

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 26, 2008

Updated April 2, 2008

Betsy She

312-334-2459

bshea@harristheaterchicago.org

HARRIS THEATER FOR MUSIC AND DANCE ANNOUNCES A WORLD-CLASS 5TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON FEATURING THE FIRST-EVER *HARRIS THEATER PRESENTS* SERIES OF CHICAGO PREMIERES, ARTISTIC COLLABORATIONS AND A LINE-UP OF SOME OF THE WORLD'S NOTABLE ARTISTS WORKING TODAY

Highlights of the Harris Theater Presents series include the San Francisco Ballet's 75th Anniversary Tour, the English Concert with Countertenor David Daniels, the return of Daniel Barenboim, a residency with the Sphinx Chamber Orchestra, a special 60th birthday recital with Pinchas Zukerman and the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company

CHICAGO, March 26, 2008 – The **Harris Theater for Music and Dance** has announced another first, two distinct series for its **Fifth Anniversary** and inaugural **Harris Theater Presents 2008-2009 series**. The Harris Theater Presents consists of a five-concert music series and a three-performance dance series for sale on an individual ticket basis and via subscription on May 1. This represents the first time the Harris Theater has offered a series of events in subscription format. The schedule of Harris Theater Presents events includes an impressive and diverse selection of music and dance performances by internationally acclaimed artists and ensembles, many of whom are celebrating significant anniversaries and milestones. Subscriptions and single tickets for these performances will go on sale May 1, 2008 and will be available at the Harris Theater box office located in Millennium Park at 205 E. Randolph Dr., by calling 312-334-7777 or by visiting www.harristheaterchicago.org.

The Harris Theater Presents programs will be presented in addition to the Theater's normal roster of diverse resident company performances throughout the 2008-2009 season, which will be announced in full at a later date.

"It is both exciting and rewarding to embark upon our Fifth Anniversary season and present such an artistically significant array of music and dance offerings to Chicago audiences," said Michael Tiknis, President and Managing Director. "The Harris Theater has grown significantly in its five years and our upcoming season illustrates the qualities for which the Harris strives – extraordinary performances and unique collaborations. While we are deeply committed to our resident users, we are pleased to forge partnerships with renowned music and dance organizations from around the world to present these important, unique and noteworthy performances at the Harris."

"It is especially satisfying to prepare to celebrate the Fifth Anniversary of the Harris Theater," said Joan Harris, Chairman of the Harris Board of Trustees. "We are thrilled to present some of the most spectacular programming the Harris stage has seen yet and know Chicago audiences will marvel and delight at the breadth and quality of the first Harris Theater Presents series during such a significant year for our Theater."

The schedule for the Harris Theater Presents includes an impressive lineup of the most highly acclaimed performers and ensembles from around the world. The Theater will commence its Fifth Anniversary season with a week-long engagement with the **San Francisco Ballet**, in conjunction with the company's 75th Anniversary Season and limited four-city national tour; and continue the momentum with the **Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra** in a special presentation honoring the 60th Anniversaries of both the Orchestra and the founding of the State of Israel and featuring violinist **Robert McDuffie**; the **St. Louis Symphony Orchestra**, led by innovative American conductor **David Robertson**, in his only Chicago appearance this season, and featuring violinist **Leila Josefowicz**; the highly-anticipated return of pianist **Daniel Barenboim**, in one of only three U.S. recitals he'll perform next year; a recital with violinist and composer **Pinchas Zukerman** in honor of his 60th birthday; Europe's leading baroque orchestra, **The English Concert**, with acclaimed countertenor **David Daniels**, who returns to Chicago after receiving acclaimed reviews for his performance in *Giulio Cesare* at the Lyric Opera this past November; and Chicago native **Lar Lubovitch** and his **Lar Lubovitch Dance Company**, celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2008.

As part of its Fifth Anniversary celebration, the Harris Theater, in joint collaboration with **Chicago Sinfonietta**, will also present a special music and education outreach residency program with Detroit's internationally heralded **Sphinx Chamber Orchestra**. In order to allow for a unique collaboration with Chicago Sinfonietta, our nation's most diverse orchestra, the Sphinx Chamber Orchestra will be presented as a special event and all tickets to the evening program will cost \$5.00. Additionally, Chicago Sinfonietta subscribers who are among the first to renew their subscriptions will have the option to receive a pair of tickets to the Sphinx Chamber Orchestra performance at no extra cost.

"The Chicago Sinfonietta is pleased to collaborate with the Harris Theater for Music and Dance in bringing the Sphinx Chamber Orchestra to Chicago," said Maestro Paul Freeman, Founding Music Director of the Chicago Sinfonietta. "As the nation's most diverse orchestra, we are pleased to support this performance of young, gifted minority musicians."

The Harris Theater's Fifth Anniversary fall season has been made possible with support from **United Airlines**, the Harris Theater's Official Airline of the 2008-2009 Season and the Exclusive Airline of the Harris Theater's Fifth Anniversary Celebration. Support for Harris Theater programming is provided by the **Harris Theater Presenting Fund**, established in 2006 to occasionally bring to Chicago artists or ensembles of the highest caliber who would normally not be seen here in order to complement the works of the Theater's resident companies and build audiences for the Theater. Rental subsidies for select user groups have been provided by the **John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation**, the Lead Underwriter of the Harris Theater's Rental Subsidy Program. Additionally, The **Andrew W. Mellon Foundation** has provided support for collaborative partnerships with the Harris Theater to the following arts and cultural organizations: Chicago Opera Theater, eighth blackbird, Fulcrum Point New Music Project, Luna Negra Dance Theater, Music of the Baroque and Urban Gateways. Support for the Sphinx Chamber Orchestra presentation has been generously provided through a grant from **The Joyce Foundation**, the Lead Foundation Contributor for the engagement.

Program information for the Harris Theater's Fifth Anniversary 2008-2009 fall season is as follows:

Special Fifth Anniversary Event

Sphinx Chamber Orchestra

Saturday, October 4, 2008 7:30 pm

Tickets: \$5 for all tickets

The Harris Theater, in joint collaboration with Chicago Sinfonietta, our nation's most diverse orchestra, is pleased to present the Chicago debut of the internationally heralded Sphinx Chamber Orchestra, hailed by the *New York Times* as "first-rate in every way," this fall. The Sphinx Chamber Orchestra, a 25-musician ensemble comprised of alumni winners of the prestigious Sphinx Competition for emerging pre-professional African-American and Latino musicians, will perform selections from Mozart, Wynton Marsalis and pianist Michael Abels in this eclectic program. Under the baton of conductor Chelsea Tipton II, who also led the Orchestra in its acclaimed appearance at Carnegie Hall in fall 2007, the Sphinx Chamber Orchestra will also be joined by the Harlem Quartet, an ensemble comprised of all First Place Laureates of the Sphinx Competition. Founded in 1996 by Aaron P. Dworkin, an accomplished violinist, MacArthur Fellow and the recipient of *Newsweek's* 2006 Giving Back Award, the mission of the Sphinx Organization is to increase the participation of blacks and Latinos in music schools, as professional musicians and as classical music audiences. In celebration of the Sphinx Chamber Orchestra's inaugural performance in Chicago and the Harris Theater's Fifth Anniversary, tickets to the program will cost only \$5.00 and will go on sale on a first-come-first-served basis on May 1, 2008.

The Lead Foundation Contributor for this engagement is The Joyce Foundation.

Mozart:	<i>Divertimento in D Major, III</i>
Piazzolla:	<i>Winter in Buenos Aires</i> for solo violin and orchestra
Villa Lobos:	<i>Fugue</i>
Walker:	<i>Lyric</i>
Marsalis:	<i>Hellbound Highball</i> (Harlem Quartet)
Vivaldi:	<i>Concerto for 4 Violins and Orchestra in B Minor</i>
Michael Abels:	<i>Delights and Dances</i> for String Quartet and Orchestra

Classical Music Series

Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra

Tuesday, November 11, 2008, 7:30 pm

Tickets: \$68-\$120

In honor of the 60th Anniversaries of the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra and the founding of the State of Israel, the Harris Theater presents the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, with principal conductor and scholar Leon Botstein*. Since its founding, the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra has prided itself on having an extensive repertoire, which not only revisits the masterpieces at the core of the classical canon, but also promotes the work of more recent composers from Israel and abroad. For this landmark performance at the Harris, Botstein, who is a proponent of thematic programming, will lead the Orchestra in works by Ernst Toch, Miklós Rózsa and Aaron Copland, all of whom are known not only for their orchestral works, but for their work within the film industry. The concert will feature *Symphony No. 3* from Aaron Copland, well-known for his film scores, including the film adaptations of John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* and *The Red Pony*, and

who won an Academy Award for his score for *The Heiress* in 1949. The program will also feature Toch's *Big Ben Variations* and internationally renowned and Grammy nominated violinist Robert McDuffie will join the Orchestra to perform Rosza's *Violin Concerto*.

Toch: *Big Ben Variations*
Rózsa: *Violin Concerto Op. 24*, with violinist Robert McDuffie
Copland: *Symphony No. 3*

*Leon Botstein will also conduct the American Symphony Orchestra in the world premiere of Mark Morris' *Romeo & Juliet, On Motifs of Shakespeare* this summer. The Harris Theater is a co-commissioner of *Romeo & Juliet, On Motifs of Shakespeare*, which will receive its Chicago premiere at the Harris in September 2009.

St. Louis Symphony Orchestra

Sunday, November 16, 2008, 3:00 pm

Tickets: \$68-\$120

The New York Times has said the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra plays "with technical command, rhapsodic fervor and wondrous colorings." The Orchestra was founded in 1880 and is recognized internationally as an ensemble of the highest caliber, performing a broad musical repertoire with skill and spirit. The Orchestra has grown and evolved since the 2005 appointment of American-born conductor David Robertson, about whom the *New York Times* recently noted "The St. Louis musicians are thriving under Mr. Robertson's leadership." Robertson, who also serves as Principal Guest Conductor of the BBC Symphony Orchestra, is one of today's most sought after conductors and is recognized for his consummate musicianship, dynamic presence and imaginative programming.

Since he joined the St. Louis Symphony, the orchestra's sound — renewed and reinvigorated — is both familiar and surprising. Nowhere is this better demonstrated than in the unusual and challenging contemporary program, featuring mostly Chicago premieres, the St. Louis Orchestra will present next fall at the Harris, which is recognized as a leader for presenting contemporary composers and works. Also appearing will be dynamic violinist Leila Josefowicz, who came to national attention in 1994 when she made her Carnegie Hall debut, and who returns to Chicago in November after her performance with the Grant Park Music Festival this summer. Ms. Josefowicz will perform composer Steven Mackey's violin concerto (written for her), and jazz composer and musician John Patitucci will accentuate Turnage's jazz influence on electric bass guitar in *A Prayer Out of Stillness*.

Turnage: *A Prayer Out of Stillness*, with John Patitucci, electric bass guitar
Mackey: *Violin Concerto*, with Leila Josefowicz, violin
Zappa: *G Spot Tornado*
Varèse: *Arcana*

Daniel Barenboim Recital

Thursday, December 18, 2008 at 7:30 pm (NOTE NEW DATE)

Tickets: \$68-\$120

Don't miss Daniel Barenboim, among the world's greatest pianists and whom *The London Times* describes as "...one of the few musicians in the world today who could accurately be described as legendary," during his special engagement at the Harris Theater, one of only three recitals the world-renowned musician and conductor will perform in the United States in 2008. In addition to performing a piano recital at the Harris, Barenboim will also perform at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and The Metropolitan Opera. For this landmark performance, Barenboim will perform an all Franz Liszt concert featuring **Légendes** *St. François d'Assie: La Prédication aux oiseaux*, **Paraphrases on Operas of Giuseppe Verdi for Piano Forte** and selections from **Deuxième Année: Italie**.

Liszt: **Années de pèlerinage, Deuxième Année: Italie**
Benedetto sia il giorno, Sonetto 47
Pace non Trovo, Sonetto 104
I vidi in terra, Sonetto 123

Légendes

St. François d'Assie: La Prédication aux oiseaux

Années de pèlerinage, Deuxième Année: Italie

Après une lecture de Dante: Fantasia quasi sonata

Paraphrases on Operas of Guiseppe Verdi for Piano Forte
"Aida Danza sacra e duetto finale"

"Miserere du Trovatore"
"Rigoletto Paraphrase de Concert"

Pinchas Zukerman: 60 Years of Virtuosity

Saturday, February 28, 2009 at 7:30 pm
Tickets: \$68-\$120

Celebrating his 60th birthday in 2008 and recognized as a musical phenomenon and genius, Pinchas Zukerman is heralded and respected as a violinist, violist, conductor, pedagogue and chamber musician. Zukerman's teaming with world-renowned composer and pianist Marc Neikrug, his recital partner for more than 30 years, presents a unique opportunity for Chicagoans to see two artistically significant musicians in an intimate performance. With a program including sonatas by Mozart, Shostakovich and Franck, as well as a work from Japanese composer Toru Takemitsu, this concert at the Harris promises to be a thrilling, unforgettable experience.

"I am pleased and honored to be performing at the Harris Theater in celebration of my 60th birthday year," said Pinchas Zukerman. "I know the hall as a listener and have enjoyed being in the audience. It will be even more pleasurable to be on stage performing with my good friend Marc Neikrug." Additionally, Mr. Zukerman remarked "How very lucky we all are that Irving & Joan Harris recognized the need for a performing arts center in downtown Chicago, and that their vision has been realized in this beautiful venue."

Mozart:	<i>Sonata for Violin and Piano in B-flat Major KV 454</i>
Shostakovich:	<i>Sonata for Viola and Piano Op. 147</i>
Takemitsu:	<i>From Far Beyond Chrysanthemums and November Fog</i>
Franck:	<i>Sonata for Violin and Piano in A Major</i>

The English Concert with David Daniels

March 29, 2009, 3:00 pm
Tickets: \$58-\$110

Among the finest – and most recorded – chamber orchestras in the world, and considered Europe's leading Baroque orchestra, The English Concert has an outstanding reputation for inspiring performances of Baroque and Classical music, and their engagement at the Harris promises to be equally as exceptional. The English Concert entered into a new era when opera and concert conductor Harry Bicket, renowned worldwide for his performances of Baroque opera with many of today's leading singers, joined the Orchestra in September 2007 and became the third artistic director in the orchestra's 34-year history. For this special engagement at the Harris, The English Concert will be joined by David Daniels, the internationally heralded American countertenor whom the New York Times describes as "...the most acclaimed countertenor of the day." Mr. Daniels, who has appeared with the world's major opera companies and is known for his superlative artistry, magnetic stage presence and a voice of singular warmth and surpassing beauty, received acclaimed reviews for his performance in *Giulio Cesare* at the Lyric Opera this past November. Drawing on The English Concert's newly released recording of *Handel Arias & Scenes*, as well as a critically lauded recording of *Bach Symphonies*, The English Concert and David Daniels will present inspiring renditions of works by Bach and Handel in what promises to be a highlight of the spring music season.

Bach:	Ouverture (Suite) no.1 in C <i>"Vergnügte Ruh"</i> <i>"Qui sedes"</i> from Mass in B minor Sinfonia from Cantata 42 <i>Am Abend aber desselbigen Sabbats</i> <i>"Schlummert ein"</i> <i>"Erbarme dich"</i> from St. Matthew Passion
-------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Handel:	Concerto Grosso in A op.6 no.11 Scenes and arias from <i>Radamisto</i> , <i>Tamerlano</i> , <i>Orlando</i> <i>"Ombra cara"</i> Radamisto <i>"A dispetto"</i> Tamerlano <i>Act II Passacaglia</i> Radamisto <i>Mad scene</i> Orlando
---------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Dance Series

San Francisco Ballet

Tuesday, September 16 through Sunday, September 21, 2008, 7:30 pm; 1:30 pm Matinees on Saturday, September 20 and Sunday, September 21
Tickets: \$70-\$115

The Harris Theater is thrilled to present San Francisco Ballet, celebrating its diamond 75th Anniversary with a limited four-city national tour. As the first stop on the tour, the Harris Theater's week-long engagement with America's oldest professional ballet company will offer two distinct programs. The first, Program A, will feature a new ballet by Christopher Wheeldon, and Program B will feature a new ballet by Mark Morris, with other works to be announced. Mark Morris' and Christopher Wheeldon's new ballets are part of San Francisco Ballet's New Works Festival which is taking place this April in San Francisco. The Chicago Sinfonietta will accompany all performances by San Francisco Ballet with San Francisco Ballet Music Director and Principal Conductor Martin West to conduct. During San Francisco Ballet's week in residence at the Harris a program will also be offered during the week for school children.

Noted as "...arguably the most successful and influential choreographer alive," by *The New York Times* and "...one of the great choreographers of our time" by Mikhail Baryshnikov, Mark Morris is one of the most important and significant dance creators in the world. Morris has created works for some of the world's most preeminent ballet companies, including American Ballet Theatre and the Dutch National Ballet, and his works have been performed by The Royal Ballet, Britain's most prestigious ballet company, and Boston Ballet, among others. The Harris Theater is a co-commissioner of Mark Morris' *Romeo & Juliet*, *On Motifs of Shakespeare*, which will receive its Chicago premiere at the Harris in September 2009.

Described by *The New York Times* as "a choreographer whose subtle shifts of weight and accents, just as with musical notes, can transform an ordinary step into something exotic," Christopher Wheeldon is considered one of the top ballet choreographers in the world today. Recognized as an innovator and lauded for his ability to modernize classical ballet while honoring its tradition, Wheeldon was nominated last fall for an Olivier Award for his *DGV (Danse à Grande Vitesse)* with The Royal Ballet in London. Having served as New York City Ballet's Resident Choreographer since 2001, Wheeldon left City Ballet to pursue his own company, Morphoses, which premiered at the Vail International Dance Festival in Colorado in summer 2007.

Lar Lubovitch Dance Company

Saturday, November 22, 2008, 1 pm Family Matinee and 7:30 pm Evening Program
Tickets: \$40-\$70

One of America's most acclaimed choreographers -- and the mastermind behind Millennium Park's first-ever Chicago Dancing Festival in August 2007 -- Chicago native Lar Lubovitch returns home with his 40th Anniversary Tour. The Harris Theater will present *Men's Stories*, Lubovitch's powerful exploration of masculinity, biography and character, selected as a winner of a 2008 touring award by the National Dance Project. Lubovitch has described the work as "a dance that opens up, like a book, to reveal the story of the men inside the dance." Rounding out the program is *Little Rhapsodies*, a virtuoso dance for three male soloists set to Schumann's *Symphonic Etudes* and *Dvorak Serenade*, a 2007 work praised by the *Financial Times* at its world premiere as "...one of Lubovitch's big, sweeping ensemble works, the sort he does best." Don't miss the return of Lar Lubovitch, hailed by *The New York Times* as "one of the ten best choreographers in the world."

* * *

All programs, prices and dates are subject to change.

* * *

Celebrating its Fifth Anniversary during its 2008-2009 season, the Harris Theater for Music and Dance continues to host the most diverse offerings of any venue in Chicago, featuring the city's world-renowned music and dance institutions and acclaimed national and international companies. Offering more than a state-of-the-art facility, the theater is a partner to these organizations, providing subsidized rental, technical expertise and marketing support. To learn more about the season at the Harris Theater, visit www.harristheaterchicago.org or call the box office at 312-334-7777 to request a brochure.

For additional information about the Harris Theater for Music and Dance, Chicago's state-of-the art 1,470 seat performance venue, please visit www.harristheaterchicago.org.

For high-res images please contact Betsy Shea, Harris Theater for Music and Dance at 312.334.2459 or bshea@harristheaterchicago.org.

United Airlines is the Official Airline of the Harris Theater.

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation is the Lead Underwriter of the Harris Theater's Rental Subsidy Program.

The Harris Theater gratefully acknowledges The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation's support of the theater's collaborative partnerships.

The Joyce Foundation is the Lead Foundation Contributor of Sphinx Chamber Orchestra engagement.

The Harris Theater is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council.

The Harris Theater is partially supported by a City Arts Program 4 grant from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and the Illinois Council, a state agency.

#