel Center for Arts and Education. In addition, we placed local artist Deborah Brod in residence at Dixie Heights High School, where she worked with the visual art classes to create a permanent sculpture exhibited in the school’s cafeteria (pictured below). Dixie Heights also served as a regional site host for one of CAA’s Overture Academy programs, which was free to any student in the area. (continued on next page)

ARTISTS ON TOUR

In a time when schools are counting pennies, Artists on Tour provided a very affordable way to provide arts programming. By sending the program to the school, CAA eliminates the costly element of transportation.

Thank you, once again, for enriching the lives of children and adults with disabilities through the Artists on Tour outreach program. On behalf of the children and adults who experienced a whole new world through these events, thank you! We hope that you will include Redwood in future Artists on Tour programs.

Barbara Howard, Executive Director, Redwood

Nearly 25,000 students enjoyed an Artists on Tour program this past year – as assemblies, workshops, and in some cases, residences, where enhanced student participation was possible. All programs were designed to support academic curriculum by including arts integration activities or broadening the students’ experiences. For many students, education really “clicks” when they see science come to life before their eyes, as a magician presents a program on Backstage Magic while explaining the scientific principles that help create these illusions.
THE OVERTURE AWARDS

The Overture Awards Scholarship Competition continues to highlight the Tri-state area’s incredible wealth of artistic talent among high school students. During the 2009-10 academic year, a record number of participants from a record number of schools competed for $24,000 in scholarships. The recognition a student receives from being named an Overture Award semi-finalist, finalist, or winner goes beyond the financial rewards. This status gives students an additional tool to gain admittance into colleges and universities, and provides them with greater self-esteem and the confidence that their goal of “becoming an artist” is attainable.

CAA did not just focus on schools with a special arts curriculum. We provided programming for “Let It Shine,” the after-school program at John G. Carlisle Elementary in Covington. These programs were designed to include students and parents alike in quarterly live performances.

In addition, CAA worked with Redwood (a Northern Kentucky non-profit that services children and adults with severe and multiple disabilities) to provide arts programming to its clients. These programs brought the arts to an underserved population that was appreciative and enthusiastic.

BUILDING DIVERSE AUDIENCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BDAAC)

BDAAC continues to fulfill its mission by providing programming and serving as a resource for CAA. In December, on the last day of school before holiday break, BDAAC presented The Arctic Express to the entire student body of Holy Family School in Covington, which was selected because of its extremely diverse student population. The program taught students about the variety of cultures around the world, and the differences between the end-of-the-year holidays each culture celebrates. After the program, children were treated to a holiday snack.

ArtNet was again presented in the Weston Art Gallery. The event provided a networking opportunity for minority artists to learn about resources available to them in the Greater Cincinnati area while meeting new friends and developing collaborations.

BDAAC also represented CAA at both the Black Family Reunion and the Cincinnati Hispanic Festival.

“Our sponsorship of Arts in Education began in 1998, because we believed that young people should have access to a variety of art performances. CAA fulfills this vision by bringing artists to the schools, or assisting student visits to live performances. We are proud to be a part of creating these opportunities for the young people in our community.”

Craig Maier, President & CEO, Frisch’s Restaurants, Inc.
Music Hall was completely sold out for the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra’s Sizzling Hot Season Opener, featuring internationally acclaimed pianist Lang Lang.

**SEPTEMBER 17**

**OCTOBER 14**

Rain: A Tribute to the Beatles returned to the Aronoff Center for a sold-out performance as part of the Cincinnati Arts Association 2009-10 Season.

**OCTOBER 19**

Luminaries, dignitaries and legions of fans filled Music Hall for a concert celebrating the life of Cincinnati Pops Founder and Conductor Emeritus Erich Kunzel, who passed away on September 1, 2009.

**JANUARY 12-24**

Fifth Third Bank Broadway Across America’s presentation of Spring Awakening rocked the Aronoff Center with an unforgettable journey from youth to adulthood.

**MARCH 20**

Thousands of cheering children (and their parents) grooved out during two performances of Yo Gabba Gabba! Live! at the Aronoff Center.

**APRIL 8-25**

Broadway’s perfectly magical musical, Mary Poppins, flew into the Aronoff Center for an enchanting extended engagement, presented by Fifth Third Bank Broadway Across America.

“Music Hall is the grandest hall we’ve ever done our show in. I certainly love to go back there.”

Garrison Keillor, A Prairie Home Companion (courtesy of the Cincinnati Enquirer)
Presented by WVXU 91.7 & WMUB 88.5, the hilarious political satire, Capitol Steps, made its Cincinnati debut at the Music Hall Ballroom.

OCTOBER 23

Cincinnati Ballet presented the enduring ballet classic, Swan Lake, at the Aronoff Center in partnership with BalletMet Columbus.

OCTOBER 23-24

A sold-out dedication concert for the Albee Mighty Wurlitzer in its new home – the Music Hall Ballroom – was presented by the Society for the Preservation of Music Hall.

NOVEMBER 28

The May Festival’s successful 89th Season at Music Hall included the premiere of a work by Ian Krouse commissioned by the May Festival Chorus in honor of Robert Porco’s 20th Anniversary as Director of Choruses.

MAY 14-22

Cincinnati Opera’s 90th Anniversary Summer Festival at Music Hall featured Richard Wagner’s epic opera, Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg, a five-hour event and one of the most expensive and acclaimed in the company’s history.

JUNE 23 & 26

Cincinnati Opera hosted its second annual Opera Idol competition at the Aronoff Center, a community-wide search for the next great opera star. More than 60 amateur singers competed, with countertenor Michael Match earning the Opera Idol title.

JULY 8

I love the Aronoff Center – great shows, great patrons. It’s a really uplifting feeling when I’m there helping to make patrons feel welcome and comfortable.

Bonnie May, Aronoff Center Volunteer
Cincinnati Arts Association’s iconic venues – the Aronoff Center and Music Hall – continued to be the destinations of choice for a variety of arts and entertainment events, social occasions, educational programming, and corporate meetings.

At Music Hall, the Cincinnati Opera celebrated its 90th Anniversary, highlighted by a lavish Gala and an acclaimed new production of Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg. Thousands of friends and fans of legendary Cincinnati Pops conductor Erich Kunzel mourned his passing in a special public memorial concert. Maestro Paavo Järvi announced that he would retire after his tenth season (2010-2011) with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. The CSO began an international search to identify new musical directors for both the Symphony and Pops Orchestras.

Cincinnati Ballet presented another popular season, including a new production of Swan Lake, family-favorite Cinderella, and The Sammy Project, featuring the music of Sammy Davis, Jr. The Aronoff Center’s other resident dance companies – Contemporary Dance Theater, ballet tech cincinnati (now named arts innovation movement cincinnati), and Exhale Dance Company – brought an eclectic array of programming to the Jarson-Kaplan Theater. This intimate space was also home to Cincinnati Music Theatre, which enjoyed another successful season, including audience-favorites Guys and Dolls and Curtains.

The Cincinnati Playwright’s Initiative expanded its reach in the community, with numerous sold-out staged readings during its season in the Fifth Third Bank Theater. The School for Creative and Performing Arts presented its final show at the Aronoff Center – Fame – before moving to its new building in Over-the-Rhine.

Famous names that graced the Aronoff Center throughout the season include film and television actresses Helen Hunt and Patricia Heaton (part of popular Smart Talk series); famed chef and Travel Channel personality Anthony Bourdain; musical sensations Al Jarreau, B.B. King, and Celtic Woman; and one of the hottest family shows of the season, the live tour of the hit Nick Jr. TV show, Yo Gabba Gabba! Live!

The Over-the-Rhine neighborhood near Music Hall experienced the beginnings of a planned multi-year renaissance. The new School for the Creative and Performing Arts – the first K-12 public arts school in the country – was completed. Directly across the street, Washington Park focused its plans for a complete makeover, which will include the installation of a two-story underground parking lot, a great lawn opposite Music Hall, a dog park, and new playground for neighborhood children.

Plans for the revitalization of Music Hall moved forward with the creation of the Music Hall Revitalization Corporation. This not-for-profit organization, led by local businessman Jack Rouse, will direct a world-class team of professional theater planners, architects, acousticians, and fundraisers through one of the most exciting arts projects in recent memory. Construction is planned to begin in May of 2012.

"The Society for the Preservation of Music Hall is grateful for CAA’s expert assistance with the acquisition and dedication of the Wurlitzer Organ and its installation in the Music Hall Ballroom, as well as our many other joint projects during the 2009-10 Season. We look forward to our continued cooperative efforts towards preserving, maintaining, and promoting Cincinnati’s beautiful ‘gem’ and historic music icon – Music Hall.

Don Siekmann, President, Society for the Preservation of Music Hall"
DEVELOPMENT

BACKSTAGE TREASURES...AND MORE!
November 16 – December 6, 2009

The 2009 Backstage Treasures… And More! online auction, led again in 2009 by CAA Trustee Susie Lame, raised more than $20,000 for our arts education programs. Susie was assisted by committee members Jim Howland, Kathy O'Brien, Janet Cleary, and Selena Reder.

DANCING FOR THE STARS
April 10, 2010

Our fourth annual Dancing for the Stars fundraiser attracted an audience of more than 500 excited dance-lovers to the Music Hall Ballroom. The 2010 event raised over $40,000 for CAA’s Overture Awards and Academy. Inspired by the hit ABC-TV show Dancing with the Stars, the fundraiser featured eight Cincinnati celebrities paired with some of the area’s finest professional dancers in a competition program, during which the audience voted for their favorite celebrity dancer. The stars included: Helen Carroll (Manager of Community Relations, Toyota), Cathy Crain (President, Cincinnati Opera; Community Volunteer), Terry Foster (RN, St. Elizabeth Health Care; Community Volunteer), Tanya O’Rourke (Anchor, WCPO-TV9), Sean Rugless (CEO, African American Chamber of Commerce), Rockin’ Ron Schumacher (On-air Personality, 103.5 WGRR-FM), Marvin Smith (Owner & Chef, Ollie’s Trolley), and Donna Speigel (Owner, The Snooty Fox).

The 2009-2010 Season proved to be another successful year, reflected by the generous support of our donors, sponsors, members, and friends. Donors continued to invest with confidence in Music Hall and the Aronoff Center for the Arts, and in our expansive list of educational programs, visual art exhibitions, and live events. Contributed funds represent gifts from corporations, foundations and individuals who realize the important role CAA plays in maintaining a thriving arts community in Cincinnati.

Our three signature fundraising events exceeded expectations and were essential in helping us cultivate new friends, connect to existing members, and add financial support to our education and visual art programs.

The winner of Dancing for the Stars 2010 was Donna Speigel.

Special thanks to the Dancing for the Stars 2010 committee: Sue Gilkey (chair), Dancing for the Stars 2009 winner, Phil Schawor (honorary chair), Valerie Amburagey, Christina Bolden, Jim Howland, Ginger Loftin, and Jane Mary Tenhover. Dancing for the Stars 2011 will mark the fifth anniversary of this exciting event which continues to gain momentum and guests!

WAG It! Warehouse Party
June 5, 2010

The party was underground for revelers at the Weston Art Gallery’s second annual dance benefit WAG It! Warehouse Party, during the last weekend of the Disturbing Reality photo-based exhibition. Continuing the theme from last year’s Key in to Art Goes Underground, nearly 200 partygoers entered the “forbidden zone” behind the Weston’s subterranean level to dine and dance all night in the darkened environs of the Aronoff Center’s theater storage space.

Guests were equally transported by the savory appetizers from JeanRo Bistro, the glowing Oxygen Bar, feathered dancers, and the non-stop beats of DJ Pillo until way past 1:00 AM, then moved on to the after-party across Walnut Street at The Righteous Room until the wee hours of the morning.

Through ticket sales, corporate sponsorships, and a dozen generous hosts, the event raised $15,000 in support of the Weston Art Gallery’s 15th exhibition season (2009-10). In addition, many amazing in-kind gifts were received which significantly contributed to the evening’s success.

We are grateful to the following WAG It! committee members for making this event not only successful, but very fun as well: Sarah Jane Bellamy, Kip Eagen, Jerry Ewers, Betsy Hodges, A.M. Kinney, Kim Klosterman, Selena Reder, and Joe Rigotti.
The Cincinnati Arts Association recognizes and thanks the following individuals, corporations and foundations for their generous support. This list includes all gifts received as of August 31, 2010.

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We have made every effort to be as accurate as possible in compiling our list of donors. If your name has been incorrectly listed or omitted, please contact the Development Department at (513) 977-4135. Please accept our apologies for any errors.

It is the responsibility of each of us who enjoy the arts in Cincinnati to support the quality and variety of entertainment for which Cincinnati has always had a reputation. Now, more than ever, we need the arts to keep our city vibrant and a great place to live and work.

Being a CAA Member allows me the opportunity to get great seats and discounts before the public, and the courteous staff is always eager to go the extra mile to help me. I’m happy to know my membership supports such a great cause: the Cincinnati Arts Association.
It is a pleasure to work with CAA’s dedicated Board leadership and talented staff. Together, we are able to meet the fiscal challenges of operating two beloved arts facilities, the Aronoff Center and Music Hall. Additionally, we provide integral arts programming to our community through exhibitions at the Weston Art Gallery, education/scholarship programs, and first-rate arts and entertainment events for a wide variety of audiences.

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