SEPTEMBER 2017 AT GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY’S CENTER FOR THE ARTS
featuring:
Keyboard Conversations® with Jeffrey Siegel
Kelli O’Hara
Festival of South African Dance

(FAIRFAX)—George Mason University’s Center for the Arts launches its 2017-2018 season of Great Performances at Mason this coming September with a new schedule of arts events, ranging from a piano lecture-recital to a concert by a Broadway diva, to an urban dance showcase. Tickets for individual events go on sale to the general public on Tuesday, August 1.

Piano virtuoso and avid storyteller Jeffrey Siegel—who is celebrating 25 years of performances at the Center—returns on September 17 with his ever-popular Keyboard Conversations® series. In his first concert of the new season, Siegel will honor the 100th birthday of musical icon Leonard Bernstein with a program featuring some of his compositions, as well as works by renowned composers who were influenced by Bernstein. On September 23, Tony Award® winner and Broadway star Kelli O’Hara will make her headlining debut at the Center as part of the annual ARTS by George! benefit, performing Broadway hits, classic pop songs, and American standards. O’Hara will also be joined by students from Mason’s School of Music for one special number. The month’s programming will conclude on September 30 with Festival of South African Dance, an invigorating performance by the Gumboot and Pantsula Dance Companies. Originally from South Africa, both ensembles fuse hip hop, city life, and traditions to create a powerful expression of the struggles and hope present in their country.

A full schedule of performances for September 2017 is listed below. Unless otherwise noted, performances will take place in the Center for the Arts’ Concert Hall located at 4373 Mason Pond Drive in Fairfax, Virginia. Starting August 1, tickets will be 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.

Great Performances at Mason

Keyboard Conversations® with Jeffrey Siegel
A Bernstein Birthday Bash
Sunday, September 17 at 7 p.m.

Images: Keyboard Conversations® with Jeffrey Siegel

Piano virtuoso and exceptional storyteller Jeffrey Siegel celebrates Leonard Bernstein’s 100th birthday with piano transcriptions of famous songs from West Side Story, his intimate Anniversaries, and music of two composers who most influenced him—Gershwin (Rhapsody in Blue) and Copland (El Salon Mexico). A perennial favorite at the Center for the Arts, Jeffrey Siegel makes newcomers feel welcomed while enhancing the enjoyment of seasoned classical music lovers. “Jeffrey Siegel has everything: massive technique, musical sensitivity and character, wide tonal resources, immense reserves of power, and the ability to communicate” (Los Angeles Times). An interactive Q & A will conclude this program.

Tickets: $42, $36, $25

ARTS by George!
Kelli O’Hara
Saturday, September 23 at 8 p.m.

Images: Kelli O’Hara

Tony Award® winner and Broadway star Kelli O’Hara performs a radiant concert of Broadway favorites, pop classics, and great American standards. O’Hara, who was named “Broadway’s golden girl and luminous star” by The New York Times, has unequivocally established herself as one of the great leading ladies, starring in The King and I, The Light in the Piazza, South Pacific, and The Pajama Game. A trained opera singer, she has also appeared on the Metropolitan Opera House stage and in a recent performance of Purcell’s opera Dido and Aeneas, The New York Times praised her “gleaming voice” and “majestic clarity.” Talented student musicians from Mason’s School of Music will perform alongside O’Hara for one number. Don’t miss this dynamic entertainer who will perform melodies from your favorite Broadway musicals with her signature "angelic vocals" (The Daily Free Press).

This performance is part of the ARTS by George! benefit.

Tickets: $100, $85, $60
Festival of South African Dance
Featuring the Gumboot and Pantsula Dance Companies
Saturday, September 30 at 8 p.m.

Images: Festival of South African Dance

Direct from Johannesburg, South Africa, two dynamic dance companies share the stage for a pulsating, rhythm-filled evening of urban street dance. Featuring 20 dancers with live musicians, the Gumboot and Pantsula Dance Companies use dance to respond to cultural and political issues in their communities by conveying real-life stories of hard work, human struggles, and longing for a better life. Wearing Wellington boots, Gumboot dancers urgently pound the floor in a popular dance originally conceived by South African miners who used foot tapping to communicate underground when talking wasn’t allowed. Pantsula is rooted in urban street culture and uses the sounds of busy city life, house music, and technical dance moves akin to hip-hop and breakdancing to express social problems in hopes of spearheading change.

Tickets: $50, $43, $30

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 Center for the Arts

#MasonArts

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