



KeepArtHappening.org

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Contact: Emily Hellmuth
Director of Marketing and Communications, Arts and Education Council
314.289.4010 or Emily-H@KeepArtHappening.org

KENNEDY HOLMES ADDED TO ST. LOUIS ARTS AWARDS LINE-UP

The Voice finalist to perform alongside jazz pianist Peter Martin at January 21 event

ST. LOUIS – Jan. 4, 2019 – Kennedy Holmes, finalist of season 15 on NBC's *The Voice*, has been added to the entertainment line-up at the Arts and Education Council's St. Louis Arts Awards on January 21. She will perform alongside acclaimed jazz pianist **Peter Martin**, a 2012 Excellence in the Arts recipient. The performance is a nod to Lifetime Achievement in the Arts recipient **Ken Page**, with whom Holmes appeared in *The Muny's "Aida"* in 2016, and Champion of the Arts recipient **Sue Greenberg**, company manager at *The Muny* and executive director of St. Louis Volunteer Lawyers and Accountants for the Arts.

Holmes, 14, is the youngest ever finalist of NBC's *The Voice* and is the first St. Louis area singer to make it to the finale. She is a former *Muny Kid*, STAGES Triple Threat TEEN and student at STAGES Performing Arts Academy. A student at John Burroughs School, Holmes appeared in *The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis's* 2016 production of "A Christmas Carol" as Melinda Cratchit. In 2015, she shared *The Muny* stage with actor **Bryan Batt** in "Hairspray". Batt, widely known for his role as Salvatore Romano in AMC's "Mad Men", will also make a special appearance at the St. Louis Arts Awards.

In addition to Batt, Holmes joins three more acts that were previously announced for the January 21 event, including **The Big Muddy Dance Company**, 11-year-old classical pianist **Jerry Chang** and **The City of Music All-Star Chorus**.

The St. Louis Arts Awards celebrates individuals and organizations that keep art happening throughout the bi-state region with their contributions as artists, teachers, philanthropists and advocates. In addition to Page and Greenberg, the 2019 honorees are: **Noémi and Michael Neidorff**, Excellence in Philanthropy; **Brent Benjamin**, Saint Louis Art Museum, Excellence in the Arts; **Chris Hansen**, Kranzberg Arts Foundation, Arts Innovator; **Tennessee Williams Festival St. Louis**, Arts Startup of the Year; and **Amy Freet**, Ferguson-Florissant School District, Art Educator of the Year. The 28th annual event is co-chaired by **Pat Smith Thurman** and artist **Solomon Thurman**, owners of 10th Street Gallery. **Adrienne Davis**, Washington University in St. Louis professor and vice provost, will emcee the event.

Tickets start at \$300 and are on sale now at KeepArtHappening.org/2019ArtsAwards. Proceeds benefit the Arts and Education Council. The 2019 St. Louis Arts Awards is presented by Centene Charitable Foundation. Principal sponsors are Edward Jones and Emerson.

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About the St. Louis Arts Awards – Since 1992, the St. Louis Arts Awards has honored more than 175 artists, educators, philanthropists, corporate citizens and arts organizations that make our region so vibrant. It is an elegant evening of cocktails and dinner, an awards presentation and awe-inspiring performances - all packed into just four hours. Proceeds

benefit the Arts and Education Council, which offers programs and services that support more than 70 arts and arts education organizations impacting 1.6 million people throughout the 16-county, bi-state region. KeepArtHappening.org/2019ArtsAwards.

- **Event:** 2019 St. Louis Arts Awards
- **When:** Monday, January 21 at 5:00 p.m.
- **Where:** Chase Park Plaza Royal Sonesta Hotel | 212 N. Kingshighway
- **Tickets:** Tickets are on sale now, starting at \$300 at KeepArtHappening.org/2019ArtsAwards. Ticket includes cocktail reception, dinner, awards show and entertainment. Proceeds benefit the Arts and Education Council.

About Kennedy Holmes – Kennedy Holmes, 14, is the youngest ever finalist of NBC's The Voice. She placed fourth in season 15 of the singing competition, making her the first St. Louis area singer to make it to the finale. Prior to her run on The Voice, Kennedy was a Munny Kid, STAGES Triple Threat TEEN and student at STAGES Performing Arts Academy. Stage credits include The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis's 2016 production of "A Christmas Carol" (Melinda Cratchit), The Munny's 2015 production of "Hairspray" (Little Inez) and The Munny's 2016 production of "Aida" (July). Holmes is an eighth grade student at John Burroughs School.

Photo: Kennedy Holmes. Photo courtesy of The Munny.

About the Arts and Education Council: *Keep Art Happening*. – The Arts and Education Council builds appreciation, participation and support for the arts and arts education throughout the St. Louis region, shaping a more vibrant arts community for all. A&E ensures the 16-county, bi-state region is rich with arts and cultural experiences through programs and services that support more than 70 organizations each year, including: operating grants; arts incubation at the Centene Center for the Arts; PNC Program Grants; the Monsanto Creative Impact Fund; the Maritz Arts and Education Fund for Teachers; Monsanto Rural Community Arts and Education grants; the Art Education Fund, underwritten by Wells Fargo Advisors; the Catalyst Innovation Lab; the Katherine Dunham Fellowship; Catalyst Conversations; the stARTup Competition; Leadership Roundtables; Arts Marketers; the St. Louis Suburban Music Educators Association; the Keep Art Happening Scholarship; and the St. Louis Arts Awards.

A&E is entirely funded by individual donors, corporations and foundations in the St. Louis region. Since its inception in 1963 as the region's only privately-supported united arts fund, A&E has raised and distributed more than \$100 million in private funding for the arts – a significant contribution that directly impacts the quality of life in our region. A&E meets all 20 Better Business Bureau Charity Standards and has earned the Wise Giving Seal of Approval, a three-star rating from Charity Navigator and a Guidestar Exchange Silver Participant rating.

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Arts and Education Council • 3547 Olive Street • St. Louis, MO 63103-1014

p 314.289.4000 • f 314.289.4019 • www.KeepArtHappening.org