(FAIRFAX)—George Mason University’s Center for the Arts gears up for an exciting January and February 2019, featuring dance, theater, jazz, opera, circus performance and music from around the world through presentations from the Great Performances at Mason series and the Family Series, as well as additional Mason student and faculty appearances and events.

The new year kicks off in the Concert Hall Friday, January 25 with a full weekend of programming beginning with MOMIX. The visually inventive dance company returns to Mason with Opus Cactus, an evening of spellbinding movement and illusion inspired by the American Southwest landscape. The following day, audiences travel back to the era of big bands and dancehalls with Clarinetist Eddie Daniels and the Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra in Benny and Beyond. The weekend wraps up with a treat for the entire family with Enchantment Theatre Company’s stage adaptation of The Phantom Tollbooth January 27.

February bursts with performances of every genre, beginning with the YouTube famous group Trey McLaughlin & the Sounds of Zamar and their contemporary take on gospel, pop, and musical theater hits February 8. The entire Concert Hall heats up February 9 with the sizzling music and dance of Havana Cuba All-Stars, complete with a lively Cuban dance party in the lobby following the performance. Virginia Opera continues their 2018/19 season with Gaetano Donizetti’s
infectedly charming bel canto opera, *The Elixir of Love*, for two performances on February 16 and 17. **Cirque Mechanics** presents a new kind of circus production that tells the story of an iconic 42-foot circus ring with talented acrobats and aerialists on February 22. The **Czech National Symphony Orchestra** celebrates the 100th birthday of America’s national treasure, Leonard Bernstein February 23 with highlights from Bernstein’s *Mass, Candide, A Quiet Place, West Side Story*, and more. The month’s offerings conclude with the season’s third **Keyboard Conversation® with Jeffrey Siegel**, showcasing excerpts from Mendelssohn’s beloved *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* and Debussy’s enchanting *Evening in Grenade* in *The Exotic Music of the Night*.

A full schedule of performances for January and February 2019 is below. Unless otherwise noted, performances will take place in the Center for the Arts’ Concert Hall located at 4373 Mason Pond Drive in Fairfax, Virginia. Tickets are available for purchase in person at the Center for the Arts’ Ticket Office (open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.), by calling 703-993-2787, or through the Center for the Arts’ website at cfa.gmu.edu. **To request performance press passes**, please email kfranko@gmu.edu or call 703-993-8794.

**Great Performances at Mason** brings some of the finest artists from around the country and the world to the Center for the Arts in Northern Virginia.

**MOMIX**

*Opus Cactus*

Friday, January 25 at 8 p.m.

$50, $43, $30

Marvel at the magnificence of the American Southwest landscape, abounding with towering cacti and slithering lizards, brought to life by the wildly inventive minds and bodies of MOMIX. Surreal, wondrous, and enormously imaginative, *Opus Cactus* is a full evening-length work that seamlessly melds dance and illusion along with spellbinding music and elaborate costumes for an entertaining experience the whole family will enjoy. Under the exacting eye of its founder and artistic director Moses Pendleton, MOMIX has earned an international reputation for its inventive, carefully crafted, and physically beautiful productions. “Inspired by the flora, fauna, and simple magic of the American Southwest, Pendleton’s ingenuity, theatricality and cunning imagination are seen at full stretch...” (Clive Barnes, *New York Post*).

**Cocktails & Conversations:** Join MOMIX company members in the lobby after the performance for a Q&A over cocktails.
Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra  
*Benny and Beyond with Eddie Daniels, Clarinet*

Saturday, January 26 at 8 p.m.  
$46, $39, $28. Family-Friendly

Travel back to the era of big bands and dancehalls when Benny Goodman was “The King of Swing” with “Renaissance” clarinetist Eddie Daniels and Northern Virginia’s treasured favorite, the Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra. *Benny and Beyond* pays homage to the legendary band leader and clarinetist-composer who during the 1930s and 1940s had numerous hit singles, including “Let’s Dance,” “Don’t Be That Way,” “Somebody Stole My Gal,” and many, many more. For over 50 years, Eddie Daniels has thrilled audiences and critics alike, with accolades for his masterful playing in classical and jazz idioms. Artistic Director and alto sax virtuoso Jim Carroll—whose long and illustrious career has included performances with the likes of Michael Jackson, Nancy Wilson, Maynard Ferguson, Billy Taylor, Woody Herman and His Thundering Herd, and the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra—leads this swinging evening. Join us for the coolest concert of the season.

A pre-performance discussion with a member of the company begins 45 minutes prior to the performance.

Trey McLaughlin & The Sounds of Zamar  
Friday, February 8 at 8 p.m.  
$44, $37, $26. Family-Friendly

Hear for yourself why rising Gospel stars Trey McLaughlin & The Sounds of Zamar have millions of YouTube views. This concert is sure to inspire with Trey McLaughlin at the piano leading this group of superbly talented Gospel singers in fresh adaptations of contemporary gospel, pop, and musical theater hits. Internationally recognized for their rich harmonies, emotion-filled vocals, and complex arrangements of classic gospel hymns, the group has performed with many of today’s Gospel greats, such as William McDowell, Kierra “Kiki” Sheard, Richard Smallwood, Earnest Pugh, and James Fortune. They gained fame after being featured on Vashawn Mitchell’s “Chasing After You,” from his Grammy® nominated album “Triumphant.” Savor the inspiring sounds of Georgia’s hottest new Gospel ensemble on their first ever North American tour.

A pre-performance discussion with a member of the company begins 45 minutes prior to the performance.

Havana Cuba All-Stars  
*Asere! A Fiesta Cubana*  
Saturday, February 9 at 8 p.m.  
$50, $43, $30. Family-Friendly

Back by popular demand, the amazing dancers and musicians of the Havana Cuba All-Stars return with a jubilant spectacle of sizzling rhythms, joyous trumpets, and authentic Cuban dancing. You will be transported to the island’s cigar-infused Latin jazz clubs and festive white-sand beaches. *Asere! A Fiesta Cubana* showcases Cuba’s rich culture and exceptionally diverse rhythms and melodies—from cha cha cha to rumba, from “Son Cubano” style to salsa. “Throughout the performance, toes were tapping, hands were clapping and hardly an audience member could find
the discipline to sit still ...” (Times Enterprise).
A pre-performance discussion with a member of the company begins 45 minutes prior to the
performance. Audiences are invited to stay after the performance for a lively Cuban dance party in
the lobby.

**Virginia Opera**

**The Elixir of Love**
Saturday, February 16 at 8 p.m.
Sunday, February 17 at 2 p.m.
$110, $90, $54

Gaetano Donizetti’s infectiously charming bel canto opera sparkles with effervescent melodies,
comedic misunderstandings, and endearing characters who are seeking an elixir for one of life’s
greatest ills: love! The shy peasant Nemorino secretly yearns for the feisty socialite Adina, but she
has her eyes set on a dashing ladies’ man, Sergeant Belcore. Upon hearing the story of Tristan and
Isolde, Nemorino decides a love potion is his only hope, and he uses all of his savings to procure a
potion from a traveling medicine man of questionable character. Nemorino is convinced it will make
Adina fall head over heels in love and proceeds with his plan. But can love really be bottled in a
magic potion? Find out in this delightful opera, featuring one of the most celebrated tenor arias of
all time, “Una furtva lagrima.” Sung in Italian with English subtitles.
A pre-performance discussion featuring “Dr. Opera,” Glenn Winters begins 45 minutes prior to the
performance.

**Cirque Mechanics**

**42FT-A Menagerie of Mechanical Marvels**
Friday, February 22 at 8 p.m.
$48, $41, $29. Family-Friendly

Experience the latest invention from the creative minds of Cirque Mechanics with their signature
blend of acrobatics, mechanical marvels, and a good bit of clowning around. This new production
tells the story of an iconic 42-foot circus ring with talented acrobats and aerialists performing
astonishing feats of strength and agility, presenting their mechanical interpretation of traditional
circus entertainment. Thrill at the timeless wonder of circus artistry combined with impressive
mechanical ingenuity, like a galloping metal horse and a spectacular rotating tent frame. This
premiere American circus, which was founded in 2004, finds its roots in all things mechanical and
shares the stories of American inventiveness. “The greatest contribution to the American circus
since Cirque du Soleil” (Spectacle Magazine). Bring the whole family to this whimsical and witty
circus performance!
A pre-performance discussion with a member of the company begins 45 minutes prior to the
performance.

**Czech National Symphony Orchestra**

**100 Years of Leonard Bernstein**
Saturday, February 23 at 8 p.m.
$60, $51, $36
John Mauceri, Conductor
Isabel Leonard, Mezzo-soprano

Celebrate the 100th birthday of American’s national treasure, Leonard Bernstein, with a musical fête of his works when the internationally renowned Czech National Symphony Orchestra (CNSO) returns to the Center for the Arts. Under the direction of accomplished American conductor, John Mauceri — who was a mentee and conducting fellow under Bernstein — the orchestra performs highlights from Bernstein’s Mass, Candide, A Quiet Place, West Side Story and more. CSNO is among Europe’s top symphonic ensembles and is renowned for its versatility. The orchestra brings its music to audiences around the world on tour and through its recordings with programs ranging from classical to contemporary genres, film scores, jazz and musicals. Mezzo-soprano Isabel Leonard, critically acclaimed for her performances of Bernstein repertoire, joins the orchestra. “A substantive, rich, and revealing concert…” (New York Times).

A pre-performance discussion with a member of the company begins 45 minutes prior to the performance.

**Keyboard Conversations® with Jeffrey Siegel**

*The Exotic Music of the Night*

Sunday, February 24 at 7 p.m.
$44, $37, $26. Family-Friendly

Piano virtuoso Jeffrey Siegel explores the mystic and the macabre! This concert features excerpts from Mendelssohn’s beloved A Midsummer Night’s Dream, including the celebratory Wedding March. On this program, Siegel will also play the devilish Danse Macabre by Saint-Saëns, Debussy’s enchanting Evening in Grenade, a glorious Nocturne by Chopin, and more. With his signature “concerts with commentary” format, Siegel makes novices feel welcome while enlightening even the most seasoned classical music lover. “…a pianist with a bravura technique and a big, gorgeous sound…and when the artist himself offers the inside scoop, the musical experience becomes vastly more personal” (The Denver Post). A Question & Answer session with the audience concludes the program.

**Family Series** presents performances designed to introduce young audiences to the arts through lively and engaging programs in song, dance, and story.

**Enchantment Theatre Company**

*The Phantom Tollbooth*

Sunday, January 27 at 2 p.m.
$15 for Adults/$10 Children.
Family-Friendly. Recommended for ages 6-11; Grades 1-6

The beloved and inventive childhood classic book, The Phantom Tollbooth, is brought to life in an original stage adaption. Norton Juster’s original story begins with Milo, who is very bored until a tollbooth mysteriously appears in his room. He decides to drive his toy car through it, and everything changes! Once on the other side, Milo is thrilled to find a fantastical world where he is welcomed, and his help is desperately needed. Using puppets, masks, magic, inventive scenic effects, and original music, Enchantment Theatre Company recreates Milo’s adventures as he travels the Lands Beyond in his exciting quest to rescue Princesses Rhyme and Reason. “A masterful
fusion of engaging storytelling with the performing and visual arts, which appeals to all of the senses, stimulates intuitive thinking and captivates adults and children alike,” (DC Metro Theater Arts).

Mason Student and Faculty Performances

Theater

The Mason Cabaret presents

The Golden Age of Broadway

Directed by James Gardiner & Erin Gardiner
Musical Accompaniment by Joe Walsh
Friday, February 1 at 8 p.m.
Saturday, February 2 at 8 p.m.
Harris Theatre
$30 Adult, $15 students, staff, seniors and groups

A perennial favorite, our Musical Theater ambassadors, the Mason Cabaret, return with a fresh line-up of stellar vocalists, offering showstoppers, ballads and duets from the Great White Way. This “Fun-raiser” will have you dancing in your seats and humming all the way home. Proceeds benefit the Musical Theater at Mason program.

Creative Careers Industry Week: Arts in the Real World Internship and Career Fair

Tuesday, February 12 at 4 p.m.
Concert Hall Main Lobby
Free for all Mason students and alumni

More than 25 arts, entertainment, and media employers in D.C., Maryland, and Virginia will be on-site to recruit Mason student and alumni for internships and paid positions. Companies include Wolf Trap, Smithsonian, Busch Gardens, and many more. Come with your resume or portfolio.

Music

Mason Wind Symphony & Symphonic Band Concert
Presented by the Mason School of Music
Tuesday, February 26 at 8 p.m.
Concert Hall
$12 adults, $8 seniors, $5 youth through grade 12

The Mason University Wind Symphony, led by composer-conductor Mark Camphouse is a select ensemble comprised of outstanding wind, brass, and percussion players in the School of Music and the University. The ensemble’s mission is to study and perform the best literature available for wind band, while emphasizing soloistic and orchestral performance practice. The Wind Symphony ranks among the finest collegiate wind bands in the Commonwealth and performs the best of new band literature. Programs include world premieres of student and faculty compositions, student and faculty soloists, and more traditional repertoire. The Mason Symphonic Band under the vibrant musical leadership of Profs. John Kilkenny and Denny Stokes, provides music majors and
increasingly growing numbers of non-music majors an opportunity to study and perform a wide variety of traditional and contemporary wind band literature.

Theater

Really, Really
By Paul Downs Colaizzo
Directed By: Miranda Newman
Thursday, February 28 at 8 p.m.
Friday, March 1 at 8 p.m.
Saturday, March 2 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Sunday, March 3 at 2 p.m.
TheaterSpace
$20 Adult, $10 students, staff, seniors and groups

When morning-after gossip about privileged Davis and ambitious Leigh turns ugly, self-interest collides with the truth, and the resulting storm of ambiguity makes it hard to discern just who’s a victim, who’s a predator, and who’s a Future Leader of America.

About the Center for the Arts

The Center for the Arts is the premier destination for the arts in Northern Virginia. Each year, the Center welcomes hundreds of thousands of community members into its 2000-seat Concert Hall. The centerpiece of artistic programming within the Center, Great Performances at Mason, is an annual season of national and international artists, featuring the best of classical music, opera, jazz, global music, dance, theater, and more. As a part of George Mason University’s College of Visual and Performing Arts, the Center hosts many student and faculty performances presented by the Schools of Music, Theater, and Dance as well as events for School of Art and the Film and Video Studies, Computer Game Design, and Arts Management programs. Understanding that an education in the arts is deepened by regular contact with the work of distinguished visiting artists, the Center for the Arts serves arts enthusiasts of all ages in the greater Washington, D.C. area.

About George Mason University

George Mason University is Virginia’s largest public research university. Located near Washington, D.C., Mason enrolls 37,000 students from 130 countries and all 50 states. Mason has grown rapidly over the past half-century and is recognized for its innovation and entrepreneurship, remarkable diversity and commitment to accessibility.

For more information, please visit:

George Mason University’s Center for the Arts

PRESS CONTACTS

Kirstin Franko
Assistant Director of Marketing & Communications
703-993-8794 | kfranko@gmu.edu