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FERST CENTER FOR THE ARTS ANNOUNCES 2006-07 SEASON

SEVEN ATLANTA PREMIERES SET FOR GEORGIA TECH VENUE

Atlanta – May 18, 2006 – The **Ferst Center for the Arts** today announced its **2006-07 performance season**, with the Georgia Tech venue set to host seven Atlanta premieres and more than 25 audience favorites from around the globe.

The roster of events for the venue's 15th season features dance, theatre and comedy, and spans the musical spectrum from jazz, classical and gospel to Celtic, folk and bluegrass music. Season highlights include the Atlanta premiere of comedienne **Kathy Griffin**, the pairing of musical greats **Bela Fleck** and **Chick Corea**, **Parsons Dance Company**, Broadway vocalist **Jennifer Holliday**, classical pianists **The 5 Browns**, and New York's hot new rock opera band, **East Village Opera Company**.

Special 2006-07 **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 \$12 to \$50. Details for all shows are available at www.FerstCenter.org.

The event series are:

Music: **Rockapella** on Aug. 25, Seven-time Grammy Award nominee and Grammy Award winner **Earl Klugh** on Sept. 15, **The 5 Browns** on Oct. 4, **Dan Zanes and Friends** on Oct. 8, jazz vocalists **Diane Schuur** and **Karrin Allyson** on Oct. 14, **East Village Opera Company** on Oct. 20, **A Peter White Christmas with Rick Braun and Mindi Abair** on Dec. 2, **Boys of the Lough** on Dec. 16, the **Hamburg Symphony** conducted by **Andrey Boreyko** with soloist **Robert McDuffie** on violin on Feb. 2, **Guthrie Family Legacy Tour** on Feb. 4, **Soweto Gospel Choir** on Feb. 9, **Natalie MacMaster** on Feb. 10, **Bela Fleck and Chick Corea** on Feb. 23, **McDuffie Dutton Kirshbaum Trio** on March 3, solo pianist **George Winston** on March 8, **Leon Redbone** on March 9, **Jennifer Holliday** on March 10 and bluegrass bands **Cherryholmes** and **Hot Buttered Rum** on April 14.

Dance and Movement: **The Parsons Dance Company** on Oct. 27, the Atlanta premiere of **DanceBrazil** on Jan. 19, the Atlanta premiere of **Momix** in "Lunar Sea" on Jan. 27, **Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo** on Feb. 22 and **Peking Acrobats** on Feb. 25.

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Theatre and Comedy: Comedienne **Kathy Griffin** on Oct. 13, “**Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat**” on Oct. 15, and **The Umbilical Brothers** in “**SpeedMouse**” on Feb. 2.

The 2006-07 series includes performances with international ties to Beijing, Brazil, Canada, Germany, Ireland, Scotland and South Africa.

“More than 25 of the world’s finest performers and performance ensembles will visit Georgia Tech’s campus during our next season,” said **Jay Constantz**, director of Ferst Center for the Arts. “There’s something for everyone to enjoy as a new or returning fan for these performers.”

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 2006-07 Season Performances** (listed chronologically) includes:

**All programs subject to change.

For media inquiries or photography,
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Rockapella

August 25 at 8 p.m.

\$20 (youth), \$27, \$37

A perennial favorite at the Ferst, this five-man vocal powerhouse unifies into a symphony of flawless harmony. Rockapella astonishes audiences with its distinctive sound and irresistible blend of R&B, rock, soul and jazz. From their days on the PBS kids’ show, “Where in the World Is Carmen Sandiego?” to sold-out international tours, these five men are the undisputed kings of contemporary a cappella music. Official Web site: www.rockapella.com

Earl Klugh

September 15 at 8 p.m.

\$32, \$42

Considered by many to be one of the finest acoustic guitar players today, Grammy-winning guitar master Earl Klugh plays contemporary jazz and melodic ballads in the harmonious and soothing style that is his trademark. His music is a direct expression of his many and varied influences – gentle Brazilian rhythms, blazing fusion and old school R&B. Official Web site: www.earlklugh.com

The 5 Browns

October 4 at 7:30 p.m.

\$20 (youth), \$26, \$36

Handsome, charming, articulate and close-knit, the talented piano quintet returns to the Ferst Center after a sensational worldwide debut last year. This set of brothers and sisters - Desirae, Deondra, Melody, Gregory and Ryan - has just released their second chart-topping album which showcases the classical pianists’ extraordinary gifts, performing individually and together. Official Web site: www.the5browns.com

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Kathy Griffin

ATLANTA PREMIERE

October 13 at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.

\$32, \$42

Observing celebrity life from the "D-List," Kathy Griffin at once skewers and pays homage to the people on public display. Following her successful stint as Brooke Shields' sidekick on "Suddenly Susan," Griffin found her comedy niche as the acid-tongued stand-up on comedy specials on Bravo, "Celebrity Mole," "Average Joe," and on her own reality show "Kathy Griffin: My Life on the D-List."

Due to the use of adult language and humor, this performance is recommended for adult audiences only.

Official Web site: www.kathygriffin.net

Diane Schuur and Karrin Allyson

October 14 at 8 p.m.

\$32, \$42

Two great jazz vocalists make one irresistible combination! Diane Schuur's interpretative powers and her legendary three-and-a-half octave vocal range have earned her five Grammy nominations, two Grammy Awards, and the title "the new First Lady of jazz." Grammy nominated vocalist Karrin Allyson, described by jazz critics as charismatic, spellbinding, and possessing flawless rhythm, has established herself as one of today's most appealing and expressive singers and pianists.

Official Web sites: www.dianeschuur.com and www.karrin.com

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

October 15 at 5 p.m.

\$20 (youth), \$32, \$42

Take a rainbow ride through biblical Egypt on the wings of Andrew Lloyd Webber's uplifting music and the humor and poetry of lyricist Tim Rice. A great family treat, this is the story of Joseph, favored son of Jacob, who is betrayed by his brothers, sold into slavery, and driven to Egypt. He perseveres through wit and faith, and has become the governor of Egypt when he is reunited with his brothers. Featuring "American Idol's" Amy Adams as the narrator.

Lemony Snicket: The End

A Series of Unfortunate Events

October 18 at 7 p.m.

Subscription discount not available.

\$5, \$10

Author Lemony Snicket discusses The End, the thirteenth and final book in A Series of Unfortunate Events, the depressing and mysterious chronicles of three unlucky orphans who are plagued by villainy, conspiracy and itchy clothing. This dismal event is Lemony Snicket's only farewell appearance in Atlanta and features a discussion and book signing.

Co-presented with the Margaret Mitchell House & Museum.

East Village Opera Company

ATLANTA PREMIERE

October 20 at 8 p.m.

\$20, \$30

Rock meets opera with the exhilarating and adventurous music of the East Village Opera Company. This 11-person group, comprised of a five-piece band, a string quartet, and two vocalists, reinvents classic opera arias into bona fide rock anthems. The band offers hard-hitting arrangements of opera's greatest hits in their original languages, including "La donna e mobile" from "Rigoletto," "Habanera" from "Carmen," and "Nessun dorma" from "Turandot."

Official Web site: www.eastvillageoperacompany.com

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The Parsons Dance Company

October 27 at 8 p.m.

\$32, \$42

The larger-than-life physicality, wit, and exuberance of this world-renowned company burst forth in three buoyant and musically diverse programs: a theatrical, full-throttle dance to music by the intense and hypnotic Dave Matthews Band that leaves audiences breathless; "Wolfgang," a tribute to Mozart that showcases the company's astonishing ability to make constant motion seem effortless; and "Shining Star," a funk-driven, soulful romp to hits by the incomparable Earth, Wind & Fire.

Official Web site: www.parsonsdance.org

A Peter White Christmas with Rick Braun and Mindi Abair

December 2 at 8 p.m.

\$32, \$42

Guitarist Peter White leads a merry evening of smooth holiday jazz with Mindi Abair on saxophone and Rick Braun on trumpet. With classic holiday songs and top hits from each artist, these three connect to an audience in a thrilling way, making them a holiday favorite year after year at the Ferst.

Official Web sites: www.peterwhite.com, www.rickbraun.com and www.mindiabair.com

Dan Zanes and Friends

December 9 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

\$12 (youth), \$15, \$18

This boisterous family concert with Dan Zanes features the unique blend of original folk-rock and new renditions of traditional songs that kids adore. From "All Around the Kitchen" to "House Party," the former lead singer-songwriter of the rock band the Del Fuegos creates a musical adventure for parents and little ones to enjoy together. Official Web site: www.danzanes.com

Boys of the Lough – A Celtic Christmas

December 15 at 8 p.m.

\$20 (youth), \$27, \$37

"A Celtic Christmas" combines beautiful Christmas songs and instrumentals from throughout the British Isles and Ireland with fascinating stories of the history of this great musical tradition. A fun-loving approach to Celtic music has made the Boys of the Lough one of folk music's most influential groups. In the three decades since they were formed, the Ireland-based band has been instrumental in the evolution of traditional Irish music. Official Web site: www.boysofthelough.com

DanceBrazil

ATLANTA PREMIERE

January 19 at 8 p.m.

\$32, \$42

Alive with raw energy and physical prowess, DanceBrazil fuses traditional Afro-Brazilian movement, capoeira martial arts, and modern dance to create breathtaking performances. A passionately compelling evening of live music and dance, the company is under the direction of acclaimed choreographer Jelon Vieira. Official Web site: www.dancebrazil.org

Momix: Lunar Sea

ATLANTA PREMIERE

January 27 at 8 p.m.

\$32, \$42

Artistic Director Moses Pendleton's latest creation conjures a world where the laws of gravity and limitations of form no longer exist. Filled with acrobatic choreography, "Lunar Sea" is a playfully inventive, multimedia extravaganza that explores the night sky and oceanic imagery with a keen but humorous eye. "Lunar Sea" also features the work of Michael Curry, of "The Lion King" design team, who has created puppets for this marvelously inventive piece. Official Web site:

www.mosespendleton.com

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**Hamburg Symphony conducted by Andrey Boreyko with soloist Robert McDuffie, violin
ATLANTA PREMIERE**

February 2 at 8 p.m.

\$20 (youth), \$35, \$45

Renowned for its innovative programs, the Hamburg Symphony boasts an outstanding international reputation and is led by conductor Andrey Boreyko, heralded as one of the most exciting and dynamic conductors to emerge from Eastern Europe in recent years. Captivating violinist Robert McDuffie, a native of Macon, Ga., has built a career on artistic integrity in performances around the world. *The New York Times* praises him as “a sweet-toned soloist,” while the *San Francisco Chronicle* calls him, simply, “a treasure.” Official Web site: www.hamburgersymphoniker.de

Guthrie Family Legacy Tour

February 4 at 5 p.m.

\$32, \$42

The family whose legacy began with Woody Guthrie and is rooted in the beat and groove of folk music comes together for a celebration of songs, stories, photos, and archival recordings. Led by folksinger and songwriter Arlo Guthrie, the eldest son of Woody Guthrie, the show features Arlo's son Abe, his daughters Cathy, Annie, and Sarah Lee, and Sarah Lee's husband Johnny Irion, in an epic interpretation of his father's songs with homespun candor and tradition. Official Web site: www.arlo.net

Soweto Gospel Choir

February 9 at 8 p.m.

\$20 (youth), \$27, \$37

An awe-inspiring vocal ensemble, the Soweto Gospel Choir boasts the best voices from churches and communities in and around Soweto, South Africa. Performing a range of music from traditional African gospel to songs rooted in Western and contemporary gospel styles, the Soweto Gospel Choir will fill the stage with the joyous sounds found in the churches of their native land, building on a deeply moving and uniquely African tradition. Official Web site: www.sowetogospelchoir.com

Natalie MacMaster

February 10 at 8 p.m.

\$20 (youth), \$25, \$35

A fiddling, singing, and step-dancing fireball, Natalie MacMaster is the leading international standard-bearer of traditional Cape Breton fiddling. She's one of Canada's biggest stars and has toured extensively with her own band as well as the Chieftains. Though rooted in traditional fiddle tunes, she's expanded her music with bits of bluegrass, world music, and rock into a distinctive and wildly popular fusion. Official Web site: www.nataliemacmaster.com

Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo

February 22 at 8 p.m.

\$32, \$42

Dancing the fine line between high art and high camp, Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo delights audiences around the world with its parodies of classical works from “Swan Lake” to “Giselle.” The all-male “Trocks” offer buoyant and hilarious performances for young and old, whether dance aficionados or complete novices, by combining a loving knowledge of dance with a truly wicked comedic sensibility. Official Web site: www.trockadero.org

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Bela Fleck and Chick Corea: Duets

February 23 at 8 p.m.

\$36, \$46

Performing together, these two master musicians weave duets out of staggering virtuosity to create mind-blowing performances. Bela Fleck is considered by many to be the world's premiere banjo player, and Chick Corea is a legendary pianist who has broken all musical boundaries. Don't miss this unprecedented and undefinable collaboration! Official Web sites: www.belafleck.com and www.chickcorea.com

Peking Acrobats

February 25 at 5 p.m.

\$20 (youth), \$25, \$35

The Peking Acrobats defy gravity with amazing displays of contortion, flexibility and control with astonishing juggling dexterity and incredible balancing feats. This troupe will astound and inspire with their wire-walking, trick-cycling, precision tumbling, somersaulting, and gymnastics. Official Web site: www.iaipresentations.com/pacrobat.html

The Umbilical Brothers in "SpeedMouse"

ATLANTA PREMIERE

March 2 at 8 p.m.

\$20 (youth), \$20, \$30

"SpeedMouse" is the Umbilical Brothers' most ambitious and hilarious show ever. Using a mix of tightly choreographed mayhem, mime and live audio-acrobatics, writers/performers David Collins and Shane Dundas create an imaginative world full of adventure, where anything can happen. Experience an exhilarating pair of human cartoon figures and the madness of the Umbilicals in a comedy unlike anything else. Official Web site: www.umbilicalbrothers.com

McDuffie Dutton Kirshbaum Trio

March 3 at 8 p.m.

\$20 (youth) \$26, \$36

Internationally heralded violinist Robert McDuffie returns with cellist Ralph Kirshbaum, named by *The New York Times* "one of the outstanding cellists of his generation," and violist Lawrence Dutton, a member of the acclaimed Emerson String Quartet, for a special chamber music concert of string trios. The Trio will perform the works of Beethoven, Mozart, and 20th-century Hungarian composer Erno von Dohnanyi.

George Winston

March 8 at 8 p.m.

\$32, \$42

George Winston is renowned worldwide for his live concert performances and his solo piano recordings. The undisputed master of contemporary solo piano, George Winston evokes in his music the transcendent beauty of nature and the changing seasons. Simple, melodic and inspired, Winston creates and interprets songs with his own unique voice. Official Web site: www.georgewinston.com

Leon Redbone

March 9 at 8 p.m.

\$20, \$30

During his 30-year, 11-album career, singer Leon Redbone's throaty delivery and guitar-playing prowess have introduced fans to the folk-jazz of bygone days. The crooner's Panama hat, dark glasses, and Groucho Marx moustache have made him one of the more distinct and recognizable characters in popular music, where his live show blends performance, comedy, and skilled instrumentals. Official Web site: www.leonredbone.com

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Jennifer Holliday

March 10 at 8 p.m.

\$40, \$50

Tony Award-winning Broadway star Jennifer Holliday sings the songs of *Dreamgirls*, as well as the songs of Dinah Washington, a musical tribute to one of the most versatile and gifted vocalists in American popular music history. Holliday, a two-time Grammy Award winner, possesses an enormous contralto voice with great power and range.

**Bluegrass Barbecue: Cherryholmes, Hot Buttered Rum, Peachtree Station
ATLANTA PREMIERE**

April 14 at 7 p.m.

\$20 (youth), \$20, \$30

America's new first family of bluegrass, Cherryholmes has stormed to the top of the bluegrass world, receiving the 2005 International Bluegrass Music Award for Entertainer of the Year and a 2006 Grammy nomination for Best Bluegrass Album. Acoustic bluegrass quintet Hot Buttered Rum String Band has created a unique new sound by stretching the boundaries of the bluegrass and Americana traditions in which they are rooted. Local bluegrass favorite Peachtree Station, a tour of Hot Buttered Rum's vegetable oil-powered tour bus and barbecue begin this great evening of bluegrass!

Official Web sites: www.cherryholmes.net and www.hotbutteredrum.net

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. For ticket information call 404-894-9600 or visit www.ferstcenter.org.

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