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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAMA, JSO PARTNER FOR STUDENT ART EXHIBITION

Johnstown – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Johnstown has partnered with the Johnstown Symphony Orchestra to host a special student art exhibition. On view May 11 through June 1 at SAMA-Johnstown, *Pictures: A Student Art Exhibition* will offer artwork created by students at seven Cambria County schools.

Students were asked to listen to Russian composer Modest Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* and then create a work of art in response to the music. The Symphony will perform *Pictures at an Exhibition* at the Pasquerilla Performing Arts Center on May 12, as the student artwork is on display in the Museum and projected above the stage during the performance.

“The Johnstown Symphony is thrilled to be working with SAMA to create opportunities for students to not only create their own original artwork in response to orchestral masterpieces, but to have that work displayed at SAMA’s galleries,” said James Blachly, Johnstown Symphony Orchestra Music Director. “The more we do together, the stronger the arts community will become. We are grateful for this collaboration that involves our symphony orchestra, a Grammy-nominated composer, and local schools and their partnership with the arts.”

Participating in the exhibition is Blacklick Valley Elementary and Junior Senior High schools, Cambria Heights Elementary School, Forest Hills Middle and High schools, Penn Cambria Middle School and Portage Area Elementary School. Each school is invited to submit up to 20 works of art for the exhibition.

SAMA has a long history of displaying student artwork. For the past two decades, SAMA’s Loretto and Ligonier Valley museums host the annual *Artists of the 21st Century* student art exhibition, which typically offers hundreds of works created by students in Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fayette, Somerset and Westmoreland counties. In recent years, the Museum has also organized *The Art of Hockey* student art shows, held in conjunction with the Johnstown Tomahawks.

“This is a really interesting and unique opportunity for two organizations to partner together to showcase what they do best,” said SAMA Education Coordinator Jessica Campbell. “SAMA is grateful for the talented students and devoted teachers who have really risen to the occasion.”

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Johnstown is located in the Pasquerilla Performing Arts Center on the campus of the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. The Museum is a handicapped-accessible facility and is open to the public free of charge. Hours of operation are weekdays, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For additional information, please call the Museum at (814) 269-7234 or visit www.sama-art.org.