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BE A PART OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON AT BETHEL WOODS CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Enroll in Friends program by December 31st to receive special benefits and a 2008 tax write-off

BETHEL, NY (November 17, 2008) – Thanks to the generous support of the local community, the non-profit Bethel Woods Center for the Arts has been able to grow significantly during its first three seasons, and fulfill its mission to educate, entertain and engage audiences of all ages. The membership drive for the historic 2009 anniversary season of the Woodstock Music and Art Fair is now underway, and new benefits have been added to enhance the membership experience.

Through the Friends Program, which is available at a variety of membership levels to fit every budget, patrons are able to access exclusive benefits and perks, while also supporting a valuable community asset. **As an added incentive, everyone who enrolls or renews their membership before December 31, 2008 will receive two reserved parking passes, plus 4 passes to the Friends Club concession area, plus a portion of each membership is tax-deductible.**

New for 2009, the Friends program is introducing a new Membership Manager Tool which will allow members online access to exclusive ticket pre-sales, the ability to print their tickets right at home, and no service charges on all tickets purchased through the portal. Additionally, for membership levels which feature lawn tickets, Friends will now also receive lawn chair vouchers as part of their package.

Bethel Woods membership benefits increase at each level of support, from the \$75 Performance level through the \$7,500 Director level, and finally at the highest level a limited number of private box suites are available. A portion of all membership fees are tax-deductible. Benefits may include pre-sale access to the best seats in the house, reserved parking, entry to the Friends Club concession area, tickets to The Museum, discounts on select merchandise in The Museum Shop, early admission to Pavilion concerts via the Friends-only gate, as well as behind the scenes tours, backstage gatherings and other social functions. For more information on becoming a Friend of Bethel Woods please visit <http://www.bethelwoodscenter.org/membership> or contact the membership office directly at 845.295.2501.

The Bethel Woods Business Friends program also continues to grow. This program begins at the \$1,200 support level and includes all the associated benefits, as well as providing a valuable marketing opportunity for local and regional businesses to promote their business directly to the Bethel Woods audience by being a part of the print and online Business Friends Directory. For more information please contact Jaime Caldwell at 845-295-2522 or email businessfriends@bethelwoodscenter.org.

Bethel Woods' third season was the most exciting yet, attracting more than 212,000 total visitors, celebrating the launch of the award-winning Museum at Bethel Woods, and introducing two new performance series on its more intimate stages -- Arts Under the Stars, which was presented by The Chapin Estate, and Music in the Museum.

The arts center also expanded its youth education programs, launching The Museum Education program and expanding Experience the Arts, which hosted hundreds of local school children for free interactive performances by Grammy-Award winner Terrence Simien, and Youth at Pops, which was made possible by the generous support of the Suehnholz family.

Nearly 50,000 guests from every state in the nation, and 20 countries around the globe have already visited The Museum, which received national and international media attention from Good Morning America, CBS Sunday Morning, The New York Times, USA Today, The Wall Street Journal and many others.

Summer 2008 featured 27 performances including three of the venue's top five selling concerts to date. Sold out crowds at the Jonas Brothers, Journey with Heart and Cheap Trick, and the near-capacity Rascal Flatts shows helped to propel Bethel Woods to #34 on the annual *Pollstar* "Top 100 Worldwide Amphitheaters" list.

Looking forward to 2009, there's never been a better time to become a part of the Bethel Woods family by joining the Friends program, stay tuned for information on the new Museum Friends program as well. With the year-long celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Woodstock festival planned at Bethel Woods, site of the 1969 festival – 2009 is sure to be the best yet.

About Bethel Woods Center for the Arts:

The mission of Bethel Woods Center for the Arts is to present compelling programs from the arts that educate, entertain and engage audiences of all ages, to institute community outreach and education and improve the quality of life and vitality of the Sullivan County region. Bethel Woods Center for the Arts is located approximately 90 minutes from New York City at the site of the original 1969 Woodstock festival in Bethel, NY. The 15,000-seat outdoor performing arts venue and The Museum at Bethel Woods are set within 2,000 bucolic acres. The main pavilion covers 4,500 seats with another 10,500 on a natural sloping lawn while offering unique backdrops including the original festival site and the majesty of the surrounding Sullivan County countryside. The venue presents a diverse selection of popular artists, a range of orchestral performances, community events and music and arts educational opportunities. By providing artists with the opportunity to perform on one of music's most legendary grounds, Bethel Woods Center for the Arts is committed to being a world-class cultural destination. In addition, The Museum at Bethel Woods is now open and will further embed this arts campus as one of the premier sites in New York State.

www.bethelwoodscenter.org