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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

AFA Conservatory Orchestra Performs *Swan Lake* and Other Favorites

HOUSTON, TX (June 18, 2014) – A program of orchestral favorites will be performed by the **AFA Conservatory Orchestra at Memorial High School (935 Echo Ln, 77024) on Wednesday, July 2 at 7:00pm**, led by AFA conductor-in-residence Barbara Scowcroft. The performance is free and open to the public.

For those who may have missed the Houston Ballet's performances of *Swan Lake*, this is their chance to catch all the highlights as the AFA Conservatory Orchestra performs Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake Suite* in addition to *The Hungarian March* by Berlioz, *Summer Evening* by Delius and Aaron Copland's "Hoedown" from his ballet, *Rodeo*.

Barbara Scowcroft has been conducting with AFA since 2001 and her resume speaks volumes for her commitment to musical education. She celebrated her 25th year as conductor of the Utah Youth Symphony in 2011 and has been Associate Professor of Violin at the University of Utah School of Music since 1981. In addition to her educational activity, Scowcroft is a celebrated violinist with the Utah Symphony Orchestra.

Of her experience with AFA students, Scowcroft says "It's jumping in the deep end of the pool. And to watch them transform is of course the greatest joy a teacher can have."

For a complete listing of all AFA summer concerts and other community outreach events, please visit **AFAatexas.org**.

About AFA:

American Festival for the Arts (AFA) offers Houston's finest music education programs for youth, assembles renowned faculty with a passion for teaching, offers challenging curricula that enhance student skills and provides performance opportunities that benefit our students and our community. AFA's approach makes musical development and accomplishment a vehicle for learning and personal growth – growth that impacts every area of our students' lives.

Each year, AFA presents its signature Summer Music Conservatory and a variety of outstanding year-round experiences including the Houston Girls Chorus, the Chamber Music Academy and the Composer Institute. In addition, AFA's Community Partnerships bring the best of AFA's curriculum to area schools and community centers, including KIPP Houston High School and the Center for Hearing and Speech. Many AFA programs are

offered in collaboration with Houston's world-class arts presenters including Houston Grand Opera HGOco, Da Camera of Houston's Young Artist Program, The Houston Ballet Academy and Houston Symphony. Taken together, AFA serves more than 1,500 young people every year and presents dozens of free performances and outreach concerts throughout the greater Houston area. For more information, visit AFAtexas.org.

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