



N O R T H C A R O L I N A Blumenthal Performing Arts Center

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Blumenthal Performing Arts Center Announces 2008-2009 Attractions Line-up

Charlotte, NC – More than 40 special attractions representing the best of the performing arts will be featured on the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center's 2008-09 season.

The season promises to have a record number of performances, including world-class musical acts (**Lyle Lovett & John Hiatt, Chris Botti, Ravi Shankar**); uproarious comedy shows (**The Second City, Defending the Caveman, Chicago City Limits**); spellbinding choreography from around the globe (**Tango Fire, Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, DanceBrazil**); eclectic musical acts from Americana and Big Band to Gospel and Rock n' Roll (**The Derek Trucks Band, Les Lankhorst: Red, Hot and Swing, Soweto Gospel Choir, RAIN: The Beatles Experience**); performances by Tony[®] Award-winning Broadway artists (**Savion Glover: Bare Soundz, Duncan Sheik in Concert: Featuring the music of Spring Awakening**); great holiday entertainment (**Sister's Christmas Catechism, Mannheim Steamroller Christmas**); and more.

"We are thrilled with the diverse mix of events in this new season," said Center President Tom Gabbard. "We aim to serve the entire community and I think arts fans will be pleased with the variety of shows coming to Charlotte."

Other special highlights include the farewell tour of the beloved international phenomenon RIVERDANCE, more than a dozen musical concerts, best-selling humorist David Sedaris, and a custom-made production featuring local artists, mixed media, music and dance as part of the innovative SQUONK OPERA: CHARLOTTE THE OPERA.

"From big musicals to more intimate plays, the new season has something for everyone," said Director of Theatrical Programming Douglas Young. "We have some special things planned both on stage and off, like the return of Les Lankhorst from last season's hit show THE RAT PACK IS BACK. For that show we will be transforming the interior of the Booth Playhouse into a cabaret-style setting," Young said. "We will also be unveiling the new Stage Door Theater with the hilarious one woman show about parenting MOTHER LOAD. "

Families also will find many options on the 2008-09 season, thanks to Presbyterian Hospital's continued participation as title sponsor for a series of family friendly shows. Highlights of the Presbyterian Hospital Family Series include a live version of the hit PBS show BOB THE BUILDER, the exhilarating sounds and sites of DRUMLine Live, and the inspirational music of the SOWETO GOSPEL CHOIR.

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Tickets for the Center's special attractions will go on sale to the general public at various times throughout the year but Center members and Stanford Broadway Lights Series season subscribers will be able to purchase tickets to all Center attractions in advance of public sales. This special priority purchase benefit is one of the many perks enjoyed by Center members and subscribers.

Stanford Broadway Lights season subscribers can also take advantage of the new "Ticket Swap" benefit, by swapping **ONE** of their seven Broadway Lights shows with any one other attraction announced.

For a limited time, performing arts fans can buy four or more shows and get one free pair of tickets to either TRACES or MOTHER LOAD, two of the Center's hottest fall events. They can also save 5% on tickets to most of the season's attractions when they purchase through this special offer. Offer expires on July 31. For details, visit BlumenthalCenter.org/stretch.

For more information about Center membership, visit www.BlumenthalCenter.org/join or call 704-348-5823. To become a Stanford Broadway Lights season subscriber, visit www.BlumenthalCenter.org/broadway or call 704-335-1010.

As shows go on sale, single tickets will be available at the Center box office in the Belk Theater, by phone at 704-372-1000 and online at www.BlumenthalCenter.org and www.CarolinaTix.org. Special group rates also are available for many shows. Groups may purchase tickets to all Center-sponsored shows now. Group minimums begin as low as 10 for many performances. For more information, call 704-379-1380 or visit www.BlumenthalCenter.org/groups.

2008-09 Season Attractions

Ralphie May **Aug. 17, 2008** **McGlohon Theatre**
Tickets Now On Sale *Single Tickets start at \$25*

Veteran comedian Ralphie May's popularity exploded after the success of the first season of NBC's hit reality series LAST COMIC STANDING. Long-time fans of Ralphie's stand-up were joined by countless new fans when America thought he was robbed of the winner's title. Despite the show's outcome, Ralphie's special brand of comedy combines the familiar elements of hip-hop and topical comedy with a dash of southern down-home flavor and quick wit making Ralphie May one of the most popular comedians in the country.

Jon Reep **Aug. 28, 2008** **McGlohon Theatre**
Tickets Now On Sale *Single Tickets start at \$25*

Jon Reep, the 2007 Winner of NBC's "Last Comic Standing," returns to Charlotte this August for one night only! If you don't know the Hickory native from "Last Comic Standing," perhaps you have seen him on Comedy Central's "Premium Blend" or the half-hour special "Comedy Central Presents: Jon Reep." He is also known to millions as the redheaded hillbilly in the Dodge Ram commercials who leans out of a beat-up car and utters the now famous line: "That thing gotta Hemi?" But before that, Jon Reep was already one of the hardest working comics in America, selling out clubs and getting standing ovations at college after college across the country. Reep's show is supersonic energy filled with non-stop characters, super clever writing, and, of course, the one talent that separates him from all other comedians in the world: Jon Reep is the best redneck dancer since Elvis!

Celtic Crossroads**Sept. 27 – 28, 2008****McGlohon Theatre***Tickets Now On Sale**Single Tickets start at: \$29.50*

Celtic Crossroads has been critically acclaimed as one of the best live music concerts to come from Ireland in over 20 years. A group of seven highly talented multi-instrumentalists bring Irish music to an entirely new level, by creating a wonderful fusion of musical genres, such as eastern European Gypsy, North American Bluegrass, world Classical, Jazz and the various forms of Celtic music from around Europe. The audience will be amazed as these 7 young musicians play over 20 instruments and incorporate inventive arrangements and bass-driven grooves that have revitalised the image of traditional Irish music around the world.

NBC's Last Comic**Standing Live Tour****Sept. 28, 2008****Belk Theater***Tickets Now On Sale**Single Tickets start at: \$21*

Season 6 of *Last Comic Standing* premiered May 22 on NBC. The Emmy-nominated laughfest returns with an all new group of the world's funniest comics. Watch the series this summer on NBC, then see the finalists perform live as the *Last Comic Standing Live Tour* appears at the Belk Theater for one night only.

Mother Load**Sept. 30 – Oct. 26, 2008****Stage Door Theater***Tickets go on sale: Aug. 8**Single Tickets start at: \$29.50*

This hilarious Off-Broadway hit mixes motherhood, comedy and true confession and will be the opening production in the new Stage Door Theater at the Center. Based on creator Amy Wilson's own experience as the mother of three children, this one woman show has Moms (and anyone who has a mother!) lining up from coast to coast for a night of laughs about diapers, spit-up and strollers. From organic baby food to self-important childbirth instructors to the perils of nursing, Wilson lampoons the competitive and ever-challenging quest to be the "perfect" mom. *Part of the Presbyterian Hospital Family Series.*

An Acoustic Evening with**Lyle Lovett & John Hiatt****Oct. 9, 2008****Belk Theater***Tickets Now On Sale**Single Tickets start at: \$34.50*

Enjoy a special evening with two of music's most accomplished singer songwriters. The uncompromising versatility of Lyle Lovett and the soul stirring songs of John Hiatt are together for an acoustic evening. With dozens of records between them, the two will take turns singing some old favorites as well as selections from their latest projects, "Lyle Lovett and His Large Band, It's Not Big It's Large" and John Hiatt's "Same Old Man." Join them as they perform onstage together for an unforgettable night of acoustic music.

An Evening with David Sedaris**Oct. 11, 2008****Belk Theater***Tickets Now On Sale**Single Tickets start at: \$29*

"Playwright, author, radio star, and retired elf David Sedaris may be the most brilliantly witty New Yorker since Dorothy Parker." -New York Magazine

With his sardonic wit and incisive social critiques, David Sedaris is one of America's pre-eminent humor writers and a Charlotte's favorite. Back by popular demand for one, sure sellout reading at the Belk Theater, this master of satire has just released a new collection of essays, titled "When You Are Engulfed in Flames." Hear selections from this new work plus old favorites from past bestsellers like "Holidays on Ice," "Naked," "Me Talk Pretty One Day," and "Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim." Save your seats now for one of the not-to-be-missed events of the fall!

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The Second City:
DeFace the Nation **Oct. 14 – 19, 2008** **Booth Playhouse**
Tickets go on sale: Aug. 8 *Single Tickets start at: \$29.50*

Following up on two sold-out shows last season, The Second City returns with 6 performances of "DeFace the Nation," its all-political revue with customized comedy for the election year! Featuring scenes and songs that poke fun at both political parties and a variety of pundits - Second City proves there's no shortage of comedy coming out of Washington DC in this or any year. From Bush to Clinton to Obama to the other Clinton, DeFace the Nation is a hilarious romp through the Beltway and beyond.

Defending the Caveman **Oct. 21 – 26, 2008** **Booth Playhouse**
Tickets go on sale: Aug. 22 *Single Tickets start at: \$29.50*

"*Defending the Caveman* is so perceptive, so witty, so sweetly understanding you can't help feeling exhilarated!" -Boston Globe

A hilariously insightful play about the ways men and women relate, *Caveman* has both sexes roaring with laughter and recognition. Affectionate nudging between audience members occurs during the performance as they recognize themselves in the stories being told on stage. *Caveman* makes us laugh at ourselves about all the ways men and women fight, laugh and love.

Janis Ian **Oct. 26, 2008** **McGlohon Theatre**
Tickets go on sale: Aug. 8 *Single Tickets start at: \$20.00*

At 12, she wrote her first song. Before she was the age of, say, Miley Cyrus or Brittany Spears, Janis Ian was doing what today's youngsters couldn't dream of, penning songs the likes of Jesse, Stars, At Seventeen and Society's Child, at once generating controversy and garnering Grammy awards. Today, Janis has a brand-new autobiography tracing her odyssey from teen megastar through heartbreak and back to graceful triumph.

Savion Glover: Bare Soundz **Oct. 27, 2008** **Belk Theater**
Tickets go on sale: Aug. 15 *Single Tickets start at: \$25*

Back by popular demand, Tony® Award-winner Savion Glover creates an explosive evening of dance by using tap as song. Showcasing a mosaic of percussive rhythms including Jazz and Caribbean beats, Savion Glover's BARE SOUNDZ turns tap dance into an acoustical instrument. This exuberant celebration of tap dance to sound and sound to dance features Marshall Davis Jr. and Maurice Chestnut alongside Mr. Glover, whose stage credits include Jelly's Last Jam and Bring in 'da Noise, Bring in 'da Funk as well as the Academy Award-winning film Happy Feet. This must-see show highlights Savion Glover's infinite versatility and virtuoso as a tap master.

**Duncan Sheik in Concert: Featuring
the music of Spring Awakening** **Nov. 9, 2008** **McGlohon Theatre**
Tickets Now On Sale *Single Tickets start at: \$29.50*

Grammy and Tony® Award-Winning singer-songwriter and composer Duncan Sheik will be performing an unforgettable night of music, featuring songs from his Tony® Award-winning musical SPRING AWAKENING, as well as songs from his early catalogue and new musical theatre works. Joining Duncan onstage will be original SPRING AWAKENING cast member Lauren Pritchard.

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Squonk Opera:**Charlotte The Opera****Nov. 21 – 23, 2008****McGlohon Theatre***Tickets go on sale: Sept. 5**Single Tickets start at: \$29*

"Ingenious, hallucinatory, hypnotic." -The New York Times

This incredible multi-media celebration of Charlotte is a feast for your eyes and ears. Melding stunning visual effects, original music played by a live band, dance and humor, Squonk Opera has amazed audiences around the globe. Squonk Opera created its first show in a gritty Pittsburgh junkyard, with roaring choreographed cranes and earthmovers, over a decade ago. See what happens when the show takes on Charlotte -- weaving images and icons of our hometown into a riveting entertainment event for the whole family. With the help of local artists, they present a heartfelt toast and a punk-vaudevillian roast of the city we call home. *Part of the Presbyterian Hospital Family Series.*

Soweto Gospel Choir**Nov. 23, 2008****Belk Theater***Tickets go on sale: Sept. 5**Single Tickets start at: \$10*

The Soweto Gospel Choir was formed to celebrate the unique and inspirational power of African Gospel music. The 26-strong choir, under the direction of David Mulovhedzi and Beverly Bryer, draws on the best talent from the many churches in and around Soweto. The choir is dedicated to sharing the joy of faith through music with audiences around the world. *Part of the Presbyterian Hospital Family Series.*

RAIN: The Beatles Experience**Nov. 24 – 25, 2008****Belk Theater***Tickets go on sale: Sept. 5**Single Tickets start at: \$21*

A hit last season with Beatles fans of all ages, RAIN makes a triumphant return to Charlotte for two nights! There are other tribute acts who respectfully attempt to replicate a subset of the Beatles music, but only RAIN can perform the full range of the Beatles discography live onstage, including the most complex and challenging songs that the Beatles themselves recorded in the studios but never performed for an audience. No other rendition of the Fab Four's music comes close to this level of performance, which has taken years of mastery and attention to detail that is unmatched. From the early days of their appearance on the Ed Sullivan show in 1964, through the Sgt. Pepper era and on to the Abbey Road years, RAIN's performance captures it all flawlessly. *Part of the Presbyterian Hospital Family Series.*

The Derek Trucks Band**Nov. 28 – 29, 2008****McGlohon Theatre***Tickets Now On Sale**Single Tickets start at: \$30*

The Derek Trucks Band is a blend of jazz, rock, blues, Latin, Eastern Indian, and other world music. Derek Trucks is the youngest player to make Rolling Stone's "100 Greatest Guitarists of All Time" ranking him #81 on their 2003 list. The Derek Trucks Band focuses intently on the progression of their art form and has continued to do so during their ten years as a band.

Mannheim Steamroller Christmas**Nov. 30, 2008****Belk Theater***Tickets go on sale: Aug. 22**Single Tickets start at: \$39.50*

Start your holiday season on a real high note! No one does Christmas like Mannheim Steamroller, the extraordinary group that has built a legendary reputation on its interpretation of holiday classics. With more than 20 million holiday album sales, the band's "18th Century Classic Rock" sound has generated legions of fans. Their Christmas concert extraordinaire in the Belk Theater will feature the famed Mannheim Steamroller multi-media images, synchronized lighting, special effects and, of course, the world-renowned music of Mannheim Steamroller.

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Sister's Christmas Catechism**Dec. 2 – 14, 2008****Booth Playhouse***Tickets go on sale: Sept. 5**Single Tickets start at: \$29.50*

"Christmas Catechism is a nostalgic hoot!" -*Springfield News-Sun*

It's "Forensic Files goes to Bethlehem" in this holiday mystery extravaganza, by the author of Late Nite Catchism and Late Nite Catechism 2, as Sister takes on the mystery that has intrigued historians throughout the ages – whatever happened to the Magi's gold? ("We know that Mary used the frankincense and myrrh as a sort of potpourri - they were in a barn after all.") Retelling the story of the nativity, as only Sister can, this hilarious holiday production is bound to become a yearly classic. Employing her own scientific tools, assisted by a local choir as well as a gaggle of audience members, Sister creates a living nativity unlike any you've ever seen. With gifts galore and bundles of laughs, Sister's Christmas Catechism is sure to become the newest addition to your holiday traditions.

Boys of the Lough:**A Celtic Christmas****Dec. 4, 2008****McGlohon Theatre***Tickets go on sale: Sept. 5**Single Tickets start at: \$27*

Experience a Celtic holiday celebration with the Boys! With forty years experience in the world of traditional music, 70 North American tours, 21 recordings and two Grammy nominations, Boys of the Lough has reached legendary status. The group features Cathal McConnell on flute, whistles and vocals; Dave Richardson on concertina, mandolin, button accordion and cittern; Brendan Begley on button accordion, melodeon, and vocals; Malcolm Stitt on guitar, bouzouki and Highland pipe; and Kevin Henderson on fiddle.

Richie Havens**Dec. 5, 2008****McGlohon Theatre***Tickets go on sale: Aug. 8**Single Tickets start at: \$20.00*

Gifted with one of the most recognizable voices in popular music, Richie Havens has a soulful singing style that remains as unique and ageless as when he first emerged from the Greenwich Village folk scene in the early 1960s. It's a voice that has inspired and electrified audiences from the Woodstock Music & Arts Fair in 1969, to the Clinton Presidential Inauguration in 1993 - coming full circle with the 30th Woodstock Anniversary celebration, "A Day In The Garden", in 1999. For over three decades, Richie has used his music to convey messages of brotherhood and personal freedom.

The Claire Lynch Band**Dec. 30, 2008****McGlohon Theatre***Tickets go on sale: Aug. 22**Single Tickets start at: \$20*

By any measure, The Claire Lynch Band is high on the bluegrass world's A-List, with musicians whose accolades include International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA) Female Vocalist of the Year and two Grammy nominations for Best Bluegrass Album (Claire); two IBMA Guitar Player of the Year awards (Jim Hurst); and two IBMA Bass Player of the Year awards (Mark Schatz). Dolly Parton credits Claire with "one of the sweetest, purest and best lead voices in the music business today."

Daniel Bernard Roumain**Jan. 17, 2009****McGlohon Theatre***Tickets go on sale: Oct. 17**Single Tickets start at: \$14*

Known for fusing his classical music roots with a myriad of soundscapes, Haitian-American artist Daniel Bernard Roumain (DBR) has carved a reputation for himself as a passionately innovative composer, performer, violinist, and band leader. His exploration of musical rhythms and classically-driven sounds is peppered by his own cultural references and vibrant musical

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imagination. Proving that he's "about as omnivorous as a contemporary artist gets" (New York Times), DBR's accolades range from being voted as "America's Assignment" on the CBS Evening News, to receiving praise as one of the "Top 100 New Yorkers" (New York Resident).

RENT **Jan. 27 – Feb. 1, 2009** **Ovens Auditorium**
Tickets go on sale: Aug. 15 *Single Tickets start at: \$25.50*

RENT is closing on Broadway after a dozen years and leaving the road market for the foreseeable future. This will be the last chance for the show's legions of fans to experience this ground breaking, rock musical live on stage for many years to come. The Theatrical experience that changed Broadway forever. Whether it's your 1st time or your 100th time, it's time you checked out RENT - The winner of the Tony® Award for Best Musical and the Pulitzer Prize, RENT is about being young, learning to survive, falling in love, finding your voice and living for today. RENT has made a lasting mark on Broadway with songs that rock and a story that really resonates and now the smash-hit sensation of RENT is coming to you.
US Airways is the presenting sponsor of this production.

Tango Fire **Feb. 3, 2009** **Belk Theater**
Tickets go on sale: Oct. 17 *Single Tickets start at: \$19*

Performed by the hottest Tango company in Buenos Aires (Estampas Porteñas), Tango Fire offers a journey from the red light district of Buenos Aires, to the glamour of the Roaring Twenties, into the world of contemporary ballroom dance. This thrilling production features a quartet of brilliant young musicians, passionate dancers and a great singer performing the music of the legendary Astor Piazzolla.

**Chicago City Limits:
MySpace or Yours?** **Feb. 6 – 7, 2009** **Booth Playhouse**
Tickets go on sale: Nov. 28 *Single Tickets start at: \$29.50*

Thrilling audiences for over twenty-five years with its unique style of improvisational comedy, Chicago City Limits returns to Charlotte with its new improvisational comedy revue, MySpace or Yours?. This is dot comedy without a computer, as the CCL cast takes aim at the faces, places and events from today's headlines, bylines and sidelines. Whether its social networks or Internet jerks, board rooms or bored grooms, gas prices or a leadership crisis, tainted toothpaste or tainted celebrities, Chicago City Limits will take you on a virtual tour de force of high energy improvisations and gut splitting laughter for a completely unique evening of comedy!

DRUMLine Live **Feb. 8, 2009** **Belk Theater**
Tickets go on sale: Nov. 14 *Single Tickets start at: \$25*

The show-stopping new attraction, DRUMLine Live, brings the black marching band tradition to the theatrical stage for the very first time. Featuring a large cast of colorful and flamboyant performers from Americas top Historically Black Colleges and Universities, the production presents the rousing and rhythmic sounds of the great brass past including *Earth, Wind, and Fire* and *Tower of Power* side by side with the hottest contemporary hip hop and R&B. The stirring sound of trumpets, explosive choreography, and incredible feats of athleticism from the "steppers" and dancers, will bring the audience to its feet. But the heart of the show is unquestionably the talented group of African American percussionists who form the "drumline." The showdown of rhythm and speed between the "lines" will shock you with its precision and pulsing force. *Part of the Presbyterian Hospital Family Series.*

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Les Lankhorst:**Red, Hot & Swing!****Feb. 10 – 22, 2009****Booth Playhouse***Tickets go on sale: Nov. 14**Single Tickets start at: \$29.50*

Les Lankhorst, who starred as Frank Sinatra in last season's hit show THE RAT PACK IS BACK returns to Charlotte with a thrilling tribute to Big Band music. Red, Hot and Swing! will feature Lankhorst's silky voice on tunes by Sinatra, Bobby Darin, Peggy Lee, Nat King Cole, Harry Connick, Michael Buble, Josh Groban and others. Backed by a high energy band of seven of Charlotte's most swingin' musicians, this show will take place in a cabaret-style setting in the intimate Booth Playhouse. Go ahead and order a drink at your table, sit back and get ready for one sensational song after another, including "Mack the Knife," "My Way," "Fever," and "World on a String."

Tiempo Libre**Feb. 14, 2009****McGlohon Theatre***Tickets go on sale: Nov. 28**Single Tickets start at: \$29*

Two-time Grammy-nominated Tiempo Libre is one the hottest young Latin bands today. Equally at home in concert halls, jazz clubs and dance venues, the members of the Miami-based band are true modern heirs to the rich tradition of the music of their native Cuba. This fall, Tiempo Libre returns to its classical roots by bringing a dynamic Afro-Cuban beat to leading flutist Sir James Galway's new album, O'Reilly Street, which will be released by the RCA Victor label on September 16, 2008. The album features an exciting new Latin jazz arrangement of music from the Claude Bolling Jazz Suites including "Baroque and Blue," as well as a timba take on Bach's "Badinerie" and a number of vibrant new compositions all by Tiempo Libre's musical director and pianist Jorge Gomez. The result is rich in the traditions of multiple genres, authentic yet emotionally seductive, transcending the borders between classical, jazz and Cuban music.

Harlem Gospel Choir**Feb. 16, 2009****McGlohon Theatre***Tickets go on sale: Nov. 14**Single Tickets start at: \$29.50*

The world famous Harlem Gospel Choir is the most famous gospel choir in America and a pre-eminent gospel choir world-wide. The Choir presents the finest singers & musicians from Harlem's Black Churches & the New York/tri-state area. The Choir's love of children has prompted it to adopt the charity "Feed The Children." It travels the globe, sharing its joy of faith through its music, and raising funds for children's charities. *Part of the Presbyterian Hospital Family Series.*

Bill T. Jones/Arnie**Zane Dance Company****Feb. 24, 2009****Belk Theater***Tickets go on sale: Nov. 21**Single Tickets start at: \$14*

The Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company is currently celebrating its 25th Anniversary season. The Company was founded after 11 years of collaboration, during which Bill T. Jones and Arnie Zane (1948 - 1988) redefined the duet form and foreshadowed issues of identity, form and social commentary that would change the face of American dance. The work of the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company freely explores both musically driven works and works using a wide variety of texts. The repertoire is widely varied in its subject matter, visual imagery and stylistic approach to movement, voice and stagecraft.

Mardi Gras Mambo: The Neville Brothers**and Dr. John & The Lower 911****Feb. 25, 2009****Belk Theater***Tickets go on sale: Nov. 21**Single Tickets start at: \$24*

Join us for a rocking Mardi Gras night and let the good times roll! The heart and soul of New Orleans, The Neville Brothers define the deep musical spirit of the city with a heart-stopping

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blend of blues-soaked grooves, funk, social commentary, and pure joy. With a dozen solo albums to his name, Aaron Neville's angelic voice won him four Grammys and Rolling Stone's "Best Male Singer" title two years in a row. New Orleans' super-charismatic multiple Grammy-winning keyboard/vocal legend Dr. John creates his own unique blend of voodoo mysticism, funk, rhythm & blues, psychedelic rock and Creole roots, starting out with Professor Longhair and going on to record with Van Morrison, Aretha Franklin, Eric Clapton, Mick Jagger and more.

RIVERDANCE **Mar. 3 – 8, 2009** **Ovens Auditorium**
Tickets go on sale: Nov. 21 *Single Tickets start at: \$20*

FAREWELL ENGAGEMENT!

RIVERDANCE, the thunderous celebration of Irish music, song and dance that has tapped its way onto the world stage thrilling millions of people around the globe, will play eight Farewell Performances at Ovens Auditorium. "A Phenomenon of Historic Proportions!" raves the Washington Post (6/10/07). "An explosion of sight and sound that simply takes your breath away," cheers the Chicago Tribune. "A family evening unlike anything else!" exclaims The London Times. Discover why nothing in the world compares to The Original International Phenomenon! Whether it's your first time or your fifth, you won't want to miss these FAREWELL performances of Riverdance! *Part of the Presbyterian Hospital Family Series.*

Leahy **Mar. 8, 2009** **McGlohon Theatre**
Tickets go on sale: Aug 22 *Single Tickets start at: \$27.50*

Leahy is a Canadian powerhouse of eight musical brothers and sisters who have been playing together their entire lives. The band's three acclaimed CDs—Leahy, Lakefield, and In All Things—have world-wide sales of over half a million copies. The band is a whirlwind triple-threat of fiddle-driven music, dance, and vocals augmented by keyboards and percussion. Their music combines the influence of their Irish and Scottish roots with their inherent desire to widely travel the musical map.

The Art of Bellydance
featuring Bellydance Superstars **Mar. 9, 009** **McGlohon Theatre**
Tickets go on sale: Nov. 28 *Single Tickets start at: \$29.50*

Hailed as the next big dance show phenomenon to follow Riverdance by none other than the Sunday Times, Daily Telegraph, and Daily Express, the Bellydance Superstars are the world's premier touring bellydance troupe, taking this ancient art form into the mainstream. From their beginnings as part of the 2003 Lollapalooza 45-city tour, performing to over half a million people, to their 3-month run at the Monte Carlo Casino in Monaco at the end of 2005, they have set a new standard for bellydance and proved, beyond doubt, ... more its wide appeal to a Western audience. Over 375 concerts in 16 countries with countless television appearances and impressive press coverage has added huge impetus to an already growing interest in this most feminine and sensual dance art that celebrates all women.

Mariachi Los Camperos
de Nati Cano **Mar. 22 – 23, 2009** **McGlohon Theatre**
Tickets go on sale: Jan. 9 *Single Tickets start at: \$24.50*

A traditionalist and a visionary, Grammy Award-winning Nati Cano has both mirrored and shaped the history of mariachi music. He and Los Camperos, the group he founded and directs, have been a fixture in the Los Angeles area and a driving force in the mariachi tradition in North America for more than 45 years. He is credited for taking the mariachi tradition from the streets to prestigious concert halls throughout the United States. Los Camperos is noted for its demanding musical arrangements that highlight the individual skills and voices of the players.

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Dixie's Tupperware Party
Tickets go on sale: Jan. 16

Mar. 24 – 29, 2009

Booth Playhouse
Single Tickets start at: \$29.50

"Not your grandmother's Tupperware Party!" -*NBC Today Show*.

Dixie Longate, the fast-talking Tupperware Lady, packed up her catalogues, left her children in an Alabama trailer park and *took Off-Broadway by storm!* Now, join Dixie as she travels the country throwing good ol'fashioned Tupperware Parties filled with outrageously funny tales, heartfelt accounts, FREE giveaways, audience participation and the most fabulous assortment of Tupperware ever sold on a theater stage. Loaded with the most up-to-date products available for purchase, see for yourself how Ms. Longate became the #1 Tupperware seller in the U.S. & Canada as she educates her guests on the many alternative uses she has discovered for her plastic products!

DanceBrazil
Tickets go on sale: Jan. 9

Apr. 5, 2009

Belk Theater
Single Tickets start at: \$29.50

"There can't be much anywhere to match the strength, flexibility, speed and idiomatic allure of the dancers and musicians of DanceBrazil." -*The Washington Post*

Widely credited as one of the first performers to bring the Brazilian martial art Capoeira to the United States, Founder and Artistic Director JELON VIEIRA formed DANCEBRAZIL in 1975. DanceBrazil will be performing *The Ritual*, a performance piece that draws on the exciting and strong movement forms of Capoeira, Candoble and Samba as its basis, and as homage to the vanishing Native Brazilians.

Cherryholmes
Tickets go on sale: Aug 22

Apr. 10, 2009

McGlohon Theatre
Single Tickets start at: \$22.50

Cherryholmes has many qualities that make them unique, but the basis of their success lies in plain, old-fashioned hard work combined with shining star talent that only appears to glow more brightly with each performance. They embody the American Bluegrass dream. All six band members pull their creative ideas to form their own new brand of bluegrass music. Every member takes a turn singing lead and showcasing their abilities. Their live shows include twin fiddles, Irish step dancing, classic country yodeling, and old-time claw hammer in addition to their dynamic bluegrass.

Chris Botti
Tickets go on sale: Jan. 23

Apr. 30, 2009

Belk Theater
Single Tickets start at: \$21.50

"It was apparent, from the first notes Chris Botti played, that the sold-out house was in for a special evening...Botti's virtuosic trumpet work, his inventive melody-making, his engaging presence and his powerful hand...ruled the evening..." -*Los Angeles Times*

Grammy Award-winning Chris Botti has created a suite of songs and music inspired by the romance of Italy. His music conjures evocative atmospherics linking the worlds of jazz and pop and classical music. Botti is a virtual genre-of-one in the realm of contemporary jazz while at the same time capturing the attention of the pop music world. His music is drawn from sources ranging from classical opera to the soundtracks of Ennio Morricone. Chris Botti has worked with such leading singer-songwriter/composers as Paul Simon, Joni Mitchell, Sting, and renowned film composer John Barry.

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Bob the Builder Live!

Spuds Big Mess

May 2 – 3, 2009

Belk Theater

Tickets go on sale: Feb. 27

Single Tickets start at: \$19

Can Bob fix it? Yes he can! TV's most loveable builder and his live show come to North America in this new tour! A favorite with pre-school children, they'll have the chance to see and sing-a-long with characters such as Wendy, Spud, Dizzy, Scoop, Scrambler and many more. Children will watch as Bob and his trusted and hardworking team build a new eco-centre and wind farm in Sunflower Valley. Everyone joins in to help but when some items and Bob's trusty team start to go missing, can the eco-centre and wind farm be finished in time? *Part of the Presbyterian Hospital Family Series.*

Ravi Shankar

May 4, 2009

Belk Theater

Tickets go on sale: Jan. 23

Single Tickets start at: \$20

"Ravi Shankar is the Godfather of World Music" - George Harrison

The two-time Grammy Award-winning performer, composer, teacher and writer, Ravi Shankar is India's most esteemed musical Ambassador and a singular phenomenon in the classical music worlds of East and West. As a performer, composer, teacher and writer, he has done more for Indian music than any other musician.

MAMMA MIA!

July 28 – Aug. 2, 2009

Belk Theater

Tickets go on sale: April 24

Single Tickets start at: \$30

Everyone has fallen in love with the music, the story and the characters that make MAMMA MIA! the ultimate feel-good show. Now it's your turn to fall for this smash-hit musical that combines the storytelling magic of ABBA with an enchanting tale of love, laughter and friendship.

MAMMA MIA! A mother confronts her past as three men return to the Greek Island they've not visited for 21 years... just as her 20-year-old daughter is about to be married!
US Airways is the presenting sponsor of this production.

The North Carolina Blumenthal Performing Arts Center serves the Carolinas as a leading cultural, entertainment and education provider. For more information, call (704) 372-1000 or visit BlumenthalCenter.org. The Center receives operating support from the Arts & Science Council and the North Carolina Arts Council. The Center is also supported through the generous aid of its sponsors, including Presbyterian Hospital, The Official Healthcare Provider; U.S. Airways, Official Airline of Blumenthal Performing Arts Center; and Stanford Financial Group, sponsor of the Stanford Broadway Lights Series.

