Press Release

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY'S COLLEGE OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS
presents
The 12th Annual ARTS by George!
featuring a Gala Performance by Broadway Star Kelli O’Hara
plus student showcases, buffets and wine bars, and silent and live auctions

Saturday, September 23, 2017 at 5 p.m.
deLaski Performing Arts Building, Harris Theatre, and Center for the Arts

(FAIRFAX)—George Mason University’s College of Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA) presents its 12th annual ARTS by George! on Saturday, September 23, 2017 on the Fairfax campus. The benefit event is one of the premier arts gatherings in Northern Virginia each year. Its philanthropic efforts provide support for student scholarships in the disciplines of visual arts, dance, music, theater, computer game design, film and video studies, and arts management, as well as for the Great Performances at Mason series at the Center for the Arts. Information, tickets, and sponsorship packages are currently available at artsbygeorge.gmu.edu.

“I almost never call something unique because the word is overused and hardly ever accurate but this collection of brilliant student work in all genres of the arts, lively social interactions fueled by the energy of shared experiences, superb food and wine, topped off by a performance by one of the brightest stars on Broadway, is just that—unique," said Rick Davis, Dean of Mason’s College of Visual and Performing Arts. “ARTS by George! has become for many the highlight of the artistic and social calendar, and the proceeds from the evening are absolutely essential to our work with our students and the community.”

“ARTS by George! is a magical, moving, unforgettable experience benefitting student scholarships as well as the Great Performances at Mason series. The event brings together community and college, drawing inspiration from many student showcases as well as world-class talent,” affirmed Donn Smith and Jay Speer, 2017 ARTS by George! Event Chairs. “Where
else can you experience so many different art forms together in one place, while dining on a sumptuous buffet under the stars? It is a night not to be missed.”

**ARTS by George!** begins at 5 p.m. with a showcase of exhibitions and performances by CVPA students and faculty, which are presented in the deLaski Performing Arts Building and Harris Theatre, and in a tented plaza between the two venues. Guests are invited to tour 10 open studios and rehearsal halls, where they can enjoy behind-the-scenes insights and presentations of the student work that is being fostered at Mason. This year’s student showcases span selections from the musical *The Gondoliers* to an interactive virtual reality demonstration. As guests tour these creative spaces, they will also be treated to delicious cuisine and beverages provided by local purveyors, including Bonefish Grill, Bruster’s Real Ice Cream, Lebanese Taverna, and La Isla Corporation.

Raising support for student scholarships and the Great Performances at Mason series, the event also features Silent and Live Auctions where unique arts-related items and experiences will be open for bidding. Its highlights feature: an exclusive Broadway package to see *Hello Dolly*, including a backstage meet-and-greet with cast member and Tony Award® nominee Kate Baldwin, two-night hotel accommodations at the New York Hilton Midtown, and roundtrip transportation for two on Amtrak Acela; and a Disney package that includes four one-day park hopper passes (valid for any Disney theme park in Orlando, FL) and $2,000 worth of American Express travel vouchers to purchase airfare and/or hotel accommodations. Bidding kiosks will be set up and staffed by students throughout the event.

The evening’s festivities culminate with a radiant concert of Broadway favorites, pop classics, and great American standards by Tony Award® winner and Broadway star **Kelli O’Hara**. Named “Broadway’s golden girl and luminous star” by *The New York Times*, O’Hara is best known to audiences for her leading roles in *The King and I*, *The Light in the Piazza*, *South Pacific*, and *The Pajama Game*. As a special treat, talented students from Mason’s School of Music have been invited by O’Hara to perform with her. Following the concert, guests are welcomed onto the Concert Hall stage for a celebratory post-show champagne and dessert reception.

Ticket and sponsorship packages to ARTS by George! (including student showcases, food, beverages, gala performance, and champagne and dessert reception onstage) are $275
per person. Please contact Emily Rusch at erusch2@gmu.edu or 703-993-3872, or visit artsbygeorge.gmu.edu. Tickets to the gala performance only are available for purchase in person at the Center for the Arts’ Ticket Office (open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. until August 18, and Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. from August 19 onward); by calling 888-945-2468; or through the Center for the Arts’ website at cfa.gmu.edu.

**ARTS by George! EVENT SCHEDULE**

5:00 p.m.  
Student showcases
Food and beverage stations
Tent with catered buffet and live entertainment
Silent auction

8:00 p.m.  
Support a Student appeal
Gala performance by Kelli O’Hara

9:45 p.m.  
Live auction
Champagne and dessert reception onstage

**ARTS by George! STEERING COMMITTEE**
Donn Smith and Jay Speer, Event Chairs
Anne Bolger, Sponsorship Committee Co-Chair
Joe Catalano, Sponsorship Committee Co-Chair
Kathy Huftalen, Sponsorship Committee Co-Chair
Dan Moore, Sponsorship Committee Co-Chair
Carolyn Peterson, Sponsorship Committee Co-Chair
Shannon Baccaglini, Alumni Engagement Chair
Katie Pimblett, Silent Auction Committee Co-Chair
Joy Quinn, Silent Auction Committee Co-Chair
Renita Shelton, Silent Auction Committee Co-Chair

**About the College of Visual and Performing Arts**
The College of Visual and Performing Arts provides an academic environment in which the arts are explored as individual disciplines and interdisciplinary forms that strengthen one another. The college prepares students for careers as creators, performers, teachers, scholars, arts leaders, and arts entrepreneurs. Understanding that an education in the arts is deepened by regular contact with the work of distinguished visiting artists, the Center for the Arts, the professional presentation and production arm of the college, welcomes a variety of professional and world-renowned artists, musicians and actors to its stage. Students have the opportunity to perform, create and exhibit their work in a wide variety of public venues
including a 1,935-seat Concert Hall. The college is home to the Schools of Music, Dance, Art and Theater, as well as the Computer Game Design, Arts Management, and Film and Video Studies programs.

**About Great Performances at Mason**

*Great Performances at Mason* is a program of George Mason University’s Center for the Arts, the professional presentation and production arm of the College of Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA). CVPA provides an academic environment in which the arts are explored as individual disciplines and interdisciplinary forms that strengthen one another. The college prepares students for careers as creators, performers, teachers, scholars, arts leaders and arts entrepreneurs. Understanding that an education in the arts is deepened by regular contact with the work of distinguished visiting artists, the Center for the Arts, the professional presentation and production arm of the college, welcomes a variety of professional and world-renowned artists, musicians and actors to its stage. Students have the opportunity to perform, create and exhibit their work in a wide variety of public venues including a 2,000-seat Concert Hall. CVPA is home to the Schools of Music, Dance, Art and Theater, as well as the Computer Game Design, Arts Management, and Film and Video Studies programs.

**About George Mason University**

George Mason University is Virginia’s largest public research university. Located near Washington, D.C., Mason enrolls 35,000 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 College of Visual and Performing Arts**

Facebook | Twitter

**George Mason University’s Center for the Arts**

Facebook | Twitter | Instagram

#MasonArts

# # #
PRESS CONTACTS
Camille Cintrón Devlin, Assistant Director of Marketing & Communications
703-993-8794 | cdevlin6@gmu.edu

Hyla S. Helsel London, Interim Director of Marketing
703-993-9808 | hhelsel@gmu.edu