KARAMU HOUSE LAUNCHES AN ONLINE SUMMER ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR MIDDLE- AND HIGH-SCHOOLERS

Student enrollment is now open for Karamu Arts Academy’s Summer Arts Intensive program, which begins on June 1, 2020.

(Cleveland, Ohio)—Karamu House launches its online arts education program in order to continue its summer arts education programming for students entering grades seven through 12. This year’s Summer Arts Intensive not only continues to offer performing arts study—including vocal performance, drama, and dance—but also courses in costume design (in partnership with the Center for Inspired Learning) and short film (in partnership with Cuyahoga Community College).

The Summer Arts Intensive includes interactive online activities, live instructional classes, and one-on-one private sessions during a four-week period; the first session of classes begins Monday, June 1, 2020. “Karamu House’s commitment to arts education dates back 105 years. While the pandemic has brought significant challenges and restrictions, Karamu has always adapted and evolved,” says Tony F. Sias, President and CEO. “Taking our summer arts education experience online is just another way that Karamu is evolving to respond to the times.”

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About Karamu House
Recognized as the oldest African American performing arts institute in the nation, Karamu House is listed on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places and featured in the Smithsonian’s African-American Museum. Legendary artists including Langston Hughes, Ruby Dee, Robert Guillaume, Ron O’Neal, Bill Cobbs, James Pickens, Jr., Vanessa Bell Calloway and Imani Hakim have been associated with the 104-year old “place of joyful gathering” (the meaning of “Karamu” in Swahili.)

In 1915, Oberlin College graduates Russell and Rowena Jelliffe opened the Playhouse Settlement in an area called Cleveland’s “Roaring Third.” The Jelliffes wanted to build an environment where people of different races, religions, and socio-economic backgrounds could come together to share common ventures through the arts. Karamu was established as a gathering place for racially diverse members of the surrounding community at that time. Today, Karamu is a beating heart for the entire community, regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identification, or age. Core programs include socially relevant and professional quality theatre; arts education programming for all ages; and community programming, such as comedy, live jazz, and spoken word performances, that invites participation and engagement, reflection, and a re-commitment to cultural values.

For more information, visit www.karamuhouse.org.