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IDYLLWILD ARTS FOUNDATION Announces

Retirement of Idyllwild Arts President William M. Lowman

(February 19, 2010) Faith Raiguel, Board Chair, Idyllwild Arts Foundation, announced today the retirement of Idyllwild Arts President/Headmaster and founding head of Idyllwild Arts Academy, William M. Lowman. Mr. Lowman's retirement will be effective on June 30, 2011.

Ms. Raiguel stated, "Bill Lowman has been instrumental in Idyllwild Arts growth for 25 years. The organization has grown and thrived under his vision, limitless energy and dedication to educating artists of all ages. His belief in creating the first boarding high school for the arts on the West Coast has allowed Idyllwild Arts to continue its reputation as a cutting edge program."

Mr. Lowman, an educator, administrator, musician and patron of the arts has devoted his entire professional career to promoting the arts and arts education to students nationally and globally. As President/Headmaster of Idyllwild Arts, he has combined his talents as a cultural leader and fundraiser to bring acclaim to both the Idyllwild Arts Academy and the Idyllwild Arts Summer Program, (both formerly known as the Idyllwild School of Music and the Arts.) Lowman's efforts have secured a highly regarded position for Idyllwild Arts Academy as one of only three independent boarding schools for the arts in the US. Similarly, his leadership of the Idyllwild Arts Summer Program (which celebrated its 60th summer in 2009) has ensured that students of all ages, abilities and economic backgrounds have the opportunity for challenging and enriching educational experiences in the arts.

Lowman assumed leadership of the organization in 1985, following a nineteen-year period when the University of Southern California owned and operated the school. In a few short years, he strengthened the Board of Trustees, rescued the operation from its financial uncertainties and returned the Summer Program to its position of prominence as a beacon of excellence in arts education for the western United States.

The Idyllwild Arts Foundation annual budget has grown from \$800,000 in 1985 to \$15,000,000 in 2009, full time employees from 18 to over 100. Lowman has been responsible for raising more than \$50,000,000 in support of the school, its young artists

and arts programs. Today, energized and growing under Lowman's tenure, the Idyllwild Arts Foundation programs reach nearly 30,000 people per year.

The Idyllwild Arts Foundation Board has selected the firm of Educational Directions to serve as search consultants.

Plans for celebrating Mr. Lowman's retirement and the 25th Anniversary of the Academy are currently being planned but are expected to include a celebration of all the arts.

Bill Lowman – Complete Biography

Bill Lowman-educator, administrator, musician and patron of the arts-has devoted his entire professional career to promoting the arts and arts education to students nationally and globally. As Headmaster of Idyllwild Arts, he has combined his talents as a cultural leader and fundraiser to bring acclaim to both the Idyllwild Arts Academy and the Idyllwild Arts Summer Program, (formerly known as the Idyllwild School of Music and the Arts.) Lowman's efforts have secured a highly regarded position for Idyllwild Arts Academy as one of only three independent boarding schools for the arts in the US. The school is routinely ranked in the top two among several hundred arts high schools in the country. Similarly, his leadership of the Idyllwild Arts Summer Program (which celebrated its 60th summer in 2009) has ensured that students of all ages, abilities and economic backgrounds have the opportunity for challenging and enriching educational experiences in the arts.

The unique summer arts program brings together students of all ages, offering more than 85 short but intensive arts programs each summer for children, youth, adults and families at the beautiful Idyllwild Arts campus in the forested San Jacinto Mountains. Upon his appointment in 1985, Lowman strengthened the summer administrative leadership, recruited outstanding artist teachers and improved the financial operation of this innovative and important cultural resource.

While strengthening the traditional Idyllwild Arts Summer Program, Lowman founded the Idyllwild Arts Academy, the only independent, boarding high school for the arts west of the Mississippi. The Academy opened with 80 students in 1986 and a remarkably innovative curriculum in music, dance, theatre, visual arts, and creative writing. He selected a highly competent artist and academic faculty, established a school with challenging pre-professional training in the arts, developed a rigorous college preparatory academic program, and built a serene campus with modern living and learning facilities for young students. The student body has grown from the original 80 students to 275 in 2008-2009. They are 13 to 19 years of age and hail from more than 30 states and 20 countries around the world. Academy graduates routinely are accepted at the most competitive conservatories, art schools, colleges and universities in the US upon completion of their studies.

Lowman spearheaded several other milestone achievements over the past 25 years. He established relationships with specialized arts schools and artists in Bulgaria, Russia,

Germany, Sweden, the United Kingdom, South Korea, Hong Kong, Japan and China. He established the Idyllwild Arts Academy Orchestra, a world-class youth orchestra, which performs new works as well as classical pieces in concert. The orchestra performed on PBS at the 25th Anniversary of the Kennedy Center Honors under its founding Music Director Jung-Ho Pak and has since been lead by Music Directors Ransom Wilson and Dr. Peter Askim. The non-profit corporation that offers these unique programs was originally incorporated in 1946 as the Idyllwild Arts Foundation to promote and advance artistic and cultural development. Lowman assumed leadership of the organization in 1985, following a nineteen-year period when the University of Southern California owned and operated the school. In a few short years, he strengthened the Board of Trustees, rescued the operation from its financial uncertainties and returned the Summer Program to its position of prominence as a beacon of excellence in arts education for the western US. The IAF annual budget has grown from \$800,000 in 1985 to \$15,000,000 in 2009, full time employees from 18 to over 100. Lowman has been responsible for raising more than \$50,000,000 in support of the school, its young artists and programs. Today, energized and growing under Lowman's tenure, the Idyllwild Arts Foundation programs reach nearly 30,000 people per year.

Lowman served as President of the International NETWORK of Performing and Visual Arts Schools for two years, was on the board of the University of Redlands Alumni Association, is on the Council of Directors of the Yosemite Fund, the Board of Trustees of the Idyllwild Arts Foundation and the Board of the Pierson-Lovelace Foundation. He was a Board Member of the Association of Boarding Schools, a committee of the National Association of Independent Schools. In 1992 he was a visiting fellow at the Klingenstein Center for Independent Education, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York.