The Brooks Center packs powerful lineup in New Year

BY JESSICA SIBLEY
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CLEMSON — Whether it's music, on-stage hilarity or unique entertainment, The Brooks Center has it all in the New Year.

According to Lillian Harder, director of The Brooks Center, the shows coming up in January and February are not to be missed.

"There is a little something for everyone in the coming months," she said. "We have a free show that I'm very excited about too."

That free show will be performed by Joshua Roman, a nationally known cellist gaining accolades with each concert he plays.

According to Clemson University, Roman is "dubbed a 'Classical Rock Star' by the press and singled out as Musical America's 'New Artist of the Month.' Roman was principal cellist for two seasons of the Seattle Symphony, a position he won at age 22. Committed to making music accessible to a wide audience, Roman may be found anywhere from a club to a classroom to a concert hall, performing jazz, rock, chamber music or a solo sonata by Bach or Kodaly."

The free show will kick off at 8 p.m. on Jan. 19.



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"Blast!" will be nothing short of one, as the powerful horns will elicit goosebumps for all in attendance.

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Next up is a show that will literally blow the socks off the audience, as "Blast!" enters The Brooks with gusto.

According to Clemson, "'Blast!' was the winner of the 2001 Tony Award for 'Best Special Theatrical Event' and the 2001 Emmy Award for 'Best Choreography,' 'Blast!' is comprised of brass, percussion and visual performers brought together in a unique explosion of music and theatre. Born on athletic fields across the country, 'Blast!' is a novel art form that evolved from the showmanship and pageantry of marching bands."

"Blast!" will hit center stage at 8 p.m. on Jan. 23. Tickets are $30 for adults and $15 for students.

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If it's unique entertainment you're after, look no further than the performance planned for Jan. 31.

"Bella Gaia," which means beautiful earth, is a different kind of theater experience.

According to Clemson, "'Bella Gaia' is an immersive theatre experience that expresses the deeply moving beauty of planet Earth as seen through the eyes of astronauts by successfully simulating space flight. The show features a live performance by world musicians against a large screen backdrop of orbiting visualizations of Earth from space."

The show begins at 7 p.m.; tickets are $15 for adults and $5 for students.

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In the mood for some melody? Cantus will provide the perfect pitch for audience members, as this all-male ensemble is built to impress.

According to Harder, "Cantus is recognized as the 'premier men's vocal ensemble in the United States' by Fanfare magazine. The program 'On the Shoulders of Giants,' is a tribute to artists who have inspired them and continue to inspire each generation of new musicians. The program includes masterworks by Bach, Wagner, Grieg and Schubert, as well as by great performers of our age such as Elvis Presley, The Beatles, Johnny Cash, Ella Fitzgerald and Simon & Garfunkel."

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Finally, to round out February, "Spamalot" is a cult classic that will come alive on stage with plenty of laughs to be shared by all.

"Spamalot" is a spoof of Monty Python and the Holy Grail, which has won Tony Awards for best musical in past years.

According to Clemson, "The show tells the tale of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table as they embark on their quest for the Holy Grail. Flying cows, killer rabbits, taunting Frenchmen and show-stopping musical numbers are just a few of the reasons audiences everywhere are eating up 'Spamalot.'"

The curtain goes up at 8 p.m. on Feb. 14; tickets are $40 for adults and $30 for students.

For more information, call The Brooks Center box office at (864) 656-7787.

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