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**Hermitage Artist Retreat Presents**

**Artful Lobster**

**Saturday, November 10**

*This annual fundraising event features a luscious lobster feast by Michael’s On East, performances by two renowned artists-in-residence, and an auction. Guests will also see the Hermitage’s landscape restoration progress.*

The Hermitage Artist Retreat presents the Artful Lobster on Saturday, November 10, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. This popular Gulf-side fundraising event features a sumptuous lobster feast by Michael’s On East, an auction, and a performance by Hermitage artists-in-residence, composer/pianist Courtney Bryan, and vocalist/composer/multi-instrumentalist/dancer Jen Shyu. Tickets to the event, which is on the Hermitage campus at 6660 Manasota Key Road, in Englewood, begin at $175 for individuals. Reservations may be made online at www.HermitageArtistRetreat.org or by calling Craig Badinger, development director, at 941-475-2098, ext. 2.

Bruce Rodgers, the Hermitage’s executive director, says that the annual event, now in its 10th year, raises valuable funds for its nationally renowned artists’ residency program. “This year, we’re delighted to show guests the progress that’s been made on the Hermitage’s landscape restoration project headed up Michael Gilkey and his outstanding team,” he says, explaining that Gilkey’s master plan for the six-acre property adds outdoor space for public events while increasing privacy for visiting artists and preserving the history and ecology of the site.

Rodgers adds that while guests savor their feast of lobster against the stunning backdrop of the Gulf of Mexico, they’ll also enjoy a collaborative concert by two outstanding musicians. “We’re honored that two acclaimed artists, Jen Shyu and Courtney Bryan, have agreed to perform at this event,” he says. “Guests will be captivated by their dynamic, cutting-edge performance.”

Jen Shyu is a groundbreaking, multilingual vocalist, composer, producer, multi-instrumentalist, dancer, 2016 Doris Duke Artist, and was voted 2017 Downbeat Critics Poll Rising Star Female Vocalist. Shyu is widely regarded for her virtuosic singing and riveting stage presence, carving out her own beyond-category space in the art world.

Courtney Bryan is a pianist and composer whose music ranges from solo works to large ensembles in the new music and jazz idioms, film scores, and collaborations with dancers, visual artists, writers, and actors. Focusing on bridging the sacred and the secular, Bryan's compositions explore human emotions through sound, confronting the challenge of notating the feeling of improvisation.

**About the Hermitage Artist Retreat:**

The Hermitage is a nonprofit artist retreat located in Englewood, Sarasota County, Florida. It invites accomplished artists in all disciplines for residencies on its beachfront campus which is on the National Register of Historic Places. Its artists, who are asked to interact with the community, touch thousands of Gulf Coast residents with unique and inspiring programs. Hermitage fellows have included Pulitzer, Tony, Emmy, Grammy and McArthur Fellowship award winners. The Hermitage awards the $30,000 Greenfield Prize for a new work of art, and the Aspen Music Festival awards the annual Hermitage Prize in Composition. For more information about The Hermitage Artist Retreat, visit www.HermitageArtistRetreat.org.

**The Hermitage is supported by:**

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