



Tidewater Arts Outreach

Sharing the healing power of the arts.

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TIDEWATER ARTS OUTREACH PAIRS ART AND MUSIC FOR CHKD PATIENTS
Jan. 14 Program of Music and Arts Lets Young Artists Create, Celebrate, Achieve

NORFOLK, Va. – (January 2008) – On Jan. 14, a playroom at CHKD will hold more than toys. Tidewater Arts Outreach will combine music and art for a healing session for children. Two Virginia Symphony musicians playing cello and violin will provide soothing music while visual artist Donna Iona Drozda moves the young hospital patients through a series of art exercises designed to heighten their awareness of moods and feelings.

“The program is a direct experience addressing the ways that artists filter their world through image and sound by teaming music with art making,” explains Drozda. “Our hour together will be an interactive, expansive and playful exercise combining listening, hearing, feeling, movement, texture, shape and color. “

The children will experience a variety of gentle and spontaneous warm up exercises while they choose colors and shapes that express how the music feels to them. Then they will create art as the music plays using water-based markers, watercolor paints, papers, brushes and sponges.

Drozda is a visual artist, teacher, lecturer and author. Her paintings have garnered national attention and critical acclaim. She is on the faculty at the Contemporary Art Center of Virginia and is involved in a state-wide partnership of artist educators with the Virginia Museum of Arts. She is a dedicated advisor to Tidewater Arts Outreach and has conducted visual journaling workshops for women victims of domestic violence and art appreciation for children at homeless shelters.

The Virginia Symphony’s Education and Community Engagement Department touches the lives of more than 53,000 people per season through concerts, lectures and presentations, in-school residencies, master classes, open rehearsals, student performances, collaborations with other organizations and an array of community engagement programs. This cooperative program with the Symphony and Tidewater Arts Outreach is one of many they perform each year.

Tidewater Arts Outreach is a nonprofit organization founded in 2003 to bring music and arts to hospitals, retirement homes, rehabilitation centers, homeless shelters and other facilities throughout Hampton Roads. These performances and programs promote human interaction, happiness and healing for people who have limited access to the arts due to health, economic or social circumstances. In 2007, more than 4,000 people were reached through 161 Tidewater Arts Outreach programs. Tidewater Arts Outreach supports the spirit of empathy and caring in the music and arts community, and more than 200 artists have participated in its programs. For more information, visit TWartsoutreach.org.

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