For Immediate Release:  
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GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY'S COLLEGE OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS presents

The 13th Annual ARTS by George!

featuring a Gala Performance by jazz-pop sensation The Manhattan Transfer with the American Festival Pops Orchestra
plus student showcases, food and beverage stations, auctions, and more

Saturday, September 29, 2018 at 5 p.m.
deLaski Performing Arts Building, Harris Theatre, and Center for the Arts on the Fairfax campus

(FAIRFAX)—George Mason University’s College of Visual and Performing Arts presents its 13th annual ARTS by George! benefit on Saturday, September 29, 2018. The philanthropic event raises support for student scholarships in visual arts, dance, music, theater, computer game design, film and video studies, and arts management, as well as for the Mason Community Arts Academy, the Green Machine Ensembles, and the Great Performances at Mason series. Information and ticket/sponsorship packages are available at artsbygeorge.gmu.edu.

“This event has become one of the premier nights on the artistic and social calendars of Northern Virginia because there is, quite literally, no other evening like it anywhere,” shared Rick Davis, Dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts. He continued, “our patrons see brilliant student performances and interactive exhibitions up-close; meet faculty, staff, and students (and each other!); partake of first-class food and drink; and bid on one-of-a-kind items in both silent and live auctions—all before gathering in the Concert Hall to see a world-class headliner. It’s a non-stop feast for all of the senses, including the heart, mind, and soul.”

On September 29, ARTS by George! begins at 5 p.m. with exhibitions and performances by CVPA students and faculty. These are presented in the deLaski Performing Arts Building and
Harris Theatre—where classes and many CVPA events take place throughout the academic year—and in a tented plaza between the two venues. Inside the 10 open studios and rehearsal halls, guests enjoy behind-the-scenes access and sneak peeks of upcoming student productions, such as *Big River: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. This year’s event also features first-time showcases by the Mason Community Arts Academy and the Green Machine Ensembles. As guests travel from one showcase to the next, they are treated to scrumptious cuisine and beverages from local purveyors, including Catering by LT and Bonefish Grill, among others.

The ARTS by George! benefit event would not be complete without Silent and Live Auctions, where guests can bid on a chance to win an array of exclusive arts-related items and experiences. The highlights of this year’s auctions are: an orchestra conducting experience, including dinner with Anthony Maiello, CVPA faculty and conductor of the American Festival Pops Orchestra, and the opportunity to guest conduct at a concert during the orchestra’s 2019/20 season at the Center for the Arts; and, a luxurious weekend in Virginia’s wine country with two nights in a suite at The Rooms Up There in the charming village of Marshall, plus private car service and dining at a myriad of fine restaurants, wineries, and eateries, such as Red Truck Bakery, Field & Main, The Front Porch, Whole Ox, Miracle Valley, Naked Mountain, Three Fox, Blue Valley, and Cobbler Mountain. Bidding kiosks will be set up throughout the deLaski Performing Arts Building and staffed by CVPA students throughout the event.

The evening’s festivities culminate with a Gala Performance by multi-Grammy Award®-winning vocal sensation The Manhattan Transfer. Since the early 1970s, this legendary quartet has revolutionized vocal jazz with its impeccable harmonies and crisp interpretations of classics. They gained mainstream popularity with the release of their hit single “Operator,” as well as the remake of their signature song “Birdland.” Most recently, The Manhattan Transfer joined a cappella group Take 6 in the PBS Special, *The Summit: The Manhattan Meets Take 6*, which was released this past spring. Also, in 2018, the celebrated quartet released its first album in a decade, entitled *The Junction*. For this concert, they join the American Festival Pops Orchestra and its Artistic Director/Founder Anthony Maiello to present a dynamic evening of vocal and instrumental swing, doo-wop, jazz, and pop. The orchestra will appear under the batons of both Maestro Maiello and The Manhattan Transfer’s Musical Director of 39 years, Yaron Gershovsky.
Making a special appearance will be the Mason Jazz Vocal Ensemble, directed by Dr. Darden Purcell, CVPA Director of Jazz Studies/Jazz Voice. This award-winning student group will perform “I’ll Be Seeing You” and their tour de force, “No More Blues,” a piece custom-arranged for them by AFPO Composer/Arranger-in-Residence, Bryan Kidd.

In a joint statement, Jay Speer and Donn Smith shared: “we are thrilled to be co-chairing this year’s ARTS by George! and feel proud to support the stellar work being done by students, faculty, and staff in George Mason University’s College of Visual and Performing Arts and Center for the Arts. Their creativity, passion, and talents inspire us as individuals and elevate us as a community. We encourage local philanthropists, arts lovers, and members of the general public to join us on September 29 for a magical night that is not to be missed.”

Ticket and sponsorship packages to ARTS by George! (including entry to the student showcases, food, beverages, and tickets to the Gala Performance and champagne 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 in person at the Center for the Arts’ Ticket Office (open Tuesday–Saturday from 10 a.m.–6 p.m.), by calling 703-993-2787, or through the Center for the Arts’ website at cfa.gmu.edu.

**ARTS by George! EVENT SCHEDULE**

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

8 p.m.  
Support-a-Student Appeal  
Live Auction

8:30 p.m.  
Gala Performance by The Manhattan Transfer featuring the American Festival Pops Orchestra and Mason Jazz Vocal Ensemble

10 p.m.  
Onstage champagne reception

**ARTS by George! STEERING COMMITTEE**

Jay Speer and Donn Smith, Event Chairs  
Anne Bolger, Sponsorship Committee Co-Chair  
Anne Caputo, Sponsorship Committee Co-Chair
Joe Catalano, Sponsorship Committee Co-Chair
Steven Golsch, Sponsorship Committee Co-Chair
Rebecca Graham, Sponsorship Committee Co-Chair
Carolyn Peterson, Sponsorship Committee Co-Chair
Dan Moore, Silent Auction Committee Chair
Judy Canyock, Food and Beverage Committee Co-Chair
Sharon Gottlieb, Food and Beverage Committee Co-Chair
Paulette Miller, Food and Beverage Committee Co-Chair
Ida Portland, Food and Beverage 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 2,000-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

George Mason University’s Center for the Arts

#MasonArts

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

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