



OCONEE PERFORMING ARTS SOCIETY

PRESS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Samantha Duthler 706-467-6000 or sduthler@opas.org

OPAS ANNOUNCES 2009 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

An Evening with Lucie Arnaz
Atlanta Center for Puppetry Arts
Madison Chamber Music Festival - Juilliard String Quartet
BLAST! Phil Driscoll and Friends
The Waybacks
The King & I – A Concert Performance
Hubbard Street 2 Dance Company of Chicago

Thursday, April 2, 2009, (Greensboro Georgia), - The Oconee Performing Arts Society (**OPAS**) announced highlights of their 2009 Season today with performances throughout the Lake Oconee region including The Plaza Arts Center in Eatonton, The Ritz-Carlton Lodge at Reynolds Plantation, the Harbor Club Polo Arena, Madison-Morgan Cultural Center, and in the Putnam and Greene County School Systems.

The highlights of the performance schedule include a concert version of Oscar & Hammerstein's *The King & I*, **The Waybacks, Hubbard Street 2 Dance Company of Chicago**, *An Evening with Lucie Arnaz*, and July 3rd Fireworks on the lawn of The Ritz-Carlton Lodge, Reynolds Plantation with *BLAST! Phil Driscoll and Friends* and the Atlanta Pops Orchestra. In addition, **OPAS** will continue its support of the *Madison Chamber Music Festival* with the sponsorship of the **Juilliard String Quartet**. Other exciting performances will be announced soon.

OPAS began the 2009 calendar year with an in-school residency of the FBN Opera for Kids production of *Pinocchio* which played for over 1500 area school children, introducing them to the art of opera. The **Atlanta Center for Puppetry Arts, Hubbard Street 2 Dance Company** as well as a visit by company members from *The King & I* will be the highlights of the **OPAS** Education and Outreach programs throughout the year.

As **OPAS** grows, the opportunity for younger patrons of the arts is being addressed by the formation of 'e-guild'. Members of 'e-guild' will enjoy specially created events and social opportunities that will allow them to participate in the arts and transition to full membership in the near future.



Show	Performance Date	Venue
<i>An Evening with Lucie Arnaz</i>	May 2 & 3, 2009	The Ritz-Carlton Lodge, Reynolds Plantation
Atlanta Center for Puppetry Arts	May 4 & 18, 2009	Greene & Putnam County Schools
<i>Madison Chamber Music Festival - Juilliard String Quartet</i>	June 26, 2009	Madison-Morgan Cultural Center
<i>BLAST! Phil Driscoll and Friends</i>	July 3, 2009	The Ritz-Carlton Lodge, Reynolds Plantation
The Waybacks	July 24, 2009	TBA
<i>The King & I</i> A Concert Performance	October 17 & 18, 2009	The Plaza Arts Center
Hubbard Street 2 Dance Company of Chicago	November 13 & 14, 2009	The Plaza Arts Center

The Oconee Performing Arts Society:

Formed in 2007, OPAS is a nonprofit cultural arts organization which brings top quality live music, theater and dance performances to the Lake Oconee region - an area possessing unparalleled natural beauty, antebellum treasures, scenic lake and golf resources, easy travel accessibility, and a diverse population that hails from around the globe. Performances take place on the waterfront at Lake Oconee, in Eatonton's newly transformed Plaza Arts Center, at The Ritz-Carlton Lodge, Harbor Club's Polo Arena and a variety of other area venues (and soon in downtown Greensboro's Festival Hall). From under the stage lights to under the stars, OPAS's performances embrace both the traditions of the past and the vibrant artistry of the future.

OPAS opened its first season in December 2007 with a superb production of the Christmas opera favorite, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. The 2008 schedule included a balance of international, national and regional live performances of classical music, ballet, jazz, opera, musical comedy, pop, country, gospel, cabaret and children's performances. Education and outreach programs complement each season, reaching thousands of young students annually through *Concerts in the Schools*. Please visit us at www.opas.org.

AN EVENING WITH LUCIE ARNAZ
The Ritz-Carlton Lodge, Reynolds Plantation Ballroom
Saturday, May 2nd at 8:00 pm
Sunday, May 3rd at 6:00 pm
Tickets on sale to OPAS members Monday, April 6, 2009
Tickets on sale to the public Monday, April 13, 2009



OPAS, in association with ArLuck Entertainment, will present *An Evening with Lucie Arnaz* at The Ritz-Carlton Lodge, Reynolds Plantation. Once again, OPAS will transform the Grand Ballroom into a lakeside theater on Saturday, May 2nd and Sunday May 3rd.

Lucie Arnaz has had an extremely diversified career spanning over forty years in show business. She has starred on the New York stage in *They're Playing Our Song* (Theatre World, LA Drama Critic's and Outer Critic's Circle Awards), *Lost in Yonkers*, and *Grace and Glorie*; in First National companies of *Seesaw*, *Whose Line is it Anyway?*, *Social Security*, and *My One and Only* (Sarah Siddons Award); in the London premiere of *Witches of Eastwick*, and at Florida's Coconut Grove Playhouse in *Once Removed*, *A Picasso*, *Ann and Debbie*, and *Sonia Flew*, in which she co-starred for the first time with daughter, Katharine Luckinbill. Most recently, she returned

to Broadway in the musical *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*.

She has appeared on television in *The Lucie Arnaz Show*, *Abduction of Innocence*, *Sons and Daughters*, *The Black Dahlia*, *The Mating Season*, *Who Gets the Friends?*, *Washington Mistress*, *Death Scream* and *Here's Lucy*; on the big screen in *The Jazz Singer* (Golden Globe Nomination), *Down to You*, *Second Thoughts*, *Billy Jack Goes to Washington* and, most recently, *Wild Seven* (with Richard Roundtree and Robert Loggia) and *The Pack*.

Lucie has performed on the *Academy Awards*, at *The White House*, and internationally in concert. She was Executive Producer of the *I Love Lucy 50th Anniversary Special* (EMMY nominee, 2001), and *Lucy & Desi: A Home Movie* (EMMY winner, 1993). She produced two CD-ROMS, and recorded an album for Concord Jazz (*Just in Time*). She also travels the lecture circuit (*Surviving Success*).

Lucie currently serves on the Board of Directors of The American Theatre Wing (www.americantheatrewing.org). With her brother, Desi, she manages Desilu, too, LLC. With her husband, actor-writer Laurence Luckinbill, she manages five children. Lucie invites you to visit her online at www.lucieArnaz.com.

ATLANTA CENTER FOR PUPPETRY ARTS

International Puppet Presentation

Monday, May 4, 2009 – Greene County Schools

Monday, May 18, 2009 – Putnam County Schools



Photo by: Richard Termine
Batara Brama; Indonesia; Wayang Golek;
c.1955. Wayang Golek is the only variety of
round, wooden puppet found in Indonesia. Its
use is confined to the western parts of Java. Gift
of Nancy L. Staub. Permanent Collection.

The *International Puppet Presentation* is a unique learning experience with an in-depth look at the rich culture of puppetry. Audiences learn about many different types of puppet traditions from around the world including China, India, Japan, Indonesia and Mali. The instructor uses both authentic and replica puppets for this entertaining and educational hands-on presentation.

The Center for Puppetry Arts, the largest nonprofit organization in the U.S. dedicated to puppetry, has as its mission to entertain and enlighten audiences, nurture the world community of artists, expand the puppetry art form, and explore the past, present, and future of puppetry.

The Center for Puppetry Arts is a unique cultural treasure - a magical place where children and adults are educated, enlightened and entertained. Since 1978, the Center has introduced millions of visitors to the wonder and art of puppetry, and has touched the lives of many through enchanting performances, curriculum-based workshops and the hands-on Museum, as well as Distance Learning and Outreach Programs.

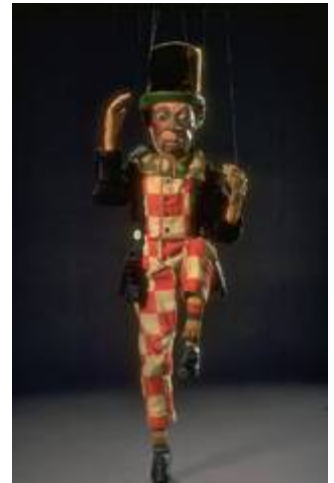


Photo by: Richard Termine
Mad Hatter; Designed by Tony Sarg (1880-1942); United States; from the
Sarg production of Alice in Wonderland; c. 1920. Gift of Nancy L. Staub.
Permanent Collection.

JUILLIARD STRING QUARTET

Madison-Morgan Cultural Center

Friday, June 26th at 8:00 pm

Tickets on sale to OPAS Members at the OPAS Box Office April 21, 2009

Tickets on sale to the public through Madison-Morgan Cultural Center April 21, 2009

"The Juilliard continues to amaze with the freshness and intensity it invariably brings to every corner of its vast repertory."

- *New York Times*



Photo by Nana Watanabe

OPAS continues its support of the *Madison Chamber Music Festival* this year by sponsoring the **Juilliard String Quartet** on Friday, June 26th at 8pm. The concert will take place in the historic auditorium of the Madison-Morgan Cultural Center and will include the works of Beethoven, Haydn and Mendelssohn. This year's festival will run from Monday, June 15th through Sunday, June 28th. If you would like additional information regarding the **Juilliard String Quartet** or any other festival performance, please call the Madison-Morgan Cultural Center at (877) 233-0598 or visit them online at www.mmcc-arts.org.

Founded in 1946 by Robert Mann, Robert Koff, Raphael Hillyer, and Arthur Winograd, the ever-evolving **JUILLIARD STRING QUARTET** has become a living American legend. From the beginning and throughout its career, it has been recognized for the boldness of its interpretation of the classics, with an equal and parallel tradition of championing the new — a vibrant combination of the familiar and the daring. In a

history of "Firsts," the Juilliards have played the world premieres of works by more than 60 American composers.

These premiers are in and amongst thousands of performances of the great classics of Haydn, Mozart, Schubert, and Brahms; and the complete Beethoven cycles. The Juilliards' own scoring of Bach's *Art of the Fugue* toured in many capitals of the world, including New York, Tokyo, Bonn, and most recently Washington, D.C., where they have been the Quartet in Residence at the Library of Congress for more than four decades — the celebrated "First Family" of chamber music in the United States. The Juilliard Quartet's sound is famously characterized by clarity of structure, compelling rhythmic drive and an extraordinary unanimity of purpose, no matter the work.

"There is nothing priggish about chamber music, at least not in Madison. Watching performers up-close-and-personal as they put so much passion into producing every note is an intense encounter with the human spirit."

-Ramsey Nix, *Lake Oconee Living Magazine*

BLAST!
PHIL DRISCOLL AND FRIENDS
with The Atlanta Pops Orchestra
The Ritz-Carlton Lodge, Reynolds Plantation
Friday, July 3, 2009
Tickets on sale to OPAS members Monday, May 11, 2009
Tickets on sale to the public Monday, May 18, 2009



The Ritz-Carlton Lodge, Reynolds Plantation will again be ablaze with ***BLAST!*** a fireworks extravaganza with the music of trumpeter and musician extraordinaire, ***Phil Driscoll and Friends***. The name Phil Driscoll is synonymous with great music. His trumpet, voice, heart and soul have moved audiences around the world for more than 20 years. Phil has the unique ability to turn a twisted piece of brass into a soaring instrument of beauty. When you hear him sing or listen to the music he has composed, you will agree that Driscoll is a world-class artist of the new millennium.

The man, the music and the message Phil portrays have withstood the test of time. From Grammy awards to the applause of presidents; prisons to missions of mercy, the sound and message of the music coming from the heart of Phil Driscoll rings strong and true. From performances and recordings with rock and roll legends like Joe Cocker and Blood Sweat & Tears to classical music recordings with the London Philharmonic orchestra at CBS, the

trumpet and voice of Phil Driscoll are distinctive and matchless. An accomplished composer and writer, his music has been heard all over the world. His appeal is truly universal. The diversity of Phil's' sound, from jazz to blues to gospel; and up-tempo pop to heartfelt ballads, will take you on a musical journey you will not soon forget.



THE WAYBACKS

Venue TBA

Friday, July 24, 2009

Tickets on sale to OPAS members Monday, June 8, 2009

Tickets on sale to the public Monday, June 15, 2009

OPAS continues its *String Masters* series which began last October with the performance of internationally recognized band **Abigail Washburn & The Sparrow Quartet** featuring **Béla Fleck**. On Friday, July 24th **The Waybacks** will perform their own style of music which has become known as "Americana," a blend of Memphis soul, honky-tonk, Parisian swing, classical music, vintage blues pop, full-tilt roadhouse boogie and more.



The Waybacks draw freely from the old school and the old world, but they are no throwback. They are as uninhibited and un-predictable as the eclectic San Francisco Bay area that claims them, and for nearly a decade, their experiments have always proven sharp-witted and musically dazzling. They are living proof that in music anyway, evolution and intelligent design are entirely compatible. "The whole spirit of improvisation – that's always been the cornerstone of this band for me," says founding singer, songwriter and

guitarist James Nash. "Through all the stylistic changes and regardless of the instruments we're playing, to me the fun of this band has always been that in some ways I can do whatever I feel like doing at any moment."

Nash and Hood have stepped forward as songwriters, allowing **The Waybacks** to assemble their first project of entirely original music. They're finding a new collective voice, right before our ears.

"The musical maelstrom known as The Waybacks sent up such a startling tornado of aggressively performed high-spirited melodies as to remove all air from the room."

- Buzz McClain, *The Washington Post*

**A Concert Performance of
*THE KING & I***

**The Plaza Arts Center, Eatonton
Saturday, October 17th at 8:00 pm
Sunday, October 18th at 3:00 pm**

**Tickets on sale to OPAS members Monday, August 31, 2009
Tickets on sale to the public Monday, September 7, 2009**

Presented in cooperation with The National Asian Artists Project

OPAS, in cooperation with The National Asian Artists Project (NAAP), will light up the stage on October 17th & 18th with the magic of Rodgers & Hammerstein's *The King & I* in a concert performance at The Plaza Arts Center in Eatonton.

The King & I

Richard Rodgers / Oscar Hammerstein II

Starring Leslie Denniston as Anna

Hoon Lee as the King

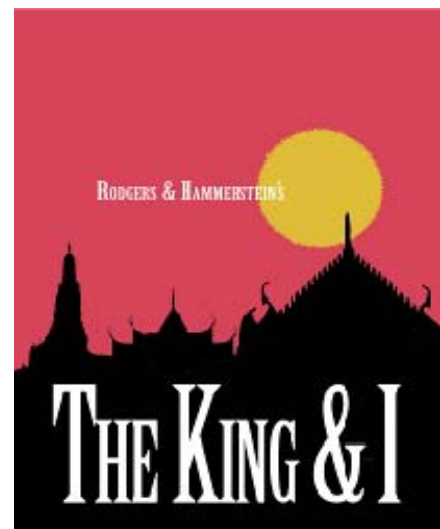
Directed by Baayork Lee

Conducted by Kevin Farrell

Atlanta Pops Orchestra, John Head, Music Director

OPAS Festival & Children's Chorus, Neal Dolvin, Chorus Master

The King & I opened on Broadway in 1951, the sixth collaboration for the team of Rodgers and Hammerstein. It ran for 1,246 performances, won the Tony for Best Musical, and spawned numerous revivals and a popular 1956 film version. A sumptuous feast of voices telling the story of the Welsh widow Anna Leonowens who goes to Bangkok to teach the Royal children and becomes an advisor to the King of Siam. With a rich musical score and idiomatic lyrics, this is one of Rogers & Hammerstein's best. One of the musical highlights is "Shall We Dance", one of the best-written scenes in all musical theatre.



Leslie Denniston (Anna) is well known to you through her many roles on Broadway in *City of Angels*, *Copperfield* and *Shenandoah*, and on television in *The Sopranos*, *Law and Order*, *Guiding Light*, and *As the World Turns*.

“Leslie Denniston is every bit the match for this King, and deserves all the affection audiences give her.”

- Bob Wilcox, St. Louis Municipal Opera



Hoon Lee (King), who will be playing the role of the King, is veteran of the Broadway stage. His credits include: *Pacific Overtures*, *Urinetown* and *Flower Drum Song*, where he originated the role of *Chao*. He played *David Henry Hwang* in David Henry Hwang’s play *Yellow Face* at both the Mark Taper Forum and The Public Theatre in New York, for which he received a Theatre World Award and a Drama League Nomination. Off-Broadway and Regional credits include *SIDES: The Fear is Real...* (The Culture Project, P.S.122, Ma-Yi Theater), which he co-wrote as a founding member of Mr. Miyagi’s Theatre Company, *Hamlet* (New York Shakespeare Festival), *Children of Vonderly* (Ma-Yi Theater), *American Hwangap* (Play Company, Ma-Yi Theater, Lark Play Development Center) and *The King & I* (Papermill Playhouse) and

others. TV and film appearances include *Fringe*, *The Unusuals*, *Sex and the City*, *Law & Order*, *We Own the Night* and *Saving Face*. Interactive credits include voice-over work for *Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas* and *Midnight Club III*. He is the recipient of a TCG Fox Foundation Fellowship and is a graduate of Harvard University.

Baayork Lee (stage director) has been an established part of the New York theatre scene for her entire life, starting from the age of 5 as *Princess Yingyaulak* in the original Broadway production of *The King & I*, starring legends Yul Brynner and Gertrude Lawrence. Currently, she is represented on Broadway as choreographer of the new critically-acclaimed revival of *A Chorus Line*, of which she originated the role of *Connie Wong* in its original Broadway inception.

Ms. Lee’s extensive theatrical experience includes recently directing the New York City Opera production of Rodgers and Hammerstein’s *Cinderella* (starring Eartha Kitt, Dick Van Patten and Ana Gasteyer), and the national tours of *The King & I* (starring Sandy Duncan, then Stefanie Powers) and the first national tour of *Bombay Dreams*. Additional notable directing credits include The Kennedy Center’s *Carmen Jones* (starring Vanessa Williams and conducted by Placido Domingo), the Australian production of *Barnum* for Cy Coleman, European tours of *Porgy and Bess* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Gypsy* for The Signature Theater (Arlington, VA), and a



2001 New York City revival of *A New Brain*. She was also Associate Director for *Barbara Cook: A Broadway Evening*. With *A Chorus Line*, Miss Lee has directed more than 35 companies all over the world.

As a performer, Ms. Lee's career includes 11 original Broadway casts from *The King & I* (with Yul Brynner); *Flower Drum Song* (directed by Gene Kelly); *Bravo Giovanni*; *Mr. President*; *Here's Love*; *Golden Boy* (starring Sammy Davis, Jr.); *A Joyful Noise*; *Henry, Sweet Henry*; *Promises, Promises*; *Seesaw*, and culminating in her biographical and most noted role of *Connie Wong* in *A Chorus Line*, with friend and long-time colleague Michael Bennett.

Ms. Lee is also co-author of *On the Line: The Creation of A Chorus Line* published by William Morrow.

Ms. Lee is also honored by a number of awards bestowed upon her, including the 2003 Lifetime Achievement Asian Woman Warrior Award from Columbia College in Chicago

Kevin Farrell (conductor) works as a composer, conductor, arranger, and pianist on both the Broadway and concert stages. Some of his theatre credits include musical direction of the Tokyo production of *Rent*; the Tony Award winning *Fiddler On the Roof* with Topol; Cathy Rigby in *Peter Pan*; and *Cats*, both on Broadway and in Los Angeles. His involvement with *The King & I* spans from the Broadway revival with Yul Brynner, for which he was pianist and assistant conductor, to musical direction of the two most recent US National Tours. He was musical director/supervisor for all four of the US National Tours of *Evita* and also conducted its premiere in Rome. He held this same position for the national tour of *Bombay Dreams*. Mr. Farrell was the recipient of the Los Angeles Theatre Critic's award 'Best Musical Direction' for the Royal National Theatre's production of *Carousel*. He was twice Music Director of New York's Radio City Music Hall (during which he appeared as such in the movie *Annie*), was for two seasons music director of Lee Theodore's *The American Dance Machine*, and is a frequent guest conductor at the St. Louis Municipal Opera, for which he was nominated in 2007 for the Kevin Kline Award for Best Musical Direction. He is privileged to have performed for three American Presidents, both in the theatre and at The White House.

As a performer and musical director, Mr. Farrell created the role of *Bob* in the off-Broadway musical, *Open Heart* at the Cherry Lane Theatre. Currently, he is developing a one-man show based the life of pianist/composer/actor/comedian Oscar Levant.

Mr. Farrell has also done much work abroad. In Italy he has conducted concerts highlighting the works of Copeland, Thomson, and Bernstein. At Venice's La Fenice Opera, he premiered George Gershwin's *Lady Be Good*. He has appeared at the San Carlo Opera house in Naples and at the Verdi Conservatorio in Milan. Last summer he was honored to guest conduct at *Maestro Riccardo Muti's Ravenna Festival*.

Kevin Farrell's arrangements have been heard in the U.S. and on BBC London, and he has composed the incidental music for productions at *New York's Circle in the Square*, *The New York Fringe Festival* and the *Berkshire Theatre Festival*, among others. He has conducted international broadcasts with the BBC Concert Orchestra honoring the American composers Irving Berlin and Jule Styne. For two years Mr. Farrell was a creative consultant for Disney Entertainment and The Disney Channel.

Mr. Farrell resides in New York with his wife, Karin, who is the vice president of On Location Education.

The National Asian Artists Project (NAAP):

The National Asian Artists Project is dedicated to artists of Asian descent, and their potential to positively impact communities locally, regionally and nationally. NAAP seeks to present artistic projects of the highest standard throughout the country, and develop outreach programs that will: support the artistic growth of performers, visual and technical artists through professional employment opportunities; build and cultivate new local and national audiences that encourage patronage and participation in the arts; nurture and educate professional and non-professional, current and future artists through training opportunities; and promote and reflect racial/ethnic inclusion, subscribing to the aesthetic that effective artistic growth is fed through diversity. NAAP believes that the arts in America in its many forms is constantly changing, always encouraging new artistic voices and communities, and artists of Asian descent have many vital roles to play as part of the evolution.

HUBBARD STREET 2 DANCE COMPANY OF CHICAGO

The Plaza Arts Center, Eatonton

Friday, November 13th at 8:00 pm

Saturday, November 14th at 3:00 pm

Tickets on sale to OPAS members Monday, September 28, 2009

Tickets on sale to the public Monday, October 5, 2009



St. John's Wort © Todd Rosenberg Photography

OPAS will present a program of modern dance at The Plaza Arts Center in Eatonton on Friday, November 13th and Saturday, November 14th with the **Hubbard Street 2 Dance Company of Chicago**. In conjunction with these public performances, there will be several programs scheduled for the area's school children.

Hubbard Street 2 is a company of seven dancers between the ages of 17 and 25 who perform a repertoire of works by some of the nation's most promising young choreographers. HS2 reaches more than 35,000 people annually through performances in schools,

community centers and theaters. Since its inception in 1997, the company has become a respected training ground for young, professional dancers and choreographers; a major component of Education & Community Programs; a resource for the Hubbard Street Dance Company of Chicago main company; and a troupe performing a diverse and engaging repertory nationally and internationally.

“Hubbard Street: an avenue of smiles!”

- *The Chicago Sun-Times*



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