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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FERST CENTER FOR THE ARTS ANNOUNCES 2007-08 SEASON

TEN ATLANTA PREMIERES SET FOR GEORGIA TECH VENUE

Atlanta – May 31, 2007 – The **Ferst Center for the Arts** today announced its **2007-2008 performance season**, with the Georgia Tech venue set to host 10 Atlanta premieres and more than 25 audience favorites from around the globe.

The roster of events for the venue's 16th season features dance, theater and comedy, and spans the musical spectrum from big band and classical to jazz and bluegrass, including 12 GRAMMY winners. Season highlights include the comedienne **Paula Poundstone**, the pairing of the **McCoy Tyner Trio** and legendary choreographer and tap dancer **Savion Glover**, four-time Tony award winner and vocalist **Audra McDonald** and **an evening with Ricky Skaggs and Bruce Hornsby** featuring songs from their new CD and some of their greatest hits.

Special 2007-08 **five-show ticket packages** – at a 20 percent discount off individual tickets – are now on sale and may be ordered from the Ferst Center Box Office at 404-894-9600. Individual tickets for the new season will go on sale in August, with prices ranging from \$15 to \$55. Details for all shows are available at www.FerstCenter.org.

The event series are:

Music: The Atlanta premiere of British group, **The Puppini Sisters**, on August 31, **Global Drum Project** led by Grateful Dead drummer Mickey Hart on Oct. 5, internationally acclaimed composer **Keiko Matsui** on Oct. 6, the Atlanta premiere of the **Bavarian Philharmonic** on Oct. 20, retro swing band **Big Bad Voodoo Daddy** on Oct. 25, bluegrass trio **Sam Bush, Jerry Douglas and Edgar Meyer** on Oct. 26, the Grammy Award-winning **Pat Metheny Trio with Christian McBride and Antonio Sanchez** on Nov. 3, the Atlanta premiere of **3 Mo' Divas** on Nov. 9, Grammy-Award winning **Turtle Island String Quartet with Leo Kottke** on Dec. 1, the holiday favorite **A Peter White Christmas** on Dec. 7, **State Symphony Orchestra of Mexico** on Jan. 25, **Irvin Mayfield and the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra** on Jan. 27, the Atlanta premiere of the **African Children's Choir** on Feb. 2, the **McCoy Tyner Trio with Savion Glover** on Feb. 15, the Atlanta premiere of Chinese pianist **Yundi Li** on March 14, saxophonist **Mindi Abair** on March 15, **An Evening with Ricky**

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Skaggs and Bruce Hornsby on March 29, four-time Tony Award-winner **Audra McDonald** on March 30 and the Atlanta premiere of **Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado* by the Carl Rosa Opera Company** on April 5.

Dance: Contemporary dance troupe **Pilobolus** returns on Oct. 19, **Bellydance Superstars** on Oct. 28, the Atlanta premiere of **Ballet Folklorico de Mexico de Amalia Hernández** on Nov. 2, the Atlanta premiere of the alluring **Tania Pérez-Salas Compañía de Danza** on Jan. 22, and the **Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company** on Feb. 23.

Comedy: 2006 winner of NBC's "Last Comic Standing" **Josh Blue** kicks off the season on Aug. 24, Vietnamese comedian **Dat Phan** on Oct. 12, and stand-up comic **Paula Poundstone** on March 28.

Variety: **The Flying Karamazov Brothers** on Jan. 19, **Peter Schickele and P.D.Q Bach** in "**What's Your Sign?**" on Friday, February 1, and the Atlanta premiere of **Cirque-Work's *Birdhouse Factory*** on Feb. 16.

"I am pleased to present the 2007-2008 season," said Director **Jay Constantz**. "I am encouraged and excited that the audience has connected with the performances over my five seasons here and that we have been able to grow the programming by understanding what our audiences are interested in seeing."

Located in the heart of the Georgia Tech campus at 349 Ferst Drive NW, the Ferst Center (www.ferstcenter.org) adds to Atlanta's arts landscape by offering a showcase of some of the most highly acclaimed talent from around the world.

The 2007-08 Season Performances** (listed chronologically) include:

**All programs subject to change.

For media inquiries or photography, contact Rachel Rosenberg at 404.262.3000 or rachel.rosenberg@edelman.com.

Josh Blue

Friday, August 24 at 8 p.m.

\$30, \$20

Fast-rising star Josh Blue gained the attention and endearment of the nation when he won NBC's "Last Comic Standing" in 2006. A diverse and triumphant individual – hilarious stand-up comedian, stand-out TV guest star, and stellar U.S. Paralympic soccer player – Josh refuses to bow to the challenges that come from living with cerebral palsy. Official Web site: www.joshblue.com

The Puppini Sisters

Friday, August 31 at 8 p.m.

\$25, \$15

Fresh from London, this vocal trio specializing in 1940s's style close harmony is turning heads with their take on classic Andrews Sisters-inspired songs like "Mr. Sandman," "In The Mood," and "Jeepers Creepers." But the fabulous Puppini Sisters truly stand out with show-stopping interpretations of more current tunes such as Blondie's "Heart of Glass" and Kate Bush's "Wuthering Heights." Official Web site: www.thepuppinisisters.com

Atlanta Premiere

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Global Drum Project

Featuring Mickey Hart, Zakir Hussain, Sikiru Adepojo and Giovanni Hidalgo

Friday, October 5 at 8 p.m.

\$42, \$32, Special Children's Price \$20

Grateful Dead percussion heavyweight Mickey Hart reunites with his longtime friend and collaborator, tabla master Zakir Hussain – along with talking drum ace Sikiru Adepoju and the formidable conguero Giovanni Hidalgo – to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the groundbreaking GRAMMY-winning album "Planet Drum." Official Web site: www.imnworld.com/mickeyhart

Keiko Matsui

Saturday, October 6 at 8 p.m.

\$44, \$34

The internationally acclaimed composer, keyboardist and contemporary jazz artist returns to the Ferst Center. Her infectious melodies and dramatic performances are tremendously appealing to a global audience, as her deep and passionate music combines Asian and Western classical music with modern jazz. Official Web site: www.keikomatsui.com

Dat Phan

Friday, October 12 28 at 8 p.m.

\$30, \$20

Dat Phan exploded on the comedy scene after winning NBC's "Last Comic Standing" in 2003. Springing from humble beginnings in Vietnam to become one of the most sought-after young comics today, he draws on his unique life experiences as he performs for audiences across the nation. Official Web site: www.datphan.com

Pilobolus

Friday, October 19 at 8 p.m.

\$46, \$36

With a mix of acrobatic dexterity, inventive wit and startling imagery, this contemporary dance company transforms itself into striking sculptural expressions. Audiences experience movement in its most glorious form as Pilobolus returns with innovative works featuring daring surprises, humor and contortionist invention. Official Web site: www.pilobolus.com

Bavarian Philharmonic with soloist Orion Weiss

Atlanta Premiere

Enoch zu Guttenberg, conductor

Saturday, October 20 at 8 p.m.

\$40, \$30, Special Children's Price \$20

Founded in 1997 by violinists Andreas Reiner and Josef Kröner, this elite orchestra consists of a core group of musicians from leading orchestras and opera houses including the Berlin and Munich Philharmonics and the Munich, Stuttgart, Hamburg and Hanover State Operas. The evening features rising young pianist Orion Weiss. Official Web site: www.imgartists.com

Big Bad Voodoo Daddy

Thursday, October 25 at 8 p.m.

\$45, \$35

The sizzling sounds of the retro swingers are back! The high-octane, rowdy big band delights audiences with its contemporary and contagious blend of old-school jive mixed with influences from blues, rock and New Orleans jazz. Official Web site: www.bbvd.com

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Sam Bush, Jerry Douglas, and Edgar Meyer

Friday, October 26 at 8 p.m.

\$45, \$35, Special Children's Price \$20

Mandolin/fiddle champion Sam Bush, dobro master Jerry Douglas and double bass virtuoso Edgar Meyer join forces in a new project featuring traditional bluegrass tunes, genre-crossing original works, and some of their best-known pieces. Official Web sites: www.sambush.com, www.jerrydouglas.com and www.edgarmeyer.com

Bellydance Superstars

Sunday, October 28 at 5 p.m.

\$36, \$26, Special Children's Price \$20

Taking an ancient art form into the mainstream, this professional dance company is the world's premiere bellydance troupe. Performing a cross-section of tribal, Egyptian and cabaret styles, the Bellydance Superstars transport the audience to a distant time and place in this intoxicating spectacle of dance. Official Web site: www.bellydancesuperstars.com

Ballet Folklorico de Mexico de Amalia Hernández

Atlanta Premiere

Friday, November 2 at 8 p.m.

\$42, \$32, Special Children's Price \$20

Amalia Hernández, Mexico's great cultural ambassador, brings Mexico's finest and most celebrated dance company to the Ferst Center. Preserving the country's colorful dance traditions for generations to come, the company of 75 musicians and dancers will perform a traditional Mexican seasonal celebration. Official Web site: www.balletamalia.com/eng.html

Pat Metheny Trio with Christian McBride and Antonio Sanchez

Saturday, November 3 at 8 p.m.

\$48, \$38

Winner of 18 GRAMMY Awards, guitarist Pat Metheny has participated in just about all avenues of modern music making, obliterating stylistic boundaries at every opportunity. Metheny's constant redefining of jazz music continues with his trio featuring Christian McBride and Antonio Sanchez. Official Web site: www.patmetheny.com

3 Mo' Divas

Atlanta Premiere

Friday, November 9 at 8 p.m.

\$42, \$32

Whether you're a fan of Bach or Beyonce, this mesmerizing theatrically staged concert is for you. Spanning 400 years and eight genres of music, 3 Mo' Divas – created, directed and choreographed by 3 Mo' Tenors creator Marion J. Caffey – is an unparalleled musical celebration of the versatility of the female voice. Official Web site: www.3modivas.com

Turtle Island String Quartet with Leo Kottke

Saturday, December 1 at 8 p.m.

\$45, \$35, Special Children's Price \$20

The GRAMMY Award-winning Turtle Island String Quartet joins forces with iconic acoustic guitarist Leo Kottke in a joyous voyage through world holiday music. From the songs of Chanukah to Old English carols and the music of India's Dewali, the concert explores the timeless music enjoyed as part of winter holiday celebrations for centuries. Official Web site: www.tisq.com

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A Peter White Christmas

Friday, December 7 at 8 p.m.

\$46, \$36

Guitarist Peter White leads a merry evening of smooth holiday jazz with Rick Braun on trumpet and Mindi Abair on saxophone. Great chemistry, holiday songs and top hits from the artists make this a holiday favorite year after year at the Ferst. Official Web sites: www.peterwhite.com, www.rickbraun.com and www.mindiabair.com

The Flying Karamazov Brothers

Saturday, January 19 at 8 p.m.

\$36, \$26, Special Children's Price \$20

Humor, wit and impeccable timing are the hallmarks of The Flying Karamazovs, making them a Ferst favorite for years. The Brothers return with a fun new show, "Fourplay," filled with good juggling, bad jokes, music and a touch of philosophy. Great for all ages! Official Web sites: www.fkb.com

Tania Pérez-Salas Compañía de Danza

Atlanta Premiere

Tuesday, January 22 at 8 p.m.

\$42, \$32

Known widely in Mexico and Europe for extravagant, sensual theatrics and visually arresting movement and ideas, the alluring Tania Pérez-Salas Compañía de Danza is unparalleled in the world of Mexican contemporary dance. The works in the mixed repertory program stem from real-life experiences and are nourished by a love of literature, movies, visual arts, and philosophy. Funding for this program is provided in part by the Southern Arts Federation. Official Web site: www.taniaperezsalas.com

State Symphony Orchestra of Mexico

Atlanta Premiere

Enrique Batiz, conductor

Friday, January 25 at 8 p.m.

\$45, \$35, Special Children's Price \$20

For more than 30 years, the State Symphony Orchestra of Mexico has performed a broad range of musical literature, including the works of Verdi and Rossini, Mexican and Spanish music, and the symphonies of Beethoven, Schumann, Brahms and Tchaikovsky. Conducted by Enrique Bátiz, the program includes works by Leonard Bernstein, Rachmaninoff and Jean Sibelius.

Official Web site: www.cami.com

Peter Schickele and P.D.Q. Bach in "What's Your Sign?"

Friday, February 1 at 8 p.m.

\$36, \$26, Special Children's Price \$20

Composer, musician, author, satirist – Peter Schickele is internationally recognized as one of the most versatile artists in the field of music. In his well-known role as P.D.Q. Bach, he will lead the audience through "The Twelve Quite Heavenly Songs," a dangerously ambitious song cycle based on the signs of the Zodiac, a piece for Plumber and Piano, among other musical lapses from the world's most justly neglected composer. Official Web site: www.schickele.com

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Irvin Mayfield and the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra

Sunday, January 27 at 5 p.m.

\$44, \$34

GRAMMY-nominated trumpeter Irvin Mayfield leads this rousing big band that serves up sizzling New Orleans jazz, blues, swing and spirituals. Showcasing music by jazz legends Jelly Roll Morton, Professor Longhair, Louis Armstrong and Sidney Bechet, the program is a lively exploration of jazz from its riotous beginnings to its present-day popularity. Official Web site: www.thenojo.com

African Children's Choir

Atlanta Premiere

Saturday, February 2 at 8 p.m.

\$25, \$15, Special Children's Price \$20

Through their voice and their music, these children are taking Africa to the rest of the world. Each year a new choir is selected from children who are not only musical, but come from some of Africa's most desperate villages. Recently seen performing on the "American Idol" finale, they are the promise and future of Africa. Official Web site: www.africanchildrenschoir.com

The McCoy Tyner Trio with Savion Glover

Friday, February 15 at 8 p.m.

\$50, \$40

An unprecedented union of jazz and tap finds legendary jazz pianist McCoy Tyner and his trio joined by Tony Award-winning choreographer and Atlanta tap favorite Savion Glover. Expect sparks to fly when Glover's feet meet Tyner's blues-based percussive keyboard style. Official Web sites: www.saviongloverproductions.com and www.mccoytyner.com

Cirque-Work's *Birdhouse Factory*

Atlanta Premiere

Saturday, February 16 at 8 p.m.

\$42, \$32, Special Children's Price \$20

A factory may be an unlikely setting for a circus, but this *Birdhouse Factory* is a magical place where workers are acrobats, machines power high-flying trapeze stunts, and trampoline-launched workers defy the laws of physics. The whole family will be giggling at the antics and enchanted by the story of laughter, love, flight, and of course, the making of birdhouses. Official Web site: www.birdhousefactoryshow.com

Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company

Saturday, February 23 at 8 p.m.

\$42, \$32

One of the most innovative forces in modern dance, in "Chapel/Chapter" the company poses questions about personal morality in the throes of public opinion, retelling three stories – two high visibility news items and one reminiscence/confession – to a score by Daniel Bernard Roumain. Funding for this program is provided in part by the Southern Arts Federation, the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Dance Project of the New England Foundation for the Arts, with lead funding from Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. Additional funding provided by The Ford Foundation, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, JP Morgan Chase Foundation and MetLife Foundation. Official Web site: www.billtjones.org

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Yundi Li

Atlanta Premiere

Friday, March 14 at 8 p.m.

\$40, \$30, Special Children's Price \$20

One of the youngest contestants ever to claim top honors at the International Chopin Piano Competition, this 24-year-old Chinese pianist is a global sensation noted for his exquisite phrasing and sparkling technique. Yundi Li's all-Chopin and all-Liszt recital discs have received worldwide acclaim. Official Web site: yundili.homestead.com

Mindi Abair

Saturday, March 15 at 8 p.m.

\$36, \$26

Saxophonist and vocalist Mindi Abair continues to define the less traditional future of jazz. Named Best New Artist in 2003 at the National Smooth Jazz Awards, her supercharged mix of pop, soul and jazz – with its stellar melodies, insinuating rhythms, sultry sax and seductive vocals – has catapulted her into the realm of the extraordinary. Official Web site: www.mindiabair.com

Paula Poundstone

Friday, March 28 at 8 p.m.

\$37, \$27

Stand-up comic Paula Poundstone is delighting crowds around the country on her hilarious national tour. There's a wonderful synergy to each one-of-a-kind show. Paula's ability to create humor on the spot is legendary and with her casual air, impeccable timing and razor-sharp wit, she improvises with a crowd like a jazz musician. Official Web site: www.paulapoundstone.com

An Evening with Ricky Skaggs and Bruce Hornsby

Saturday, March 29 at 8 p.m.

\$55, \$45

Virginia cool meets Kentucky thunder as three-time GRAMMY Award-winning pianist Bruce Hornsby and multi-instrumental virtuoso and twelve-time GRAMMY Award-winner Ricky Skaggs draw from their deep roots in mountain music for a surprising and unforgettable concert. These two icons bring masterful renditions of new music and greatest hits like "The Way It Is," "End of the Innocence," "Mandolin Rain" and new hit "The Dreaded Spoon." Official Web sites: www.brucehornsby.com and www.skaggsfamilyrecords.com

Audra McDonald

Sunday, March 30 at 5 p.m.

\$50, \$40

Earning three Tony Awards before the age of 30 for *Carousel*, *Master Class*, and *Ragtime*, a fourth in 2004 for *A Raisin in the Sun* and a 2007 nomination for *110 in the Shade*, Audra McDonald is frequently compared to legendary performers Judy Garland and Barbra Streisand. She is a unique force, blending a luscious, classically-trained soprano with an incomparable gift for dramatic truth-telling. Official Web site: www.imgartists.com

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Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado* by the Carl Rosa Opera Company

Atlanta Premiere

Saturday, April 5 at 8 p.m.

\$45, \$35, Special Children's Price \$20

In this sparkling and lavish comedy classic, Britain's oldest opera company presents a recreation of the original 1885 operetta, using Gilbert's own prompt book for the direction, staging, and choreography. The company features 70 artists, including an orchestra, for this project which took four years to complete. Official Web site: www.carlrosaopera.co.uk

About the Ferst Center for the Arts

The Ferst Center for the Arts is a part of the Georgia Institute of Technology and is located in the heart of the Georgia Tech campus. Named after Georgia Tech alumnus Robert Ferst, the mission of the Ferst Center is to enhance the education of Tech students and to serve as a bridge to the greater Atlanta community by offering a showcase of some of the most highly-acclaimed talent from around the world. Funding is provided in part by contributions from individuals, foundations, corporations, the Georgia Council for the Arts through appropriations of the Georgia General Assembly, and the Fulton County Board of Commissioners under the guidance of the Fulton County Arts Council. Major corporate support is provided by the Coca-Cola Company and the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. For ticket information call 404-894-9600 or visit www.ferstcenter.org.

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