



*Promoting the creative power in people
with disabilities through the arts.*

PRESS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Rachel Spatz, Education and Program Director
207-930-0190
rspatz@vsartsmaine.org

Maine Young Musicians Awarded

BRUNSWICK, ME – *VSA arts of Maine* announces the **2008 Young Soloists** award winners for Maine: *Turn Down Day*.

VSA arts of Maine presented the 2008 Maine Young Soloists award to Portland indie-rock group *Turn Down Day*, comprised of Chris DiRocco, Sam Anderson and Zach Higgins. The group, formerly known as Modern Syndrome, started performing in the Portland-area when there were barely out of the single digits in years. Now as teens, *Turn Down Day* demonstrates that their song writing ability, as well as their knowledge of recording technique, is well beyond their years. “Turn Down Day has become a very serious, and seriously talented group,” says Nemo Bidstrup of Time-Lag Records. “Their care for such subtleties as guitar tone, melodic theme, and vocal delivery, as well as their mastery of the home recording studio, are sure signs that this is a band with a strong future ahead, deserving of attention as well as support.”

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VSA arts of Maine

VSA arts of Maine is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization providing innovative and inclusive arts, educational and cultural opportunities to children and adults with disabilities in Maine. Programs include artist residencies in schools, workshops for teachers and artists, mentoring

VSA arts of Maine
185 Park Row, Brunswick, Maine 04011
207-607-4016 voice/tty 207-607-4018 fax
info@vsartsmaine.org
www.vsartsmaine.org

for adult artists with disabilities, exhibitions by artists with disabilities, and partnerships with cultural venues throughout the state to improve accessibility.

VSA arts of Maine is part of the VSA arts international network, dedicated to promoting education and lifelong learning opportunities in the arts for people with disabilities. Founded in 1974 by Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith, VSA arts is an affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. Formerly named Very Special Arts, *VSA arts* changed its name in 1999, eliminating the use of the word "special" to honor the progress made by members of the disability community since the organization's inception.

VSA arts of Maine is in the process of merging with *ArtVan*, the beloved arts program that brings art activities to public housing developments, Head Start centers, schools and group homes in Bath, Brunswick, Biddeford and Lewiston-Auburn.

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