

WHY THREE COLORADO ARTS LEADERS ARE BEING HONORED AT BONFILS-STANTON FOUNDATION'S ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON

Colorado ballerina Maria Mosina, Colorado Arts and Cultural Leader Stephen Seifert, and the Arts and Humanities in Healthcare Program at the Center for Bioethics and Humanities Named as 2017 Honorees

DENVER, CO (May 10, 2017) – Bonfils-Stanton Foundation has taken great pride in honoring extraordinary Coloradans for 32 years. On May 19 at the Grand Hyatt Denver, Bonfils-Stanton Foundation will recognize and honor three Colorado leaders at their 32nd Annual Awards Luncheon. Between them, the honorees have elevated the art of ballet in our community, presented wonderful local, national and international artists in Denver, and have led the way in using the arts to advance medical training.

Bonfils-Stanton Foundation believes extraordinary arts and leadership are essential to building a vibrant Colorado. The Annual Awards Program recognizes significant contributions by remarkable Coloradans as Artists, through their Community Service in the Arts, and who impact Science and Medicine using the Arts. This year's honorees will receive a \$35,000 award for their exceptional work, inspiration to others and dedication to driving Colorado's arts and culture to new heights.

“For the past few years, with our devoted focus in grantmaking on the arts, we have ensured that our three awards also celebrate those who have made a profound difference in the arts,” says Gary Steuer, President and CEO of Bonfils-Stanton Foundation. “This year's honorees join an illustrious group of past honorees. Our lives are more inspired as a result of their work.”

Colorado ballerina Maria Mosina is this year's **Artist Award** honoree. Born in Moscow, Maria has been a professional dancer for 26 years, performing every major role in all the great ballets and appearing on stages around the world including Europe, America, Africa, and Asia. Her most enduring impact, however, has been on Colorado and the Colorado Ballet.

As the principal ballerina for Colorado Ballet, Maria has delighted audiences and inspired young dancers for 21 seasons. Since her arrival in Denver in 1995, Maria's artistry, professionalism and her ability to transpose a role on stage have set her apart from other ballerinas, and has helped to make Colorado Ballet truly exceptional. Maria brings a performance level to the stage in Denver that one would only find in major ballet companies in cities around the world.

Retiring at the end of the 2016/17 season, Maria will move into a teaching and coaching role, one that she first embraced during Colorado Ballet's Summer Intensive Program in 1996. As Maria says, “I will dance forever, but now is the time to give my knowledge and experience to younger generations of dancers. I wish to mentor others as many mentored me over the years. It's time for younger dancers to step in and dance for the Colorado audience.” Maria is an active

ballet instructor throughout the United States, and has participated as a master teacher and judge for the Youth American Grand Prix.

Maria has been highlighted in numerous magazine articles, and was a featured dancer on the cover of *Dance Magazine*. She graduated from the Bolshoi Ballet Academy in Russia and holds a bachelor's degree in methodology and pedagogy from the Moscow State Academy of Choreography.

The **Community Service in the Arts Award** goes to **Stephen Seifert**, who has been a visionary and passionate leader in the Denver arts community for nearly 30 years. Steve began his professional life practicing law with Fairfield and Woods, P.C., and during this time served as a trustee and Chairman of the Board for Opera Colorado. This led him to leave the legal profession and join the arts world fulltime, becoming Executive Director of Opera Colorado. During his tenure, Steve broadened the company's repertoire, reimagined the use of Boettcher Concert Hall for grand opera, and played a key role in the successful public bond campaign, resulting in the renovation of what is now known as the Ellie Caulkins Opera House.

As the first Executive Director of the Robert and Judi Newman Center for the Performing Arts, Steve was instrumental in shaping what is now regarded as one of the nation's finest university arts centers, and the preeminent performing arts presenter in Denver. Steve envisioned and implemented *Newman Center Presents*, the flagship program of the Newman Center. Over the course of 14 seasons, Steve curated programming from around the world, offering the community the opportunity to experience diverse, dynamic and inspirational performances; nearly half Denver premieres. Steve also believed the Newman Center should support the community, showcasing exceptional local arts groups and as a venue for arts education.

Steve's dedication to the arts and the Denver community is also seen through his service as Co-Chairman of the Local Steering Committee for the National Performing Arts Convention, as a board member of the Western Arts Alliance, Arts for Colorado, and The Denver Foundation, and as a member of numerous arts-related commissions and task forces.

Bonfils-Stanton Foundation is honored to present The Arts and Humanities in Healthcare Program at University of Colorado's Center for Bioethics and Humanities with the **Science, Medicine and the Arts Award**. The Arts and Humanities in Healthcare Program is an intellectual space, cultural site and accessible resource for the campus, for colleagues and for the community. It is a place to exchange ideas, inspire collaboration, foster compassion, fuel imagination, and transcend boundaries. The Program encompasses three areas: education, scholarship and outreach. Education is focused on integration of the arts and humanities and their application to health professions education and practice. As examples, medical students participate in reflective writing session, narrative medicine and observational skills using the visual arts; pharmacy students may elect to take courses in film and healthcare; and physical therapy students take seminars in narrative medicine, literature, film and disability studies.

The Program is home to the *Journal of Medical Humanities*, the foremost peer-reviewed academic journal in the field of health humanities, sharing research on how the arts and humanities enhance critical thinking, observation and communication skills for health professionals. Scholarship has extended beyond published research to include organizing and hosting of an international conference in health humanities with attendees from across the US and eight countries.

Outreach to the community includes ongoing lectures series, film series, art exhibits, theatrical and musical performances, and presentations and workshops with visiting artists and writers. The Art Gallery at the Fulginiti Pavilion plays a central role on campus, bridging the cultural divide between science and art in order to explore who we are and how we care for one another. High quality and thought-provoking exhibitions at the Art Gallery have become a popular and integral part of student education, clinical practice, and the daily life of the community.

“We are delighted to be honoring Maria Mosina for dedicating much of her dancing career here in Colorado with Colorado Ballet, where she has charmed thousands for over 20 years,” says J. Landis Martin, Chairman of the Board for Bonfils-Stanton Foundation. “We are also very pleased to be recognizing Stephen Seifert for his years of service to Denver’s art and cultural communities, and in particular his leadership of the Newman Center at University of Denver; and the Arts and Humanities in Healthcare Program for changing the way healthcare education can use the arts to help patients, students and providers alike, and achieve better healthcare outcomes for all.”

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About the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation:

At Bonfils-Stanton Foundation, we believe that extraordinary arts and leadership are key to building a vibrant Colorado. Every day, we strategically invest in imagination and innovation, because cultivating the creative spark is vital to making our community an exciting place where people want to live, work and thrive. Since its founding, the Foundation has distributed over \$65 million in charitable contributions. Learn more at Bonfils-StantonFoundation.org.

FOR THE MEDIA:

You’re in luck, media friends. There are multiple story angles to run with for your readers and viewers to enjoy. Want to chat with Maria Mosina about her illustrious career with the Colorado Ballet? How about doing a feature story on Stephen Steifert’s visionary efforts on propelling Denver’s arts communities for nearly 30 years? Or how about doing a package on the Arts and Humanities in Healthcare Program at the Center for Bioethics and Humanities – and how the arts have helped change the healthcare industry? Let’s get started. Reach out to Erica Boniface with Bonfils-Stanton Foundation to get interviews booked and stories in the hopper:

Erica@ColoradoMediaNetwork.com or call **303-717-8246**.

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