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MUSIC FOR ALL SEASONS RECEIVES INNOVATOR AWARD FOR VOICES OF VALOR

Cultural Access Network Project Hosted Award Ceremony on June 18

Scotch Plains, NJ (June 19, 2015) -- Music for All Seasons received an Innovator Award for [Voices of Valor®](#), a program that helps veterans heal through musical expression, yesterday at Grounds For Sculpture in Hamilton, NJ. The Cultural Access Network Project (CAN), a program of New Jersey Theatre Alliance and New Jersey State Council on the Arts, hosted the 7th annual CAN [Awards](#) to honor leaders and pioneers of arts accessibility.

Attended by leaders in the state's arts and cultural community, the CAN Awards event featured a keynote address by Betty Siegel, Director of VSA and Accessibility at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, an awards presentation, and a panel discussion on model patron-engagement programs in the areas of autism, arts and healing, veterans, and creative aging.

Voices of Valor, currently in its fourth year, brings together a group of six to ten veterans working with two professional-musician facilitators and a psychology mentor to write lyrics about their experiences, and then compose and record an original song.

"The Innovator Award for our Voices of Valor program is a great honor, not just for Music For All Seasons, but for all the veterans we have been serving with this rewarding and exciting program," said Brian F. Dallow, President & Executive Director, *Music For All Seasons, Inc.* "Veterans face enormous challenges to reintegrate into civilian society and their bravery and honesty shine through the lyrics and the music of the songs they have created in Voices of Valor. We are proud to have been selected for this award."

“The State Arts Council is pleased to join New Jersey Theatre Alliance in recognizing these outstanding individuals and organizations,” said Nicholas Paleologos, Executive Director of New Jersey State Council on the Arts. “Accessibility to the arts is a fundamental right for all people, and our commitment to achieving this is reflected in the 23 years we have partnered with the Alliance on the Cultural Access Network Project. It is gratifying to see that representatives from independent organizations and from the State’s Department of Human Services are embracing arts accessibility to enhance the lives of the people they serve.”

This event was made possible in part by the generosity of Johnson & Johnson. In addition to support from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, New Jersey Theatre Alliance’s access initiatives are made possible by The Fund for New Jersey Blind, Kessler Foundation, The National Endowment for the Arts, and The Wallerstein Foundation for Geriatric Life Improvement.

Voices of Valor®, was created in 2011 to help veterans heal through music. It is conducted by Music for All Seasons, an organization committed to fostering human interaction and healing through the art of live musical performance by bringing programs to youth at risk, veterans, seniors, hospitals and hospices. Music for All Seasons® (MFAS), located in Scotch Plains, NJ, was founded in 1991 by Rena Fruchter and Brian Dallow. Please call: 1-866-524-MFAS (6327) or visit <http://www.musicforallseasons.org> for more information.

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