

**THE MANN**  
**CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS**  
FAIRMOUNT PARK | PHILADELPHIA

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**TICKETS ON SALE TODAY FOR THE MANN CENTER'S 2009 SEASON!**  
***Sounds of Summer Feature World Class Performers***  
***In Pop, Jazz, Rock, Classical, Rhythm & Blues and Neo Soul***

Philadelphia, PA – April 21, 2009 – With a dynamic combination of diverse, world-class programming and a continuing commitment to artistic excellence and innovation, the Mann Center for the Performing Arts has pulled out all the stops to deliver one of the most exciting seasons in its 33 year history. Tickets for the 2009 season performances go on sale today, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 AM.

Performances will include bold and breathtaking performances from electrifying artists and dynamic programs that mix tradition with imagination, classic with contemporary and reflect the diversity of our community.

The fun kicks off in June with **David Byrne** and special guest **DeVotchka**, **Tom Jones**, **Diana Krall**, **Celtic Woman**, **George Benson** with **Kenny “Baby Face” Edmonds** and **Ledisi**, **Boz Scaggs** and **Michael McDonald** and **Demi Lovato**. The Mann then presents a celebration of one of the world's leading conservatories of music, The Curtis Institute of Music, with three special concerts featuring **The Mann Festival Orchestra**, followed by one of two free neighborhood concerts this year, which features the **Philadelphia Orchestra** performing the music of Wagner, Strauss and Rimsky-Korsakov, entitled “Tall Tales – Three Great Stories in Music.”

The riveting rhythms of **Drumline** and the ever popular **Peter Nero and The Philly Pops** take the stage in July, along with **The Blind Boys of Alabama** and **Ladysmith Black Mambazo**. No summer at the Mann Center would be complete without the **Philadelphia Orchestra**, whose performances during late July culminate with a major highlight of the season, jazz Master, **Herbie Hancock** and young pianist, **Lang Lang** playing selections for solo and duo pianos.

August and September's offerings include Philly's own **John Legend** with a special guest, an evening with **Bonnie Raitt & Taj Mahal**, "**Bontaj Roulet — Alone & Together**," "**Heroes of Woodstock**," a 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, with **Jefferson Starship**, **Ten Years After**, **Canned Heat**, **Big Brother & The Holding Company**, the **Grateful Dead's Tom Constanten** and host, **Country Joe McDonald**; as well as a world premiere with **Medeski Martin & Wood** and **The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia**. The second of two free neighborhood concerts which will feature the **Philadelphia Orchestra** is slated for mid-September and is entitled, "Concert for Fallen Heroes." Details for this concert will be announced later in the season.

Fans of the Mann's annual picnic competitions will be invited to display their culinary skills and imagination on June 30th and July 28th and of course there will again be fireworks under the stars -- this year on July 29<sup>th</sup> for an all Tchaikovsky program.

"We have worked diligently with our artistic partners to present this extraordinary line-up," states President and CEO of The Mann Center for the Performing Arts, **Catherine Cahill**. "It's culturally diverse, in tune with our community and upholds the rich tradition of artistic excellence that our patrons have come to expect and that we will deliver."

### **Season Opener**

The Mann season begins on June 5<sup>th</sup> with former 'Talking Head,' **David Byrne**, and special guest **DeVotchKa**, followed on June 17<sup>th</sup> by pop singer and heartthrob, **Tom Jones**, and on June 19<sup>th</sup> with jazz pianist/vocalist, **Diana Krall**. Then, on June 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>, **Celtic Woman's** new "Isle of Hope" tour will delight Philadelphia audiences with a

mix of songs from their four chart-topping albums and PBS television specials. June 24<sup>th</sup> it's guitarist and vocalist **George Benson** along with **Kenny "Babyface" Edmonds** and **Ledisi**, followed on June 26<sup>th</sup> with **Boz Scaggs** and **Michael McDonald**. Pop sensation **Demi Lovato** takes the stage on June 27<sup>th</sup>.

June 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and July 1<sup>st</sup> mark the Mann Center debut of **The Mann Festival Orchestra** in "A Curtis Celebration." On June 29<sup>th</sup>, the program is "The Four Seasons Times Two," which will spotlight two sets of concertos for violin featuring Vivaldi's and Astor Piazzolla's Four Seasons. Performing will be violin prodigy **Yu-Chien Tseng**, alongside gifted Curtis alumna, violinist **Lara St. John**. One of Curtis' rising young star conductors, **Kuok-man Lio**, will lead the concert.

Next up, on June 30<sup>th</sup>, a celebration of youth with music written by prodigal geniuses and played by the "Legends of Tomorrow," as Curtis Institute graduates are called. Duo pianist sensations **Christina and Michelle Naughton** along with **Rossen Milanov** (another Curtis graduate) will perform with the **Mann Festival Orchestra**. Program will include Lutoslawski's Paganini Variations for two pianos, Mozart's Concerto in E flat Major K. 365 for two pianos, Mendelssohn's Midsummer Night's Dream Overture, Op. 21 and Saint-Saëns Carnival of the Animals.

July 1<sup>st</sup> wraps up this three day celebration with a program dedicated to Beethoven featuring the grand prize winner of the Gina Bachauer competition and recent competitor in the Van Cliburn Competition, pianist, **Kyu-Yeon Kim**, also conducted by **Rossen Milanov**. The program will offer Beethoven's Overture to the Creatures of Prometheus, Romance No. 2 in F major for violin and orchestra, Piano concerto No. 4 in G major and Symphony No. 5 in C minor.

As a special treat from the City of Philadelphia to its citizens, **The Philadelphia Orchestra** will perform one of two free concerts on July 6<sup>th</sup> entitled "Tall Tales – Three Great Stories in Music," conducted by **Rossen Milanov** and featuring Wagner's

*Overture to Tannhäuser, Strauss' Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks and Rimsky-Korsakov's Sheherazade.*

The world renowned **Drumline** is up next on July 16<sup>th</sup>. With its riveting rhythms, bold beats and ear-grabbing energy, this synchronized musical showcase of the Historically Black College and University marching band tradition will perform original compositions along with soul-infused renditions of top 40 hits. July 22<sup>nd</sup>, Maestro **Peter Nero** leads **The Philly Pops** for "The Best of Bernstein and the Riches of Rodgers," spotlighting special guests **Christiane Noll** and **Doug LeBrecque**. Then on July 25<sup>th</sup> it's **The Blind Boys of Alabama** and **Ladysmith Black Mambazo**.

The Philadelphia Orchestra begins a three concert run on July 28<sup>th</sup> with a program dedicated to Verdi and Rachmaninoff, conducted by **Rossen Milanov** and featuring soprano **Angela Brown**. Selections will include Verdi's *Overture to La forza del destino*, "Ritorna vincitor," from *Aida*, "Tu, che le vanità," from *Don Carlo* and Rachmaninoff's *Symphony No. 2*.

Nothing beats a night of music and fireworks at the Mann, so mark your calendars for July 29<sup>th</sup> and enjoy an evening of Tchaikovsky with fireworks featuring violinist **Juliette Kang** and conducted by **Juanjo Mena**. The program will include *Capriccio Italien*, *Violin Concerto*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *1812 Overture*.

The Orchestra rounds out this engagement on July 30<sup>th</sup> with what promises to be one of the most memorable concerts of the Mann's season, jazz Master **Herbie Hancock** and young pianist **Lang Lang** in a program of duo and solo piano works with orchestra, conducted by **John Axelrod**. Selections will include Dvořák's *Carnival Overture*, Vaughan Williams *Concerto for Two Pianos and Orchestra*, Bernstein's 'Mambo' from *West Side Story*, Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* and Ravel's *Mother Goose Suite*.

Kicking off August, six time Grammy Award winner and Philly native, **John Legend**, performs his trademark neo-soul with a special guest on the 5<sup>th</sup>, followed by two

Philadelphia favorites on August 8<sup>th</sup>, when **Bonnie Raitt** and **Taj Mahal** combine their talents for a concert entitled, “**Bontaj Roulet—Alone & Together.**” The Mann marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Woodstock on August 18<sup>th</sup> with **The Heroes of Woodstock.** Original bands who performed at the legendary 1969 festival take the Mann stage, including **Jefferson Starship, Ten Years After, Canned Heat, Big Brother & The Holding Company, the Grateful Dead’s Tom Constanten** and host, **Country Joe McDonald.**

As September rolls around, The Mann presents a highly anticipated world premiere from the improvisational trio of **Medeski Martin & Wood** who team up with **The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia** on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Details regarding the second of the two free City-sponsored neighborhood concerts featuring **The Philadelphia Orchestra**, “Concert for Fallen Heroes” will be announced later in the season.



### **Education Programs**

The Mann Center provides community and educational engagement opportunities including the Young People’s Concert Series, Connecting-Arts-N-Schools, presentations in public and parochial schools, professional development through master classes with visiting artists and complimentary distribution of more than 50,000 tickets for non-profit and cultural organizations via the Access the Arts Program.

**Kids Kickin’ It @ The Mann “Cirque Des Amis,”** will be presented June 3<sup>rd</sup> and June 4<sup>th</sup>. Groups of 10 or more can download and print reservation forms at [manncenter.org](http://manncenter.org). Individual ticket buyers can purchase tickets on the website or at the venue box office located at 52<sup>nd</sup> and Parkside Avenue, Philadelphia.

This years’ Young People’s Concert series includes **Drumline Live** on July 16<sup>th</sup>, **Urban Dance Explosion** featuring **Buckets & Tap Shoes** and **Chosen Dance Company** on July 20<sup>th</sup>, **Rock It!** featuring the **Rock School for Dance Education** on August 4<sup>th</sup> and **International Dance Voyage** featuring **Universal African Dance and Drum**

**Ensemble** on August 10<sup>th</sup>. Groups of 30 or more can download reservation forms at manncenter.org; then fax back to 215.546.9524 or email: [education@manncenter.org](mailto:education@manncenter.org).

*Reservations are not required for groups of less than 30 for Young People's Concerts.* All concerts are free and open to the public. Gates open one half hour prior to performances and parking is *free!* Seating is general admission and is on a first come, first serve basis.

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**About the Mann:**

A summer destination since the 1930's, The Mann Center for the Performing Arts is located in Philadelphia's beautiful Fairmount Park. Now in its 33<sup>rd</sup> season, the Mann continues its rich tradition as the Delaware Valley's premiere outdoor cultural arts center with concerts and programs encompassing all musical genres from pop, jazz, rhythm & blues, rock and contemporary to dance theater, opera and classical. Amenities include full service tented dining offering a spectacular vista of Philadelphia's skyline, lush lawn seating including a picnic grove, several bars, concession stands and merchandise tents.

For details call 215.546.7900 ext. 102 or visit [www.manncenter.org](http://www.manncenter.org)

***Gates open two hours prior to show time for all paid performances***

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**Special Offer – “Two Enchanted Evenings”**

Now you can enjoy two “enchanted evenings” of classic concerts for just \$40. (Section B and Circle or better.) ***This offer is available by phone or at the box office only and excludes July 30th concert.***

Just pick your favorite two concerts from the list below and order by calling 215-893-1999 or visiting the box office at 52nd and Parkside Ave. or at the Kimmel Center.

The Mann Festival Orchestra in A Curtis Celebration  
**THE FOUR SEASONS TIMES TWO/Monday, June 29th, 2009 at 8PM**

The Mann Festival Orchestra in A Curtis Celebration  
**A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM/Tuesday, June 30th, 2009 at 8PM**

The Mann Festival Orchestra in A Curtis Celebration  
**THE LEGENDARY BEETHOVEN/Wednesday, July 1st, 2009 at 8PM**

Peter Nero and the Philly Pops  
**THE BEST OF BERNSTEIN AND THE RICHES OF RODGERS with special guests Christiane Noll and Doug LeBrecque/Wed. July 22, 2009 at 8PM**

The Philadelphia Orchestra  
VERDI AND RACHMANINOFF/Tuesday, July 28th at 8PM

The Philadelphia Orchestra  
TCHAIKOVSKY WITH FIREWORKS/Wednesday, July 29 8PM

**Excludes Herbie Hancock and Lang Lang on July 30<sup>th</sup>**

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### **How to Order Tickets**

Call 215.893.1999 or visit [www.manncenter.org](http://www.manncenter.org). or visit The Mann Box Office between 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday through Saturday, located at 52<sup>nd</sup> and Parkside Avenue in Fairmount Park.

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### **Lawn Seating – “Life’s A Lawn Club”**

This free membership provides opportunities to purchase affordable lawn seats and other discounted seats by receiving text messages and email alerts. Sign up at [manncenter.org](http://manncenter.org).

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**“Mann Mobile Rush Club”** - Tickets are also available via the Mann Mobile Rush Club, where you can get event and special promotional mobile alerts. Simply text “Mann” to 89887. Standard text messaging charges apply.

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