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## **CARPENTER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER RECEIVES NEA GRANT TO SUPPORT KRONOS QUARTET IN *SUN RINGS***

*Long Beach, Calif.*—National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Chairman Rocco Landesman announced today that the Richard and Karen Carpenter Performing Arts Center is one of 153 not-for-profit organizations nationwide to receive an NEA Challenge America Fast-Track grant. Carpenter Center is recommended for a \$10,000 grant to support a performance of *Sun Rings* by Kronos Quartet on March 23, 2013 as well as a residency by Kronos Quartet to engage students in CSULB's Bob Cole Conservatory and Southern California residents.

In this FY 2013 funding round, the NEA received 393 eligible Challenge America Fast-Track applications, requesting a total of \$3,930,000. The NEA will award 153 Challenge America Fast-Track grants totaling \$1.53 million awarded to organizations in 41 states, Washington, DC, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. These include 49 first-time Arts Endowment grantees. The Challenge America Fast-Track category offers support primarily to small and mid-sized organizations for projects that extend the reach of the arts to populations whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by geography, ethnicity, economics, or disability.

"The Carpenter Center is committed to bringing engaging and enriching world-class performances to Long Beach, and it is an honor to receive support from the NEA to help bring the illustrious artistry of Kronos Quartet to our stage," said Carpenter Center Executive Director Michele Roberge.

*Sun Rings* was originally commissioned by NASA, and combines an evocative score by Terry Riley with intergalactic sounds and striking photos of space taken by the Voyager I spacecraft. The Quartet will be accompanied by the CSULB University Choir, directed by Dr. Jonathan Talberg.

"The NEA was founded on the principle that the arts belong to all the people of the United States," said NEA Chairman Rocco Landesman. "We're proud that Challenge

America Fast-Track grants bring more opportunities for arts engagement to underserved communities."

See the complete listing of projects recommended for Challenge America Fast-Track grant support at [www.arts.gov](http://www.arts.gov).

The Carpenter Performing Arts Center at California State University, Long Beach engages its community through artistic, education and cultural experiences that enrich lives, promote lifelong learning in and through the performing arts, and serve as a gateway between the university and greater community. Carpenter Center is accessible to CSULB students and faculty, resident companies, off-campus organizations and schools through education outreach, licensed activities and world-class professional performances.

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