

Adrienne Arsht Center

FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Suzette Espinosa Fuentes
(786) 468-2221
sespinosa@arshtcenter.org

Gino R. Campodónico
(786) 468-2228
gcampodonico@arshtcenter.org

The Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County
presents its

11th ANNUAL GALA A CELEBRATION OF WOMEN IN THE ARTS

One-night-only concert featuring world-class female artists
including a Gala dinner and dancing on stage for Gala sponsors

Adrienne Arsht, *Honorary Chair*

Thursday, March 30, 2017

Concert-only tickets begin at \$25*

Full Gala experience tickets and sponsorships begin at \$2,500*

Gala Sponsorship Opportunities Available

MIAMI, FL – March 14, 2017 – For its 11th season, the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County has planned a spectacular evening to celebrate women in the arts. The **Adrienne Arsht Center's 11th Annual Gala on Thursday, March 30, 2017** will feature star-studded performances by **Denyce Graves, Storm Large, Alicia Hall Moran, Rita Moreno, Melissa Schott, Bria Skonberg, Vanessa Williams** and **Miami Chamber Music Society** with **Amy Beach**, composer; **Adriana Pierce**, choreographer; **Marina Radiushina**, pianist; and **Miami City Ballet** dancers **Ashley Knox** and **Emily Bromberg**. Special appearances from legendary artists include **Gloria Estefan, Judith Jamison, Tig Notaro, Michelle Ortiz** and **Chita Rivera**. Additional performers and guests will be announced soon.

TICKETS:

Tickets for the performance range from \$25-\$60* and are on sale now. Tickets may be purchased through the Adrienne Arsht Center Box Office by calling (305) 949-6722, or online at www.arshtcenter.org. Attire for the concert is Miami Chic.

Exclusive sponsorship opportunities are available and individual tickets to the entire Gala evening are available beginning at \$2,500*. For more information about corporate and individual sponsorship opportunities or to RSVP for the event, please call the Arsht Center Advancement office at (786) 468-2020 or email advancement@arshtcenter.org. The event attire is black tie.

For Gala sponsors and those interested in the full Gala experience, the evening will also include numerous opportunities to celebrate the occasion with fellow supporters, community leaders and philanthropists beginning with an intimate cocktail and networking reception; a gourmet dinner on stage; premium seating for the concert in the John S. and James L. Knight Concert Hall followed by dancing and dessert.

The Arsht Center's 11th Annual Gala's **Honorary Chair** is **Adrienne Arsht**, the Center's name benefactor. Gala Chairs are **Tony & Conchi Argiz**; **Armando & Margarita Codina**; **Ira & Carole Hall**; and **Alan Fein & Susan Westfall**. Gala Co-Chairs include: **Rob & Ana Barlick**; **Trish & Dan Bell**; **Lee E. Caplin & Gita Karasik**; **Swanee & Paul DiMare**; **Sergio Gonzalez & Patricia Andreu**; **Kimberly Green**; **David & Marian Rocker**; **Frances & Eugenio Sevilla-Sacasa**; **Anonymous**; **Margaret & Mike Eidson**; and **Jose & Heide Dans**.

Gala proceeds will support the Center's mission-driven arts education and community outreach programs including AileyCamp Miami, recipient of the 2016 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award.

The Adrienne Arsht Center's 11th Annual Gala will feature:

Gloria Estefan, presenter

Gloria Estefan is a Cuban-American singer, songwriter, actress, and businesswoman. In addition to having the distinction of selling more than 100 million albums worldwide, she has won seven Grammy Awards, a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and Las Vegas Walk of Fame. In 2015, she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom for her contributions to American music. Estefan also won an MTV Video Music Award, and two ACE Awards. She was honored with the American Music Award for Lifetime Achievement as well as being named BMI Songwriter of the Year. She was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame and has received multiple Billboard Awards. She is also on the list of VH1 top 100 Greatest Artists of All Time, and in *Billboard's* Top 100 Greatest Artists of All time. Most recently she and her husband, musician and producer, Emilio Estefan, who in addition to winning 19 Grammy Awards, co-penned the Broadway hit ON YOUR FEET! The musical, which is soon to be touring across the country.

Judith Jamison, presenter

Judith Jamison is a dancer and choreographer, best known as the Artistic Director of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Ms. Jamison is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, among them a prime-time Emmy Award, an American Choreography Award, the Kennedy Center Honor, a National Medal of Arts, a "Bessie" Award, the Phoenix Award, the Handel Medallion, and the 50th inductee into the Hall of Fame at the National Museum of Dance.

Tig Notaro, presenter

Tig Notaro is a standup comedian, storyteller, and writer originally from Mississippi. Tig writes, produces, and stars in the semiautobiographical comedy series "One Mississippi," premiering this fall through Amazon Studios. Her memoir, *I'm Just A Person*, released this year through Harper Collins Publishing, is a *New York Times* Bestseller. The Television Academy has acknowledged Tig with an Emmy nomination for her HBO standup special "Boyish Girl Interrupted." Her Netflix Original documentary, *TIG*, premiered to critical acclaim and is available for streaming. She can also be seen as "Barb" on Amazon's Emmy Award-winning series "Transparent."

In 2013, Tig was nominated for a Grammy Award for her standup release, *LIVE*, which sold over 100,000 units in just six weeks. *LIVE* is a standup set delivered just days after Tig was diagnosed with invasive bilateral breast cancer. Tig has since announced her cancer to be in remission, and

remains a favorite on “Conan” and “This American Life.” In her time off, Tig enjoys bird watching with her wife Stephanie, their twin sons, and cat Fluff, at home in Los Angeles.

Michelle Ortiz, presenter

Michelle Ortiz has officially bumped up the number of Latinas currently on late-night sketch comedy shows. Known for her brazen and bold humor, she studied at the prestigious Moscow Art Theatre School in Russia and trained as a classical opera singer in Germany. Ortiz participated in the 2014 ABC Diversity Showcase and the 2016 CBS Diversity Showcase. Her television credits include “MadTV”, “Marvel’s Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.,” “Life in Pieces,” and “Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn.”

Chita Rivera, presenter

Dancer, singer and actress Chita Rivera has performed in front of millions on Broadway, London’s West End, around the world, on national television and on the silver screen. She’s a two-time Tony Award winner, with eight additional Tony nominations to her credit including her iconic roles in *West Side Story*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, and *Chicago*.

Denyce Graves, performer

Denyce Graves is an operatic mezzo-soprano best known for the title roles in Georges Bizet’s *Carmen* and Camille Saint-Saëns’ *Samson et Dalila*. Graves has sung at opera houses around the world including the Royal Opera at Covent Garden, La Scala Milan, Vienna Staatsoper, and Opera Nationale de Paris.

Storm Large, performer

A vocalist with a bigger-than-life stage persona, Storm Large is perhaps best recognized from her appearances as a contestant on the 2006 reality TV show “Rock Star: Supernova”. She currently balances performing with her own band in venues around the country and touring with the Portland-based band Pink Martini around the world.

Miami Chamber Music Society, performer

Critically acclaimed for its original and innovative programming, Miami Chamber Music Society (MCMS) presents world-class classical music performances to the audiences of South Florida. By commissioning new works and fusing various artistic disciplines MCMS creates groundbreaking and captivating multi-genre thematic experiences – each performance is programmed to be a unique intersection of music, literature, dance and film. **Dr. Marina Radiushina**, MCMS Artistic Director, is an internationally renowned concert pianist, winner of numerous prestigious awards and the Rubinstein and Horowitz international competitions.

Alicia Hall Moran, performer

Alicia Hall Moran, mezzo-soprano, is a multi-dimensional artist performing across classical music, theater, art and jazz. Her Broadway debut: Tony Award-winning musical *The Gershwins’ Porgy and Bess*, starring as Bess with the 20-city American tour. Singing: Jazz@Lincoln Center, San Francisco Jazz, BlueNote Tokyo, Moldejazz, Middelheim, and Kennedy Center Jazz with legends including Charles Lloyd, Bill Frisell, and husband Jason Moran. Ms. Moran also stars in opera and concert: National Symphony Orchestra Pops, Dayton Philharmonic, Opera of the North, Brooklyn Youth Chorus, etc. Her unique performances have been commissioned by Venice Biennial, Whitney Biennial, Museum of Modern Art, ArtPublic/Miami Art Basel, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, RiverToRiver, FestivalMiami, Opera Southwest, National Sawdust, Art Institute Chicago, and many artists. She’s also released a critically acclaimed (*New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *AllAboutJazz*) debut album, *HEAVY BLUE*.

Rita Moreno, performer

Rita Moreno is best known as Anita in the *West Side Story* film in 1961, a role that earned her an Oscar for Best Supporting Actress, making her the first Latina actress to win the honor. Moreno also appeared on the children's shows "Sesame Street" and "The Electric Company", and is one of only 11 people to have received the four major entertainment honors—Emmy, Oscar, Tony and Grammy awards.

Melissa Schott, performer

Melissa Schott is a featured singer/dancer in Cirque du Soleil's Original Company of *Banana Shpeel*, choreographed by Jared Grimes and directed by David Shiner, she performed at New York City's Beacon Theatre, Chicago's own Chicago Theatre and Toronto's Canon Theatre. She was also with the National Company of Irving Berlin's *White Christmas* (Judy Understudy), choreographed by four-time Tony Award-nominee Randy Skinner and directed by Tony Award-winner Walter Bobbie. Regionally, she has appeared in *42nd Street* (Peggy), *Always...Patsy Cline* (Patsy), *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Millie) and MTI's Broadway Jr. recordings of *Pirates of Penzance* (Ruth), *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* (Violet and Mrs. Gloop) and *Into The Woods* (Witch).

Bria Skonberg, performer

Canadian singer, trumpeter, and songwriter Bria Skonberg is described by *The Wall Street Journal* as one of the "most versatile and imposing musicians of her generation." Recognized as one of "25 for the Future" by *DownBeat* magazine, Skonberg is newly signed to Sony Music Masterworks' OKeh Records, and released her debut LP, simply titled *BRIA*, in 2016.

Wielding a unique blend of modern-day pop sensibility and sizzling musicianship, Skonberg aims for a sense of allure on the new collection. She credits producer Matt Pierson with helping her create music that is both curious and exotic, playing with tension and storytelling. Elite jazz chops, artfully mixed with worldly rhythms and contemporary songwriting, result in a sophisticated pop sound closely resembling that of Michael Bublé, Diana Krall, and Harry Connick Jr. Bria's original tunes include the tango "Curious Game," the bluesy instrumental "Down in the Deep," and the Brazilian-flavored "How Can It Be" - a reflection of the sampling era.

Vanessa Williams, performer

Vanessa Williams is an actress and singer, known as the first African-American recipient of the Miss America title when she was crowned Miss America 1984. Williams then grew from chart-topping pop singer, selling over seven million records worldwide, to critically-acclaimed Broadway performer with her 1994 debut in *Kiss of the Spider Woman* and Tony-nominated performance in the 2002 revival of *Into the Woods*, and television actress featured on "Ugly Betty" and "Desperate Housewives".

Please visit www.arshtcenter.org for updates.

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

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 individuals, corporations and local, state and national foundations.

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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. 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. 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. As Miami's new Town Square, the Arsht Center also houses Brava by Brad Kilgore, a fine dining restaurant; the Café at Books & Books in the historic Carnival Tower and a weekly Farmers Market.

Visit www.arshtcenter.org for more information.