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### WILSON CENTER ANNOUNCES WORLD-CLASS LINE-UP FOR 15TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON Artists include Branford Marsalis, Ailey II, Paul Taylor Dance Company, and more



**Brookfield, WI** (May 3, 2016) Titans of jazz, seminal dance companies, internationally acclaimed orchestras, visceral singer/songwriters, and hometown artists take center stage in a year-long 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season celebration that features more than 25 artists and ensembles at the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts (Wilson Center).

“The Wilson Center is a hub of activity year-round, and Greater Milwaukee-area audiences love experiencing the extraordinary array of performers from around the world up close and personal,” said

Wilson Center Interim President & CEO Kathryn R. Martin. “With wonderful dining nearby, signature drinks available at performances and events, the natural beauty of our location in Brookfield’s 405-acre Mitchell Park, and the continuing development of our interactive sculpture landscape, Lynn Chappy ArtsPark, our 15th Anniversary Season is one not to be missed!”

Subscription tickets to the 2016/2017 Season are on sale now, with a choice of eight different packages, including a 5+ Flex Subscription Package that allows ticketholder to customize their arts experience. In addition to a savings of up to 20% off the cost of single ticket prices, Wilson Center subscribers also enjoy the benefits of prime seating, a VIP single ticket pre-sale, and ticket exchange privileges. **To guarantee access to the best seats in the house, subscribe by May 27 through the Wilson Center Box Office at 262-781-9520, in person at 19805 W. Capitol Drive in Brookfield’s Mitchell Park, or online at [www.wilson-center.com](http://www.wilson-center.com).** Discounts are available for groups of 10 or more and reservations may be made now by calling the Wilson Center Box Office at 262-781-9520. Single tickets go on sale Monday, August 8, 2016.

A singular collaboration of musical forces kicks off the 2016/2017 Season when the **Branford Marsalis Quartet with special guest Kurt Elling** takes the Wilson Center stage on September 30, 2016. One of the best guitarists around, with the soul of a country singer and the mind of a vaudevillian, **Robbie Fulks** will perform for the first time at the Wilson Center on October 7, 2016. Audiences will travel back to the '40s, '50s, and '60s on October 12, 2016, with **Straighten Up and Fly Right! A Tribute to Nat King Cole**.

With “off-the-charts-energy” (*The New Yorker*), **Ailey II** will take the stage on October 21, 2016, as the Wilson Center continues its tradition of presenting America’s most significant dance companies. To conclude the early autumn months, audiences will enjoy an exclusive performance by the **2016 PianoArts Competition Winner** on October 23, 2016.

Called a “cabaret icon” (NBC 5 Chicago), **Joan Curto** returns to the Wilson Center on November 9, 2016, with *From Major to Minor*, a celebration of the extensive catalogue of Cole Porter. A sublime and seductive evening awaits audiences in an intimate concert experience with the **Peter Martin Trio** on November 11, 2016. With a voice that has often been compared to that of Billie Holiday, **Madeleine Peyroux** may be a big venue star, but as Wilson Center audiences will experience on November 12, 2016, intimate venues are her real home.

An upbeat and jazzy afternoon of Christmas tunes and other holiday tunes will ring in the holidays as the Wilson Center presents **Tom Wopat & Linda Purl: Home for the Holidays** for two matinee performances on December 7-8, 2016. An enchanted holiday evening awaits audiences on December 9, 2016, when **The King’s Singers** return to the Wilson Center for the first time since their sold-out concert in 2012! A beloved holiday tradition, the **Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra: Holiday Pops** will give audiences a chance to sing along with festive holiday favorites on December 11, 2016.

Milwaukee’s own **The Vitrolum Republic** will take audiences on a musical journey like no other with their “gypsy noir” sound on January 27, 2017. Welcoming one of the very finest period instrument ensembles for its first Milwaukee-area performance in more than five years, the Wilson Center is excited to present the **Venice Baroque Orchestra** on February 17, 2017. And it’s Mardi Gras at the Wilson Center on February 22-23, 2017, with the Grammy-nominated **DUKES of Dixieland!** On February 24, 2017, southern songwriter and troubadour **Nate Currin with band** will make his Wilson Center debut.

Performing separate sets and collaborating for the first time on stage, **Rise Up And Sing! Ruthie Foster & The Heritage Blues Orchestra Quintet** will expertly intermingle the richness of the American music experience on March 10, 2017. In a 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration of Dizzy, Dameron, and Monk, the Milwaukee-based **We Six** will perform some of the best-known compositions of these musical geniuses on March 17, 2017. To celebrate the first days of spring, **O Sole Trio: From Pavarotti to Pop** will treat audiences to an afternoon of lush voices and incredible fun on March 22, 2017. Uniting ancient Japanese tradition with 21<sup>st</sup>-century innovation, **Interlocking Rhythms: TAIKOPROJECT + Ryutarō Kaneko** will dazzle audiences with a contemporary blend of taiko, music, storytelling, and choreography on March 25, 2017.

Families and children of all ages will join the Wilson Center for Family Tales by the Fire, as the Florentine Opera Company performs an operatic version of **The Billy Goats Gruff** on April 1, 2017. Legendary sounds, Grammy Award-winning storytelling, and contemporary flair come together for an evening of fresh, new folk music, on April 8, 2017, with **LTD featuring Livingston Taylor & Tom Chapin with EVA**. Back by popular demand, the Wilson Center is excited to once again welcome singer/songwriter **Polly Gibbons** on April 21, 2017.

Audiences will delight in a double-bill of touching and high-energy tributes to the extraordinary Audrey Hepburn and the music of Irving Berlin and George Gershwin with **My Fair Audrey & Cheek to Cheek with Fascinating Rhythms** on May 3, 2017. And it's only fitting that one of the most influential dance companies of the 20th and 21st centuries, **Paul Taylor Dance Company**, will conclude the Wilson Center's 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season on May 12, 2017.

"Since opening our doors in 2002, it has been our mission to serve as the catalyst for lifelong discovery and exploration of the Arts. Each year, more than 45,000 lives are enriched through our programming," said Martin. "Our 15th Anniversary Season is a year-long celebration of the impact that the Wilson Center has had on our Greater Milwaukee community, and I am so excited to celebrate our successes with our long-time supporters, as well as all the first-time audiences who will be joining us next season!"

The Wilson Center's 2016/2017 Season is made possible by the support of Performing Arts Series Sponsors Krause Funeral Homes & Cremation Services, Enterforce, and Godfrey & Kahn S.C.; Matinee Series Sponsor Becker Ritter Funeral Homes & Cremation Services; Club Series Sponsors Jan Wade and Lori Flores Rolfson; Classical Progressions Series Sponsor JoAnne & Don Krause; and Family Tales by the Fire Sponsors Betty & Tom Arndt and Julie & Mark Steinhafel. The Wilson Center is supported in part by our family of donors, with generous grants from the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the United Performing Arts Fund.

*A complete listing of 2016/2017 subscription package options, as well as all performance information is included below. Photos and bios of all artists are available upon request.*

### **2016/2017 SUBSCRIPTION PACKAGES**

#### **Performing Arts Series/Full Series (9 Shows) – 20% savings: \$360-\$522**

Branford Marsalis Quartet with Kurt Elling / Ailey II / Madeleine Peyroux / The King's Singers / Venice Baroque Orchestra / Ruthie Foster and HBO Quintet / Interlocking Rhythms / LTD ft. Livingston Taylor, Tom Chapin with EVA / Paul Taylor Dance Company

#### **Performing Arts Series/Snowbirds (6 Shows) – 15% savings: \$252-\$366**

Branford Marsalis Quartet with Kurt Elling / Ailey II / Madeleine Peyroux / The King's Singers / LTD ft. Livingston Taylor, Tom Chapin with EVA / Paul Taylor Dance Company

#### **Performing Arts Series/Fixed 5 Pack (5 Shows) – 15% savings: \$210-\$305**

Ailey II / Venice Baroque Orchestra / Ruthie Foster and HBO Quintet / Interlocking Rhythms / LTD ft. Livingston Taylor, Tom Chapin with EVA

#### **Matinee Series/Wednesday + Sunday (8 Shows) – 20% savings: \$184-\$218**

Straighten Up & Fly Right / PianoArts Winner / Joan Curto Sings Cole Porter / Tom Wopat & Linda Purl / MSO: Holiday Pops / DUKES of Dixieland / O Sole Trio / My Fair Audrey/Cheek to Cheek

**Matinee Series/Wednesday (6 Shows) – 20% savings: \$123-\$144**

Straighten Up & Fly Right / Joan Curto Sings Cole Porter / Tom Wopat & Linda Purl / DUKES of Dixieland / O Sole Trio / My Fair Audrey/Cheek to Cheek

**Club Series (6 Shows) – 15% savings: \$156**

Robbie Fulks / Peter Martin Trio / The Vitrolum Republic / Nate Currin with band / We Six / Polly Gibbons

**Classical Progressions Series (3 Shows) – 15% savings: \$106-\$151**

PianoArts Winner / The King's Singers / Venice Baroque Orchestra

**5+ Flex – 10% savings for subscribers who select five or more performances.**

Subscribers may select from more than 25 different performances to customize their own package.

**2016/2017 ARTIST LINE-UP**

**Branford Marsalis Quartet with Kurt Elling**

**Friday, September 30, 2016, 8:00 p.m.**

A singular collaboration of musical forces kicks off our 15th Anniversary Season when the Branford Marsalis Quartet is joined by guest vocalist Kurt Elling! The tight-knit working band—featuring Marsalis on saxophones, Joey Calderazzo on piano, Eric Revis on bass, and Justin Faulkner on drums—rarely invites other musicians into the folds of its telepathically cohesive unit, and Elling's deep jazz vocabulary, technical versatility, and outstanding intonation will enable the band to perform a variety of material in new ways. Energized by the artistic promise of this collaboration, the band members have all contributed new tunes to perform with this special line-up and will be looking beyond the Great American Songbook. Although following the format of a standard jazz quartet with vocals, the collaboration between jazz's most intense band and one of jazz's foremost singers should prove to be anything but standard.

**Robbie Fulks**

**Friday, October 7, 2016, 8:00 p.m.**

Robbie plays by nobody's rules—except the ones he hears in his head. He is prodigiously talented, with the soul of a country singer and the mind of a vaudevillian. In his 30+ year career, he has performed alongside Greg Cahill (Special Consensus), fiddler Liz Carroll, jazz violinist Jenny Scheinman, and the legendary Dr. John, and he is regarded as one of the most gifted songwriters to ever ply the trade. Lost in the deserved accolades for being a fabulously unique, clever, and heartfelt writer is the fact that he's also one of the best guitarists around: honky-tonk, country, bluegrass, power pop, or whatever strikes his ample whimsy at the time.

**Straighten Up and Fly Right! A Tribute to Nat King Cole**

**Wednesday, October 12, 2016, 1:00 p.m.**

Travel back to the '40s, '50s, and '60s with such beloved hits as "Route 66," "Ramblin' Rose," "Unforgettable," and many more in this memory-filled tribute to the musical genius of Nat King Cole. Starring the award-winning Maurice Jacox with an outstanding ensemble and vocal duo, Straighten Up

and Fly Right! recreates the full spectrum of Cole's group sound, from jazz trio to big band. In song and narration, this one-of-a-kind performance captures a tumultuous and transformative period in America, as well as the life of an influential musician who helped to shape—and was in turn shaped by—the time.

**Ailey II: The Next Generation of Dance"**

**Friday, October 21, 2016, 8:00 p.m.**

For more than 40 years, Ailey II has merged the spirit and energy of the country's best young dance talent with the passion and creative vision of today's most outstanding emerging choreographers. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Troy Powell, Ailey II embodies Alvin Ailey's pioneering mission to establish an extended cultural community that provides dance performances, training, and community programs for all people. With "off-the-charts energy" (*The New Yorker*), the critically-acclaimed Ailey II has a distinctive repertory that has included works by dance masters Alvin Ailey, Talley Beatty, Donald Byrd, Ulysses Dove, George W. Faison, Lar Lubovitch, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Artistic Director Robert Battle, and Artistic Director Emerita Judith Jamison. The company has also performed innovative works by rising choreographers such as Kyle Abraham, Jennifer Archibald, and Manuel Vignoulle.

**2016 PianoArts Competition Winner**

**Sunday, October 23, 2016, 2:00 p.m.**

Join us for an exclusive performance by the 2016 winner of this celebrated competition that has set the standard for emerging young pianists! PianoArts winners continue to make headlines and perform with world-renowned symphony orchestras. Past PianoArts concerts at the Wilson Center have featured David Yoshiaki Ko, Elizabeth Joy Roe, Sejoon Park, and Carmen Knoll.

**Joan Curto Sings Cole Porter – From Major to Minor**

**Wednesday, November 9, 2016, 1:00 p.m.**

Called "a cabaret icon" (NBC 5 Chicago), Joan Curto returns with a celebration of the extensive catalogue of Cole Porter. From Major to Minor has enjoyed sold-out performances in Chicago and New York, while Curto has been praised as "a seasoned interpreter who makes the most of every note" (*Chicago Tribune* jazz critic Howard Reich). Known for her thoughtful interpretations and powerful vocals, Curto will feature classic tunes—among the cleverest, funniest, and most romantic songs ever written—by the master of sophisticated popular song.

**Peter Martin Trio**

**Friday, November 11, 2016, 8:00 p.m.**

A sublime and seductive evening awaits audiences in this intimate concert experience with the Peter Martin Trio. Playing "with the kind of daring and excitement that marks a distinctive personality on the keyboard" (Washington Post), Peter Martin is an acclaimed jazz pianist, composer, arranger, and educator. He has performed, toured, and recorded with Wynton Marsalis, Chris Botti, Betty Carter, Christian McBride, and Joshua Redman as well as the Berlin Philharmonic, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and the New York Philharmonic. In addition to performing and arranging Dianne Reeves' Grammy-winning release, *A Little Moonlight*, he appeared in George Clooney's 2005 film, *Good Night, and Good Luck*, and was the featured pianist and an arranger on the Grammy-winning soundtrack. In

2014, Martin was selected to tour with “Newport Now 60,” an all-star ensemble that toured nationwide—including a performance at the Wilson Center!—in celebration of the iconic festival’s 60th anniversary. His first trio recording in eight years, *What Lies Ahead*, was released last year.

### **Madeleine Peyroux**

**Saturday, November 12, 2016, 8:00 p.m.**

With a voice that has often been compared to that of Billie Holiday, Madeleine Peyroux’s popularity has made her a big venue star, but as Wilson Center audiences will soon experience, intimate venues are her real home. Peyroux was discovered in her early 20s when Atlantic Records A&R man Yves Beauvais spotted her at a New York club. He recalls the worldly singer’s set to be “some of the most exciting, viscerally moving minutes of my music-listening life.” Her first album, *Dreamland*, gained widespread attention. The disc was recorded over five nights with an eclectic crew of some of New York’s finest—guitarist Marc Ribot, saxman James Carter, pianist Cyrus Chestnut, keyboardist Charlie Giordano, violinist Regina Carter, drummers Kenny Wollesen & Leon Parker, with bassist/arranger Greg Cohen sharing production credit with Beauvais.

### **Tom Wopat & Linda Purl – Home for the Holidays**

**Wednesday, December 7, 2016, 1:00 p.m.**

**Thursday, December 8, 2016, 1:00 p.m.**

Ring in the holidays with an upbeat and jazzy afternoon of Christmas tunes and other standards, featuring Tony Award-nominee Tom Wopat and “Best of New York” (*New York Magazine*) Linda Purl! Originally from Wisconsin, Wopat has a warm, engaging baritone that finds the heart of a song with “hipster-cool, leading man charisma” (Examiner.com). With lyrical phrasing and far-ranging interpretive skills, he is a welcome addition to the contemporary jazz scene. A veteran of stage and screen, Purl enjoyed a recurring role as Helene Beasley on *The Office* and is a three-time nominee of the Los Angeles Drama Critics Award for Best Actress. Praised by *The Los Angeles Times* as “a gifted song stylist,” her solo albums are *Alone Together* and *Out Of This World Live* with special guest artist Desi Arnaz, Jr.

### **The King’s Singers**

**Friday, December 9, 2016, 8:00 p.m.**

An enchanting holiday evening awaits audiences when The King’s Singers return to the Wilson Center for the first time since their sold-out concert in 2012! Acclaimed worldwide for their virtuosity, life-affirming energy, and charm, this British male sextet is synonymous with the very best in vocal ensemble performance. Instantly recognizable for their immaculate intonation, vocal blend, diction, and incisive timing, The King’s Singers are consummate entertainers who have performed around the world for hundreds of thousands of people each season. Double Grammy Award-winning artists, the group was honored in 2009 for their Signum Classics release, *Simple Gifts*, and again in 2012 for their contribution to Eric Whitacre’s *Light and Gold* album on Universal/Decca. Recently voted into the Gramophone Hall of Fame, The King’s Singers remain one of the world’s finest vocal ensembles.

### **Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra Holiday Pops**

**Sunday, December 11, 2016, 2:00 p.m.**

Join in on the yuletide sounds of the most wonderful time of the year with the Milwaukee Symphony

Orchestra: Holiday Pops! This beloved holiday tradition has sold out more than ten years in a row, so don't miss your chance to sing along with festive holiday favorites. Under the dynamic leadership of Music Director Edo de Waart, the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra is among the finest orchestras in the nation. Since its inception in 1959, the MSO has found innovative ways to give music a home in the region, develop music appreciation and talent among area youth, and raise the national reputation of Milwaukee.

### **The Vitrolum Republic**

**Friday, January 27, 8:00 p.m.**

Take a musical journey like no other with the "gypsy noir" sounds of The Vitrolum Republic. Featured in The Milwaukee Record's 25 Best Milwaukee Albums of 2015 and the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel's* Best 10 Albums of the Year, the ensemble's recently released third album, *For the Lovespun Ramblings and Ghosts in our Shoes*, was also a finalist for 88Nine Radio Milwaukee's Independent Release of the Year. Over the past decade on Milwaukee's music scene, The Vitrolum Republic's style has evolved, blending American roots and folk music with elements of blues, rock, singer/songwriter, and classical genres. Passionate throughout their performances of original compositions, they create an orchestra of improvisational sound with loops and effects.

### **Venice Baroque Orchestra**

**Friday, February 17, 2017, 8:00 p.m.**

The Wilson Center is excited to welcome one of the very finest period instrument ensembles for its first Milwaukee-area performance in more than five years. Founded in 1997 by Baroque scholar and harpsichordist Andrea Marcon, the Venice Baroque Orchestra is committed to the rediscovery of 17th- and 18th-century masterpieces. Under Mr. Marcon's leadership, VBO has given the modern-day premieres of Francesco Cavalli's *L'Orione*; Vivaldi's *Atenaide, Andromeda liberate*; Benedetto Marcello's *La morte d'Adone* and *Il trionfo della poesia e della musica*; and Boccherini's *La Clementina*. Highly unusual for a Baroque ensemble, in its 2013-2014 season, VBO premiered a major contemporary work in the U.S., Philip Glass's violin concerto, *The American Four Seasons*—which included a Wilson Center performance! The program for VBO's premiere performance at the Wilson Center will include Corelli's *Concerto Grosso in D Major, Op. VI, No. 4*; Galuppi's *Concerto a Quattro No. 2 in G Major*; Avison's *Concerto Grosso No. 8 in E Minor*; Geminiani's *Concerto Grosso for Strings in D Minor*; and Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*.

### **DUKES of Dixieland**

**Wednesday, February 22, 2017, 1:00 p.m.**

**Thursday, February 23, 2017, 1:00 p.m.**

It's Mardi Gras at the Wilson Center with the Grammy-nominated DUKES of Dixieland! In two matinee performances, audiences will be transported to New Orleans with the music of Dr. John and Fats Domino, Huey Smith and Louis Prima, and many of the group's own tunes. Originally formed in 1948, the DUKES of Dixieland are a New Orleans "Dixieland"-style revival band. While the original DUKES disbanded in the early '70s, producer John Shoup re-formed the band in 1974. They have performed with symphony orchestras around the world—including the Cincinnati, Cleveland, Chicago, National, New York Pops (in Carnegie Hall) orchestras—never straying long before returning to their home base,

the Steamboat Natchez. Their gospel recording, *Gloryland*, was nominated for a Grammy, and in 2011, they recorded with The Oak Ridge Boys on *Country Meets Dixie*.

**Nate Currin with band**

**Friday, February 24, 2017, 8:00 p.m.**

Southern songwriter and troubadour Nate Currin is chasing after the genuine human connection, one fan and one song at a time. Originally from Georgia, Nate has enough of the South in his voice and writing that it shines through, but not without the influence of various experiences and places that only come from living the life of a rambling man. Having traveled to more than 20 countries; performed with notable acts like Blues Traveler, Butch Walker, Jars of Clay, and Neon Trees; and been featured on MTV, Currin retains his enigmatic drive to fly under the radar from time to time. Most recently, he was nominated for a Georgia Music Award for Americana Artist of the Year while finishing up his newest album, *The Madman and The Poet*, available April 2016.

**Rise Up and Sing! Ruthie Foster and Heritage Blues Orchestra Quintet**

**Friday, March 10, 2017, 8:00 p.m.**

From blues to soul, gospel and folk, The Heritage Blues Orchestra Quintet and Ruthie Foster expertly intermingle the richness of the American music experience. Performing separate sets and collaborating for the first time on stage, these celebrated artists promise a concert experience of unforgettable depth and power. HBO's acclaimed 2013 debut, *And Still I Rise*, garnered their first Grammy nomination and a Living Blues Critics Award for best debut. Blues-folk legend Taj Mahal deemed HBO "elegant, fabulous and refreshing," and NPR commented that HBO performs "up to the minute music that draws upon the glorious past of African American genres." Of the supremely talented Ms. Foster, *Rolling Stone* raved "overwhelmingly pure and powerful... Ruthie Foster was magic to watch and hear." Ruthie's list of achievements include three consecutive Grammy nominations including for her current album, *Promise Of A Brand New Day*; Best Female Vocalist wins in 2007, 2008, and 2013 from the Austin Music Awards; the 2010 and 2013 Living Blues Critic's Poll winner for Female Blues Artist of the Year; and recent Blues Music Award wins for Best Contemporary AND Best Traditional Blues Female Artist of the Year.

**We Six**

**Saturday, March 18, 2017, 8:00 p.m.**

We Six presents Dizzy, Dameron, and Monk in a 100th Birthday Celebration! Dizzy Gillespie, Tadd Dameron, and Thelonious Monk were three of the most influential musicians of the Bebop era. To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the births of these musical geniuses, We Six will perform some of their best-known compositions, including "A Night in Tunisia," "If You Could See Me Now," and "Round Midnight." A consistent favorite of festivals and clubs, We Six is now in its fifteenth season of residency at the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music, where the members teach and perform regularly in concert. The group features trumpeter Eric Jacobson, tenor saxophonist Eric Schoor, guitarist Paul Silbergleit, pianist Mark Davis, bassist Jeff Hamann, and drummer Dave Bayles.

**O Sole Trio – From Pavarotti to Pop**

**Wednesday, March 22, 2017, 1:00 p.m.**

"Incredible fun!" and "a true tour de force," O Sole Trio is a vibrant musical ensemble featuring the lush

voices of soprano Erin Shields, and baritone Giuseppe Spoletini, along with the versatile and virtuosic David Shenton on piano and violin. *From Pavarotti to Pop* takes audiences on a musical journey, revealing how Italian Americans influenced the American popular music scene throughout the decades. From humorous storytelling to their innovative and unique arrangements, this trio breathes new life into songs made famous by such legendary singers as Enrico Caruso, Louis Prima, Frank Sinatra, Connie Francis, Frankie Valli, and Andrea Bocelli, combining virtuosic musical feats with an accessible and engaging program of well-known classics to create a show that's "fast-paced, funny and touching, with two stellar voices and commanding accompaniment."

### **Interlocking Rhythms – TAIKOPROJECT + Ryutaro Kaneko**

**Saturday, March 25, 2017, 8:00 p.m.**

The dynamic and powerful TAIKOPROJECT has dazzled audiences for 15 years with its unique contemporary blend of taiko, music, storytelling, and choreography. The first American company to win Tokyo's International Taiko Contest, the company unites ancient Japanese tradition with 21st-century innovation. Blending TAIKOPROJECT's groundbreaking aesthetic and youthful energy with the nuanced virtuosity of Ryutaro Kaneko, the former Artistic Director for the world-famous Kodo drummers, *Interlocking Rhythms* is a musical journey like no other taiko show in the world. Besides the raw, primal power of the taiko—an ancient Japanese drumming style, with origins dating back to the sixth-century AD—the artists present a number of new collaborative works, featuring the koto (Japanese harp/zither), yokobue (Japanese bamboo flutes), chappa (Japanese hand cymbals), marimba, and udu (clay pot drum).

### **The Billy Goats Gruff**

**Saturday, April 1, 2017, 6:00 p.m.**

Calling families and children of all ages for Tales by the Fire! Join us for storytelling by the fireplace in the Kuttemperoor Grand Hall, and stay for treats following the performance. An after-school game of hide-and-seek is ruined for three billy goat friends when a big bully blocks a bridge, preventing them from returning home. As each goat chooses how to deal with the conflict, all three learn how compassion can turn a would-be adversary into a new friend. Based on scenes from the operas of Mozart, Donizetti, and Rossini, this operatic version of *The Billy Goats Gruff* performed by Florentine Opera Company reminds audiences of all ages that kindness is contagious.

### **LTD featuring Livingston Taylor and Tom Chapin with EVA**

**Saturday, April 8, 2017, 8:00 p.m.**

Unbelievably crisp harmonies and humorous banter come together for an evening of fresh, new folk music that's sure to leave audiences spellbound. Featuring a never-before-seen meeting of the musical minds, LTD combines the legendary sound of Livingston Taylor, the Grammy Award-winning storytelling of Tom Chapin, and the contemporary flair of acclaimed all-female group EVA. With 12 albums to his credit, Livingston Taylor—brother of famed singer/songwriter James Taylor—is the recipient of the Boston Music Award for "best folk and acoustic artist." Three-time Grammy Award-winner Tom Chapin has been called "one of the great personalities in contemporary folk music" (*The New York Times*). Featuring breathtaking voices with roots in Australia, Ireland, the UK, and the United States, EVA is comprised of Kath Buckell (vocals, guitar, minor percussion), Liz Simmons (vocals, guitar), and Nicole

Zuraitis (vocals, piano). Together, these women blend their three distinct voices in songs that meld worldly sensibilities with time-honored musical traditions.

### **Polly Gibbons**

**Friday, April 21, 2017, 8:00 p.m.**

Back by popular demand, we are excited to once again welcome Polly Gibbons to our Club Series! Polly Gibbons is one of the most respected and talked about young singer/songwriters of her generation. With warm, rich, soulful vocals and an innate blues sensibility, Gibbons has been likened to many of the jazz and soul greats, bringing to shows her own storytelling and earnest depth along with her unique humor and fun. *My Own Company*, her debut UK jazz album with James Pearson, was released in February 2015, with Gibbons sounding rarer and more beautiful than ever.

### **My Fair Audrey & Cheek to Cheek with Fascinating Rhythms**

**Wednesday, May 3, 2017, 1:00 p.m.**

Delight in a double bill of touching and high-energy tributes to the extraordinary Audrey Hepburn and the music of Irving Berlin and George Gershwin! Featuring acclaimed Chicago cabaret artist Hilary Ann Feldman with award-winning concert artist Beckie Menzie, *My Fair Audrey* is a “tour de force of cabaret, opera, and jazz” (*Chicago Tribune*) that takes audiences on a “lovely” cruise down “Moon River” to share all of Audrey’s treasures. With a unique blend of whimsy and nostalgia, *Cheek to Cheek with Fascinating Rhythms* celebrates the music of two of the most beloved songwriters in American popular music. One of cabaret’s most in-demand duos, Beckie Menzie and Tom Michael will perform such beloved American standards as “I Love a Piano,” “An American in Paris,” “Let Yourself Go,” “Stepping Out with My Baby,” and more.

### **Paul Taylor Dance Company**

**Friday, May 12, 2017, 8:00 p.m.**

“Short course in modern dance: in the beginning there was Martha Graham, who changed the face of an art form and discovered a new world. Then there was Merce Cunningham, who stripped away the externals and showed us the heart of movement. And then there was Paul Taylor, who let the sun shine in.” (*Newsweek*) One of the seminal artists of the 20th and 21st centuries, Paul Taylor continues to shape the homegrown American art of modern dance that he has helped define since becoming a professional dancer and pioneering choreographer in 1954. Described as “America’s most magnificent dancing machine performing America’s most deeply communicative and wildly theatrical modern dance” (*San Francisco Examiner*) and “one of the few indisputably great dance companies in the world” (*New York Post*), Paul Taylor Dance Company is the perfect finale to our 15th Anniversary Season!

### **ABOUT THE SHARON LYNNE WILSON CENTER FOR THE ARTS**

The Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts is one of the finest multi-disciplinary cultural arts centers in the United States, with a mission to be the catalyst for lifelong discovery and exploration of the Arts. As a year-round hub of activity, the Wilson Center presents performances by world-renowned artists and ensembles; offers arts education opportunities; curates the Ploch Art Gallery, which features both national and Wisconsin-based fine artists; and is committed to extending the arts beyond the walls of the Center through Lynn Chappy ArtsPark—a vibrant, outdoor sculpture landscape that will engage and

inspire the broader Southeastern Wisconsin Community. In August, the annual Wilson Center Guitar Competition & Festival celebrates the world's leading classical, rock/blues, jazz, and fingerstyle guitarists. The Center nurtures lifelong learning through innovative programs and classes for all interests, ages, and abilities in state-of-the-art studios and classrooms. Some of Southeast Wisconsin's finest arts organizations offer professional instruction at the Wilson Center, including First Stage Theater Academy, Trinity Irish Dancers, and the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music. From performances and recitals to meetings and special events, our beautiful spaces are available for rental to individuals, schools, organizations, and corporations throughout the community. To learn more, visit [www.wilson-center.com](http://www.wilson-center.com).

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