



May 12, 2006

Contact: Kara Keene Cooper
404-651-2981
kkeene@gsu.edu

GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY'S RIALTO CENTER FOR THE ARTS
ANNOUNCES 2006-2007 SUBSCRIPTION AND 10TH ANNIVERSARY SERIES

"EVERY SHOW'S A CELEBRATION" AT THE RIALTO'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY SERIES
SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE ON SALE NOW!

ATLANTA—Georgia State University's Rialto Center for the Arts announces its **2006-2007 Rialto 10th Anniversary Series**—a 16-show line-up featuring the best of national and international jazz, world music, and dance.

The 2006-2007 Rialto Series' description: "*every show's a celebration!*" honors the 10 years since the re-opening of Georgia State University's performing arts center, the renovated movie house, the Rialto. To coincide with the occasion, each show will honor other special occasions, such as Eddie Palmieri's 70th birthday year; the season opener featuring The Royal Drummers of Burundi and the Mombasa Party; Bo Diddley celebrates 50 years in the music industry; and Les Ballets Africains celebrates their 50th anniversary as the National Dance Company of Guinea. As the season continues, the Rialto will present Tap sensation Savion Glover in *Classical Savion*; Paco Peña, flamenco guitar and dance; Dianne Reeves coming off a fourth Grammy win; and the Preservation Hall Jazz Band in a Salute to New Orleans. **Series subscriptions and single tickets are on sale now. They may be purchased by calling 404-651-4727, in person at the Box office, by fax at 404-651-1332, or online at www.rialtocenter.org.**

"Georgia State's Rialto is the Arts Center bringing life-changing cultural experiences to people throughout the southeast," says Leslie Gordon, Director. "We've been named the 'Best World Music Venue,' we've had our dance series listed as one of the 'Best Things of 2005', and we've been called the place where the 'shakers' go in *Atlanta Magazine's* Movers and Shakers issue. We appreciate that kind of

recognition. It inspires us to keep on introducing the city and the region to the new and the challenging for many more years to come.”

The 2006-2007 Rialto Series is sponsored by **Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Delta Air Lines, Georgia Council for the Arts, the Hilton Atlanta Hotel, and Turner Broadcasting System, Inc.** Other partners include the City of Atlanta Bureau of Cultural Affairs and the Fulton County Arts Council; funding for this program is provided by the Fulton county Board of Commissioners under the guidance of the Fulton County Arts Council. This program is supported in part by the Georgia Council for the Arts through the appropriations of the Georgia General Assembly. GCA is a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art. The Southern Arts Federation is a funder of Savion Glover, Spanish Harlem Orchestra, and Mexican Strings Meet American Bluegrass. The Rialto Center is proud to partner with the Woodruff Arts Center’s Celebrate Diversity through the Arts, the Cultural Services of the French Consulate in Atlanta, the National Black Arts Festival, Several Dancers Core, and the Savannah Music Festival. The Rialto Center is a unit of Auxiliary and Support Services and a division of Finance and Administration at Georgia State University.

Georgia State University’s Rialto Center for the Arts, an intimate, cultural centerpiece in downtown Atlanta, inspires, educates and entertains diverse audiences by presenting innovative and exceptional arts programming. Ninety years ago, in 1916, the Rialto began its life as a popular movie theater and vaudeville house. The new Rialto is the result of an ambitious, state-of-the-art, \$14 million renovation and a firm, forward-thinking commitment on the part of Georgia State University to the revitalization of the city’s downtown business district. It reopened in 1996, making this its 10th-Anniversary Season.

Each year, the Rialto offers its own unique subscription series featuring world-class artists, focusing on the best in world music, jazz, contemporary dance, and international programs. Throughout the year, the Center is also home to other local performing arts organizations as well as visiting companies and has become a showplace for independent film in Atlanta. The Rialto offers innovative educational outreach programs to children, students and the general public.



2006-2007 RIALTO 10th ANNIVERSARY SERIES LINE-UP

The Royal Drummers of Burundi and the Mombasa Party

African Percussion Ensemble

Saturday, October 21, 2006, 8 PM * \$32, \$42, \$56

Channeling the energy and creative spirit of a nation through their sacred drums, The Royal Drummers of Burundi, one of the greatest percussion ensembles in the world, embody centuries of tradition passed down from father to son. Playing the *Ingoma*, *Amashako*, and *Ibishikiso* drums, the troupe's dance and drumming represent an important part of African musical heritage. On the Rialto stage, they will be joined by the Mombasa party, the name given to a traditional gathering of the town's major *taarab* artists. Through its years of development, *taarab* has been an exceptionally inclusive art form, adapting and incorporating elements from Swahili, Arabic, Indian, Egyptian, and other cultures. *Taarab* is found on the east African coast, an area that serves as a center for trade with countries throughout the Middle East and Asia.

In collaboration with the National Black Arts Festival and Woodruff Arts Center's Celebrate Diversity through the Arts initiative

Bo Diddley and Friends

Blues and Rock Legend with Alvin Youngblood Hart and Ruthie Foster

Friday, November 10, 2006, 8 PM * \$36, \$46, \$62

When Bo Diddley exploded on the music scene fifty years ago, his trademark musical style changed the direction of popular music forever. His crucial role in the birth of Rock 'n' Roll earned him the title "The Originator." His hits – including *Who Do You Love*, *Roadrunner*, and *I'm A Man* – are iconic. Bo received the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 1998 and was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1987. Bo will be joined in concert with friends Alvin Youngblood Hart, 2005 Grammy Award winner, and Ruthie Foster, two artists who are carrying on the tradition of originality and innovation. Hart's CD *Start with the Soul* was named the BBC's Blues Record of the Year in 2000. Texas-born artist Foster has appeared on PBS's *Austin City Limits*. Her voice has been compared to Ella Fitzgerald and Aretha Franklin.

In collaboration with the National Black Arts Festival and Woodruff Arts Center's Celebrate Diversity through the Arts initiative

Eddie Palmieri

Latin Jazz Legend

Saturday, November 18, 2006, 8 PM * \$36, \$46, \$62

The world has long admired Eddie Palmieri – the Harlem-born, eight-time Grammy award winner – as one of the foremost Latin pianists of the last half-century. His ability to fuse the rhythms of his Puerto Rican heritage with the jazz influences of Thelonious Monk and McCoy Tyner made him an instant success in the 1950's and 60's. Palmieri, who embodies the jazz spirit of improvisation, has continued to roll on with stylistic innovations over the years, creating classic Tico albums and later mixing salsa with R&B, pop, rock, and Spanish vocals. In 2005, Palmieri celebrated an amazing 50-year career as a professional musician, and will celebrate his 70th birthday year with the Rialto.

In collaboration with the National Black Arts Festival and Woodruff Arts Center's Celebrate Diversity through the Arts initiative

Gala Holiday Concert

Saturday December 2, 2006, 8 PM & Sunday, December 3, 2006, 3 PM * \$16, \$26, \$42

The Georgia State University School of Music presents its ninth-annual Gala Holiday Family Concert featuring over 200 student and faculty musicians as part of a university-wide celebration of the season. Including members of the University Symphony Orchestra, Choral, Brass, and Percussion Ensembles, the gala concert will feature conductors Duncan Couch, Stuart Gerber, John Haberlen, and Michael Palmer leading the ensembles and soloists. The program will feature seasonal treasures as well as a Hanukkah medley performed by a Klezmer band.

Savion Glover, Tap Dance Phenomenon

Classical Savion

Friday, February 2, 2007, 8 PM & Saturday, February 3, 2007, 8 PM * \$36, \$46, \$62

Tap Superstar, Savion Glover, a 1996 Tony Award Winner, will return to the Rialto with a new show called *Classical Savion*. The quintessential master of tap and rhythm is not the first to attempt tapping to classical music, but the show's stunning intensity for nearly two hours non-stop has to be seen to be believed. The exquisitely subtle gradations of his tap beats are virtually those of a jazz instrumentalist, and bring a fresh, new element to orchestrations of Bach and Vivaldi. Choreographer and director Savion Glover made his Broadway debut as the title character in *The Tap Dance Kid* at the age of 12, appeared opposite Gregory Hines in the Broadway run of *Jelly's Last Jam*, and won the Tony award for his dancing and choreography in the Broadway smash hit *Bring In Da Noise, Bring In Da Funk*.

In collaboration with the National Black Arts Festival, the Southern Arts Federation, and Woodruff Arts Center's Celebrate Diversity through the Arts initiative

Les Ballets Africains

The National Dance Company of the Republic of Guinea

Saturday, February 17, 2007, 8 PM * \$32, \$42, \$56

Celebrating 50 years, Les Ballets Africains comes to Atlanta to share their mission of fostering a greater understanding of Africa with the hope of creating closer ties to the people of Africa and the rest of the world. The company consists of members of every group found in Guinea, representing many different languages and cultures. The performers are proficient in their own cultural heritage, and in that of many other tribes, as well. This mastery enables Les Ballets Africains, as the national dance company, to present an accurate portrayal of the nation's many cultural forms.

In collaboration with the National Black Arts Festival and Woodruff Arts Center's Celebrate Diversity through the Arts initiative

Spanish Harlem Orchestra

Latin Dance Music

Saturday, February 24, 2007, 8 PM * \$26, \$36, \$52

Spanish Harlem Orchestra has quickly established itself as one of the pillars of contemporary Latin Music. With outstanding performers Ray De La Paz, Willie Torres, and Marco Bermudez handling vocals, as well as the most accomplished players in the New York Latin Music scene, SHO carries forward the tradition of the vibrant East Side of New York City, known as "El Barrio" or Spanish Harlem, the birthplace of Salsa, Latin Soul. Led by world famous pianist and arranger Oscar Hernandez, The Spanish Harlem Orchestra, has quickly established itself as the standard-bearer of the exciting American music tradition borne in "El Barrio."

In collaboration with the National Black Arts Festival, the Southern Arts Federation, and Woodruff Arts Center's Celebrate Diversity through the Arts initiative

Philippe Decouflé

In *SOLO The doubt within me*

Friday, March 2, 2007, 8 PM * \$26, \$36, \$52

Philippe Decouflé, the most imaginative and talented artistic director/choreographer in France, brings his solo show to the Rialto stage, incorporating modern dance and visual imagery. Most choreographers are simply choreographers – but Philippe Decouflé is more. He creates “video-danse” combining dance, live video, film, music, spectacular costumes, and cartoons. Training with Alwin Nikolais in France and New York, a pioneer in combining multimedia effects with abstract dance, Decouflé has developed his own brand of whimsical entertainment that always explores the quirky relationship between video and dance. He has been honored for his short films and is most famous for his choreography of the 1992 Winter Olympic Games Ceremonies in Albertville, France.

In collaboration with the Cultural Services of the French Consulate in Atlanta, Woodruff Arts Center's Celebrate Diversity through the Arts initiative, and Several Dancers Core

Clown Princes: The Silent Films of Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton, & Harold Lloyd

With Rick Benjamin's Paragon Ragtime Orchestra

Saturday, March 10, 2007, 8 PM * \$26, \$36, \$52

Honoring its silent film house origin, the Rialto presents Charlie Chaplin in *The Immigrant*, Buster Keaton's *Cops*, and Harold Lloyd's *Never Weaken* to the musical accompaniment of Rick Benjamin's Paragon Ragtime Orchestra. The Paragon Ragtime Orchestra was born out of conductor Rick Benjamin's chance discovery of a long-lost collection of musical scores dating from this era. These rarely heard original scores will be performed live during the films. One of Charlie Chaplin's greatest short films, *The Immigrant*, presents our cherished silent film star in his world famous tramp role, as we follow his journey to America and his quest for the American dream. In *Cops*, Buster Keaton faces a series of mishaps, which lead him deeper and deeper into trouble, culminating in what appears to be the entire world's police force chasing after him. Harold Lloyd's film, *Never Weaken*, shows our hero infatuated with a girl who turns out to be spoken for. Lloyd spends the rest of the movie in thrilling, failed attempts at suicide. The pre-show lecture will be given by Associate Professor of Film Studies at Emory University and the host and moderator of the Atlanta's Key Sunday Cinema Club, Matthew Bernstein.

Show Sponsored by Turner Classic Movies

Dianne Reeves

Saturday, March 17, 2007, 8 PM * \$36, \$46, \$62

Dianne Reeves is perhaps the pre-eminent jazz vocalist in the world today. As a result of her unique R&B and jazz stylings, Reeves was awarded the Grammy for Best Jazz Vocal Performance for three consecutive recordings, something no other vocalist in any genre has ever accomplished. Recently Reeves appeared and performed in George Clooney's “Good Night, and Good Luck,” the Academy Award nominated and critically acclaimed film. The movie itself has earned six Oscar nominations, and features performances by Dianne of songs hand-picked by director George Clooney. Reeves has won her fourth Grammy with this soundtrack and will soon be featured in a film on the remarkable and all-too-brief life of Billy Strayhorn. While her singing style is steeped in tradition, Reeves is taking bold new steps with her strong, agile voice, and her rhythmic virtuosity and improvisational ease easily astound.

In collaboration with the National Black Arts Festival and the Savannah Music Festival

Illstyle & Peace Productions

Same Spirit Different Movement

Hip-Hop Theater Dance Company

Friday, March 23, 2007, 8 PM * \$32, \$42, \$56

Illstyle & Peace Productions is a multi-cultural, mixed gender dance theater company which fuses hip hop with various other styles of dance. Founded in 2002 by Brandon Albright and Forrest Webb, the company creates and shares awe-inspiring works for diverse audiences, and is committed to spreading unity, peace, love, respect, and fun through dance. *Same Spirit Different Movement* is their newest work and is a collaborative effort that brings various dance styles together, including vocal percussions, turntablism, spoken word, popping, locking, breaking, tap dancing, DJing, Human BeatBoxing, and more. Brandon Albright was an original member of the Philly based Scanner Boyz and has danced for major recording artists such as Boyz II Men, Will Smith, and LL Cool J.

In collaboration with the National Black Arts Festival and Woodruff Arts Center's Celebrate Diversity through the Arts initiative

Steve Reich Festival

Tuesday, April 10, 2007, 8 PM and Wednesday, April 11, 2007, 8 PM * \$16, \$26, \$42

Contemporary Classical Music

Tuesday, April 10, 2007 – So Percussion and the Georgia State University Percussion Ensemble

Wednesday, April 11, 2007 – Bent Frequency

The Rialto presents a celebration of the music of American composer Steve Reich on the occasion of his 70th Birthday. Steve Reich has been hailed as "America's greatest living composer" and to honor the importance and influence of Mr. Reich in contemporary music this festival will present his works for two consecutive evenings and additional educational events. Tuesday night, the acclaimed guest artist, So Percussion, in their Atlanta debut, will explore Reich's "Drumming" (1971), alongside the Georgia State University Percussion Ensemble. So Percussion, one of the most exciting young ensembles in the country, seek to challenge and enable the creation of new music that combines musical, theatrical and artistic elements. Atlanta's own Bent Frequency will continue the Rialto festival on Wednesday night featuring Steve Reich's chamber works. Bent Frequency brings the avant-garde music tradition to life through adventurous programming, the promotion of New Music, and a creative synthesis of music and media. This celebration of Steve Reich's 70th birthday is one of many around the world, which will look at his life as one of the greatest composers of our time.

Hosted by John Kennedy, composer, conductor, Director of Spoleto Festival's "Music in Time" Series, and Artistic Director of Santa Fe New Music

Slide Hampton

Performing with the Georgia State University Jazz Band

Friday, April 13, 2007, 8 PM * \$16, \$26, \$42

Master trombonist, composer, arranger and teacher, Slide Hampton is a formidable champion of the jazz tradition. Through countless collaborations with the 20th century's most prominent musicians, Hampton has worked tirelessly to bring jazz to audiences around the world. He has become an international ambassador of American classical music. His colleagues awarded him with a 1998 Grammy Award, but for Slide Hampton, the reward is reaching the hearts and minds of his students, peers, and listeners. Hence, Hampton will continue his mission through this collaboration with the Georgia State University Jazz Band. The 20-piece University Jazz Band, founded over 30 years ago and currently led by Gordon Vernick, has previously backed such notables as Nicholas Payton, Kenny Garrett, Ron Blake, Dick Oatts, David Sanchez, and Joe Lovano.

Paco Peña

A Compás! ~ Primal Pulse

Flamenco Guitar and Dance

Saturday, April 28, 2007, 8 PM * \$32, \$42, \$56

Paco Peña, one of the world's greatest flamenco guitarists, returns to the Rialto with *A Compás!* Highlighting the power and passion of southern Spain's rich tradition of music and dance, this program of pure flamenco conveys to the audience the compelling nature of a range of flamenco rhythms, from the almost trance-inducing quality of the "alboreá" to the razor - sharp complexity of the "bulería." Now, Peña brings the "compás", a primal pulse, the rhythm of the earth, to the Rialto stage. Peña's illustrious career spans over 40 years, in which he has toured the world, performing in venues from Carnegie Hall to London's Royal Albert. He was voted "Best Flamenco Guitarist" for five consecutive years by readers of *American Guitar* magazine.

Show Sponsored by Delta Air Lines

In collaboration with the Woodruff Arts Center's Celebrate Diversity through the Arts initiative

Mexican Strings and American Bluegrass

**Featuring Mexico's Grupo Siquisiri and Bluegrass Legend Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys
Saturday, May 5, 2007, 8 PM * \$32, \$42, \$56**

Grupo Siquisiri, a five-piece son jarocho ensemble from Tlacotalpan, Veracruz, will make their United States debut at the Rialto with Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys, hosted by Joe Wilson of the National Council for the Traditional Arts. Grupo Siquisiri has been met with great appreciation from audiences in Asia, Central and South America. The mournful harmonies of Ralph Stanley's true "roots" music echoes the sounds of distant English and Appalachian traditions. The remarkable mix of these disparate artists will be a truly one-of-a-kind performance during the Cinco de Mayo weekend.

In collaboration with the Woodruff Arts Center's Celebrate Diversity through the Arts initiative and the Southern Arts Federation

Preservation Hall Jazz Band

A Salute to New Orleans

Saturday, May 19, 2007, 8 PM * \$32, \$42, \$56

The Preservation Hall Jazz Band derives its name from the Preservation Hall, the venerable music venue located in the heart of New Orleans' French Quarter, founded in 1961 by Allan and Sandra Jaffe. The band has traveled worldwide on a mission to propagate the art of New Orleans Jazz. The Preservation Hall Jazz Band began touring in 1963, with founding artists who passed on the lessons of their music to a younger generation like current band leader and trumpeter John Brunious. This year marks the 45th Anniversary of Preservation Hall and its re-opening in New Orleans.

In collaboration with the National Black Arts Festival



SUBSCRIPTIONS AND SINGLE TICKETS ON SALE NOW

Subscriptions and single tickets are on sale now through the **Rialto Center Box Office in person or by telephone at 404.651.4727; by fax at 404.651.0966; online at www.rialtocenter.org; or by mail at P.O. Box 2627, Atlanta, GA 30301-2627**. Patrons may subscribe in two ways: purchase 4 or more shows and receive a 15% discount or purchase 6 or more shows and receive a 20% discount. The subscription also includes invites to all Rialto VIP events and receptions, gifts at each show, hassle-free ticket exchange, and membership to our Downtown Dining Club. Starting at \$16, ticket prices vary by event and seat location. **Free parking is provided for all Rialto Series events at the Equitable Building deck on Fairlie Street.**