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NEWS

For Immediate Release

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COPLAND HOUSE AWARDED NEA GRANT

**New Support for Concerts and Broadcasts;
1 of Only 3 Arts Grants in Lower Hudson Valley**

CORTLANDT MANOR, NY, December 11, 2013 – National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Acting Chairman Joan Shigekawa today announced a \$10,000 grant to **Copland House**, the award-winning creative center for American music based at iconic composer Aaron Copland's National Historic Landmark home in Cortlandt Manor. The competitive grant, from the NEA's Art Works program, is one of only three awarded to lower Hudson Valley arts organizations in this funding round, and one of just 895 recommended nationwide of out nearly 1,600 applicants.

This NEA investment will support concerts and radio broadcasts of American music performed by the internationally-acclaimed Music from Copland House ensemble at Westchester County's majestic Merestead estate in Mount Kisco, NY, as well as at Copland's home and other regional locations. Copland House's unique public and educational programming is built around a wide range of U.S. composers and their work, and is presented by some of the nation's leading performing and teaching artists.

Art Works grants support the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence: public engagement with diverse and excellent art, lifelong learning in the arts, and enhancing the livability of communities through the arts. "The NEA is proud to support these exciting and diverse arts projects that will take place throughout the U.S.," said Acting Chairman Shigekawa. "Whether it is through a focus on education, engagement, or innovation, these projects all contribute to vibrant communities and memorable experiences for the public to engage with the arts."

"Copland House's popular concert series at Merestead, now in its 5th season, is the only one in the U.S. that exclusively showcases 150 years of America's vibrant musical legacy," said **Michael Boriskin, Artistic and Executive Director of Copland House**. "The NEA's support is essential in enabling us to share this extraordinary body of work with communities throughout the Hudson Valley, and with listeners nationwide via broadcasts and webcasts. Our programs also always have a strong educational component, and we are delighted to be able – thanks to this NEA grant – to continue to inspire the creativity, imagination, and innovative spirit of our audiences, both young and old."

Copland House, winner of the American Music Center's coveted Letter of Distinction and ArtsWestchester's Arts Award for Organization of the Year, is the only composer's home in the U.S. devoted to nurturing and renewing America's rich musical heritage and fostering greater public awareness and appreciation of our nation's composers and their work through a broad array of activities. These include composer residencies; live, broadcast, and recorded performances; and a variety of distinctive educational and community outreach programs.

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