



SWING BY FESTIVAL MIAMI 2007 FOR A CELEBRATION OF JAZZ AND AMERICAN MUSIC

24th GALA SEASON RUNS SIX-WEEKS SEPTEMBER 29 – NOVEMBER 10

Coral Gables, FL (August 13, 2007) – Festival Miami 2007 presents an eclectic lineup that fuses jazz and other popular styles of American music during seven sensational concerts. Jazz aficionados, Broadway belters, bluegrass steppers, and Brazilian grooves enthusiasts alike will enjoy the legendary craftsmanship and improvisational star power of these world-renowned artists.

On Sunday, **September 30, at 4 pm**, Tony Award winning Broadway singer-actress **Debbie Gravitte** and multitalented entertainer and Miami native **Johnny Rodgers** come together to present “An Afternoon of Broadway, Pop, and a Little Swinging Jazz.” Both Rodgers and Gravitte will conduct a public master class on Monday, October 1 at 1:30 pm in the Frost School’s Victor Clarke Recital Hall located in the L. Austin Weeks Center for Recording & Performance.

The **Frost Concert Jazz Band**, conducted by **Dante Luciani**, will perform songs by Grammy Award winning composer and Frost School of Music alumna **Maria Schneider**. This **Saturday, October 6**, performance will bring to light Schneider’s works, which are modern and move from hauntingly beautiful to soaring and inspiring. Schneider conducts an open jazz forum on Friday October 5 at 1:25 pm in the Frost School’s Maurice Gusman Concert Hall.

Shelly Berg, new Dean of the Frost School of Music and prominent pianist, takes to the stage on **Thursday, October 11** for an evening of classical and jazz music. The “Dean’s Concert” will feature several collaborative pieces with jazz faculty artists and other Festival musicians. The program will include performances by **Randall Dollahon**, **Gary Keller**, **Don Coffman**, along with several members of the classical music faculty. Selections include works from the Great American Songbook.



On Thursday, **October 25**, an evening of “New American Music” features the **Casey Driessen Trio**. Driessen, an inventive fiddler, is one of the fastest rising artists on the bluegrass circuit. He has been described as a restless explorer and a bold boundary crosser who listens for inspiration from Tennessee to Tibet. His passion for improvisation and tradition will be showcased as he performs with the Casey Driessen Trio. Casey Driessen and the Colorfools will conduct a public master class on Friday, October 26 at 9 a.m. in the Gusman Concert Hall.

Another University of Miami alumna, **Carmen Lundy**, returns to her native Miami on Friday, **October 26**, to add her stirring vocals to a performance by the **Frost Jazz Vocal I Ensemble**, with director **Larry Lapin**. Lundy has been praised as “one of the world’s greatest jazz vocalists” and has composed over 60 songs with 9 CDs and a live DVD to her credit. Lundy holds a public forum on Friday, October 26 at 12:20 pm in the Gusman Concert Hall.

On Saturday, **November 3**, the legendary **Ramsey Lewis Trio** hits the Festival Miami stage. Master pianist and composer **Ramsey Lewis** has three Grammy Awards and seven gold records and has performed for audiences around the world. He will join bassist **Larry Green** and drummer **Leon Joyce** for an unbelievable night of jazz. Ramsey Lewis will hold a public master class on Friday, November 2 at 1:25 pm in the Gusman Concert Hall, and his visit is part of the Stamps Family Charitable Found Distinguished Visitors Series.

On Sunday, **November 4, at 4 pm**, celebrate with three of the most prominent Brazilian jazz musicians who form the power group **Nosso Trio**. **Nelson Faria**, guitar, **Ney Conceição**, contrabass, and **Kiko Freitas**, drums, will showcase their unique and commanding energy in this afternoon concert.

To purchase tickets online or for additional information on Festival Miami 2007, including a complete listing of all 23 concerts, visit www.festivalmiami.com or email festivalmiami.media@miami.edu. All master classes and forums are free and open to the public. Seating is limited.



Unless otherwise noted, all performances begin at 8 pm. Ticket prices range from \$10 to \$50 per person. The Festival Miami Advance Ticket Sales office phone number is 305-284-4940 and is located at the McKnight Building, 5807 Ponce de Leon Boulevard. Hours are Monday through Friday, 9 am to 4 pm.

All performances are held at the acoustically acclaimed Maurice Gusman Concert Hall located at the Phillip and Patricia Frost School of Music, 1314 Miller Drive, on the University of Miami's Coral Gables campus (unless otherwise noted in the attached schedule). For more information on the Frost School of Music, please visit www.music.miami.edu.

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