



# PECAN, Inc.

## \*PECAN, Inc. Promotes the Arts\*

PECAN, Inc. Progressive Education of Children in the Arts Network, Inc. is a non-profit organization that promotes the arts for youth. The mission of PECAN is to aid and support the development of children into confident human beings through participation in music and the arts.

Music and art for all youth are documented to be meaningful, purposeful, and productive activities that can help change a child's life forever by developing rhythm and structure, therefore helping the child gain confidence and self-worth.

The participation of youth in the arts offsets the attraction that would otherwise be met by alcohol, tobacco, and or drugs. Music and art therefore minimize or obviates the desire to resort to these substances.

PECAN, Inc. has been accomplishing it's goal of promoting the arts in youth since 2001 through a variety of activities: Celebration of Children held at The Forum in Harrisburg in July, Art Day Camp held in Shellsville in June, Wheelchair Dance held in Hershey, and Caitlin's Smiles which continues to spread the creative arts for children in hospitals. These activities will be highlighted with more information in this newsletter.

### **Progressive Education of Children in the Arts Network, Inc.**

PO Box 99  
Grantville, PA 17028  
Phone: 717-469-7517  
Fax: 717-469-0095  
Web: [www.pecaninc.net](http://www.pecaninc.net)

### **Non-Profit Organization**

"I have long believed in the important role that music and the arts can play in helping students learn, achieve and succeed. Education in the theater, dance and the visual arts is one of the most creative ways we have to find the gold that is buried just beneath the surface. They (children) have enthusiasm for life, a spark of creativity and vivid imaginations that need training.... training that prepares them to become confident young men and women." -US Secretary of Education - Richard W. Riley



*"Studies have shown that the arts can raise long-term academic achievement, decrease drop-out rates, and lay a foundation for future participation in the work force." - Soulia Antonio, President , VSA Arts, Washington, D. C.*

**PECAN, Inc. WEBSITE:**  
<http://www.pecaninc.net>





## *What is Celebration of Children?*

Celebration of Children is presented by PECAN, Inc. (Progressive Education of Children in the Arts Network, Inc.) Children up to 18 years of age are chosen from the area to perform their talent in dance, instrumental, gymnastics, voice, speaking and other specialties including creative arts. The purpose of the performance is to showcase talented young artists in the community to bring awareness of the importance of art to youth in the community. In addition to the performers, young artists also display their drawings, paintings, photography, sculpture and more at the art display in the lobby. The Allegro Award, Crescendo Award, Arpeggio Award, and Media Award are given out at this performance.

### *Wheelchair Dancers Experience the Joy of Movement.*

Wheelchair Dance, founded by Nancy Ehrlich, Director of Celebration of Children and Board member of PECAN, Inc., began in June of 2005 with the help of her daughter Elizabeth. After years of dancing and then an accident that left her partially paralyzed and unable to dance, Nancy began researching wheelchair dancing on the web. Wheelchair dancing tones muscles, improves circulation, increases awareness of spatial relations, and increases socialization and self awareness while having fun! The goal is to make dance and the joy of movement accessible to everyone.



### ***TASK - Theatre Arts for Special Kids***

TASK is an all-inclusive non-profit organization under the umbrella of PECAN, Inc. The purpose of TASK is to give children of all types of ability a stage on which to express themselves. The goals of TASK are to give all children the opportunity through Theatre Arts to become more focused, be able to follow directions more accurately, cooperate with one another, communicate more clearly, display more awareness of their emotions, and the emotions of others, and to improve their self-esteem.

### ***\*\*\*YOUTH MUSIC AND ARTS FESTIVAL - IN ITS 2<sup>ND</sup> YEAR \*\*\****

PECAN hosts the Youth Music and Arts Festival every July. It includes a fundraising performance, a silent auction of articles pertaining to the arts, work stations for learning arts and crafts and music, and food for sale. Register with PECAN to enter the performance. The event benefits Caitlin's Smiles, Children's Wheelchair Dance, and TASK.

### ***PECAN, Inc.'s Art Lovers' Workshop***

Every year in June since 2005, PECAN, Inc. holds Art Lovers' Workshop for children ages 18 and under. The event gives children of all abilities the opportunity to experience working with many different types of art. For information please call 717-469-7517.

## PECAN Inc. Awards

**The Crescendo Award** was created in 1998 by Cynthia Sudor, cofounder of Celebration of Children, to recognize an adult who has given of themselves using their artistic talent for youth in the Harrisburg area.

**The Allegro Award**, created in 2002, recognizes a youth who have given of themselves in the arts to help others.

**The Arpeggio Award** was created in 2004 to recognize a celebrity who is giving of themselves to help youth create harmony in their lives through use of the arts.

**The Media Award** was created in 2005 to recognize a program in any type of media that influences children in positive, productive ways by use of auditory and visual arts.

**The Spirit of the Children Award** – 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary award presented in 2007 to Cindy Sudor who was influential in starting Celebration of Children in 1998. and helped to market the idea of promoting the arts for youth.

### *Crescendo Award Recipients*

**1998 - Edward C. Truax** - very active with Girls Incorporated of Greater Harrisburg, contributing his time and artistic talent to children and projects in the Harrisburg area

**1999 - Linda Tedford** - creator and director of Susquehanna Youth Chorale whose efforts have helped many children learn the value of harmony and team effort with the beauty of songs and performances.

**2000 - Ruth ann Jeremiah** - efforts with the group, ENERGY, since 1990 have helped children of all abilities and disabilities learn the value of song and dance as a group performing all across Pennsylvania.

**2001 - Camille Erice** - created the school Danzante to teach Latino arts and history to inner city youth.

**2002 - Ali and Rafiyqua Muhammad** - founded and direct the school Gnus which teaches African Dance. Ali Muhammad is also the founder and instructor with the Universal African Fighting Arts System.

**2003 - George Kell** - has made a difference in the lives of young people through his direction of musicals and plays at the Harrisburg Youth for Christ center on Eisenhower Blvd.

**2004 - Cheryl Horning** - created Caitlin's Smiles which delivers arts and crafts kits to children in hospitals. **2005 - Fred Miles** - Cartoon Tycoon offers an animation camp for middle and high school students helping many children learn the animation production process within a working studio.

**2006 - Roni Dietrich** - Scrimshaw artist / organizer of PECAN, Inc. Art Day Camp and instrumental in organizing the art displays for Celebration of Children for the past 5 years

**2007 - Anita Tyler-Goodrich** - founder/ director of Prazon School of Dance in 2000 to help the Arts.

**2008 - Aileen Hower** - makeup artist for COC for 4 years and volunteer for many organizations in the Central PA area.

**2009 - Stan Baldwin** - volunteers his time to organizations with his culinary, ballooning, and magic talents.

**2010 - Popcorn Hat Players** - Founded by Clark and Melissa Nicholson, they perform amazing interactive adaptations of classical tales, charming children into participation in the arts.

**2011 - Paul Zerman**, instructor for Akoustikos, a remarkable group of guitar students who perform at retirement homes and hospitals.

### *Allegro Award Recipients*

**2002 - Lauren Elizabeth Fealtman** - of Carlisle provided children with summer dance lessons for a small fee and donated the proceeds to the American Lung Association.

**2003 - Randi Levundusky** - worked 4 years with Cel. of Children coaching & encouraging youth in the arts. **2004 - Elizabeth Park** - contributed to non-profit organizations by face painting and working at summer day camps with visual arts for people with disabilities.

**2005 - Andrew KJ Shiraki** - president of the youth advisory counsel for the Lower Paxton Youth Center. **2006 - Elizabeth M. Ehrlich** - worked for 6 years with Celebration of children as MC and teaching dance routines. She is instrumental in starting Children's Wheelchair Dance and teaching the class.

**2007 - Julia Olley** - Cel. of Children backstage manager 4 yrs, PECAN, Inc. art day camp assistant 3 yrs.

**2008 - Corina Aucker** - worked for 7 years with Cel. of Children as a performer and 4 years as Jr. MC. Volunteers her time to sing the National Anthem at events as well a singing to support the Troops in Iraq.

**2009 - Christopher Kong** - award-winning piano and violin prodigy who has played to help raise money for tsunami victims and the blind.

**2010 - Lydia J. Hassell** - At age 17 and in her 11th year as a featured singer and stage performer, she has been an inspiration to other young performers that have known her and seen her perform.

**2011 - Alaina McNaughton** - volunteers as a dance assistant at One Broadway, a cheerleading coach at Holy Name of Jesus School, and as teacher and choreographer for Children's Wheelchair Dance.

### *Arpeggio Award Recipients*

**2004 - Charles S. Dutton** - actor, director, and movie producer is recognized for his work with under privileged youth through theater arts which has helped youth gain confidence and self worth.

**2005 - Steven Courtney** - performing songwriter of songs with themes of love, friendship and family.

**2006 - Michelle White** - Special Ed teacher and author of books to help children understand being disabled. **2007 - 2007**

**2007 - Woody Wolfe** - Singer, composer, who creates harmony in hospitals by singing for children in the pediatric ward.

**2008 - Mark W. Wesling** - Classical Guitarist, composer of children's songs, susuki teacher, performer and visual artist.

**2009 - Jim Rule** - his lyrical voice and warm sense of humor make children and grown-ups sing along

**2010 - Tina Davidson** - A critically acclaimed composer, she finds time to organize events like Philadelphia's Young Composers program that teaches inner city children how to write music.

**2011 - Aaron Kelly** - A kind, humble, talented artist who has had a positive impact on youth in the arts, making it to the top five on 2010 American Idol at age 17.

## The PECAN Inc. Awards (continued)

### Media Award Recipients

**2005 - Mr. Roger's Neighborhood** – introducing kids to the arts - accepted by David Newell - "Mr. McFeely".

**2006 - WITF, Inc.** - radio and TV station that promotes the arts for youth through educational programs accepted by Kathy Silks, Vice-president of Audience Relations.

**2007 - Central Penn Parent Magazine** – informs parents of upcoming events for children to become involved in especially art related events. Features articles of interest about the arts to encourage parents to involve their children.

**2008 - VSA arts of Pennsylvania** – website assists in supporting inclusive arts education through its well designed pages and easy to follow format.

**2009 - Greater Harrisburg Youth For Christ** – website focuses on the basics. It is an extremely user friendly site that has touched base with many youth in the performing arts.

**2011 - The Media Arts and Animation program at the Art Institute of York** – allows students to turn inspiration and passion into careers



### Aaron Kelly Wins Arpeggio Award

In fact, at 17 Aaron became the youngest contestant to ever reach the top 5 on American Idol®. He participated in a national tour, appeared on other Ellen Degeneres, David Letterman, and Access Hollywood. His current goal is to record a pop flavored country album. Aaron will be fronting his own band and appearing around the country while he writes songs for his upcoming album and readies himself for showcasing for Nashville labels.

Now 18, Aaron is a professional performer. Before American Idol®, his love for singing and writing music became apparent at age 7. His parents nurtured his desire by allowing him to entertain at fairs, festivals and benefits. He opened shows for Emerson Drive, Aaron Tippin, Bill Anderson, Loretta Lynn, David Ball and sang with Martina McBride, Charlie Daniels, Marshall Tucker Band among others. Aaron credits Rascal Flatts, Taylor Swift and Keith Urban among his musical influences.



### 2011 COC Features Akoustikos

Akoustikos is a remarkable assembly of 15 guitar students, aged 10 to 17, led by their instructor, Paul Zerman of Marty's Music in Annville. They play a variety of musical genres at senior centers and hospitals in the Lebanon area.



### Corina Saying Goodbye

Eighteen-year-old country western vocalist Corina Aucker will offer her farewell performance at this year's 2011 show, her tenth COC, and her third as Master of Ceremonies. Corina is well-known for her roles in area community theater. She has also performed at local fairs and other regional venues. Corina will study Music Performance and Music Education and Mansfield University in the Fall.

