



## News Release

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### **Oconee Performing Arts Society Receives \$1,000 Plum Creek Foundation Grant**

#### ***Funds to Support Student Education and Outreach***

**Greensboro, Ga.** – Oconee Performing Arts Society (OPAS), a non-profit cultural arts organization dedicated to entertaining, enriching and educating the community by presenting high quality performing arts, was awarded a \$1,000 grant from the Plum Creek Foundation. Funds will support the OPAS Education & Outreach Programs.

Oconee Performing Arts Society has a reputation for top-quality performances. Since 2007, OPAS has enthralled the diverse audiences of the Lake Oconee region with live music, theatre and dance performances. Performances have included a balance of international, national and regional live performances of classical music, ballet, jazz, opera, musical comedy, pop, country, gospel, cabaret and children's performances.

OPAS has also focused its creative efforts in education and outreach, bringing the performing arts into the schools and reaching thousands of young students annually through *Concerts in the Schools*.

“Often times the arts budget is the first to be slashed in schools, leaving students at a huge disadvantage,” said Samantha Duthler, Managing Director of OPAS. “With Plum Creek’s funding, OPAS will be able to provide several exciting and educational shows that will surely inspire, challenge and entertain these young, deserving minds.”

The Education & Outreach Programs will provide six in-school productions and 11 in-theatre productions for K-12 students in Greene, Putnam, and Baldwin Counties for both public and private schools. Performances will include artists, musicians and performers like Jeffrey Wells, OPAS Artistic Director, and David Easley, pianist extraordinaire, who presented a program to Putnam and Greene County high school students designed to spark the musicians’ creativity and artists of tomorrow. Other productions will include *An Introduction to the Works of William Shakespeare*, which will present a broad range of

the playwright's works in a fun, unintimidating manner and *Havana Son*, which will showcase Latin America's various musical styles.

"Plum Creek recognizes how the performing arts enrich the community and captivate audiences' young and old," said Jim Rundorff, Senior Director of Land Asset Management for Plum Creek. "We are proud to play an important role in ensuring that Oconee students have the opportunity to expand their horizons through music, theater and dance."

The Plum Creek Foundation supports non-profit organizations that improve the overall quality of life in the communities where Plum Creek operates. The Foundation board meets quarterly to review submitted grant applications. Visit [www.plumcreek.com/communityinvolvement](http://www.plumcreek.com/communityinvolvement) to download an application and learn more about the foundation grant program in addition to other ways that Plum Creek is serving its communities.

For more information about Oconee Performing Arts Society visit [www.opas.org](http://www.opas.org).

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*Plum Creek is the largest and most geographically diverse private landowner in the nation with approximately 6.7 million acres of timberlands in major timber producing regions of the United States and wood products manufacturing facilities in the Northwest. For more information, visit [www.plumcreek.com](http://www.plumcreek.com).*