CONTACT:

Sara Thatcher 651-292-8062

Cell: 952-221-5368

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 24, 2011

WHITE BEAR LAKE STUDENTS TO ENJOY ARTISTIC PERFORMANCES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Students to attend the 2011 Flint Hills International Children's Festival in Saint Paul

SAINT PAUL, Minn. – In early June, students from Matoska International School will see artists from around the world perform exquisite music, heartfelt dramas, and heart-pounding movement at the 2011 Flint Hills International Children's Festival in Saint Paul, presented by the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts.

In addition to watching performances by international artists, the students will participate in interactive workshops featuring performing arts with Latin American, Indian, Mexican, Japanese, and African influences. They will also enjoy hands-on artmaking workshops with the Minnesota Children's Museum, Centennial Showboat, Science Museum of Minnesota, and Children's Theatre, and interact with outdoor performers while eating lunch in the park. The students are among more than 15,000 Minnesota students who will visit the festival's "School Days" from May 31-June 3. The festival's four main-stage shows at the Ordway and Landmark Center include:

- Corbian Visual Arts & Dance "Corbian the Dinosaur": A unique theater experience that features larger-than-life, glow-in-the-dark characters that light up the stage
- Puppet State Theatre Company's "The Man Who Planted Trees": A magical, comical and multi-sensory performance telling the inspiring story about a shepherd and his dog restoring a ruined ecosystem
- **Oyu Oro Afro-Cuban Dance Ensemble**: A dynamic company that fuses dance, rhythm and song from Afro-Cuban traditions
- **Dala**: A popular Canadian singing duo that presents a joyful, interactive concert designed specifically for young audiences

In addition, students will be amazed by Project Bandaloop as aerial artists perform unique dance movements while suspended from the outside of the Lawson Commons building.

About the Flint Hills International Children's Festival

The Flint Hills International Children's Festival, presented by the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, engages young minds in the performing arts by bringing top international and regional talent to Minnesota children and families. The festival, which began in 2001, includes two parts – School Days (May 31-June 3), when more than 15,000 Minnesota students visit the festival, and Family Weekend (June 4-5), when more

than 30,000 children and their families experience both outdoor and indoor performances. For more information, visit www.ordway.org/festival.

About Flint Hills Resources

Flint Hills Resources is a leading provider of transportation fuels used in the Midwest. Based in Wichita, Kansas, Flint Hills Resources owns and operates refineries and chemical plants in Minnesota, Alaska, Illinois, Michigan and Texas, as well as four ethanol plants in Iowa. The company also owns a system of refined products and asphalt terminals that serve Texas and the Midwest. It markets products such as gasoline, diesel, jet fuel, ethanol, olefins, polymers and intermediate chemicals, base oils, and asphalt.

Flint Hills Resources Pine Bend in Rosemount, Minn., has a crude oil processing capacity of about 320,000 barrels per day. Pine Bend employs about 900 people full-time; an additional 200-2,000 union contractors work at the refinery daily on construction projects. More information about the company is available at www.fhr.com.

About the Ordway

The Ordway is widely recognized as one of the nation's leading nonprofit performing arts centers and Saint Paul's most elegant and inviting performance space. The Ordway's Music Theater and McKnight stages attract diverse audiences with an array of productions showcasing the finest in American musical theater, world music, dance, and vocal performance. Education and community engagement are integral to the Ordway's mission, with major initiatives including the annual Flint Hills International Children's Festival and Ordway Education programs that serve more than 50,000 students annually. The Ordway also serves as authorizer for the Saint Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists, a professionally guided academic and artistic environment that trains aspiring pre-professional performing artists. Together with The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Minnesota Opera and The Schubert Club, the Ordway is a member of the Arts Partnership and serves as the principal venue for their performances.

###