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Brooks Center welcomes new season

By JESSICA SIBLEY
jsibley@dailyjm.com

CLEMSON — Lillian Harder, director of the Brooks Center for Performing Arts at Clemson University, couldn't be more excited about the upcoming season.

With a rich mix of talented musicians, actors and pure entertainers, this line up has something for everyone.

Season tickets will officially go on sale today as the crew at the Brooks is expecting plenty of interest from the community.

As far as starting things off with a bang, the most recognized and admired classical pianist, Lang Lang, will be back at the Brooks.

"He was recently named one of the 'Most 100 Influential People of 2009' by TIME magazine," said Glenn Hare, representative from the Brooks. "Lang Lang thrills audiences around the world. He's famously noted for his spectacular performance during the Opening Ceremony of the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics that was televised around the world to millions of viewers."

This year, in addition to numerous evening performances, there will be 20 shows scheduled during the morning hours for area schools to enjoy.

"This is our best season ever," said Harder. "Lang Lang's performance is certainly one of the many high points of the year.

"The season has many entertaining and inspiring shows," she said. "From bluegrass legends and Australian tenors to risqué puppets and Knights of the Roundtable, we have something for all artistic tastes."

With numerous series that will carry on throughout the season, Hare said the Boni Belle series has plenty of feel-good entertainment.

"Among this season's shows are concerts by the Canadian Brass, the American Bluegrass Masters, the Ten Tenors and jazz guitarist John Pizzarelli," he said. "Broadway fare includes touring productions of 'Camelot" and 'Avenue Q.' Opera buffs can enjoy presentations of Gilbert and Sullivan's 'H.M.S. Pinafore' and Strauss's 'Die Fledermaus.'"

The family entertainment is off the charts as well, with unbelievable acts that will wow any age.

Once again the Brooks Center offers wholesome entertainment from both regional and international artists. The Family Series presents "Dreamscapes: A Juggling Play" and vocalist-percussionist Billy Jonas, he added.

"Dreamscapes" features Clemson's award-winning juggler Jamie Whoolery. Jonas, from Asheville, is a sing-along bang-along troubadour. In addition, Thunder Drums of China and the uplifting voices of the African Children's Choir from Uganda will be taking center stage this year, according to Hare.

"We are very excited about this season," he said. "We hope to see the community enjoying the talent across the board."

For more information, call the Brooks Center at (864) 656-7787.

2009-2010 Brooks Center Calendar Of Events

Boni Belle Brooks Series

John Pizzarelli ..... Tuesday, Sept. 8
Avenue Q ..... Thursday-Friday, Sept. 24-25
Camelot at 3 pm ..... Sunday, Oct. 25
Canadian Brass ..... Thursday, Nov. 5
The Ten Tenors ..... Monday, Nov. 9
American Bluegrass Masters ..... Monday, Nov. 16
The Spirit of Christmas ..... Tuesday, Dec. 8
Tony DeSare ..... Thursday, Jan. 14
Die Fledermaus ..... Thursday, Jan. 21
Ballet Folklorico de Mexico ..... Saturday, Feb. 6
H.M.S. Pinafore ..... Monday, March 8
Lang Lang and maestro Christoph Eschenbach with the Schleswig-Holstein Festival Orchestra ..... Wednesday, March 24

Family Series

The Family Series performances begin at 7 p.m.
Dreamscapes ..... Thursday, Oct. 15
Jigu! Thunder Drums of China ..... Thursday, Nov. 19
African Children's Choir ..... Wednesday, Feb. 10
Billy Jonas ..... Friday, March 26

Lillian and Robert Utsey Chamber Music Series

American Chamber Players ..... Thursday, Oct. 1
East Coast Chamber Orchestra (ECCO) ..... Thursday, Oct. 22
Bridget Kibbey, harp ..... Tuesday, Jan. 26
Eric Ruske, horn; Stephen Prutsman, piano; Jennifer Frautschi, violin ..... Tuesday, April 6

Clemson Players

The House of Bernarda Alba ..... Monday-Thursday, Oct. 5-8
Original Play TBA ..... Monday-Friday, Nov. 16-20 and Sunday, Nov. 22
Rent ..... Thursday-Sunday, Feb. 25-28
Betrayal ..... Tuesday-Sunday, April 13-18

Department of Performing Arts Musical Showcase

Linda Dzuris, carillon ..... Sunday, Sept. 27
CU Symphony Orchestra ..... Tuesday, Oct. 5
CU Jazz Ensemble ..... Thursday, Nov. 12
CU Symphonic Band ..... Monday, Nov. 23
CU Choral Ensembles ..... Tuesday, Dec. 1
CU Symphony Orchestra ..... Thursday, Dec. 3
CU Jazz Ensemble ..... Friday, Feb. 12
CU Symphonic Band ..... Tuesday, March 2
CU Choral Ensembles ..... Thursday, April 8
CU Symphony Orchestra ..... Tuesday, April 13
CU Jazz Ensemble ..... Thursday, April 15
Department of Performing Arts "POPS" Concert ..... Sunday, April 18
CU Concert Band & Symphonic Band ..... Tuesday, April 20
CU Percussion Ensemble & CU Steel Band ..... Friday, April 23

Bill & Donnie Eskridge Tri-ART Series

Henry and Mudge ..... Tuesday, Sept. 29
American Chamber Players ..... Friday, Oct. 2
CU Symphony Orchestra ..... Monday, Oct. 5
Dreamscapes: A Juggling Play ..... Thursday, Oct. 15
Jigsaw Jones: The Case of the Class Clown ..... Thursday, Oct. 22
East Coast Chamber Orchestra (ECCO) ..... Friday, Oct. 23
Room on the Broom @ 10:30 am ..... Tuesday, Nov. 3
Most Valuable Player ..... Tuesday, Nov. 10
American Bluegrass Masters Tour ..... Monday, Nov. 16
The Rainbow Fish ..... Friday, Dec. 4
The Nutcracker ..... Friday, Dec. 11
Junie B. Jones ..... Friday, Jan. 15
Bridget Kibbey, harp ..... Wednesday, Jan. 27
Four Score and Seven Years Ago ..... Friday, Jan. 29
African Children's Choir ..... Wednesday, Feb. 10
CU Jazz Ensemble ..... Thursday, Feb. 11
Eric Ruske, horn; Stephen Prutsman, piano; Jennifer Frautschi, violin ..... Tuesday, April 6
Harry the Dirty Dog ..... Friday, April 16
CU Percussion Ensemble and Steel Band ..... Wednesday, April 21
The Incredible Speediness of Jamie Cavanaugh ..... Friday, April 30



Courtesy of the Brooks Center

Lang Lang, world renowned pianist, will be performing at the Brooks Center this season. He awed audiences worldwide when he performed at the 2008 Olympics.



Courtesy of the Brooks Center

The African Children's Choir will take the Brooks Center stage this season.