



CLEVELAND PERFORMING ARTS MINISTRIES

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PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

40 years of Passionate Performances

CLEVELAND, OH (July 3, 2017) – *Tetélestai* – the stirring musical production about the last week of Jesus’ life – is celebrating 40 years of passionate performances.

The long-running passion play was created by brothers Joel & Russ Nagy in the 1970’s to serve their youth group at Upper Arlington Lutheran Church in Columbus, Ohio. In 1976, the spirited group traveled north to present a performance at St. Anselm Parish in Chesterland, Ohio. Since that inspiring performance, *Tetélestai* has been performed locally every year for the past 40 years.

After having made an incredible impact on St. Anselm and the surrounding community, the Upper Arlington group partnered with the St. Anselm Outreach Ministry to present a joint presentation of *Tetélestai* at St. Anselm in 1977. The local production gained both momentum and a loyal following and quickly became an annual tradition. In 1985, the non-profit organization “Cleveland Performing Arts Ministries” was created to oversee the production and to handle its day-to-day operations.

Since that time, *Tetélestai* has been presented free of charge to approximately 100,000 audience members at over 180 churches, schools and theatres throughout the Midwest. One performance was even held at a local prison! It is estimated that, throughout the years, well over 500 interdenominational cast members of all ages have volunteered the 4 months each year required to participate in the production; 13 men have played the role of Jesus; and 3 full-sized crosses have made a spirit-filled journey down church aisles and gym floors throughout the Midwest.

Tetélestai is normally presented in the winter months during the 8 weeks of Lent that lead to the celebration of Holy Week. This year, to celebrate its 40th anniversary, *Tetélestai* has invited alumni cast and crew members from the past 40 years to join in two special summer performances. These performances will be held at Ss. Robert & William Church in Euclid, Ohio

on July 28 and July 29 at 8:00 pm. Currently, over 200 alumni are registered to participate in this unique event.

Tetélestai (pronounced “teh-téll-eh-sty”), is the Greek word for “It is finished,” the last words of Jesus as he died on the cross. The production utilizes full staging and costumes as well as professional sound and lighting. The ministry’s purpose is simply to share the story of Jesus’ passion and resurrection in a vividly spiritual and visual manner. The production is free of charge with seating on a first-come, first-serve basis. Free-will donations are accepted at the conclusion of the production.

For more information about *Tetélestai* and the 40th Anniversary Summer Performances, visit LiveThePassion.org or call Cleveland Performing Arts Ministries at 440-944-0635. *Tetélestai* is a registered service mark of *Tetélestai*, Inc. Cleveland Performing Arts Ministries produces *Tetélestai* in northeast Ohio and is a registered 501(c)(3) organization.

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