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For Immediate Release
May 3, 2013

The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts announces 13/14 season

Center to celebrate 30th anniversary of the Philadelphia International Children's Festival in 2014

(Philadelphia, May 3, 2013)—The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is pleased to announce its roster of world-renowned artists and fresh, emerging talent for the 13/14 season. For over 40 years, the Annenberg Center has brought the world's most exceptional artists to Philadelphia. With its unique setting on the University of Pennsylvania campus and a reputation for presenting the most diverse programming in the city, the Center continues to be the perfect place to experience the arts and explore today's most intriguing issues.

The Annenberg Center will also be celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Philadelphia International Children's Festival (May 1-3, 2014), a spring-time staple for the city's youngest arts-goers. Programming and special anniversary events for the festival to be announced.

Featuring five distinct series that showcase the power of live performance, the 13/14 season includes over 61 performances and runs from September 28, 2013–May 11, 2014. Subscriptions to the 13/14 season are on sale now and can be purchased online by visiting AnnenbergCenter.org, over the phone by calling 215.898.3900 or by visiting the Annenberg Center Box Office. ***This season provides an impressive subscription offer for the second year in a row—purchase eight shows for the price of six.*** Single tickets will go on sale on August 26, 2013.

"The 13/14 season has so many different genres and cultures to offer—jazz, world music, dance, theatre, local artists, children's programming," says **Annenberg Center Managing Director Dr. Michael Rose**. "But the common thread throughout all of our programming is the innate excitement and energy that comes from experiencing live performances. There is no other feeling like it."

The 13/14 season includes:

Dance Celebration

Paul Taylor Dance Company, October 24-26

Paul Taylor produces pieces consistently regarded as masterpieces. His prodigious output includes 137 works over the course of six decades, with choreography that runs the gamut—lyrical, dark, ironic, silly, nostalgic and comedic. This engagement sees the return of a Taylor classic, *Mercuric Tidings* (1982), as well as the Philadelphia premieres of *A Field of Grass* (1993), a foray into the hip culture of the 60s and *Gossamer Gallants* (2011), a humorous work based on a company of insects where females rule.

KEIGWIN + COMPANY, November 21-23

Packed with wit, theatrical sensibility and a penchant for pop culture, Larry Keigwin's choreography is "a parcel of pure explosive energy mediated by impressive technical skills" (*New York Times*). Celebrating a decade of dance-making in 2013, Keigwin's program will include the Philadelphia premieres of *Boys*, a male quartet set to the sassy sounds of Eartha Kitt and its tongue-in-cheek companion piece *Girls*, set to a Frank Sinatra medley.

BodyVox, December 12-14

A freewheeling, multi-media movement troupe, BodyVox is the brainchild of MOMIX and Pilobolus alums Ashley Roland and Jamey Hampton. Known for its physicality, compelling imagery and imaginative whimsy, this Portland-based company brings the Philadelphia premiere of *The Cutting Room*, a full-length work that explores all genres of film: variety, noir, comedy, science fiction and romance.

Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal, January 16-18

Known as the “feel-good company,” Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal consistently delivers sophisticated, polished works by the world’s most renowned choreographers. The program features a world premiere as well as the Philadelphia premieres of *Harry*, a dark comedy about a young man’s trials and tribulations created by Israeli-American choreographer Barak Marshall, and *Closer*, a romantic pas de deux contributed by *Black Swan* choreographer and new Director of Dance for the Paris Opera Ballet, Benjamin Millepied.

Rasta Thomas’ Bad Boys of Dance, February 20-22

Whether sharing the stage with Sir Elton John, dancing on the catwalks at New York’s Fashion Week or appearing on the hit TV shows *So You Think You Can Dance* and *Dancing with the Stars*, dance superstar Rasta Thomas and his Bad Boys of Dance continue to meld classic with commercial. This special presentation features the industry’s top dancers performing crowd-pleasing leaps, jumps and turns—all to the music of Michael Jackson, Usher, U2 and the Black Eyed Peas.

Doug elkins choreography, etc., March 6-8

With his rollicking blend of hip hop and contemporary dance vigorously steeped in parody, Doug Elkins’ 20-plus-year career continues with his new *Mo(or)town/Redux*, a take on Shakespeare’s *Othello* (and José Limón’s seminal *The Moor’s Pavane*) set to an all-Motown score featuring, among others, Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder and Amy Winehouse. In addition, Elkins will premiere *Hapless Bizarre*, a new work exploring intersections of physical comedy, choreography and romance in silent film.

BODYTRAFFIC, April 3-5

Dubbed “the company of the future” by the Joyce Theater Foundation, BODYTRAFFIC debuts in Philadelphia amid a flurry of critical acclaim. A Los Angeles-based repertory dance troupe flagrantly defying the notion that Hollywood only spawns commercial dance, BODYTRAFFIC’s debut features Richard Siegal’s *o2Joy*, a playful piece set to a jazz score featuring Ella Fitzgerald; Barak Marshall’s *and at midnight the green bride floated through the village square ...*, a dance theatre piece featuring high-energy choreography over a darkly humorous narrative; and a new piece by Kyle Abraham, the young choreographer whose career has skyrocketed to much recognition.

MOMIX, May 8-11

The blockbuster dancer-illusionist company returns to Philadelphia with its newest full-length work, *Alchemia*. With a dash of Harry Potter charm and a whimsical exploration of the four elements, Moses Pendleton’s latest creation is a multimedia spectacle full of invention, aesthetic thrills, surprising humor and sensuality.

Theatre

Truth Values: One Girl’s Romp Through M.I.T.’s Male Math Maze, October 1-5

“Snappy,” “sincere,” and “entertaining” (*Boston Herald*), *Truth Values: One Girl’s Romp Through M.I.T.’s Male Math Maze* is a true-life saga about the challenges of being a professional woman in a male-dominated field. Reminiscent of Facebook COO Sheryl Sandberg’s controversial *Lean In*, *Truth Values* was created in response to former Harvard President Lawrence Summers’ now infamous suggestion that women are less represented in the sciences than men because of innate gender differences. The piece features writer/performer and “recovering mathematician” Gioia De Cari bringing to life more than 30 characters.

Jazz

Gary Burton: 70th Birthday Concert, October 6

The seven-time Grammy® award-winning jazz vibraphonist will be backed by his new quartet in a one-night-only birthday celebration. Touted as the innovative musical giant that “makes jazz one of the gifts from God” (*Jazz Weekly*), Gary Burton is internationally recognized for his jazz-rock sound and prodigious 50-plus-year career.

Joshua Redman Quartet, November 9

“When the conversation ensues about who is carrying on the great tradition of jazz musicianship today...if Joshua Redman’s name does not come up, the conversation is not worth having,” exclaims *Jam Base* of the saxman and Annenberg Center-favorite, Joshua Redman. Rhythmically adventurous in his approach, this preeminent tenor player brings works from his newest album *Walking Shadows*.

Chucho Valdés, February 8

Multi-Grammy®-winning jazz pianist Chucho Valdés is Cuba’s charismatic ambassador to the world. The son of prodigious pianist Bebo Valdés, Chucho Valdés’ career spans over five decades and 80 CD’s, earning the apt title “the dean of Latin jazz” (*New York Times*).

Ghost Train Orchestra, April 12

Quirky, rollicking and charged, the sound of Ghost Train Orchestra is “a crazy-beautiful living-history lesson” (*Boston Globe*) sprung forth from the mind of Boston composer and trumpet player Brian Carpenter. This critically acclaimed throwback ensemble delights audiences with music from the Jazz Age, arranging pieces by 1920s composers in Chicago and Harlem. The band’s debut album *Hothouse Stomp* reached the Top 10 on the Billboard® charts and was named “Best of Jazz” by NPR in 2011.

African Roots

Sweet Honey in the Rock: Celebrating the Holydays, December 7

Celebrating its 40th anniversary, internationally renowned a cappella ensemble Sweet Honey in the Rock presents a one-of-a-kind seasonal concert, celebrating music from the many faiths around the globe and rooted in the rich textures of African American legacy. The night will feature classics such as “Go Tell It on the Mountain,” “This Little Light of Mine,” and more, all blended with new holiday favorites.

Ladysmith Black Mambazo, January 31

The undisputed king of *mbube*, or South African a cappella singing—the Grammy®-winning Ladysmith Black Mambazo returns to the Annenberg Center to celebrate over 50 years of music that marries the intricate rhythms and harmonies of their native South Africa to the sounds and sentiments of Christian gospel music.

Soweto Gospel Choir, February 16

Praised for its inspirational performances and iconic fusion of South African gospel, reggae and pop, the Billboard® chart-topping, Grammy® award-winning Soweto Gospel Choir returns to the Annenberg Center stage.

Asian Roots

Shujaat Khan, September 28

One of the greatest North Indian classical musicians of our time, Shujaat Khan has a musical pedigree that goes back seven generations. Most known for his *gayaki* style of sitar playing, a method that aims to match the subtleties of the human voice, Khan has recorded over 60 albums and garnered a Grammy® nomination.

Malavika Sarukkai, April 12

A dancer “who has worked and polished her art to such perfection that it has become an extension of her body” (*India Today*), Malavika Sarukkai’s take on the classic Indian Bharata Natyam dance form is replete with uncommon rhythmic precision and swift stamps to live accompaniment.

World Music

The Makem & Spain Brothers, October 12

Conor and Rory Makem, the two sons of “The Godfather of Irish Music” Tommy Makem, combine forces with brothers Liam and Mickey Spain to honor Irish tradition and musical history with songs touching love, loss, rebellion and home. With strong male vocals, a mix of boisterous sing-alongs and stirring ballads, the Makem & Spain Brothers are hailed by the *New York Chronicle* as “the definitive Irish folk singers of their generation.”

Martha Redbone, February 14

“Poised to be Americana’s next superstar” (*Village Voice*), Martha Redbone is praised for her warm, woody melodies that fuse her Native American heritage with blues, funk and mountain music. This performance will feature selections from her newest album *Garden of Love—The Songs of William Blake*, an homage to the English romance poet’s writing.

Celtic Nights: A Night of Music, Song and Dance, March 15

This one-night-only special presentation weaves together the lilting melodies and plaintive lyrics of the rich Celtic heritage, showcased against a backdrop of dancing and musicianship. Through Ireland’s most promising singers and its most accomplished step dancers, the rich story of the Celtic people is told.

By Local

***Devotedly Sincerely Yours: The Story of the USO* by The Pearlman Sisters, October 18-19**

A swingin’ big band portrait of a courageous female singer in the USO who risks her life to entertain American troops overseas during World War II, *Devotedly, Sincerely Yours: The Story of the USO* is an energetic, patriotic and nostalgic salute to soldiers past and present. Inspired by an eight-page letter written by a real-life USO starlet, the show dives headfirst into 1940s Americana—big band standards, jitterbug and tap dancing.

Brian Sanders' JUNK: Snowball, December 4-15

Helmed by MOMIX alumnus Brian Sanders, experimental dance/theatre company JUNK spins a wintery tale complete with holiday “suites” geared for the whole family. “Accessible, technically flawless, and thrilling comic dance” (*Dance Magazine*), Sanders’ style of inventive, off-the-wall choreography with found objects and discarded debris gives way to the troupe’s name, JUNK.

Marlene & the Machine: A German Expressionist Cabaret by The Bearded Ladies, February 7-8

An experimental group bent on inciting a cabaret revolution, the Bearded Ladies tackle the politics of popular culture, sex, gender and artistic invention with wit, as well as over-the-top costumes, drag, music and prop construction. *Marlene & The Machine* combines the music of Marlene Dietrich and Lotte Lenya with the visual language of German Expressionism to create a shadowy world that blurs the lines between human, music and machine.

The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts

The University of Pennsylvania’s Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts has been the region’s leading multi-disciplinary performance venue for theatre, dance, jazz, world music, new music and children’s programming since its inception in 1971. The Annenberg Center’s curatorial vision emphasizes four primary values: artistic integrity, cultural diversity, curatorial balance and a willingness to take risks. By presenting world-renowned and cutting edge artists and companies that express adventuresome perspectives on contemporary issues, timeless ideas and diverse cultures, the Annenberg Center promotes critical thinking and dialogue among its audiences, creating a uniquely rewarding arts experience.

The Annenberg Center has achieved national recognition for its outstanding Dance Celebration series (presented in partnership with Philadelphia’s Dance Affiliates) touring theatre series, and for its superior offerings for children, including both its Student Discovery Series and the acclaimed 30-year Philadelphia International Children’s Festival, the oldest festival of its kind in the United States.

Funding for the 13/14 Dance Celebration season is provided by Friends of Dance (Affiliates), the National Dance Project of the New England Foundation for the Arts, The Philadelphia Cultural Fund, and the Virginia C. Mulconroy Fund of The Philadelphia Foundation. State arts funding support is received through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

Generous support for the 13/14 Annenberg Center season is provided by The William Penn Foundation, The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, The Philadelphia Cultural Fund, The Philadelphia Foundation, PNC, The Philadelphia Phillies, The National Endowment for the Arts and The University of Pennsylvania as well as many individual donors. The Sheraton University City is the exclusive hotel sponsor.

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