Opening Gala

a celebration of performing arts

September 9-12, 2011

Francis Marion University
Performing Arts Center
The gala events celebrating the opening of the Francis Marion University Performing Arts Center include an array of performances sure to appeal to all. A formal evening with Roberta Flack, the rhythm and blues legend, is scheduled for Friday, September 9. On Saturday night, guests are invited to a casual evening with award winning folk artist Judy Collins. These iconic performers, who revolutionized their genres of American music, will dazzle the audiences with both classic tunes and new releases.

The four-day gala will showcase regional and local talent as well, including performances by local theatre and dance troupes on Saturday. On Sunday, the Charleston Symphony Orchestra Spiritual Ensemble will provide an inspirational afternoon for the community, while on Monday evening, the Florence Symphony Orchestra will begin their season with a concert featuring Paolo André Gualdi.

Please join us as we celebrate the opening of the Francis Marion University Performing Arts Center.

The Francis Marion University Performing Arts Center, completed in 2011, provides unparalleled performance venues for the region. Featuring national, regional and local performing artists, the center hosts a myriad of performing arts including theatre, music, and dance. As an educational facility, the center houses classrooms and venues for the Francis Marion University Department of Fine Arts.

Development and construction of the FMU Performing Arts Center was made possible by the generosity of the Drs. Bruce & Lee Foundation, the state of South Carolina, the city of Florence, and several private benefactors including BB&T, McLeod Health, Mrs. Adele Kassab, Ingram Lumber, Diamond Hill Plywood, and others with a passion to enrich our region with performing arts.
Internationally hailed as one of the greatest songstresses of our time, GRAMMY Award winning Roberta Flack remains unparalleled in her ability to tell a story through her music. Her songs bring insight into our lives, loves, culture and politics, while effortlessly traversing a broad musical landscape from pop to soul to folk to jazz.

Patrons are invited to join us for the inaugural concert in the Francis Marion University Performing Arts Center Mainstage Auditorium for an incredible evening of song and celebration. Prior to the concert, President and Mrs. Carter will host a reception in the lobby of the Performing Arts Center, and all guests are invited to a post-concert champagne dessert reception as well.
Shakespeare Showcase by the FMU Theatre Program

Audience members will enjoy a variety of monologues or scenes from Shakespearean plays performed by theatre students from Francis Marion University and by FMU faculty. The Black Box Theatre is a flexible performance space that provides an intimate setting for theatrical performances, small concerts, and other events.

Saturday, September 10, 2011
Show times: 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.
Black Box Theatre
Free Admission (each seating is limited to 100 patrons)

Dance Recitals featuring regional dance companies

Dance schools and companies will offer a showcase of dance styles while highlighting a comfortable outdoor venue that can accommodate up to 500 guests. Just around the corner from the Beverly Hazelwood and Starr Ward Garden Courtyard, the BB&T Amphitheatre is surrounded by southern magnolias.

Saturday, September 10, 2011
Show times: 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.
BB&T Amphitheatre
Free Admission
A Casual Evening with Judy Collins

Saturday, September 10, 2011
Concert: 7:30 pm
Attire: Casual
Ticket Prices: $65/$55/$45
Mainstage Auditorium

Judy Collins has thrilled audiences worldwide with her unique blend of interpretive folksongs and contemporary themes. A relentlessly creative spirit, Judy is a modern day Renaissance woman who is also an accomplished painter, filmmaker, record label head, and musical mentor. The GRAMMY Award winning performer’s impressive career has spanned more than 50 years, and she is still writing, performing, and nurturing fresh talent while playing between 80 and 100 dates per year.
Under the direction of Nathan L. Nelson, the Charleston Symphony Orchestra (CSO) Spiritual Ensemble is a long time dream come true of its founder and President Lee Pringle. The Ensemble’s broad vocal talent focuses on African-American spirituals and sacred music in a variety of performance settings.

Sunday, September 11, 2011
Concert: 2:00 p.m.
Tickets: $5 (proceeds to benefit scholarship fund)
Mainstage Auditorium

An Inspirational Afternoon with the Charleston Symphony Orchestra Spiritual Ensemble
The Florence Symphony Orchestra, founded in 1949, enriches the artistic and cultural awareness and provides enjoyment for Florence and surrounding communities. As a resident of the FMU Performing Arts Center, the symphony begins its season as part of the opening gala celebration.

Award winning pianist Paolo André Gualdi has played recitals in Italy and the United States, and has been a featured soloist with the Atlanta Philharmonic, Georgia Philharmonic, Ludwig Symphony, Parma Wind Orchestra, Warren Civic Orchestra, and the University of Georgia Symphony Orchestra. Dr. Gualdi is an Assistant Professor of Music at Francis Marion University.

Monday, September 12, 2011
Concert: 7:30 p.m.
Tickets: $38/$33/$28 (FSO season tickets are honored)
Mainstage Auditorium
Parking
Parking for the FMU Performing Arts Center is available in the city of Florence parking lot located on Cheves Street north of the center. Additional parking is available courtesy of St. John’s Episcopal Church on Dargan Street, Central United Methodist Church on Irby Street, DHEC on Evans Street, and the Department of Mental Health on Cheves Street.

Ticket Sales
Tickets are available to purchase online at www.fmupac.org, via telephone at (843) 661-4444, and at the Performing Arts Center box office. Telephone and personal ticket sales are available Monday through Thursday between 12:00 and 5:00 p.m. Subject to availability, tickets may be available for purchase at the door. Tickets sales begin July 25 for opening gala events.

House Courtesies
The FMU Performing Arts Center begins seating one-half hour prior to curtain time. Patrons arriving late will be admitted at the discretion of management. The grounds and facilities of the Performing Arts Center are smoke-free. The use of mobile electronic devices is prohibited during performances, including but not limited to mobile phones, PDAs, pagers, computers, and music players. Recording of any type during a performance is prohibited, including audio, video, and photography.

Patrons with Physical Challenges
Wheelchair locations are available on the Orchestra level, Parterres and Box seating. Parking spaces for patrons with disabilities are located on the Cheves side of the PAC. Assisted listening devices are available at no charge on a first-come, first-serve basis and may be picked up at the Coat Check Room.

In Case of Fire
In the unlikely event of a fire, please locate the nearest exit, follow the instructions of the PAC ushers and house manager, and walk to that exit.
The FMU Performing Arts Center, an estimated 61,000 square foot facility constructed of Winnsboro granite and Georgia White Cherokee marble insets, includes the Mainstage Auditorium, a 100-seat flexible Black Box Theatre, and an Academic Wing for the Department of Fine Arts. The 9,000 square foot Lobby features a grand staircase, granite and marble walls, and a terrazzo floor. The grounds of the Performing Arts Center include the BB&T Amphitheatre that can accommodate 500 patrons and the Beverly Hazelwood and Starr Ward Garden Courtyard that includes benches, sculptures, and a water feature. The center provides academic and administrative support space for the FMU Department of Fine Arts, including classrooms, performance laboratories, and practice rooms. Resident tenants of the center include the Florence Symphony Orchestra, MasterWorks Choir, the Department of Fine Arts, and the Drs. Bruce & Lee Foundation.
SEATING

Tier 1 = Lower
Tier 2 = Upper
Tier 3 =

Seating Chart Description

[Diagram of seating tiers]
Gala Weekend Event Ticket Information

**Friday, September 9**

A Formal Evening with Roberta Flack
8:00 p.m.
$100 ticket – Tier 1 seating
$85 ticket ($70 for FMU faculty/staff/students) – Tier 2 seating
$70 ticket ($55 for FMU faculty/staff/students) – Tier 3 seating

All tickets include a pre-concert reception at 6:30 p.m., a commemorative poster, and a post-concert champagne dessert reception. Attire is black tie optional, and seating in the Mainstage Auditorium will begin at 7:30 p.m..

**Saturday, September 10**

A Casual Evening with Judy Collins
7:30 p.m., Mainstage Auditorium
$65 ticket – Tier 1 seating
$55 ticket – Tier 2 seating
$45 ticket – Tier 3 seating

Showcase of dance and theatre
Theatrical Performances by FMU Theatre Department
1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m., Black Box Theatre
Free Admission

Dance Recitals featuring regional dance companies
11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., BB&T Amphitheatre
Free Admission

**Sunday, September 11**

An Inspirational Afternoon with the Charleston Symphony Orchestra Spiritual Ensemble
2:00 p.m., Mainstage Auditorium
$5 ticket – all seating (proceeds to benefit scholarship fund)

**Monday, September 12**

An Evening of Classical Music with the Florence Symphony Orchestra featuring
Paolo André Gualdi
7:30 p.m., Mainstage Auditorium
$38 ticket – Tier 1 seating
$33 ticket – Tier 2 seating
$28 ticket – Tier 3 seating
Florence Symphony Orchestra season tickets will be honored.

Ticket sales begin July 25 for opening gala events.
Tickets are available to purchase online at www.fmupac.org, via telephone at (843)661-4444, and at the Performing Arts Center box office.