



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Jefferson Center Announces 08-09 Performance Season

World-Class musicians, fan favorites and exclusive meet'n'greet with the artists headline another fantastic year of arts programming in Roanoke's premier venue for arts and community.

Jefferson Center, Southwestern Virginia's home for community culture and performing arts, announces its 2008-09 performance season. As in years past, the season will feature the signature Star City Series, kid-friendly fare with the Family Series and a star-studded Jazz Club series.

Season tickets for each series go on sale, Monday, July 28 and individual concert tickets go on sale Monday, August 25. Tickets can be purchased at Jefferson Center's box office at 541 Luck Ave., Roanoke, VA, via phone (540) 345-2550 and toll-free (866) 345-2550 or online at www.jeffcenter.org.

Star City Series

With sellout crowds at each of our concerts last year, now is the time to purchase tickets to concerts featuring our brightest stars.

Booker T. & The MGs with Eddie Floyd

Thurs., September 18, 7:30 p.m.

Hit instrumentals. Bluesy ditties. Southern flavor.

Get ready for a concert filled with tunes that make up the soundtrack of your life. The Stax band that created the Memphis sound behind artists such as Otis Redding, Wilson Pickett, and Sam and Dave perform classics including "Green Onions," "Born Under a Bad Sign," "Dock of the Bay" and other quintessential tunes of the '60s and '70s.

Kathy Mattea

Thurs., October 16, 7:30 p.m.

Emotional melodies. Timeless narratives. Unmistakable voice.

With a music collection that includes country, folk and Celtic music, highly regarded singer Kathy Mattea has become a leading voice in American music. Having gained recognition for her hits including "18 Wheels and a Dozen Roses" this two-time CMA Female Vocalist of the Year is now paying homage to her Appalachian roots with her new #1 hit CD, *Coal*.

Allen Toussaint

Fri., November 14, 8:00 p.m.

Big Easy vibe. R&B standards. Funky instrumentals.

Musical Renaissance man Allen Toussaint is without a doubt one of the most influential figures in New Orleans music. With songs that have been covered by the Rolling Stones, Bonnie Raitt, Little Feat and Glen Campbell, Toussaint takes the stage to perform his signature songbook, including treasures such as "Working in the Coalmine," "Yes, We Can, Can" and "Get Out My Life, Woman."

Skaggs Family Christmas with Ricky Skaggs & The Whites **Wed., December 3, 7:30 p.m.**

Heartwarming harmonies. Down-home holiday. Inspirational arrangements.

Celebrate the season as bluegrass superstar Ricky Skaggs joins together with his all-star band

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Kentucky Thunder, The Whites and a third generation of family members to perform holiday favorites steeped in America's bluegrass and country music traditions. With their mandolins, fiddles, banjos and honey-dipped vocals, the Skaggs family circle will rework many Christmas classics, as well as perform their own yuletide songs.

Arturo Sandoval

Sat., January 24, 8:00 p.m.

Supercharged sound. Remarkable performance. Knock-out entertainment.

Latin jazz sizzles on stage with the alluring Cuban trumpeter Arturo Sandoval. Equally gifted as a performer and entertainer, the vibrant and unpredictable Sandoval is likely to play piano, scat a jaw-dropping solo and even pitch in on percussion. He's impressed the world by interweaving bop-flavored flurries way up in the trumpet's highest register with a subtle sense of swing.

Ladysmith Black Mambazo

Thurs., February 12, 7:30 p.m.

Heavenly harmonies. Airy a cappella. Serene stage presence

Perhaps best known for their captivating performance on Paul Simon's Graceland album, this beloved choral group, largely responsible for sparking today's interest in World Music, shares the rich traditional culture of South Africa. Combining a cappella singing and their signature "tip toe" dance with Christian gospel music, Ladysmith Black Mambazo proves why—after 40 years—they continue to inspire whenever they perform.

An Irish Homecoming

Fri., April 3, 8:00 p.m.

hosted by Cherish The Ladies with their guests Maura O'Connell, Liz Carroll & John Doyle plus an award winning ensemble of Irish step dancers!

Captivating collaborations. Stunning step dancing. Sensuous sets.

Blending ancestral tradition and musical mastery, Irish chanteuse Maura O'Connell teams with the all-female Celtic ensemble Cherish The Ladies for an evening of high spirits and merrymaking. To top off the exuberant collaboration, fiddler Liz Carroll and guitarist and singer John Doyle join in along with an all-star dance ensemble featuring former members of *Riverdance* and *The Chieftains*.

Jazz Club

With a blend of heavy hitters like Wynton Marsalis and rising stars like Esperanza Spalding, our jazz shows are hot this year.

Wynton Marsalis with The Jazz At Lincoln Center Orchestra **Tue., October 7, 7:30 p.m.**

Big-Band Flair. Stellar Swing. Unparalleled musicianship.

Great music becomes legendary when it's played by the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, led by the incomparable Wynton Marsalis. Their vast repertoire — ranging from rare historic compositions to newly commissioned works to new takes on old classics — makes them a veritable repository of jazz history. Swinging and supple, sophisticated and spirited, this is the jazz event of the year!

Robert Jospé & Inner Rhythm with Royce Campbell

Sun., November 16, 7:30 p.m.

Kinetic beats. Sizzling sounds. Percolating polyrhythms.

Featuring some of Virginia's finest musicians, Jospé's band Inner Rhythm is a high energy jazz and world-beat ensemble, performing original compositions rooted in jazz, Latin, Afro-Cuban and contemporary fusion styles, as well as jazz classics. From beginning to end, the band presents a performance full of passionate playing and tight, skillful arrangements.

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Esperanza Spalding**Thurs., February 5, 7:30 p.m.**

Mesmerizing talent. Irresistible charisma. Spellbinding allure.

If “esperanza” is the Spanish word for hope, then bassist, vocalist and composer Esperanza Spalding count not have been given a more fitting name. Blessed with uncanny instrumental chops, a multi-lingual voice that is part angel and part siren, and a natural beauty that borders on the hypnotic, the 23-year-old prodigy-turned-pro might well be the hope for the future of jazz.

René Marie**Fri., March 27 at 8:00 p.m.**

Uncompromising lyrics. Daring tunes, Stirring emotions.

This local girl makes good in her triumphant return to Jefferson Center’s stage. This Roanoke native and international jazz vocalist, widely regarded for her suppleness and range, lives every lyric as she liberates standard tunes and delivers socially provocative originals.

Joey DeFrancesco Trio**Fri., April 17, 8:00 p.m.**

Prodigious ability. Finger-poppin’ grooves. Harmonic depth

Since his precocious and startling debut with Miles Davis at the tender age of 17, Joey DeFrancesco has been credited with rekindling the flame of jazz organ. With his blistering speed, complete control of the organ and tremendous ear for harmonics, DeFrancesco’s repertoire runs the gamut from straight-ahead jazz to blues, gospel and rock.

Catherine Russell**Sat., June 27, 8:00 p.m.**

Full-bodied vocals. Sassy sophistication. Tuneful tributes.

After years on fame’s periphery singing backup for artists as diverse as David Bowie and Roseanne Cash, Catherine Russell is at last earning the praise and attention she deserves. With her band, Russell has distilled the robust, good-time essence of Southern juke joints and Lindy-hopping Northern dance halls into a jazz performance that radiates interpretive power yet remains touchingly vulnerable.

Family Series

Once again Jefferson Center is offering tickets for just “A Buck a Kid.” Purchase one adult ticket to any Family Series show and you can purchase up to two children’s tickets for just a buck a kid! It’s Jefferson Center’s way of making the arts open and affordable to everyone!

Michael Cooper’s Masked Marvels and Wondertales**Sun., October 12 at 2:00 p.m.**

Fantastical fables. Magical masks. Master storytelling.

Michael Cooper is an eye-popping visual artist and virtuoso mime whose exquisite performances and unending enthusiasm captivates audiences both young and old. This one-man extravaganza combines breathtaking handcrafted masks, original stories of courage and wonder, outlandish stilt dancing and a physical repertoire that ranges from the madcap to the sublime.

Russian-American Kids Circus on Stage**Sat., January 10, 2:00 p.m.**

Spectacular acrobatics. Dazzling Costumes. Expert Ability.

Performed for kids by kids, the Russian American Kids Circus is a performance show like no other. Trained by veterans of the world-famous Moscow Circus, these young artists, ages 6 to 16, fill the stage with flying acrobatics, precision juggling, daring aerial feats, and side-splitting clowns. Nimble tightrope walking and agile balancing acts.

Illstyle and Peace**Sun., March 8, 2:00 p.m.,**

Daredevil Dancing. Urban flavor. Hip-hop style.

This multicultural dance company fuses the moves and spirit of hip-hop with a multitude of

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musical expression including tap, ballet, and vocal percussion. Throughout their high-energy, almost acrobatic-like routine, this extraordinary dance company delivers positive messages of individual expression to audiences young and old.

Also Coming to Jefferson Center...

David Sedaris

Fri., April 10 at 8:00 p.m.

Sardonic wit. True-to-life stories. Rip-roaringly funny
Literary rock star and NPR favorite David Sedaris, continues to be one of the most original comedic talents on the scene today. With a track record of sold-out shows at Jefferson Center, Sedaris returns with his latest collection of essays, *When You Are Engulfed in Flames*, delivered with his trademark satirical humor.

New This Year: Exclusive Backstage Pass Events

Ever wish you could go backstage to meet the artists? Now you can! This year Jefferson Center members will be invited to special Backstage Pass Events, including exclusive meet'n'greet with the artists. With a tax-deductible donation of \$50 or more, members help support the arts in Roanoke and receive fantastic member benefits including:

- **A virtual backstage pass**
Exclusive invitations to backstage meet and greet with the artists, and member-only events and receptions.
- **The best seat in the house**
Priority to purchase individual performances and season tickets before they are available to the general public.
- **Deals, deals, deals!**
A 10 percent discount off tickets purchased for individual events presented by Jefferson Center.
- **Insider information**
First notice of special events and performances through Jefferson Center's e-newsletter.

Sponsors for the Star City Series include: Kroger Mid-Atlantic, Scott Insurance, Pepsi Bottling Group, The Roanoker, SunTrust Bank, BB&T Bank, Morgan Stanley, and Scott & Stringfellow, WDBJ-7, WVTF Public Radio, CITY Magazine, MyScoper.com, Access and Southern Print & Copy. Sponsors for the Jazz Club Series include: Davis H. Elliot Co., WVTF Public Radio, Appalachian Power, Oakey's Funeral Service and Crematory, Valley Bank, Woods Rogers PLC, WDBJ-7, WVTF Public Radio and CITY Magazine. Sponsors for the Family Series include: StellarOne Corp., Comcast Spotlight, Friendship Retirement Community and WDBJ-7.

Jefferson Center is a non-profit performing arts center that enriches and educates Western Virginia by producing high quality performing and visual arts programs including concerts, dance parties, exhibitions, lectures and artist residencies.

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