

Press Release

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Carolina Performing Arts announces 2011-2012 season

Carolina Performing Arts at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill launches its seventh season with a panoply of world-renowned artists in a 49-performance program.

Carolina Performing Arts continues to deliver the world to Chapel Hill, with 2011-2012 artists representing 17 countries including Australia, India, Norway, Sweden, Poland, the Netherlands, France, Germany, Belgium, Ireland, Taiwan, South Africa and Senegal.

Now clearly established as one of the leading university performing arts presenters in the country, the 2011-2012 season focuses on nurturing relationships with returning artists; providing audiences with thoughtful, challenging performances; collaborating with local performers; growing programming in international contemporary dance; partnering with the University's art department; and presenting masterworks by Beethoven and Bach.

The 2011-2012 season boasts the return of 11 artists and ensembles including Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan (Oct. 6-7); Gil Shaham, violin (Oct. 28); Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (Feb. 13-14) appearing here under brand new artistic director Robert Battle; Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis, trumpet (March 15) and banjoist Béla Fleck with the original line-up of the Flecktones (April 25).

"Nurturing long-lasting relationships with artists is a vital aspect of our mission," said Emil Kang, Executive Director for the Arts. "Whether these performers are well-known or emerging, we want to give everyone the opportunity to experience their diversity and enormous talent."

2011-2012 also marks a renewed emphasis on the Triangle's vibrant arts scene. On Sept. 7-8, UNC's Department of Music faculty member Stefan Litwin performs Beethoven piano concertos with the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen. Following her 2009 *Go in Grace* work for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (AAADT), Durham native and current AAADT dancer Hope Boykin returns to Memorial Hall with her former company Philadanco in a Carolina Performing Arts-commissioned work with an original score by Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra drummer-composer Ali Jackson (Sept. 23).

Celebrated tenor Anthony Dean Griffey will join UNC music faculty (Sept. 29), and nine of the University's music faculty along with the Carolina Choir will appear with the European Union Youth Orchestra under the direction of Vladimir Ashkenazy (April 13).

"We have a wealth of artistic talent right here in the Triangle," said Mark Nelson, director of marketing and public relations for Carolina Performing Arts. "We want to continue to collaborate with these wonderful performers and our visiting artists."

Carolina Performing Arts' international contemporary dance programming features works from Taiwan, Belgium, Australia, France and Sweden. Taiwan's Cloud Gate Dance Theatre fuses tai chi, meditation, Chinese opera movement, modern dance and ballet in *Water Stains on the Wall* (Oct. 6-7); Eastman/Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui melds western contemporary dance with movement styles from around the world in *Babel (words)* (Oct. 9-10); Australia's Circa mixes dance with extreme circus skills (March 20-21); France's Ballet Preljocaj's *Snow White* reinvents this classic tale with costumes by *enfant terrible* Jean-Paul Gaultier (April 4-5); and Sweden's Göteborg Ballet presents works featuring the music of Nick Cave in *Your Passion is Pure Joy to Me*, Ravel in *3X Bolero* and Beethoven in *Eroica* (April 16-17).

With an evolving interest in bringing visual art to the stage, Carolina Performing Arts is partnering with the University's art department for the out-of-the-box Loading Dock series, presented in an intimate configuration with artists and audiences sharing the Memorial Hall stage. The 2011-2012 Loading Dock performances feature the multimedia romp *Four Electric Ghosts: An Opera-Masquerade* by Mendi and Keith Obadike (Feb. 9), the quirky video/performance piece *Whispering Pines* by Shana Moulton and Nick Hallet (March 27-28) and the ritualistic theater/music work *Gospels of Childhood: The Triptych* by Poland's Teatr ZAR (April 22-23).

"My career began in the visual art world, and I believe the future pioneers of our field will be creating work at the intersection of the visual arts and performing arts worlds," said Kang.

The 2011-2012 classical ensembles series focuses on chamber masterworks by Beethoven and Bach with three of the most distinguished chamber orchestras of Europe – the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen with Stefan Litwin, piano (Sept. 7-8), Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique with conductor Sir John Eliot Gardiner (Nov. 12-13), and the Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra and Choir with conductor Ton Koopman (March 13-14).

Heading into its second season, Carolina Performing Arts' World Music Series looks to Africa with Beninese Afro-pop phenomenon Angélique Kidjo (Oct. 16); *Still Black Still Proud – An African Tribute to James Brown* featuring saxophonists Pee Wee Ellis and Maceo Parker with South African singer/songwriter Vusi Mahlasela and Senegalese troubadour Cheikh Lô (Nov. 16); and Cheikh Lô in his own show on April 14.

“The world is so much smaller than we think,” said Nelson. “The growth in popularity of world music helps to remind us how connected we are to people everywhere.”

New subscriptions to any of six Carolina Performing Arts series – which range from dance performances to roots, jazz, world music and classical offerings – will be available beginning **June 6**.

Available on **July 5** will be flex subscription packages, allowing patrons to create subscription packages based on performances of their choice. Also on **July 5**, tickets to individual performances will be available. All on-sale dates begin at 10 a.m.

Subscriptions and tickets can be purchased online at www.carolinaperformingarts.org, by phone through the Memorial Hall Box Office at (919) 843-3333, or by mail to the Memorial Hall Box Office, UNC-Chapel Hill, Campus Box 3276, Chapel Hill, N.C., 27599-3276. When University classes are in session, the box office at 140 E. Cameron Ave. is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays.

2011-2012 CAROLINA PERFORMING ARTS SEASON

Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen with Stefan Litwin, piano

Wednesday-Thursday, September 7-8 at 7:30 p.m.

September 7 Program

Haydn Symphony No. 49 in F minor ("La Passione"), Hob. I:49

Beethoven Wind Octet in E-flat major, Op. 103

Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 1 in C major, Op. 15

September 8 Program

Haydn Symphony No. 80 in D minor, Hob. I:80

Schoenberg *Verklärte Nacht (Transfigured Night)* for String Orchestra, Op. 4

Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 3 in C minor, Op. 37

One of Europe's most distinguished chamber orchestras, the spirited Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen enchants music lovers with its unerring instinct for imaginative, well thought-out programs and unique, brilliantly conceived interpretations. Under the artistic direction of Grammy Award-winning Estonian conductor Paavo Järvi, the Orchestra has received unprecedented public and critical acclaim, in particular for its Beethoven symphony cycle recordings and concerts. Lauded pianist/composer Stefan Litwin, described by the *Berliner Tagesspiegel* "[as if]Beethoven himself were sitting at the piano," is the George Kennedy Distinguished Professor of Music at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Allen Toussaint & Mavis Staples

Wednesday, September 14 at 7:30 p.m.

Pairing two musical icons on the same stage is a rare treat. Included in *Rolling Stone's* 100 Greatest Singers of All Time and VH1's 100 Greatest Women of Rock and Roll, Mavis Staples is a soul and gospel legend who provided a soundtrack to the civil rights movement with The Staple Singers. Personifying the musical spirit of New Orleans, pianist/composer Allen Toussaint has collaborated with giants Paul McCartney, Paul Simon, The Rolling Stones, Elvis Costello, Patti LaBelle, Dr. John and countless others.

Philadanco

Friday, September 23 at 8 p.m.

Leading dance company Philadanco is known for its electrifying performers, blending African American-based dance with ballet, jazz and modern. Following her 2009 *Go in Grace* work for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Durham native Hope Boykin returns to Memorial Hall to share her tales of daily expressions, trials, struggles and achievements in a new Carolina Performing Arts-commissioned work with Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra's drummer/composer Ali Jackson. Also featured is a work by venerated Urban Bush Women founder Jawole Willa Jo Zollar.

Anthony Dean Griffey, tenor with UNC Music Faculty

Thursday, September 29 at 7:30 p.m.

Four-time Grammy Award-winning American tenor Anthony Dean Griffey has captured critical and popular acclaim on opera, concert and recital stages around the world. He has performed leading roles at international opera houses including the Metropolitan Opera and the Opéra national de Paris and has appeared with major international orchestras. His gift for dramatic interpretation and exquisite musicianship have led to Grammy Awards for recordings including Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem* with the London Philharmonic, André Previn's *A Streetcar Named Desire*, and live recordings of Richard Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde* and Carlisle Floyd's *Of Mice and Men*. In this program, he performs with members of UNC-Chapel Hill's music faculty.

***Water Stains on the Wall* – Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan**

Thursday, October 6 at 7:30 p.m. and Friday, October 7 at 8 p.m.

Steeped in tai chi, meditation, Chinese opera movement, modern dance and ballet, Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan features a rich repertoire rooted in Asian myths, folklore and aesthetics with a contemporary perspective. Following their 2007 *Wild Cursive* appearance in Memorial Hall, Cloud Gate returns with *Water Stains on the Wall* – a metaphor for the highest aesthetics in Chinese calligraphy. Accompanied by traditional Chinese instrumental music, dancers create an abstract world of beauty and magic while images of drifting clouds are projected onto a white set like flowing ink, conjuring Chinese classical landscape painting.

***Babel (words)* – Eastman/Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui**

Sunday, October 9 at 7:30 p.m. and Monday, October 10 at 8 p.m.

Returning to Memorial Hall following his 2010 *Sutra* production, celebrated Flemish/Moroccan choreographer Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui's *Babel (words)* fuses western contemporary dance with movement styles from around the world. With Hindu rhythms by Mahabub and Sattar Khan, Kodo drumming by Shogo Yoshii, medieval music by Gabriele Miracle and Patrizia Bovi and a stunning set by renowned visual artist Antony Gormley, eleven dancers and five musicians explore links between ethnicity and identity, the concept of God, the myths that shape our belief systems, and human striving for the divine.

Angélique Kidjo

Sunday, October 16 at 7:30 p.m.

With her soulful style and fun-loving charisma, Afro-pop phenomenon Angélique Kidjo cross-pollinates the West African traditions of her childhood in Benin with elements of R&B, funk, jazz, and European and Latin American influences. With four Grammy nominations, the dynamic diva has collaborated with artists as varied as Santana, Peter Gabriel, Dave Matthews and Gilberto Gil. With world music's dramatic growth in popularity, Angélique Kidjo reminds us that the world is much smaller than we think –

that no matter how far flung its peoples may be, they are united by subtle lines of interconnection.

Mary Chapin Carpenter

Tuesday, October 18 at 7:30 p.m.

Five-time Grammy Award-winning singer/songwriter Mary Chapin Carpenter has accomplished a rare feat, repeatedly enjoying success and accolades with records that are unrelentingly smart, revealing and emotionally complex. As her songs become timeless classics, selling more than 13 million albums, she continues to reach a devoted audience as she navigates with humor, compassion and insight the personal, political and spiritual struggles of her life and of America's history, blending personal tales of discovery and experience with more distant and imagined stories of one's purpose and relationship to the universe.

Gil Shaham, violin

Friday, October 28 at 8 p.m.

One of today's most virtuosic and engaging classical artists, multiple Grammy Award-winning Gil Shaham combines flawless technique with inimitable warmth and generosity of spirit. A concert artist sought after throughout the world, he has made more than two dozen widely varied recordings including Elgar's Violin Concerto with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and David Zinman; *The Butterfly Lovers* and Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto with the Singapore Symphony; *The Prokofiev Album* and *Mozart in Paris*, both with Orli Shaham; and *The Fauré Album* with Akira Eguchi and cellist Brinton Smith.

Samuel Beckett's *Endgame* & *Watt* – Gate Theatre

Wednesday, November 2 at 7:30 p.m. and Friday, November 4 at 8 p.m. (*Watt*)

Thursday, November 3 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, November 5 at 8 p.m. (*Endgame*)

Dublin's illustrious Gate Theatre started the acting careers of Orson Welles and James Mason, enjoyed a close association with the late Harold Pinter, and became the first company in the world to present a full retrospective of the nineteen stage plays of Samuel Beckett – a towering figure in 20th-century theater and one of the great Irish humorists. Beckett's *Endgame* tells the comical tale of the aged and blind Hamm and his servant Clov, co-existing in a mutually dependent and fractious relationship with only Hamm's parents, legless from a biking accident, for company. *Watt* is Beckett's hilarious study of obsessional neurosis, adapted from his autobiographical novel. These performances take place in Historic Playmakers Theatre, near Memorial Hall on Cameron Avenue.

Shiva Ganga – Shantala Shivalingappa

Tuesday, November 8 at 7:30 p.m.

Luminous dancer/choreographer Shantala Shivalingappa shares a mastery of the intense and highly rhythmic 2,000-year-old Indian classical dance form *Kuchipudi* with a

passion for contemporary dance. Influenced by modern dance maven Pina Bausch, for whom she has appeared in many works, she has collaborated with major figures including theater director Peter Brook and choreographer Maurice Béjart. Born in India and raised in Paris, Shantala bridges East and West in her devoted exploration of dance, music and theater, melding dazzling technique with ethereal sensitivity.

**Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique
with Sir John Eliot Gardiner, music director and conductor**

Saturday, November 12 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, November 13 at 7:30 p.m.

November 12 Program

Beethoven:

Overture to *Prometheus*, Op. 43
Symphony No. 4 in B-flat, Op. 60
Symphony No. 3 in E-flat, Op. 55

November 13 Program

Beethoven:

Overture to *Egmont*, Op. 84
Symphony No. 7 in A, Op. 92
Symphony No. 5 in C minor, Op. 67

Revered for their fresh interpretations of familiar works and for pioneering lesser-known music, the Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique, founded by Sir John Eliot Gardiner, has won numerous international awards and produced more than 250 highly esteemed recordings, including all the Beethoven and Schumann symphonies as well as the music of Verdi, Mendelssohn, Berlioz and Weber. Worldwide accolades followed the Orchestra's Archiv recordings of the complete Beethoven symphonies, viewed by many as the most important Beethoven recordings since the arrival of the CD.

***Still Black Still Proud* – An African Tribute to James Brown
With Pee Wee Ellis, Maceo Parker, Vusi Mahlasela & Cheikh Lô**

Wednesday, November 16 at 7:30 p.m.

With American and African musicians teaming up in this explosive funk-soul supergroup, a host of stars bring James Brown's revolutionary music full circle in an innovative, rhythm-fueled Afro-funk tribute. As much as the music of Africa influenced Brown's style, he likewise inspired an entire generation of African artists. *Still Black, Still Proud* celebrates Brown's legacy while exploring the deep-rooted relationship between soul, funk and modern African music.

***Nutcracker* – Carolina Ballet**

Saturday, December 3 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Sunday, December 4 at 2 p.m.

A holiday season staple, Robert Weiss's *Nutcracker* is a fantasy classic, capturing the irrepressible imagination of a child's world in which all things are possible. Featuring toy soldiers, dancing snowflakes, an army of mice and the Sugar Plum Fairy, the original work was Tchaikovsky's third and last major ballet. Renowned for its story ballets, Carolina Ballet has served the Triangle community since 1997 under the inspired leadership of Artistic Director Robert Weiss, formerly a principal dancer with the New York City Ballet.

Brooklyn Rider and The Knights

Wednesday, January 11 at 7:30 p.m.

The Knights are an exhilarating fellowship of gifted musicians whose diverse repertoire and innovative programming include classical masterworks, world premieres, roots music, gypsy tunes, Neapolitan love songs, dances and more. With members performing anywhere from the New York Philharmonic and Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Orchestra to Joe's Pub, this fantastic collective includes composers, arrangers, singer-songwriters and improvisers who offer a broad range of cultural influences. Brooklyn Rider, members of The Knights, return to Memorial Hall following their 2008 appearance with Yo-Yo Ma and their 2010 appearance with 2 Foot Yard.

Carolina Chocolate Drops with special guest Luminescent Orchestrïi

Friday, February 3 at 8 p.m.

All about innovation and serious fun, the Grammy-winning Carolina Chocolate Drops are widely credited with reviving the rich sounds of black string band music from the Piedmont region of the Carolinas. Upstarts in a stable of deep tradition, they are also a link between past and future, exploring generations-old songs with a modern touch. They collaborate here with New York gypsy punk band Luminescent Orchestrïi in an unprecedented mix of jazz, string band, Balkan and beat-box inventiveness.

***Four Electric Ghosts* – An Opera-Masquerade by Mendi + Keith Obadike**

Thursday, February 9 at 7:30 p.m.

This fantastically futuristic multimedia romp creates a composite world at the intersection of game culture, folk tales and pop songs. Inspired by Amos Tutuola's 1954 novel *My Life in the Bush of Ghosts* and Tori Iwatani's influential 1980s videogame *Pac Man*, *Four Electric Ghosts* follows the afterlives of four ghosts who encounter the same mortal in their journey through the Land of the Dead. The provocative story is told through masquerade, dance, video interviews and original funk, rock and R&B music, and you're invited to dance with the performers at the end.

Overtone Quartet

Featuring Dave Holland, Chris Potter, Jason Moran and Eric Harland

Friday, February 10 at 8 p.m.

From his beginnings with Miles Davis to his prominent ensembles of today, Grammy-winning bassist Dave Holland is acknowledged as one of the most sophisticated

composers and arrangers in the jazz world. Here he joins the next generation of masters in the Overtone Quartet, featuring relentlessly experimental pianist and composer Jason Moran, an innovator in the mold of Thelonious Monk; infinitely creative Grammy-nominated saxophonist Chris Potter; and Eric Harland, whose work is a study in orchestral drumming. Each contributes his own compositions to the Overtone Quartet.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

Monday-Tuesday, February 13-14 at 7:30 p.m.

Alvin Ailey's story is one of the most inspirational in the history of American performing arts, and his genius forever changed the perception of American dance. For half a century, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater has served as this country's dance ambassador, bringing African-American cultural expression and the American modern dance tradition to the world's stages. The legacy continues with the extraordinary artistry of the company's beautiful dancers, whose splendid technique and inimitable style, hallmarks of the Ailey tradition, continue to dazzle audiences around the globe. The company appears here under brand new artistic director Robert Battle.

Leif Ove Andsnes, piano

Friday, February 17 at 8 p.m.

Program

Chopin - Nocturne, Op. 62 No. 1

Debussy - *Estampes*

Chopin - Nocturne, Op. 62 No. 2

Debussy - *Images* Book 1

Chopin - 4 Ballades

Described by *The New York Times* as "the most accomplished pianist of the new generation," Norwegian pianist Leif Ove Andsnes is the recipient of four Gramophone Awards and seven Grammy nominations, recording more than 30 discs spanning repertoire from Bach to the present day. His commanding technique and searching interpretations have won him worldwide praise and a 2010-11 Artist in Residence position with the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. He returns to Memorial Hall following his 2009 performance of *Pictures Reframed*, created in collaboration with South African artist Robin Rhode.

Christian McBride & Inside Straight

Friday, February 24 at 8 p.m.

Grammy-winning bassist extraordinaire, composer, arranger, educator, curator and former Creative Chair for Jazz at the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Christian McBride is one of the most omnipresent figures in jazz, performing and recording with legends including McCoy Tyner, Herbie Hancock, Pat Metheny, Diana Krall, Chick Corea, Wynton Marsalis and Joshua Redman as well as with hip-hop, soul, pop and classical

artists such as Sting and soprano Kathleen Battle. This performance is part of the 35th annual Carolina Jazz Festival.

Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra & Choir with Ton Koopman, conductor

Tuesday/Wednesday March 13 and 14 at 7:30 p.m.

March 13 Program

J.S. Bach Mass in B-minor BWV 232

March 14 Program

J.S. Bach:

Du Hirte Israel, höre BWV 104

Magnificat BWV 243

Herz und Mund und Tat und Leben BWV 147

Boundless energy and enthusiasm coupled with internationally celebrated baroque mastery and scholarship contribute to the lasting appeal of the gifted Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra and Choir. Alongside their integral recordings of Bach's secular and sacred cantatas, they have recorded all the major baroque and classical works to great acclaim, with recognitions including the prestigious BBC Award and Gramophone Award. For its rare combination of textural clarity and interpretive flexibility, the choir is considered among today's most outstanding vocal ensembles.

Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis, trumpet

Thursday, March 15 at 7:30 p.m.

The first jazz composer to win the Pulitzer Prize in music, New Orleans native Wynton Marsalis also was the first artist to win jazz and classical Grammy Awards in the same year. His Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra (JLCO) features 15 of jazz music's leading soloists, drawing from an extensive repertoire including the masterworks of Ellington, Mingus, Coltrane and other great jazz composers, and original compositions by Mr. Marsalis, Benny Carter, Joe Henderson, Wayne Shorter, Joe Lovano, Marcus Roberts, Geri Allen, Christian McBride and others.

Circa

Tuesday-Wednesday March 20-21 at 7:30 p.m.

In a jaw-dropping fusion of dance, extreme circus skills and raw emotion, Australia's cheeky Circa performers push their own dangerous limits at breakneck speed. Abandoning themselves to terrifying adventures, their signature style combines physical beauty, formidable talent and a barrage of sound, light and projection. Tapping into the fragile nature of all that it means to be human, this sophisticated, hugely entertaining company is muscling its way into the mainstream, blazing its way through Europe and leaving audiences and critics hungering for more.

Herbie Hancock

Thursday, March 22 at 7:30 p.m.

A modern icon, Herbie Hancock has transcended limitations and genres throughout his musical explorations. With a career spanning five decades and 12 Grammy Awards, he has had an influence on acoustic and electronic jazz and R&B that few can match. He also maintains a thriving career outside the performing stage and recording studio, as Creative Chair for Jazz for the Los Angeles Philharmonic Association and as Institute Chairman of the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz. A founder of The International Committee of Artists for Peace, Herbie Hancock continues to sit at the forefront of world culture, technology, business and music.

***Whispering Pines* – Shana Moulton & Nick Hallett**

Tuesday-Wednesday March 27-28 at 7:30 p.m.

With a wry, unsettling humor and a low-tech, pop sensibility, the wildly creative New York video/performance artist Shana Moulton's hilarious multi-part *Whispering Pines* series features her alter ego Cynthia, a confused, hypochondriac agoraphobe prone to colorful hallucinations and absurd fantasies. Abstract and dreamlike, Cynthia's interactions with the everyday world are both mundane and surreal, initiating uncanny relationships with objects and consumer products in a domestic sphere just slightly askew.

***Snow White* – Ballet Preljocaj**

Wednesday-Thursday April 4-5 at 7:30 p.m.

French choreographer Angelin Preljocaj has created a wickedly erotic contemporary ballet reinventing the alluring fairy tale of *Snow White*. With 26 dancers dressed by fashion's *enfant terrible* Jean Paul Gaultier and immersed in the glorious symphonies of Gustav Mahler, Preljocaj offers an inspired interpretation of a timeless narrative. Dripping with rich symbols of desire and the inescapable power of time – incarnated in the iconic character of the devilish stepmother – *Snow White* challenges conventional notions of form and content.

Joshua Redman & Brad Mehldau Duo

Tuesday, April 10 at 7:30 p.m.

Sophisticated complexity contrasts with refined simplicity when Grammy-nominated Brad Mehldau, one of today's most adventurous jazz pianists, teams up with prodigious tenor saxophonist Joshua Redman. Grammy-nominated Redman, who has garnered top honors in *Jazz Times*, *The Village Voice* and *Rolling Stone*, seamlessly weaves his flowing improvisations into Mehldau's enjoyable mix of standards and deconstructed pop themes. Relying on their instincts, camaraderie and shared aesthetic values, the two come together to create surprise and wonder in profound, intensely memorable performances.

European Union Youth Orchestra with Vladimir Ashkenazy, music director and conductor

and The Carolina Choir with Susan Klebanow, director

Louise Toppin, Andrea Moore and Terry Rhodes, sopranos

Anthony Dean Griffey and Tim Sparks, tenors

Richard Banks, baritone

Clara Yang, piano

Friday, April 13 at 8 p.m.

The rapturous European Union Youth Orchestra unites Europe's most gifted and magnetic young musicians with the world's most famous conductors and soloists, transcending cultural boundaries in a European ideal of community working together to achieve peace and social understanding. Past conductors include Claudio Abbado, Bernard Haitink, Leonard Bernstein, Herbert von Karajan, Mstislav Rostropovich and Sir Georg Solti, with soloists including Martha Argerich, Emanuel Ax, Plácido Domingo, Lord Yehudi Menuhin, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Jessye Norman and Ravi Shankar. The Orchestra appears here with UNC-Chapel Hill Music Department's Carolina Choir under Susan Klebanow with members of the voice faculty along with piano faculty member Clara Yang.

Cheikh Lô

Saturday, April 14 at 8 p.m.

One of the great mavericks of African music, Senegalese Sufi troubadour Cheikh Lô is known for his hook-laden semi-acoustic blend of mbalax, salsa, rumba, folk, flamenco and jazz. As a singer, songwriter, guitarist, percussionist and drummer, he was discovered by Youssou N'Dour, who produced his breakthrough *Ne La Thiass* album. With his spine-tingling bitter-sweet vocals, Cheikh Lô's rainbow of sounds and influences echoes the multi-colored clothing he wears as a member of the Baye Fall – the uniquely Senegalese Islamic sect to which he dedicates his life and music.

Göteborg Ballet

Monday-Tuesday April 16-17 at 7:30 p.m.

Sweden's Göteborg Ballet boasts 40 classically trained dancers from 17 countries. Many of the great choreographers of the world have worked with the company in recent years, contributing to its growing international reputation. The program features Kenneth Kvarnström's starkly experimental *OreloB* from 3X Bolero with music by Ravel; Cijn Celis's quiet *Your Passion is Pure Joy to Me*, inspired by the Nick Cave song "God is in the House"; and *Eroica* by Örjan Andersson and Lukáš Timulak, accompanied by the rousing music of Beethoven.

Gospels of Childhood: The Triptych – Teatr ZAR

Sunday-Monday, April 22-23 at 7:30 p.m.

A densely atmospheric, image-filled exploration of resurrection, freedom and possession, *Gospels of Childhood* examines birth, death, pleasure and pain through song, chanting and movement in an inventive, evocative, ritualistic work of theater and music. Based on texts from the little-known apocryphal gospels and a poem by Polish Romantic poet Juliusz Slowacki, this landmark piece by Poland's multinational Teatr ZAR emerges from the ancient, transcendental sacred music of Greece, Sardinia, Corsica, Georgia, Bulgaria, Romania, Iceland and Chechnya.

Béla Fleck & the Original Flecktones

Wednesday, April 25 at 7:30 p.m.

Nominated in more categories than anyone in Grammy Award history – country, pop, jazz, bluegrass, classical, folk, spoken word, composition and arranging – Béla Fleck is considered by many to be the most innovative banjo player in the world, transcending language and culture barriers and finding common ground with musicians ranging from African villagers to international superstars. Through a remarkable performing and recording career that has taken him all over the musical map and on a range of solo projects and collaborations, Béla Fleck has reinvented the image and sound of the banjo. He appears here with his signature ensemble the Flecktones.