

SPRING BRINGS EAGERLY AWAITED LINEUP OF NEXT @ WEX SHOWS

Columbus, OH—This May and June the Wexner Center presents a full slate of Next @ Wex concerts. With local debuts and returning favorites, the spring Next @ Wex roster promises the best in new and independent music. Tickets for the following shows are available now at the Wexner Center Ticket Office (614 292-3535), Ticketmaster and Ticketmaster outlets, and Ticketmaster.com.

Antibalas with Chin Chin

Date: Tuesday, MAY 1 | 9 PM

Location: Performance Space

Tickets: \$14 general public and \$12 members and students

"The baddest on the block."—*XLR8R*

The sound of Brooklyn's superb band Antibalas—"bulletproof" in Spanish—grabs you and just won't let go. They've spearheaded the revival and reinvention of the classic Afrobeat sound, best exemplified by the musical legacy of Fela, mixing strong doses of Latin, jazz, funk, and soul into their powerful churning rhythms. "Their music is right on time," says the *Village Voice*, so catch their get-down spirit here.

Peter Bjorn and John with Fujiya & Miyagi and Au Revoir Simone

Date: Monday, May 7 | 9 PM

Location: Performance Space

Tickets: \$16 all audiences

CD signing in the Wexner Center Store at 8 pm

"After getting to see the Swedes with our own eyes, we just wanted to add to the chorus of emphatic declarations of love for Peter Bjorn and John. Totally blown away."—*Stereogum*

With their third release, *Writer's Block*, this prolific trio from Stockholm has become the buzz band of the moment, and this is one of the most anticipated Next @ Wex shows this year. They reveal their knack for catching the drift of young love lost and found in its songs, from the supremely catchy indie anthem "Young Folks," with its whistled melody, to "The Chills," with its signature line, "Your tongue is sharp/ But I miss the taste of it." Rounding out the bill for this must-see show are Fujiya & Miyagi, a trio from Brighton, England (not, as you might guess, a duo from Japan), who bring a sparky electro update to krautrock beats, and all-female Brooklyn band Au Revoir Simone, known for seductive, triple keyboard action.

Animal Collective with Sir Richard Bishop

Date: Monday, May 14 | 9 PM

Location: Performance Space

Tickets: \$16 all audiences

"A psychedelic wonderland filled with life-affirming warmth."—*Tiny Mix Tapes*

Tickets are already going fast for the return of Brooklyn's Animal Collective. Front and center in the freak folk fold with fascinating releases and performances that showcase their deliciously skewed songs, off-kilter tribal throb, and leftfield pop sensibilities, Animal Collective packed the place on their last visit here, and this latest performance should be no different.

Bright Eyes

with Gillian Welch and Oakley Hall

Date: Sunday, May 20 | 8 PM

Location: Mershon Auditorium

Tickets: \$25 all audiences

Bright Eyes, the shoot-for-the-stars Omaha indie ensemble fronted by prolific songster Conor Oberst, returns with horns and a string section to capture the sound of the just-released CD *Cassadaga*. The new CD, on Saddle Creek, features soaring orchestral arrangements alongside its alt-country core. Also appearing on the bill are singer Gillian Welch, a guest artist on *Cassadaga*, and Oakley Hall, a rising honky-tonk folk-rock band from Brooklyn.

Tortoise

Date: Thursday, June 14 | 9 PM

Location: Black Box on Mershon Stage

Tickets: \$16 all audiences

"Disarmingly stunning...a wonderfully surrealist space mission soundtrack."—*Ink Blot*

Postrock architects Tortoise have led the way in obscuring the edges between indie rock, electronica, and jazz-informed improv, creating entrancing, largely instrumental music for 10+ years. Surging rhythms underpin their free-ranging sonic explorations with lush orchestration and sophisticated melodic detail that can highlight the delicate or get downright fierce when the spirit moves them.

Media contact for more information: Erik Pepple, epepple@wexarts.org, or 614 688-3261

###30###