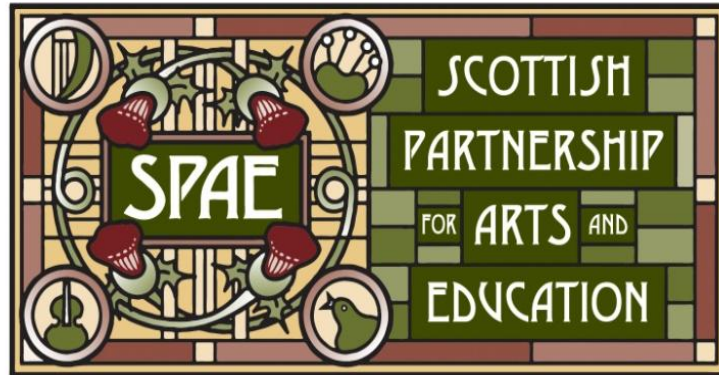


QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

of



Good fortune, good future through arts and education

MISSION STATEMENT

In the belief that music and the arts are key to connecting cultures and understanding our roots, Scottish Partnership for Arts and Education is dedicated to supporting Scottish Traditional arts and artists and to providing cultural experiences and educational opportunities in Scottish Traditional arts in St. Louis area schools.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Spring 2010

First I would like to thank those of you that were able to join us at *The Scottish Arms* in late February for our fundraiser. A good time was had by all. I would also like to thank *Peat Fire Flame* for their amazing performance, our Board Members who helped out, and especially everyone at *The Scottish Arms*.

We are very excited to be helping the recently revived St. Louis Scottish Games in planning the entertainment. Stay tuned for a list of performers!

I look forward to seeing all of you at our May fundraiser!

Michael Herron

President & Treasurer, SPAE

FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT'S DESK

Welcome to our latest edition of the SPAE Newsletter. I'm happy to say, Spring has finally **SPRUNG** and with it, membership and volunteer opportunities abound! Tartan Day(s) in Frontier Park is literally a week away. Please contact us to volunteer at the SPAE booth. We'll be signing up new members and educating people about opportunities within SPAE – we're still actively seeking Board Members. We're also premiering our SPAE slideshow and featuring Brian McNeill's 2009 HEC-TV program broadcast.

For more information about volunteer opportunities, please visit our website at: www.stlspae.org, and leave inquiries for Michael Herron: Michael.Herron@stlspae.org.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you all very soon!

Rebecca (Becky) Warren

Vice-President, SPAE

FUNDRAISING

Rebecca Warren

SPAE held its first fundraiser of the year at *The Scottish Arms*, February 25th. It was a rousing success. Every table in the dining room was filled and we were entertained by *Peat Fire Flame* as we enjoyed dinner, drinks and delicious desserts. It was wonderful to see people who had extra space at their tables graciously allow couples they didn't know to sup with them. Thank you! A fantastic time was had by all. SPAE would like to extend a special 'Thank You' to Ally Nisbet and the entire Staff of *The Scottish Arms* for their generosity and for making our fundraiser a success.

Our next fundraiser promises to be a special treat. *Mitzi MacDonald and Keltic Reign* are performing at the *Wine Press* (see the SPAE calendar and flyer for additional information) May 21, 2010. Please attend the Happy Hour(s) from 6 – 8pm, and receive a glass of wine and select hors d'oeuvres. The cover is \$20 per person and all proceeds will be donated to SPAE. Bring your adult friends and family members to enjoy an evening of entertainment - what a great way to begin the weekend and help with our fundraising efforts!

As mentioned in our last newsletter, we depend on your generous donations to help provide educational programs to students in the St. Louis Metropolitan area. In the past, the Missouri Arts Council (MAC) and the Regional Arts Commission (RAC) funded approximately 1/3 of our annual budget. According to our Artistic Director, Diane McCullough, SPAE is receiving a 25% cut in funding due to current economic conditions. A proposed budget increase in educational funding has also been rescinded due to the Missouri state budget deficit. As Diane has pointed out, this increases the importance of organizations like SPAE, as our services are provided free of charge to schools. Your

support is more important than ever. Please consider becoming a member at one of the following levels:

- Basic Member: \$49 - \$99
- Supporting Member: \$100 - \$299
- Contributing Member: \$300 - \$499
- Sustaining Member: \$500 - \$749
- Underwriting Member: \$750 - \$999
- Founding Member: \$1,000+

Your financial contributions to SPAE are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law. These contributions help to:

- Provide Scottish Traditional Fiddle and Vocal education to area middle school and high school students
- Provide Scottish Traditional musical performances at local venues
- Purchase VISAs for the *Artists in Residence*
- Purchase airline tickets for the *Artists in Residence*
- Provide rental cars for the Artists to travel to their teaching engagements

Other ways to contribute may include:

- Volunteering at SPAE's booth at Tartan Day, the Festival of Nations and the St. Louis Scottish Games to help increase awareness about SPAE
- Volunteering to house an Artist for 1-2 weeks in October, 2010
- Providing your spare vehicle for an Artists' use
- Donating airline miles to help defray travel expenses
- Writing an article about Scottish Traditional musical instruments for the newsletter
- Hosting a Silent Auction or House Party Fundraiser for SPAE
- Becoming a member and encouraging your family and friends to become members too
- Supporting us by attending the upcoming fundraiser at the *Wine Press!*

The possibilities are endless! If you can think of other ways to support SPAE, we welcome your ideas and feedback. Thank you and have a wonderful Spring!



Musical and Historical Connections between Scottish Traditional Fiddle and American Traditional/Folk Fiddle

By Sara Ann Dawodu

The connections between Scottish and American music are vibrant and undeniable. By examining the roots of American folk music, one can identify the strong influences of Scottish playing styles and is able to better understand the musical and historical link between the two.

The early 1600's saw the first arrival of the Scots-Irish in America. A second, much larger migration followed during the late 1800's. Many of these settlers arrived in Pennsylvania via Ireland and from there went on to populate several other states including Georgia, Kentucky and Tennessee.

There are varying reasons why the Scots-Irish travelled to America. Some were transported with no choice other than to be sent to prison or executed, others travelled to America due to poverty seeking a better life, and some were sent with their British Army regiments. It was during this period that Scottish Fiddle tunes made their way across the Atlantic.

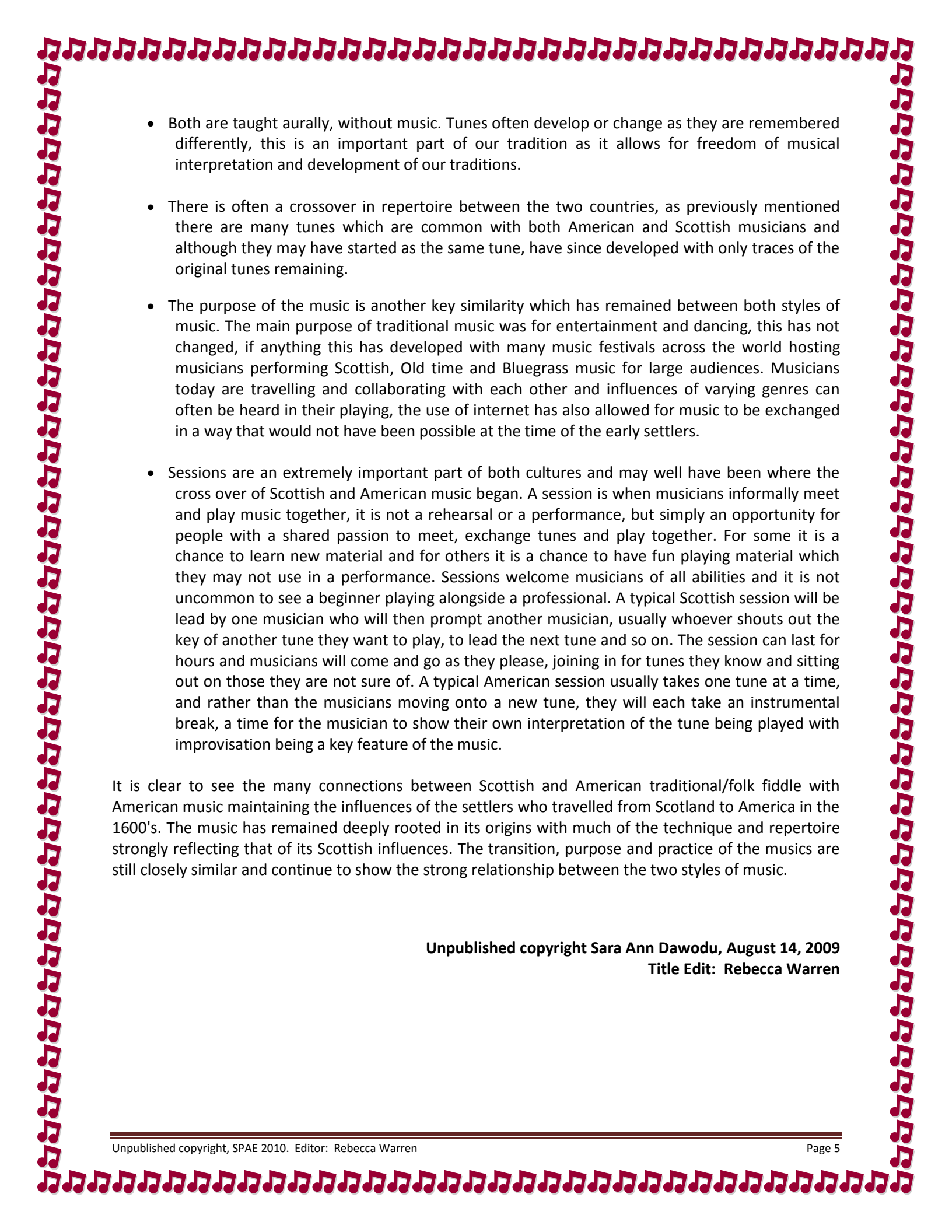
Scottish music and the homeland musical heritage of immigrants into America formed the foundation of much American folk music. Among the many traditions taken to America, two which have been influential are the language and music of the settlers. The musical influences included early balladry and fiddle music, particularly influential in the Appalachian region.

At the time of these migrations the travellers had to make their own entertainment. Song and dance, together with playing music were the popular forms. Many of the settlers carried their fiddles on board the boats as they were easily transportable and allowed for entertainment when travelling and upon arrival into America. Both Scottish and American traditional music has remained community based, large gatherings or dances were usually lead by a fiddler who would provide the evening's music for the dancers, there could often be large numbers of dancers and only one fiddler who would have to play very loudly to be heard over the noise of the dancers.

Traditionally, Scottish songs and tunes were passed on through aural transition. Settlers would play and exchange music with the local Americans and as the tunes and songs were passed from person to person the names or sequences of the tunes were often forgotten or changed with the result that a century or two later, musicians crossing the Atlantic often find themselves playing similar tunes which have differing names or melodies.

The two forms of American music which were heavily influenced and have remained deeply rooted in the fiddle influences of the Scottish settlers are Old time and Bluegrass music. Whilst Old time music has remained close to its roots with much of the repertoire and technique reflecting those of Scottish traditions, Bluegrass music has grown independently from Old time into a unique style which is now recognised, studied and played worldwide.

Despite the parallel metamorphosis, similarities which have remained between Scottish and American fiddling remain vast. These are highlighted below:

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- Both are taught aurally, without music. Tunes often develop or change as they are remembered differently, this is an important part of our tradition as it allows for freedom of musical interpretation and development of our traditions.
 - There is often a crossover in repertoire between the two countries, as previously mentioned there are many tunes which are common with both American and Scottish musicians and although they may have started as the same tune, have since developed with only traces of the original tunes remaining.
 - The purpose of the music is another key similarity which has remained between both styles of music. The main purpose of traditional music was for entertainment and dancing, this has not changed, if anything this has developed with many music festivals across the world hosting musicians performing Scottish, Old time and Bluegrass music for large audiences. Musicians today are travelling and collaborating with each other and influences of varying genres can often be heard in their playing, the use of internet has also allowed for music to be exchanged in a way that would not have been possible at the time of the early settlers.
 - Sessions are an extremely important part of both cultures and may well have been where the cross over of Scottish and American music began. A session is when musicians informally meet and play music together, it is not a rehearsal or a performance, but simply an opportunity for people with a shared passion to meet, exchange tunes and play together. For some it is a chance to learn new material and for others it is a chance to have fun playing material which they may not use in a performance. Sessions welcome musicians of all abilities and it is not uncommon to see a beginner playing alongside a professional. A typical Scottish session will be lead by one musician who will then prompt another musician, usually whoever shouts out the key of another tune they want to play, to lead the next tune and so on. The session can last for hours and musicians will come and go as they please, joining in for tunes they know and sitting out on those they are not sure of. A typical American session usually takes one tune at a time, and rather than the musicians moving onto a new tune, they will each take an instrumental break, a time for the musician to show their own interpretation of the tune being played with improvisation being a key feature of the music.

It is clear to see the many connections between Scottish and American traditional/folk fiddle with American music maintaining the influences of the settlers who travelled from Scotland to America in the 1600's. The music has remained deeply rooted in its origins with much of the technique and repertoire strongly reflecting that of its Scottish influences. The transition, purpose and practice of the musics are still closely similar and continue to show the strong relationship between the two styles of music.

Unpublished copyright Sara Ann Dawodu, August 14, 2009
Title Edit: Rebecca Warren

SCOTTISH/CELTIC CULTURE & EVENTS CALENDAR

Scottish St. Andrew Society of Greater St. Louis

Monthly

2nd Thursday of each month, 6 – 9pm: Social at *The Scottish Arms*: www.thescottisharms.com

May

TBD: **Burns 101**, at *Starrs Bistro*: www.starrs1.com

Missouri Tartan Day Festivities 2010

April

9th – 11th, 2010: Frontier Park, St. Charles, MO. For more information visit: www.motartanday.com

Seven Rivers Highland Society

April

9th, 7pm: Kilt Night at *The Old Mill Stream Inn*: www.millstreambar.com

The Focal Point

2720 Sutton

Maplewood, MO 63143

314.781.4200, www.thefocalpoint.org

April

16th – 18th: **St. Louis Tional, 2010**. The Mississippi River Celtic Music Festival grew out of an effort by several local musicians under the auspices of the Focal Point Traditional Arts Center to put on a weekend of sessions and workshops focusing on traditional Irish Music. For information on workshops, concerts and sessions please visit: www.tionol.org

24th, 8pm: **Tempest**. Since 1988, Tempest has delivered a globally-renowned hybrid of high-energy folk rock fusing Irish reels, Scottish ballads, Norwegian influences and other world music elements. \$15 in advance, \$17 at the door. www.tempestmusic.com

Tempest will return to St. Louis October 1st and 2nd to perform at the St. Louis Scottish Games!

May

8th, 8pm: **Switchback**. Original Americana, traditional Celtic, plus a few nods to genres off the beaten path delivered by two excellent musicians who create a full-band sound. \$12 in advance, \$14 at the door. www.waygoodmusic.com

Greater St. Louis Renaissance Faire at Wentzville

Saturdays & Sundays, May 15 – June 6, 2010, including Memorial Day. Visit their website for additional information and fees. Read the March newsletter article entitled, *The Scots Guild invites you to stop by our guild area and meet our great lads and lasses*. www.renssl.org

The Wine Press

4436 Olive
St. Louis, MO 63108
314.289.9463, www.stlwinepress.com

May

21st, 6 -8pm: **Mitzi MacDonald and Keltic Reign Fundraiser for SPAE**. Tickets are \$20 per person; the cover includes a glass of wine and select hors d'oeuvres. **Save the date!**



Kansas City Scottish Highland Games

June

11th – 13th: 'Come be a Scot, even if you're not!' For additional information, visit the website at: www.kcscottishgames.org

St. Louis Scottish Games and Cultural Festival

October

1st – 2nd: 8th Annual Scottish Games & Cultural Festival. For additional information, visit the website at: www.stlouis-scottishgames.com

LINKS

Folk School of St. Louis: www.folk-school.com

Missouri Tartan Day: www.motartanday.com

Mitzi MacDonald: www.mitzimacdonald.com

Scots for Tots: www.scotsfortots.org

Scottish Arms (The): www.thescottisharms.com

Scottish Partnership for Arts and Education: www.stlspae.org

Scottish St. Andrew Society of Greater St. Louis: www.slssas.org

Seven Rivers Highland Society: www.sevenrivers.us

St. Louis Scottish Games: www.stlouis-scottishgames.com

Thistle and Clover: www.thistleandclover.com

SPAE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michael Herron, President & Treasurer

Rebecca Warren, Vice President

Diane McCullough, Artistic Director

Roisin Halfar, Recording Secretary

Vicki Dohrmann, Member-At-Large

Cynthia Millar, Member-At-Large

Alex Sutherland, In Memoriam

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Music Teacher & Guitarist

Robert Nordman
Retired Supervisor of Music for St. Louis Public Schools. Chairman of the Music Department and current E. Desmond Lee Professor of Music Education at the University of Missouri - St. Louis

Dennis Riggs
Director of HEC-TV

SPAE IS PROUD TO PARTNER WITH:



STEWART, MITTLEMAN, HEGGIE & HENRY L.L.C.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW



RSAMD
THE ROYAL SCOTTISH ACADEMY OF MUSIC & DRAMA



SPAE receives partial funding from the Regional Arts Commission and Missouri Arts Council, a State agency

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

For additional information about SPAE or to become a member, please contact us at: www.stlspae.org

SPAE is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Corporation. All donations are 100% Tax Deductible.

If your employer will match your donation, please provide your Corporate Matching Gift Form

Please mail donations to: SPAE, P.O. Box 6761, Chesterfield, MO 63003-6761

SPAE Brochure and Annual Report are available at:

www.stlspae.org