

# Adrienne Arsht Center

FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**THE ADRIENNE ARSHT CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS  
OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY  
AND LARRY ROSEN PROUDLY PRESENT  
JAZZ ROOTS: VOCALESE**

**FEATURING THE GRAMMY AWARD-WINNING MANHATTAN TRANSFER AND  
NEW YORK VOICES, WITH LEGENDARY VOCALESE MASTER  
JON HENDRICKS AS SPECIAL GUEST**

**A Singing, Swinging Evening of Jazz Favorites Showcasing  
Today's Greatest Vocalese Artists Performing Together For The First Time  
In The Sensational Jazz Roots Series, Which Has Welcomed Nearly  
15,000 Audience Members To-Date**

**Friday, January 15, 2010 at 8 p.m.  
Tickets \$25 to \$125  
John S. and James L. Knight Concert Hall**

**MIAMI, FL December 17, 2009** – The Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County and acclaimed producer Larry Rosen proudly present

**JAZZ ROOTS: VOCALESE** on Friday, January 15, 2010 at 8:00 p.m. in the John S. and James L. Knight Concert Hall. This unique program will bring together onstage for the first time living legend **Jon Hendricks** -- the originator of the vocalese style and founder of the famed Lambert, Hendricks, and Ross vocal group -- in concert with multi-Platinum selling vocal group **The Manhattan Transfer** and the award-winning **New York Voices**. The evening will showcase the talents of these two giants of the vocalese technique, paying homage to the legendary **Jon Hendricks** and his role in music history.

"We are thrilled to present this rare opportunity to see Jon Hendricks, a living legend and the definitive king of vocalese, in concert with some of the greatest jazz luminaries of our day," said M. John Richard, President and CEO of the Adrienne Arsht Center. "It is an honor for us to welcome these all-stars of the jazz vocal world, as they ascend on South Florida for this historic joint engagement."

"We have created this show for our *JAZZ ROOTS* audience," said *JAZZ ROOTS* co-presenter Larry Rosen, "to honor the great legacy of National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Master Jon Hendricks. The Manhattan Transfer and New York Voices will perform separately and collectively, and will ultimately be joined by Jon Hendricks for an historic evening not to be forgotten."

**Vocalese** is the timeless art form that has produced classic jazz standards, including the inimitable "Birdland" vocal work, beloved to jazz fans around the globe. Vocalese is literally the practice of setting lyrics to previously recorded jazz instrumental standards and famous jazz solos and then arranging voices to sing the parts of the instruments, reproducing the sound and feel of the original instrumentation. As the 88-year-old vocalese master **Jon Hendricks** once put it: "We do what librettists do for opera... we lyricize all the action that's going on." Created by a few artists in the early 1950s, this new genre was a creative way to expand on some of the greatest jazz performances in history. The group responsible for inventing this style setting was the Lambert, Hendricks, and Ross ensemble. As the key writer and featured soloist of the trio, **Jon Hendricks** became the most well known lyricist of the vocalese style and today is considered the "Picasso of Vocalese." **Hendricks** wrote a lyric to the instrumental hit, "Birdland," by the renowned jazz fusion group Weather Report and subsequently **The Manhattan Transfer** recorded that lyric on the album *Extensions*, which became a hit multi-Platinum selling record as well as the quartet's signature tune. Just six years later, the group's album *Vocalese* became the single greatest Grammy nominated recording in one year, cementing **The Manhattan Transfer's** status as one of the most important and innovative vocal jazz groups ever. Janis Siegel, lead singer for **The Manhattan Transfer** said, "Jon has taught us that vocalese is not about improvising, it's about staying true to the original solo and arrangement."

**Jon Hendricks** is widely considered to be the “Father of Vocalese,” the greatest innovator of the art form. **Hendricks** is the only person many jazz greats have allowed to lyricize their music, as he uses great wit and sensitivity while staying true to the original emotions evoked by the composer. For his work as a lyricist, noted jazz critic and historian Leonard Feather called him the “Poet Laureate of Jazz,” while *Time* magazine dubbed him the “James Joyce of Jive.”

In 1957, **Hendricks** teamed with Dave Lambert and Annie Ross to form the legendary vocal trio Lambert, Hendricks, and Ross. With **Hendricks** as lyricist, the trio perfected the art of vocalese and took it around the world, earning the group the designation of the “Number One Vocal Group in the World” for five years in a row from *Melody Maker* magazine. After six years, the group disbanded for solo careers, leaving behind a catalog of legendary recordings and exerting a meaningful influence on singers such as Al Jarreau and Bobby McFerrin, as well as **The Manhattan Transfer**. Pursuing a solo career, **Hendricks** moved his family to London in the late 1960s and toured Europe and Africa extensively; his sold-out club dates drew fans such as the Rolling Stones and The Beatles. Five years later, he moved to California where he worked as the jazz critic for the *San Francisco Chronicle*. **Hendricks** later established a 15-voice group, The Jon Hendricks Vocalstra at the University of Toledo, which premiered the vocalese version of Rimsky-Korsakov’s lush “Scheherazade” with the Toledo Symphony Orchestra. The octogenarian jazz great continues in his celebrated career, sharing his artistry through performances and teaching as Distinguished Professor of Jazz Studies at the University of Toledo.

Known for their impeccable musicality, **The Manhattan Transfer** is one of the finest vocal jazz groups of all time. Founded 40 years ago by bass singer Tim Hauser, the current ensemble also includes singers Alan Paul (tenor), Janis Siegel (alto) and Cheryl Bentley (soprano), who joined the group in 1979. The harmony vocal quartet developed a cult fan base in the early 1970s when they regularly performed at Max’s Kansas City and Café Carlyle, Trude Heller’s and Reno Sweeney in New York City. It was at the latter venue that the late Ahmet Ertegun, legendary founder and chairman of Atlantic Records, discovered the quartet and offered them a record deal. The group released their self-titled debut on the label in 1975, and the second single on the album, a re-make of the fifties gospel tune, “Operator,” gave **The Manhattan Transfer** their first national hit and reached number 22 on the *Billboard* chart. With collaborators **Jon Hendricks** and Richie Cole, they focused on the use of the vocalese technique of singing lyrics over jazz compositions or solos. During the last quarter century, the group has promulgated vocalese worldwide through countless performances and finely-crafted recordings. In 1985, they earned 12 Grammy nominations for the album, *Vocalese*, and received a Grammy for “Best Jazz Vocal Performance by a Duo or Group.” After decades of flawless vocal musicianship, **The Manhattan Transfer** is celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with their first new recording in five years -- *The Chick Corea Songbook* -- a vocal tribute to jazz fusion pioneer, Chick Corea.

**New York Voices** is the Grammy Award-winning vocal ensemble renowned for their excellence in jazz and the art of group singing. Like other great groups that have come before, such as Lambert, Hendricks, and Ross, Unlimited and **The Manhattan Transfer**, they have learned from the best and taken the art form to new levels. Their artistic roots are based in jazz, but the group often incorporates Brazilian, R&B, classical, and pop influences with equal creativity and authenticity. The group was formed in 1987, and two years later they signed their first record deal with GRP Records, which was co-founded by *JAZZ ROOTS* producer Larry Rosen. Since then, they have received rave reviews and international recognition in the jazz world. Currently celebrating their 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, **New York Voices** is comprised of founding members Darmon Meader, Peter Eldridge, and Kim Nazarian, along with Lauren Kinhan, who joined the quartet in 1992. In addition to their own CDs, **New York Voices** has made many guest appearances on recordings and live performances that have earned them critical acclaim and demand in a variety of musical settings. For many years, they performed with the Count Basie Orchestra, and have also sung at jazz festivals around the globe, as well as appeared on the stages of Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. In addition, they have collaborated with numerous influential artists such as Nancy Wilson, Annie Ross, Bobby McFerrin, Paquito D’Rivera and many more.

*JAZZ ROOTS* also features an in-depth educational partnership with Miami-Dade County Public Schools which will bring more than 900 music students to the Center for a unique behind-the-scenes experience, including a pre-concert sound check, and a Q&A session with featured artists followed by a workshop with a local jazz expert that will highlight the music, the artistic process and the practical skills needed for a career in the arts. In addition, the Center has developed a curriculum which will be distributed to 800 music, English, and social studies teachers throughout the MDCPS school system, potentially serving 24,000 children.

The *JAZZ ROOTS* series is presented in partnership with Bank of America.

WPBT Channel 2, WDNA 88.9 FM Serious Jazz, WLRN 91.3 FM, Capsule Media and Daniel Azoulay Gallery have generously agreed to be media sponsors of *JAZZ ROOTS*.

#### **TICKETS:**

Tickets for **JAZZ ROOTS: VOCALESE** range from \$25 to \$125 and can be purchased through the Adrienne Arsht Center box office at 305.949.6722 or online at [www.arshtcenter.org](http://www.arshtcenter.org).

#### **CALENDAR LISTING**

Adrienne Arsht Center and Larry Rosen present

#### **JAZZ ROOTS: VOCALESE**

Take some of the best-known instrumental melodies in jazz, add swinging, poetic lyrics, and the result is VOCALESE, featuring two Grammy Award-winning groups -- The Manhattan Transfer

and New York Voices as well as special guest star Jon Hendricks, founder of the legendary Lambert, Hendricks and Ross vocal trio and originator of the vocalese style, performing together for the first time.

**Friday, January 15, 2010 at 8 p.m.**  
**Knight Concert Hall**  
**Adrienne Arsht Center**  
**1300 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, FL 33132**  
**Tickets \$25 - \$125**

For tickets, visit [www.arshtcenter.org](http://www.arshtcenter.org) or call 305.949.6722

Visit [www.arshtcenter.org](http://www.arshtcenter.org) for up-to-date information for details and schedules. See highlights and video for the JAZZ ROOTS series at [www.jazzroots.net](http://www.jazzroots.net).

**JAZZ ROOTS series subscriptions, which include tickets to all six performances, are also available with seating priority given to renewed subscriptions and Adrienne Arsht Center members.**

*Support for the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County's Jazz Roots education program is generously provided by the Arison Arts Foundation; with the additional support of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor, and the Board of County Commissioners. The Jazz Roots education program is also funded in part by the Children's Trust. The Trust is a dedicated source of revenue established by voter referendum to improve the lives of children and families in Miami-Dade County.*

*Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County is made possible by the public support of the Miami-Dade County Mayor and the Board of County Commissioners, Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, and Miami-Dade County Tourist Development Council. Education and Outreach is funded in part by The Children's Trust. The Adrienne Arsht Center also receives generous support from private contributions to the Adrienne Arsht Center Foundation, Inc. through its Visionary Society membership program and its Encore Circle major gifts program; American Express Company; Arison Arts Foundation; Bank of America Charitable Foundation; City of Miami Omni Community Redevelopment Agency; Dade Community Foundation; Funding Arts Network; John S. and James L. Knight Foundation; Southern Arts Federation, The Cowles Charitable Trust; The Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation; the National Endowment for the Arts; and the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Arts Council.*

Editor's Note:

Related high-resolution photos are available at [www.arshtcenter.org/press](http://www.arshtcenter.org/press) and [www.mediafire.com/arshtcenterphotos](http://www.mediafire.com/arshtcenterphotos).

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**About the Adrienne Arsht Center for Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County:**

The Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County is one of the world's leading performing arts organizations and venues. Made possible by Miami-Dade County's largest ever public/private-sector partnership, the Center plays host to three resident companies (Florida Grand Opera, Miami City Ballet and New World Symphony, America's Orchestral Academy) in addition to numerous South Florida arts organizations that perform in its theaters regularly. Since opening in 2006, the Center has emerged as a leader in offering and presenting

world-class programming that mirrors South Florida's diversity, as a catalyst for development in Miami, and as a host of impactful community and educational programs.

Designed by world-renowned architect Cesar Pelli of Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects, the venue is comprised of the 2,400-seat Sanford and Dolores Ziff Ballet Opera House, the 2,200-seat John S. and James L. Knight Concert Hall, the black box Carnival Studio Theater, a restored Carnival Art Deco Tower, the Peacock Foundation, Inc. Studio, the Peacock Foundation, Inc. Education Center, and the outdoor Parker and Vann Thomson Plaza for the Arts. Events impresario and restaurateur Barton G. Weiss brought his signature style to the Center in 2009 with PRELUDE BY BARTON G, a full-service upscale restaurant open six days a week.

Visit [www.arshtcenter.org](http://www.arshtcenter.org) for more information.

### **About Larry Rosen**

Larry Rosen, producer and creator of the JAZZ ROOTS series at the Adrienne Arsht Center is an entrepreneur, visionary, musician, and producer. Mr. Rosen is chairman of Larry Rosen Productions, Inc.; co-founder and co-chairman of LRSmedia, LLC; co-founder, past chairman and CEO of N2K, Inc. (NASDAQ); and co-founder, past president and CEO of GRP Records, Inc. Mr. Rosen is the creator and producer of the PBS TV series LEGENDS OF JAZZ, and is the creator and producer of the eight-part TV mini-series titled "RECORDING: The History of Recorded Music." Mr. Rosen is the co-founder and past CEO of GRP Records Inc. where he produced or executive-produced over 350 albums. GRP is one of the industry's top jazz record labels, whose all-star roster of artists and recordings were nominated for over eight GRAMMY awards. Mr. Rosen co-founded N2K, Inc. which was the first major online company to sell music digitally, earning him Ernst & Young's prestigious "Entrepreneur of the Year" award in New Media & Entertainment.