



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MORE INFORMATION:
434-946-7236

**Dave Matthews Band Bama Works Fund Awards Gift to VCCA
To Fund Fellowships for Artists from the Charlottesville Area**

Charlottesville Artists Ashley Florence and Amy Munn Receive Fellowships

(AMHERST, VA)—The Virginia Center for the Creative Arts (VCCA)—one of the foremost working retreats for writers, artists and composers—has received a gift from the Bama Works Fund of Dave Matthews Band. The gift will support fellowships at the VCCA for artists currently living in the Charlottesville-Albemarle area. The next application deadline is September 15, 2009/

The VCCA provides a sanctuary where artists—freed from the demands of daily life—may focus wholly on their creative endeavors. Residential Fellowships, lasting from two weeks to two months, include private studios and bedrooms and all meals. Every year, approximately 360 of the world’s finest artists come to the VCCA, located at its Mt. San Angelo estate adjacent to Sweet Briar College in Amherst, County.

Two Charlottesville area writers are among those who will be in residence this year

While the VCCA attracts artists from around the world, several hundred come from within Virginia, including the Charlottesville area. VCCA Fellows from Charlottesville include composers Judith Shatin and James Wiznerowicz, writers Wendy Gavin Porter, Stefan Bechtel and Hilary Jerrill Steinitz and visual artists Rachel Fanning.

“We are particularly grateful to the Bama Works Fund because this gift allows us to support the plethora of creative talent in our own backyard,” said Suny Monk, executive director of the VCCA.

VCCA Fellows have received international attention through publications, exhibitions, compositions and performances, and have gone on to receive such major awards as the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award, Academy Award nominations and Guggenheim and MacArthur Fellowships. A non-profit organization founded in Charlottesville in 1971, the

VCCA is supported in large part by grants and private donations. More information is available online at www.vcca.com or by calling (434) 946-7236.

Established in 1999 by the Dave Matthews Band, the Bama Works Fund provides support to local and regional charities in the Charlottesville and surrounding areas. It is administered by the Charlottesville-Albemarle Community Foundation.