



OCONEE PERFORMING ARTS SOCIETY

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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 ó 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 Critics and Outer Critics 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 ó Greene County Schools
Monday, May 18, 2009 ó 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.

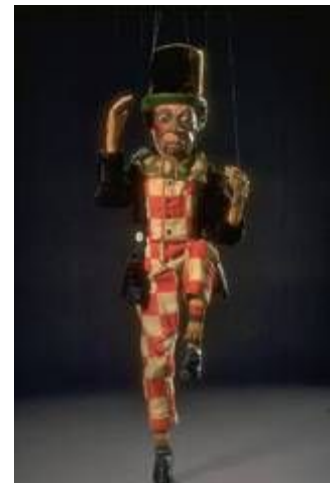


Photo by: Richard Termine
Mad Hatter; Designed by Tony Sarg (1880-1942); United States; from the
Sarg production of Alice in Wonderland; c. 1920. Gift of Nancy L. Staub.
Permanent Collection.

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.

õThere 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.ö

-*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.

