

Celebrating the arts at Butler

ARTSFEST KICKS OFF IN APRIL

By Will Higgins

will.higgins@indy.com

"Fables, fairy tales and physics" is the theme of this year's Butler University ArtsFest. The events go from April 3-13, then pause and resume April 25-27.

They're wide-ranging and include opera, gospel, dance, watercolor paintings, a folklorist and a physicist appearing jointly, and a Cirque du Soleil aerialist.

The festival debuted last year with the opening of the Howard L. Schrott Center for the Arts next door to Clowes Hall.

The connection between fables and fairy tales is pretty obvious. Fables are different from fairy tales only in that they involve animals, said Ronald Caltabiano, Butler's Jordan arts college dean and a Juilliard-trained composer.

But physics? "It sounds unlikely, but there are interesting elements that go back and forth," Caltabiano said.

"For instance, in the time of the ancient

Greeks, astronomy was a major influence on the arts."

Last year, 4,500 people attended the events, and this year, the organizers are shooting for 5,500.

Half the events are free. Tickets to the other half and a complete schedule are available at the Schrott and at <http://butlerartsfest.com>.

The Schrott is open from 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays. The box office phone number is (317) 940-2787.

★ Contact Star reporter Will Higgins at 444-6043. Follow him on Twitter: @WillRHiggins.



Opera star Angela Brown will perform songs from "Porgy and Bess" as part of Butler University's ArtsFest 2014. STAR FILE PHOTO