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SOUTH MILWAUKEE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER ANNOUNCES 10TH ANNIVERSARY PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

(South Milwaukee, WI) – The South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center (SMPAC) announces the 10th Anniversary Performing Arts Series.

“Our 10th Anniversary Series features 10 shows that highlight topics relevant to our hometown and surrounding community. It will be the busiest, most diverse and engaging season in our history. Each show speaks to a memory of our city’s proud past, reflects on a shared experience, or brings hope and optimism for a bright, creative future,” says Chad Piechocki, SMPAC Director.

“Some shows are celebratory and entertaining, while others address important social issues like the changing nature of Main Street or what it means to be “broken” yet inspired,” says Piechocki. “We strive to bring together diverse audiences and foster a deeper connection to our world and with one another. To this end, we’re planning a season finale that engages our patrons as key collaborators. Our 10th Anniversary Gala will be a variety show curated by patrons within the SMPAC community, featuring Tomas Kubinek as Master of Ceremonies.” A preview of the upcoming shows was held at the theatre June 10 for season subscribers and SMPAC patrons.

SMPAC is a premier performing arts center serving southeastern Wisconsin. In addition to the Annual Performing Arts Series, SMPAC serves the School District of South Milwaukee and is a professionally-managed rental facility for other presenters and organizations.

2014-2015 10TH ANNIVERSARY PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

Davell Crawford & His New Orleans Creole Jazz Men **Saturday, September 20, 2014 at 7:30 pm**

“Davell is the embodiment of every New Orleans music legend that has ever lived, from Jelly Roll Morton to Dr. John, from Mahalia and Satchmo, to James Booker and Professor Longhair, all rolled up into one musical ball of fire.” *Blues Access Magazine*

A rare breed of artist, Davell Crawford is a musicians' musician, an artists' artist. He lives firmly by his affection for New Orleans music, which is showcased in his latest undertaking, “Davell Crawford and His New Orleans Creole Jazz Men.” Specializing in New Orleans Traditional Jazz from the early 20th century, Davell on piano is accompanied by the instrumentation of trumpet, clarinet, saxophone,



slide trombone, banjo, upright bass and drums, performing material such as Twelfth Street Rag, Muskrat Ramble, High Society, Tiger Rag, Milenberg Joys, Margie, Tailgate Ramble and Royal Garden Blues. Almost all of musicians in this band can trace their Louisiana musical heritage back generations to the originators, performers and celebrities of this music.

"Playing our music, and learning from our forefathers of New Orleans music, my generation understands just how important it is in our song, dance and culture to celebrate life. We celebrate new life, a life taken away by death, all the life experiences in between and even the afterlife. It's all in the traditional music of my people and I am proud to say that the music we present as the Creole Jazz Men celebrate a great genre, lifestyle and time in our history and I'm honored to present it whenever I can." *Davell Crawford*

ARENA DANCES: Main Street Project
Saturday, October 18, 2014 at 7:30 pm

"My responsibility as an artist is to ask questions and incite awakening, both in myself and my collaborators, through the making of work, and in my audience, through their experience of performance. I am deeply concerned with making my work relevant to the public that I am addressing." *Mathew Janczewski, Artistic Director*

Mathew Janczewski's ARENA DANCES creates and performs original modern dance choreography promoting community gathering, dialogue and impact. The work is abstract in form, giving shape to emotions, exploring the depths and the limits of what drives us as humans to connect, to break away, to survive. Just as our emotions can veer wildly, ARENA incorporates a highly kinetic style of movement, a sweeping physicality that takes in a broad range of feelings and the posturings we may make to protect ourselves in the world.

The Main Street Project explores how current attitudes, relationships and habits have changed in an information-driven technological world by utilizing integrative forms of media – juxtaposing visceral and explosive movement with electro/techno/pop music, folk-inspired songs, and projections of filmed interviews with people from diverse communities and backgrounds. The work illuminates themes of isolation, community and humanity in contemporary society to ask the question: Does "Main Street" still exist?

In addition to the performance, ARENA DANCES will host a weeklong residency that will include a select group of high school students and senior community members designed to engage the different generations for dialogue, storytelling and movement. The presentation of Arena Dances: Main Street Project was made possible by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, with additional support from the National Endowment for the Arts.



Imago Theatre: Frogz
Friday, October 24, 2014 at 7:30 pm

"Inspired Fun" *New York Times*

"Terrific!" *NPR*

Rare theatrical event - a family friendly entertainment ... lively ... inventive ... remarkably acrobatic ... mysterious ... deeply satisfying ... sensational ... thrilling ... hysterical ... truly goofy fun ... now, that's entertainment" ... *Boston Globe*

FROGZ! is penguins playing musical chairs, a cat trapped in a giant paper bag, orbs running wild through the audience, and a madcap revue of illusion, comedy and fun that has inspired audiences worldwide. FROGZ! has been performed in China, Europe and at some of North America's most revered festivals. FROGZ! has been described as Cirque Du Soleil-evoking acrobatics mixed with Mummerschitz-like mime, set in a unique –yet accessible- French-influenced avant-garde playground.

FROGZ! is the Portland, OR-based IMAGO's signature work. It is an unforgettable experience for children and adults alike. The ingenious masks, mesmerizing movement, outlandish costumes, and original music score create a carnival of the absurd, presenting universal themes with a light touch, as animals take on human characteristics and inanimate objects like orbs and slinkys engage in silly humanistic movements. FROGZ! is often recognized by fans and critics alike as a remarkable addition to the American theatrical canon.

Br(OK)en Genius
Friday and Saturday, November 21 & 22, 2014 at 7:30 pm

"Art is a fruit of my process but it's deeper than art. The root of the fruit is revolution of the soul."
C.M.P.

Br(OK)en Genius is a visual, musical, literary and performance art experience birthed from the story of a child of the city of Milwaukee. The artist, Christopher McIntyre Perceptions, born broken yet seeks healing with hope, and questions the cultivation of genius within. Creating the atmosphere of a 'living movie,' six spoken word artists narrate this story scored by three musicians with the visual of photography by Christopher McIntyre Perceptions to stimulate the muse of moods.

Christopher McIntyre is a Milwaukee native and autodidactic artist who has been called a 'young temple with an old soul.' He is the founder of CMPerceptions, Inc., a corporation that uses art and spirituality to rebuild communities. McIntyre has worked with various Boys & Girls' Clubs and YMCAs, and is active in the Milwaukee art community, having participated in the Milwaukee Art Museum's Kohl's Family Sundays events, the Wisconsin 30 and with ART Milwaukee, RedLine Milwaukee, and more.



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WindSync Simple Gifts: A Holiday Sampler
Thursday, December 11, 2014 at 7:30 pm

"revolutionary chamber musicians" *Houston Chronicle*

WindSync is a fresh and energetic ensemble based in Houston, Texas. The group has presented concerts across North America with presenters and collaborators including Da Camera of Houston, Houston Arts Alliance, Chamber Music America, Young Audiences of Houston, Music for Autism, Health Arts in Canada and is the Ensemble in Residence for the Grand Teton Music Festival for a second year.

WindSync's mission to inspire audiences through innovative, interactive chamber music concerts and educational programs drives their highly creative approach. The group is a pioneer in unconventional performance practices that enhance their original musical concepts, including the addition of costumes and choreography, as well as new projects dedicated to teaching tolerance through music education in schools. WindSync was named a 2012 Victor Elmaleh Concert Artists Guild Competition winner and was also awarded the Sylvia Ann Hewlett Adventurous Artist Prize.

Simple Gifts Holiday Sampler will feature works such as Copland: *Simple Gifts*, Prokofiev; *Overture on Hebrew Themes*, Respighi: *Three Botticelli Pictures*, Valerie Coleman: *Umoja, Three Folk Song Settings for Wind Quintet*, Tchaikovsky: The Nutcracker and Twas the Night Before Christmas (including popular melodies: Little Drummer Boy; The Christmas Song, Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer and Sleigh Ride), with arrangements by WindSync.

Milwaukee Ballet II
Saturday, January 24, 2015 at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm

"I'm already looking forward to next winter when, if there's a God, Milwaukee Ballet Two will give its fourth annual concert at the South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center. There's nothing like it in Milwaukee's dance season." *Shepherd Express (2013-14 Performing Arts Series Review by John Schneider)*

Performing onstage at SMPAC is a highlight of the Milwaukee Ballet II season, giving young artists from all over the world a chance to be the stars of the show. This season will offer an extraordinary range of ballet; starting at the height of the romantic age, *Chopiniana*, will be restaged by MBII Director Rolando Yanes and features the music of Frédéric Chopin, played by senior accompanist Daniel Boudewyns. We will leap forward into the future with a world premiere contemporary work by Adam Sterr that fuses movement and music together on the same stage, in the same space.



Nearly half of Milwaukee Ballet Company's dancers are graduates of this esteemed training program, Milwaukee Ballet II. Established in 1978, the program nurtures and develops dancers' technical skills and the artistry required for a professional career in dance. In addition to training with their own artistic staff, led by Rolando Yanes, these dancers perform with the professional company and on their own, and are the face of the Ballet's Community Outreach Programs, serving nearly 30,000 people each season.

The Pedrito Martinez Group, Featuring Ariacne Trujillo

Friday, February 13, 2015 at 7:30 pm

"complex, blanderized Africa-to-the-New-World funk." *Ben Ratliff, New York Times*

The Pedrito Martinez Group has its roots planted firmly in the Afro-Cuban Rumba tradition and in the bata rhythms and vocal chants of the music of Yoruba and Santeria. The group is an extraordinarily tight and creative unit with a home base gig in Midtown Manhattan at Guantanamera, where they've built a fan base that includes Steve Gadd, Ravi Coltrane, Taj Mahal, Eric Clapton, John Scofield, Roger Waters, Derek Trucks, Herlin Riley, and Will Lee.

Martinez was born in Havana, Cuba, and began his career at the age of 11, performing as vocalist and percussionist with Cuban legends Tata Güines and Muñequitos de Matanzas. He toured in Canada with Spirits of Havana, then entered and won the Thelonious Monk Institute Competition's first-ever showcase for Afro-Latin Hand Drumming. As a member of Yerba Buena, he recorded two albums and toured the world opening for Dave Matthews Band, Willie Nelson and Ray Charles. He's contributed to more than 100 records and collaborated with Paquito D'Rivera, Issac Delgado, Eliane Elias, Stefon Harris, Steve Turre, Eddie Palmieri, Gonzalo Rubalcaba, Conrad Herwig, Meshell Ndegeocello, Bill Summers and Los Hombres Calientes, Arturo Chico O'Farrill, Bebo Valdés, Cassandra Wilson, Joe Lovano, Sting, Elton John and Bruce Springsteen. He was featured in the documentary film on Cuban music, *Calle 54* and his singing and percussion playing were featured in the 2011, Academy Award-nominated, *Chico and Rita*.

Current band members include percussionist, Jhair Sala, from Lima, Peru, electric bassist, Alvaro Benavides, from Caracas, Venezuela, and keyboard player/vocalist, Ariacne Trujillo, from Havana, Cuba.



In Thinking of America: Songs of the Civil War
Sunday, March 29, 2015 at 2:00 pm

"Vocally exceptional, smooth and ardent." *Chicago Tribune*

"The music performed by Trentham is grandiose and powerful, ranging from deep and sorrowful to light-hearted and mocking. Each song offers a different perspective on the turbulent Victorian Era in the United States." *The Evening Sun (Hanover, PA)*

2014-15 is the Civil War sesquicentennial. In the tradition of variety and concert artists of the mid-19th century, Robert Trentham presents songs that inspired and comforted a divided nation. Coupled with letters, speeches and social commentary from the 1860's, *In Thinking of America: Songs of the Civil War* offers contemporary audiences a glimpse into the past and calls to mind a time of unabashed sentiment and innocent vigor. Such familiar tunes as *Dixie's Land*, *Steal Away*, *Just Before the Battle Mother*, *Goober Peas* and *Battle Hymn of the Republic* are brought together with the honest and heartfelt words of statesmen, journalists, soldiers and citizens of the day. *In Thinking of America: Songs of the Civil War* was inspired by the lives and events of Trentham's ancestors who lived and died during the Civil War.

Robert Trentham has been featured and reviewed in numerous U.S. newspapers and publications including the New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Chicago Tribune, New York Magazine and Opera Magazine. He has sung as a soloist at the finest American concert halls including Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center and the Philadelphia Academy of Music, and at regional theater and opera companies throughout the country.

Jerome Kitzke: Winter Count and Howl Music In Poetry - Poetry In Music
Friday, April 10, 2015 at 7:30 pm

"New music offers no more joyous phenomenon than the irrepressible, earth-worshipping Kitzke." *Kyle Gann, Village Voice*

"Kitzke" has the makings of an American original." *Robert Carl, Fanfare*

South Milwaukee native Jerome Kitzke has been composing music for decades influenced by the tenor of the times and tells his stories, both political and personal, through music imbued with the language of poets and writers, past and present. Kitzke's music, which has been performed around the world, illuminates his belief of the existence of poetry in music and music in poetry. It thrives on the spirit of Plains Indian song, driving jazz, Beat Generation poetry, and contemporary classical music, where freedom and ritual converge, resulting in a sound that is uniquely and bracingly American.



An idiosyncratic performer of both music and poetry, Kitzke and his colleagues, the actor Jennifer Kathryn Marshall and The Winter Count String Quartet, lead by violinist Eric Segnitz, will perform a program of Kitzke's music including The Green Automobile for amplified speaking pianist with a text by Allen Ginsberg and Winter Count, an antiwar work for actor, bass drum and string quartet with texts ranging from Aeschylus to Harold Pinter. Also featured will be a reading by Kitzke of Allen Ginsberg's seminal poem Howl and Footnote to Howl, as well as poems by the great Milwaukee/Midwest poets, Susan Firer and the late James Hazard.

10th Anniversary Gala
Friday, May 1, 2015 at 7:30 pm

The 10th Anniversary Gala is certain to be like no other show we've presented. The vision for the Gala is a celebration, a variety show, a showcase of local talent - a unique and heartfelt performing arts extravaganza created by our patrons. Don't miss this world premiere of community-driven theatre, vaudeville, music and "who-knows-what" curated by patrons of the SMPAC community.

Come along for a ride with us and provide your input, ideas and creativity. You see, we're looking for 10 performers or groups to take the stage on May 1 and share their special gifts. Indulge your creativity. Do you have a hidden talent or a neighbor who does? Do you have a unique story to tell or know of a local performer whose time for the stage has come? This is your chance to create a show with us. We're collecting ideas, names and concepts. Each performance should be no more than 10 minutes and will be selected based on overall appeal, availability and feasibility.

To participate, request a 10th Anniversary Gala Event Form. Call (414) 766-5049 or email us at pacboxoffice@sdsm.k12.wi.us. Deadline for submissions is October 31, 2014.

TOMÁŠ KUBÍNEK will be the 10th Anniversary Gala Master of Ceremonies. He was recently the artist-in-residence as guest of the John Michael Kohler Arts Center in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, where he created, directed, and hosted "The Big Sheboygan Shebang," an amazing vaudevillian extravaganza featuring more than 200 local performers, two horses, and a boa constrictor.

TICKETING INFORMATION

Season subscriptions for the 10th Anniversary Performing Arts Series are on sale now. Purchasing tickets to four or more performances qualifies as a season subscription. Subscriptions may be purchased through the Box Office at 414-766-5049 or in person at 901 15th Avenue. Box Office summer hours are Monday - Thursday, from 10 am to 4 pm, and one hour before performances. Individual tickets may be purchased online at www.southmilwaukeepac.org starting July 21.



Additional 2014-2015 Season Performances

Here are some of the additional confirmed events and presenting organizations that will be featured at SMPAC during the 2014-15 season.

Friday, Saturday and Sunday, September 26-28, 2014 (Times to be announced)

Richard Rogers and Lorenz Hart's *Pal Joey*

Presented by Milwaukee's Boulevard Theatre

Remember when you could hum the music from a show and when shows were fun? Boulevard Theatre brings back style, charm and affordable FUN with a very "private label" production of *Pal Joey*. This classic Broadway musical enjoys a "concert staging," with patrons seated onstage with the performers. The tuneful melodies and effervescent charm bubbles forth, just inches away from you, our audience! Seating is limited to 100 patrons per show.

Friday, December 12, 2014 – 8:00 p.m.

George Winston Presented by ACG

Grammy Award-winning pianist and multi-platinum selling recording artist George Winston grew up in Montana, Mississippi and Florida and was influenced by instrumental rock and R&B, including Floyd Cramer, the Ventures, Booker T & The MG's, Jimmy Smith, and more. He began playing organ in 1967. He switched to piano after hearing recordings from the 1920s and '30s by legendary stride pianists Thomas "Fats" Waller and the late Teddy Wilson.

Saturday, January 17, 2015 – 7:30 p.m.

A Cappella with Six Appeal

Presented by Landass Investments, Inc. & Rotary Club of Mitchell Field

Six Appeal Vocal Band is one of the busiest touring a cappella ensembles in the country. Renowned for their vivid musical style, unmatched energy and playful charm, their far-reaching repertoire spans a multitude of decades and genres, including pop, country, classic rock, jazz and R&B. The award-winning band grabbed the national TV spotlight as halftime performers at the 2013 Sugar Bowl! The evening concert is preceded by a day-long workshop for aspiring high school a cappella groups, who will perform before sharing the stage with Six Appeal. Then the pros take over and rock the house!

Knightwind Ensemble

Knightwind Ensemble has been performing for Milwaukee audiences for more than six decades and has earned a reputation as Milwaukee's premier adult wind band. 2014-2015 performances: October 26, February 8 and April 12. All performances are at 3:00 p.m. Visit www.knightwindensemble.org for details.



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Cantare Chorale

Cantare Chorale is a community choir dedicated to providing a fun, supportive and creative outlet for adults interested in pursuing a high-quality, non-professional, choral singing experience. Visit www.cantarechorale.com for upcoming shows.

Grant Park Players

Grant Park Players is a community theatre group dedicated to entertainment and to promote enjoyment, education and volunteer participation in community theatre and the performing arts. Visit www.grantparkplayers.org for upcoming shows.

ABOUT SMPAC

South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center (SMPAC) provides the greater Milwaukee and southeastern Wisconsin communities with creative, innovative and diverse performing arts. Located on the South Milwaukee 6-12 campus, it serves the students of South Milwaukee and provides professional services for more than 500 shows, performances, rehearsals and other events annually.

2013-2014 Performing Arts Series artists featured Jason Moran: Fats Waller Dance Party, I'm Not A Pilot performing live with Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra, ACME: Songs Still Sung, Baby Wants Candy, Milwaukee Ballet II, Calmus: Christmas A Cappella, Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana and 500 Clown Frankenstein. Previous series artists include GRAMMY Award-Winning hip-hop jazz pianist Robert Glasper Experiment, which also ranked a "Top 10 Concert of Milwaukee in 2012" by Journal Sentinel, Milwaukee historian John Gurda, rising country singer-songwriter Katie Armiger, the Vienna Boys Choir, physical comedian Avner Eisenberg, actor Frank Ferrante and illusionist Jason Bishop.

Student matinees, workshops and talk-backs for all grade levels are provided by some season artists. Other artists and organizations that provide performing arts experiences for students include the Florentine Opera, Danceworks, Still Waters Collective and the Missoula Children's Theatre.

SMPAC serves as a rental facility for other presenters and groups. Featured artists include Lindsey Buckingham, Arlo Guthrie, Jesse Cook, Tommy Emmanuel, John Hiatt, Ian Hunter, Joe Lovano, Cantare Chorale, Knightwind Ensemble, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra and the Grant Park Players, the local community theatre.

South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center is located at 901 15th Avenue in South Milwaukee between College and Rawson Avenues. It is easily accessible from I-94 and 794. Free parking is located in the northwest parking lot. Patrons should enter door #9. For tickets or directions, call 414-766-5049. For more information about South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center, visit southmilwaukeepac.org.



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The 10th Anniversary Performing Arts Series is sponsored in part by Courtyard Marriott Milwaukee Airport, Classic Cargo International Inc., Emerald City Catering, New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, TASC Services LLC., Sheridan's Restaurant, South Milwaukee LIONS Club and South Milwaukee Music Parents. Performances are supported in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts.

