

The Carson Center Announces the 2009-2010 Carson Series!

The Luther F. Carson Four Rivers Center is pleased to announce its diverse and exciting new 2009-2010 Carson Series, which will feature a wide array of outstanding entertainment.

Subscriptions to the Series are on sale now and may be purchased by calling the Box Office at (270) 450-4444. Subscribers receive a 10% discount on tickets and have priority seating privileges. Subscriptions must include a minimum of 7 performances. On sale dates for individual performances will be posted on our website and may be purchased by calling the Box Office or by ordering online at www.the-carsoncenter.org. Fees are not included in the ticket prices listed below. The Carson Center Box Office is located at 100 Kentucky Avenue in Paducah, with hours Monday to Friday from 10:00am – 5:00pm CST.

The 2009-2010 Season at the Carson Center is as follows:

Kenny Loggins & Jim Messina

Saturday, September 5, 2009 7:30pm Tickets: \$35 - \$75

Over 35 years since first *Sittin' In* together, Kenny Loggins and Jimmy Messina are again side-by-side in an unexpected and unlikely return of the most successful duo of the early Seventies – a group whose most enduring songs were so well crafted that they have never really gone away. After their split in 1977, both artists established solo careers releasing several albums each. Until a series of low-key benefit performances together in the middle of this decade, there had been little contact between the two men. As for hitting the road again, both men want to celebrate the past while leaving the future an open and intriguing question.

Celtic Woman

Friday, October 9, 2009 7:30pm Tickets: \$39 - \$59

Created by Composer and Musical Director David Downes and Executive Producer Dave Kavanagh in 2004, *Celtic Woman's* story has, from the very beginning, been one of overwhelming success. Between their self-titled debut, their Christmas CD 'A Christmas Celebration' and 'A New Journey' CD *Celtic Woman* has held the Number 1 position on the Billboard World Music Charts for a record-breaking 95 consecutive weeks. To date, they have completed four triumphantly successful U.S. tours, selling out such exalted venues as New York's Radio City Music Hall and Carnegie Hall, Boston's Opera House and L.A.'s Greek Theatre. *Celtic Woman's* PBS special has also been a runaway hit, airing an incredible 3,400 times and 316 different PBS stations since its debut in March of 2005. *Celtic Woman* is a musical ensemble and stage show which incorporates traditional Irish music and modern songs. Irish journalist Danny McElhinney has called it "Riverdance for the Voice."

The O'Jays

Thursday, October 29, 2009 7:30pm Tickets: \$32.50 - \$67.50

The O'Jays were one of Philadelphia soul's most popular and long-lived outfits, rivaled only by the Spinners as soul's greatest vocal group of the '70s. In their prime, the O'Jays' recordings epitomized the Philly soul sound: smooth, rich harmonies backed by elaborate arrangements, lush strings, and a touch of contemporary funk. With two of the original members of the group, Eddie Levert and Walter Williams, and new addition, Eric Grant, they are performing some of their greatest hits like "Back Stabbers," "Love Train," "For the Love of Money," and "Give the People What They Want."

To Kill A Mockingbird

Thursday, November 5, 2009 7:00pm Tickets:\$20 - \$40

Harper Lee's Pulitzer-Prize winning novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, now celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of its publication, was brought to the screen in an Academy Award-winning adaptation by Horton Foote in 1962 and was later adapted for the stage by Christopher Sergel. Though over 35 years old, this stage adaptation continues to compel and delight viewers worldwide with its warmth, wit, and wisdom. Audiences find themselves transported to a sleepy Southern town in the 1930s and discover that the issues of that time—prejudice, racism, and human values—are issues of all time.

Larry Gatlin & the Gatlin Brothers

Friday, November 20, 2009 7:30pm Tickets:\$25 - \$45

Over 50 years ago, Larry, Steve, and Rudy Gatlin started singing in their little hometown of Abilene, Texas, and from there went on to make music history. Over the course of a four-decade career that has taken the Gatlin Brothers from dusty Texas stages to White House performances, from Broadway to Grammy Awards to the top of the country charts, there has been one unifying element, music. There's no harmony quite as pure as family harmony.

Handel's Messiah Rocks

Wednesday, December 2, 2009 7:30pm Tickets:\$29 - \$49

Handel's Messiah Rocks is a groundbreaking musical event that blends classical music with classic rock. It features stunning visual effects, thrilling songs, an orchestra, rock band, adult and children's choirs and some of the most powerful voices on stage and screen. All of these elements combine to create a new genre of music that effortlessly embraces all generations and reinvigorates one of the most beloved musical compositions of all time.

A Christmas Carol

Tuesday, December 8, 2009 7:00pm Tickets:\$20 - \$40

When Charles Dickens wrote his "ghostly little tale" in 1843, he couldn't know that *A Christmas Carol* was destined to become one of the most beloved holiday traditions of all time. By telling this fable illustrating the unfairness of the Industrial Revolution and the necessity for brotherhood and unselfishness, Dickens gave the world one of its most enduring Christmas stories. The Nebraska Theatre Caravan has been touring Charles Jones' delightful adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* since 1979.

Groovaloo

Thursday, January 28, 2010 7:30pm Tickets:\$25 - \$45

Based on the award-winning troupe's true-to-life experiences and told by the dancers who lived them, *Groovaloo* combines the authenticity of *A Chorus Line* and the energy of *Stomp* as it embarks on a journey through the diverse world of hip hop dance. Driven by jaw-dropping displays of physical ability, a vibrant musical score and powerful spoken word poetry, the show's intertwined stories chronicle the struggles, hopes and triumphs of the 15-member cast as they deliver the true meaning of family and share what it's like to be "in the circle."

The Peking Acrobats

Thursday, February 11, 2010 7:00pm Tickets:\$20 - \$40

Daring maneuvers atop a precarious pagoda of chairs...treacherous wire walking...a trick cycling kaleidoscope of magnificent movement...powerful precision tumbling, somersaulting and gymnastics...amazing displays of contortion, flexibility and control...astonishing foot juggling

dexterity...incredible balancing feats showcasing tremendous skill and ability...extraordinary exhibits of agility and grace...live musicians displaying their talents by skillfully playing traditional Chinese instruments...high-tech special effects and all the excitement and festive pageantry creating an atmosphere like that of a Chinese Carnival!! All of this is just a part of the magnificent show offered by *The Peking Acrobats* from the People's Republic of China.

The Zydeco Experience

Monday, February 15, 2010 7:00pm Tickets:\$19 - \$29

Terrance Simien was born in Louisiana and grew up in St. Landry Parish, the heart of French speaking Creole country. Terrance learned about the low down, tail shaking party music of the Creoles called Zydeco in the legendary music room, Richard's, which is possibly the wildest of the many roadhouses in SW Louisiana. He eventually left home to tour the world and in the process becoming one of the most internationally recognized artists in the genre. Simien has gone on to share studio stage with Paul Simon, Stevie Wonder, Robert Palmer, Los Lobos and Dave Matthews Band to name a few. As Simien evolves to create a fusion of sound like no other, both critics and fans agree that he is taking his beloved Zydeco music to a new level and into a larger music world, the celebrating circles of American roots music.

Punch Brothers featuring Chris Thile

Saturday, February 27, 2010 7:30pm Tickets:\$19 - \$49

The line-up of Punch Brothers—whose name is taken from the Mark Twain short story, *Punch, Brothers, Punch!*—is formidable. Chris Thile released the first of five solo albums when he was just thirteen and, by the time he was 20, he was attracting a following among pop, country, and alternative-rock audiences as a member of the Grammy Award-winning Nickel Creek. A *Washington Post* critic recently said Thile “may well be the most virtuosic American ever to play the mandolin.” His equally youthful, prodigiously gifted band-mates are among the most in-demand performers in the worlds of bluegrass, folk, and traditional music.

ABBA the Music

Thursday, March 11, 2010 7:30pm Tickets:\$29 - \$49

Experience the music of ABBA and *Mamma Mia* again in one incredible evening! With the true original sound and the right matching clothes, Katja Nord & Camilla Hedrén will bring some of the greatest moments in pop history back to life. The band Waterloo was formed by Katja Nord and Camilla Dahlin (now Hedrén), and started performing in clubs around Sweden in 1996-1997. Naturally the band immediately began to make exact copies of the famous Waterloo costumes. The former ABBA sax player Uffe Andersson was the band's guest of honour at the very first Waterloo show. Over the years, Waterloo has become the U.S. #1 ABBA tribute band. Former original ABBA band members that have performed with Waterloo are: Rutger Gunnarsson (bass), Ola Brunkert (drums), Ulf Andersson (sax), Mats Ronander (guitar and vocals), Lasse Wellander (guitar), Roger Palm (drums) & Finn Sjöberg (Guitar).

Suzanne Vega

Saturday, April 17, 2010 7:00 & 9:30pm Tickets:\$39

Widely regarded as one of the most brilliant songwriters of her generation, Suzanne Vega emerged as a leading figure of the folk-music revival of the early 1980s when, accompanying herself on acoustic guitar, she sang what has been labeled contemporary folk or neo-folk songs of her own creation in Greenwich Village clubs. Since the release of her self-titled, critically acclaimed 1985 debut album, she has given sold-out concerts in many of the world's best-known halls. In performances devoid of outward drama that nevertheless convey deep emotion, Vega sings in a distinctive, clear vibrato-less voice that has been described as "a cool, dry sandpaper- brushed near-

whisper" and as "plaintive but disarmingly powerful." Hits include "Luka" and "Tom's Diner."
Note: These performances will be held in the intimate setting of the Myre River Room with a "club-like" atmosphere.

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