

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 28, 2007**

**ONLY 1700 SEATS STILL AVAILABLE FOR GULFSTREAM MUSIC EDUCATION SERIES AT 2008 SAVANNAH MUSIC FESTIVAL**

***SMF to Provide Supplemental Music Education Programs for 19,500 Children in 2008***

**Savannah, Georgia** - Georgia's largest music festival announced today that its 2008 children's concerts, the ten events billed as the **Gulfstream Music Education Series**, have met with outstanding reception from local teachers and parents. Over 13,000 students from public and private schools in Chatham and six surrounding counties have reserved seats for the upcoming concerts, which are presented at no cost. Seats for seven of the programs in the ten-concert series have been completely filled. Three of the programs have only a few available seats left. They are "Musical Chairs," featuring classical music performed by violinist Daniel Hope and friends on March 25; "She Said, She Says" - a history of women in jazz, presented by JazzReach on March 26; and "Sisters in Harmony," featuring Georgia-based bluegrass sensations The Lovell Sisters on March 31.

**OTHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR 2008**

**Artist-in-Residence Program**

Students at ten Savannah-Chatham County elementary schools will learn more about jazz during February 25-29 as acclaimed trumpet player Marcus Printup, accompanied by a trio, presents a delightful program exploring musical expression entitled "Jazz is Feeling." Printup is an experienced music educator and a long-time member of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra. International Paper is sponsoring these ten in-school programs.

**SWING CENTRAL High School Jazz Band Competition & Workshop**

Along with three days of workshops with some of the nation's finest jazz educators (including Marcus Roberts, Jason Marsalis, Jim Ketch and others), this year's SWING CENTRAL program invites bands countrywide to Savannah for a chance to win up to \$5000. Students will also have opportunities to see their clinicians collaborate with other renowned jazz musicians in 2008 *Savannah Jazz Party* concerts. All competition rounds will be open to the public free of charge. Each band will also perform a free concert in City Market on either April 3 or 4. The top three bands will perform during an opening set for the world premiere of Wycliffe Gordon's newest work at the Lucas Theatre for the Arts. *SWING CENTRAL 2008* is sponsored by Robert & Jean Faircloth, AGL Resources and Citi Trends.

**American Traditions Competition Viewing**

Area high school choral directors are invited to bring their singers to the 11AM quarterfinal and semifinal rounds of the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual American Traditions Competition on March 26, 27 & 28. Some of America's finest professional and amateur singers will perform songs representative of America's great musical heritage as they compete for the Oxnard Gold Medal. For information on how to reserve seats at no charge, please call 234-3378, ext 102, or email [education@savannahmusicfestival.org](mailto:education@savannahmusicfestival.org).

**About the Savannah Music Festival**

The Savannah Music Festival (SMF) is Georgia's largest musical arts festival and one of the most distinctive cross-genre music festivals in the world. SMF is building a robust history on its devotion to living, vibrant musical traditions, regularly producing premieres, commissioned works and rare regional appearances by renowned artists in jazz, classical, blues, bluegrass, gospel and other genres of American and international roots music. Artists collaborate, students and master musicians intermingle, vocalists showcase their talents and communities uplift and celebrate over seventeen specially conceived days and nights. The 2008 festival runs from March 20 through April 5, including nearly 100 performances in intimate venues throughout the historic district of Savannah.

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