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The Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County kicks off the JAZZ ROOTS 2014-2015 Season with a tribute to one of America’s greatest musical treasures

GEORGIA ON MY MIND: CELEBRATING RAY CHARLES

Star-studded cast of performers includes Take 6, Clint Holmes, Nnenna Freelon, Kirk Whalum, Shelly Berg, Frost School of Music’s Henry Mancini Institute Big Band and the Miami Mass Choir

“Music is about the only thing left that people don’t fight over.” - Ray Charles

Friday, November 7, 2014 at 8 p.m.
Tickets $25 - $150
John S. and James L. Knight Concert Hall

MIAMI, FL, October 13, 2014 – The Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County and Larry Rosen, together with presenting sponsor Wells Fargo, proudly announce the highly-anticipated launch of the seventh consecutive year of the critically-acclaimed JAZZ ROOTS – A Larry Rosen Jazz Series with a spectacular concert GEORGIA ON MY MIND: CELEBRATING RAY CHARLES on Friday, November 7, 2014 at 8 p.m. at the John S. and James L. Knight Concert Hall. The show pays homage to the musical genius RAY CHARLES, an American treasure who transcended racism and cultural upheavals and spread his gospel, blues, jazz and country sound around the world. To quote the Las Vegas Review Journal, where the show will have just concluded a highly-successful and critically-acclaimed six-week engagement at the Venetian Hotel: "More than a tribute “Georgia on my Mind” explores Ray Charles’ world!"
Tickets range from $25 to $150 and may be purchased now through the Adrienne Arsht Center box office by calling (305) 949-6722 or online at www.arshtcenter.org.

“What an exciting show to launch our JAZZ ROOTS seventh season! Ray Charles is one of the great artists of all time. He overcame many obstacles to create the music he loved and what a treat it is for our audiences to celebrate his legacy by bringing it to life on our Knight Concert Hall stage,” said John Richard, president and CEO of the Adrienne Arsht Center.

“I’m thrilled to bring this show to Miami in tribute to the genius of Ray Charles. With a star-studded cast of performers, we pay homage to his music and celebrate the diversity of the fabric of America and the spirit of our JAZZ ROOTS concert series and educational program,” said Larry Rosen, JAZZ ROOTS co-creator and producer.

From the Georgia State Hall of Fame to the Hollywood Walk of Fame, RAY CHARLES won every major award including the Kennedy Center Honors, a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award and induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Celebrating his music is an all-star cast of award-winning performers including recent inductees into the Gospel Music Association Hall of Fame, 10-time GRAMMY® winning a capella group TAKE 6, whose collaborations included one with the late great Charles; Emmy Award winner CLINT HOLMES, whose soulful stylings have been selling out concert halls around the world; six-time Grammy Award nominee and Downbeat Vocalist of the Year NNENNA FREELON; Grammy and Stellar Gospel Award winner saxophonist KIRK WHALUM; and SHELLY BERG, three-time Grammy Award-nominated music director and Dean of the University of Miami Frost School of Music. Joining in the celebration are the UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI FROST SCHOOL OF MUSIC HENRY MANCINI INSTITUTE’S BIG BAND and the MIAMI MASS CHOIR, the Arsht Center’s resident choir, directed by Pastor Marc Cooper. This concert is presented in collaboration with the University of Miami Frost School of Music's annual Festival Miami.

JAZZ ROOTS – A Larry Rosen Jazz Series was co-created by the Adrienne Arsht Center in 2008 in collaboration with music industry entrepreneur Larry Rosen, and recently concluded its sixth and most successful season. As part of this groundbreaking series, the Arsht Center has presented a rich variety of thematically based concerts exploring the spectrum of jazz. With six concerts annually, the series has featured hundreds of the greatest living jazz artists/ensembles on the scene today, in addition to introducing Miami audiences to rising stars and local talent. JAZZ ROOTS has showcased every unique style and incarnation of jazz – from Latin jazz and fusion to bossa nova and straight ahead, as well as presented tribute programs honoring American icons Ella Fitzgerald, Nat King Cole, Frank Sinatra, Thelonious Monk and John Coltrane. Since its inception, the series has drawn more than 60,000 jazz lovers to the Arsht Center’s Knight Concert Hall for memorable evenings with such jazz superstars as George Benson, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Dave Brubeck, Chick Corea, Paquito D'Rivera, Michael Feinstein, Dave Grusin, Keith Jarrett, Eddie Palmieri, and Sonny Rollins, as well as world-class ensembles, including the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis, the Count Basie Orchestra, and the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra. Miami has never before seen a jazz series of this magnitude and success. Quincy Jones has heralded JAZZ ROOTS as “the most important new jazz and educational series in America!” This history-making series has sold-out dozens of concerts since it was launched seven years ago.

JAZZ ROOTS also features JAZZ ROOTS: SOUND CHECK, an in-depth educational partnership with Miami-Dade County Public Schools which has brought approximately 6,000 high school music students to the Center for a complimentary and unique behind-the-scenes experience including: a pre-concert sound check; 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; and free entry to the evening’s performance. The Jazz Roots education program is made possible in part by Citizens Interested in Arts and The ASCAP Foundation.

WPBT Channel 2 and WLRN 91.3 FM are media sponsors of JAZZ ROOTS. The JAZZ ROOTS series is also sponsored in part by Steinway & Sons, the official piano of the Adrienne Arsht Center.

CALENDAR LISTING
The Adrienne Arsht Center and Larry Rosen, together with presenting sponsor Wells Fargo, present
JAZZ ROOTS – A Larry Rosen Jazz Series:
GEORGIA ON MY MIND: CELEBRATING RAY CHARLES
November 7, 2014 at 8 p.m.
John S. and James L. Knight Concert Hall
1300 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami FL 33132
Tickets: $25 - $150
For tickets, visit www.arshtcenter.org or call the box office at (305) 949-6722

The 2014-2015 seventh anniversary JAZZ ROOTS season kicks off with a spectacular concert celebrating the musical genius RAY CHARLES, an American treasure who transcended racism and cultural upheavals, and spread his gospel, blues, jazz and country sound around the world. From the Georgia State Hall of Fame to the Hollywood Walk of Fame, RAY CHARLES won every major award including the Kennedy Center Honors, a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award and induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Celebrating his music is an all-star cast of award-winning performers including ten-time Grammy Award-winning vocal sensation and recent inductees into the Gospel Music Association Hall of Fame, 10-time Grammy winning a capella group TAKE 6, whose collaborations included one with the late great Charles; Emmy Award winner CLINT HOLMES, whose soulful stylings have been selling out concert halls around the world; six-time Grammy Award nominee and Downbeat Vocalist of the year NNENNA FREELON; Grammy and Stellar Gospel Award winner saxophonist KIRK WHALUM; and SHELLY BERG, three-time Grammy Award-nominated music director and Dean of the University of Miami Frost School of Music. Joining in the celebration are the FROST SCHOOL OF MUSIC HENRY MANCINI INSTITUTE’S BIG BAND and the MIAMI MASS CHOIR, the Arsht Center’s resident choir, directed by Pastor Marc Cooper. This concert is presented in collaboration with the Frost School of Music's annual Festival Miami.

*All programs, artists, ticket prices, availability, dates and times are subject to change without notice. Visit www.arshtcenter.org for up-to-date information for details and schedules.

Photos: For High-Resolution Download, Right Click on Photo(s) Below and Select “Open Hyperlink.”
High-resolution photos are also available at www.arshtcenter.org/press.

The 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, the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Tourist Development Council and the City of Miami Omni Community Redevelopment Agency, as well as the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture. The Adrienne Arsht Center also receives generous support from local, state and national foundations, as well as private contributions to the Adrienne Arsht Center Foundation through corporate and individual giving, Visionary Society membership and the Encore Circle major gifts programs.

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About the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County
Set in the heart of downtown Miami and designed by world-renowned architect Cesar Pelli, the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County is one of the world’s leading performing arts organizations and venues. Spotlighting legends and serving as a launch pad for local artists to make their mark on the international stage, the Center presents nearly 500 events each year across its eight flexible, state-of-the-art performance spaces. The Center programs 12 signature series, including the largest jazz series in South Florida, the biggest flamenco festival on the East Coast, and a robust program of new theatrical works as well as free programming for the community and an arts education program that serves nearly 30,000 children each year. Since opening in 2006, the Arsht Center, a 501C3 non-profit organization, has emerged as a leader in presenting innovative programming that mirrors South Florida’s diversity as well as a catalyst for billions of dollars in new development in the downtown area.

Visit www.arshtcenter.org for more information.

About Larry Rosen
Larry Rosen: musician, producer, executive producer, and music industry entrepreneur. Mr. Rosen is the Chairman of Larry Rosen Productions, Inc., Chairman of JAZZ ROOTS, LLC, co-creator and producer of JAZZ ROOTS - A Larry Rosen Jazz Series, co-founder of GRP Records, and co-founder and past Chairman of N2K, Inc. (NASDAQ). Mr. Rosen is the creator and producer of the PBS television series LEGENDS OF JAZZ, and is the creator and producer of multi-media TV series RECORDING: the History of Recorded Music, with hosts Quincy Jones and Phil Ramone.

Mr. Rosen is the producer/executive producer of over 350 albums, of which 80 have been nominated for GRAMMY Awards, winning 33 GRAMMYS, as well as numerous award winning film/video productions and television specials. Mr. Rosen and multi-GRAMMY and Academy Award winning pianist/composer Dave Grusin co-founded GRP Records, the award winning contemporary jazz label featuring major artists, Chick Corea, Diana Krall, Patti Austin, BB King, Dave Grusin, Ramsey Lewis, Arturo Sandoval, Diane Schuur, Michael Brecker, Kevin Eubanks, Spyro Gyra, Lee Ritenour, Gary Burton, Dave Valentine, John Patitucci, Larry Carlton, David Benoit, Tom Scott, Gerry Mulligan, The GRP All-Star Big Band, Yellowjackets,
Rippingtons, among others. GRP Records, known as “The Digital Master Company” was the first non-classical company in America to release CDs, and was instrumental in the launching of the CD format.

Mr. Rosen received the Ernst & Young’s “Entrepreneur of the Year Award” in New media and Entertainment, the GRAMMY Governor Honor Roll, he serves on the boards of the Dave Brubeck Institute, The Music for Youth Foundation, The Frost School of Music Steering Committee, and with Dave Grusin is the founder of the National Foundation for Jazz Education. Mr. Rosen received an Honorary Doctorate from Manhattan School of Music in 2013. For more information visit www.larryrosen.com and www.jazzroots.net.

About Wells Fargo
Wells Fargo & Company (NYSE: WFC) is a nationwide, diversified, community-based financial services company with $1.6 trillion in assets. Founded in 1852 and headquartered in San Francisco, Wells Fargo provides banking, insurance, investments, mortgage, and consumer and commercial finance through more than 9,000 locations, 12,500 ATMs, and the internet (wellsfargo.com), and has offices in 36 countries to support customers who conduct business in the global economy. With approximately 265,000 team members, Wells Fargo serves one in three households in the United States. Wells Fargo & Company was ranked No. 29 on Fortune’s 2014 rankings of America’s largest corporations. Wells Fargo’s vision is to satisfy all our customers’ financial needs and help them succeed financially. Wells Fargo perspectives are also available at Wells Fargo Blogs and Wells Fargo Stories.

About Festival Miami
Festival Miami, produced by the University of Miami Frost School of Music, has set a precedent over the last 30 years by providing a series that blends artistically and culturally diverse music with educational opportunities. The festival offers 20-30 concerts each season, providing for people of all ages the chance to be enriched by live musical performances. It is unrivaled in its scope of musical presentations and is known throughout South Florida, the U.S., and the international community for its cultural contributions while expanding academic opportunities and cultural enrichment to all of South Florida and its visitors. The Festival’s concert series features the Frost School’s widely known artist-faculty and student ensembles, and an educational mission that includes children’s concerts, master classes, lectures, forums, and concerts that highlight historically significant events. For a complete listing of concerts and to order tickets online visit www.festivalmiami.com or email festivalmiami.music@miami.edu for additional information.

About the University of Miami
The University of Miami is the largest private research institution in the southeastern United States. The University's mission is to provide quality education, attract and retain outstanding students, support the faculty and their research, and build an endowment for University initiatives. www.miami.edu