



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Reva Cooper, (Usdan Center), 718-965-0486; revacoop@earthlink.net
Audrey Cohen (Bethpage Federal Credit Union), c/o Epoch5 Public Relations:
631/427-1713; acohen@epoch5.com

USDAN CENTER'S "A MORNING OF CLARINET 2014" ON THURSDAY APRIL 24 FROM 8 AM-NOON

45 CLARINET STUDENTS IN SPECIAL WORKSHOP TAUGHT BY AWARD-WINNING CLARINETIST LIAM BURKE

SPONSORED BY BETHPAGE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Usdan Center for the Creative and Performing Arts, the renowned summer arts day camp, which has introduced the arts to more than 60,000 children, will present a special on-campus workshop on Thursday April 24 from 8 AM to 12 Noon at the Maurice Hexter Center, titled "A Morning of Clarinet 2014." The unique event, to be attended by 45 clarinet students from several Suffolk County school districts, will be taught by **Liam Burke**, an award-winning and fast-rising young clarinetist who has performed with the New York Philharmonic, the Mostly Mozart Orchestra, the Orchestra of St. Luke's and other major ensembles. Usdan Center is at 185 Colonial Springs Road in Wheatley Heights (Huntington), Long Island.

The event is sponsored by **Bethpage Federal Credit Union**, which is also sponsoring Usdan's new Micro-Grant program benefiting more than 70 students from North Babylon High School. In addition, Bethpage supports the Center's long-running Usdan/Bethpage Scholar in the Arts program, providing Usdan scholarships for students who are "adopted" by their Bethpage community branch, and receive recognition there for the remainder of the year.

"A Morning of Clarinet 2014" is designed to inspire student musicians as they participate in a master class and play in a massed clarinet ensemble. The students are from North Babylon, Brentwood, Commack, Islip and Deer Park High Schools. The workshop will also feature

performances by Liam Burke, and by the massed clarinet student ensemble.

Liam Burke's other credits include Ensemble ACJW, the American Symphony Orchestra, the American Ballet Theatre Orchestra, the New World Symphony, the Juilliard Orchestra and in composer John Adams' Chamber Symphony at the Kennedy Center, at Mr. Adams' invitation. A recent graduate of The Juilliard School of Music, he was a recipient of Juilliard's prestigious Peter Mennin Prize for Outstanding Achievement and Leadership, and was named winner of the Juilliard Clarinet Concerto Competition and the Vandoren Emerging Artist Competition.

Bethpage Federal Credit Union is a not-for-profit financial cooperative, existing solely to serve its members and has experienced rapid growth in recent years to become a strong alternative to banks. Bethpage was approved for the largest federal community charter in the U.S. in 2003 and now is New York State's largest credit union and Long Island's primary community financial institution with 232,000 members, 27 branches and 60 shared service center locations throughout Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

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Usdan Center for the Creative and Performing Arts, many of whose alumni have joined such major music ensembles as the Boston Pops and the San Francisco Symphony, and also include Natalie Portman, Mariah Carey and Jane Monheit, is now entering its 47th season. The Center is open to all young people from age 6 to 18. Usdan's program features more than 40 four and seven-week programs in music, dance, theater, visual arts, writing, nature & ecology, and chess. No audition is needed for most programs – rather, admission is based on an expression of interest in the arts. Each summer, 1,600 students are transported to the Center in air-conditioned buses each day. One-third of Usdan's students attend on scholarship. Although the mission of the Center is for every child to establish a relationship with the arts, the unique stimulation of the Center has caused many to go on to arts careers. In addition to its regular programs, Usdan offers opportunities for advanced high school-age performing and visual artists. These include Music Staff Internships, a Summer Ballet Intensive, and a program of immersion in the visual arts. Usdan is an agency of the UJA-Federation of New York.

Usdan Center is currently holding Open Houses for its 2014 season, which begins June 30. For information, call (631) 643-7900, write to info@usdan.com, or visit www.usdan.com. ###

