

For Immediate Release: October 10, 2003

Media contacts: Erik Pepple, 614 688-3261 or epepple@wexarts.org

Karen Simonian, 614 292-9923 or ksimonian@wexarts.org

BELLE & SEBASTIAN IN COLUMBUS DEBUT AT WEXNER CENTER

The Wexner Center's fall concert series continues with a newly announced performance by critically lauded art-pop ensemble **Belle & Sebastian** making their Columbus debut—and their only stop in Ohio—on **November 6 at 8 pm** in Mershon Auditorium. Touring in support of their new CD, *Dear Catastrophe Waitress*, Belle & Sebastian have long been a critical and cult favorite thanks to their beguiling blend of lush pop melancholy and ornate compositions. Their appearance at Mershon promises to offer a night of stirring pop introspection. All tickets are \$24 and are going fast.

New York-based **Rasputina** will open the show with their eerie cello-based sound. Rasputina's latest CD, *The Lost & Found EP*, is a reissue of an acclaimed 1999 release. The *All Music Guide* called it "strikingly entertaining." Thanks to its intriguing cello-drenched adaptations of classic rock songs from the likes of Led Zeppelin and Creedence Clearwater Revival, *Lost & Found* reinforces Rasputina's reputation as one of the more creative acts in contemporary pop.

ABOUT BELLE & SEBASTIAN

This seven-piece band's delicate, largely acoustic arrangements support poetic songcraft that often provokes comparisons to English folk icon Nick Drake, '60s cult band Love, and the wispier side of the Velvet Underground,

Formed in 1995 in Glasgow as a music school project, Belle & Sebastian released their first two records (*Tiger Milk* and *If You're Feeling Sinister*) to enormous critical acclaim. Guitarist/vocalist Stuart Murdoch's idiosyncratic approach to touring found the band performing everywhere from abandoned churches to libraries. With powerful word of mouth, Belle & Sebastian soon became a favorite in America while releases like *The Boy with the Arab Strap* and *Fold Your Hands Child, You Walk Like a Peasant* were helping to cement their reputation as masters of elegant, bittersweet pop songs.

Recently they composed the score to Tod Solondz's controversial film, *Storytelling*, and issued their first release for Rough Trade Records, *Dear Catastrophe Waitress* which was released on October 7 and produced by Trevor Horn. Already the record is receiving acclaim with the New Musical Express calling it "seductively charismatic and packed full of tunes."

For more information: <http://www.belleandsebastian.co.uk>

CALENDAR INFORMATION: Belle & Sebastian

Description: Art pop ensemble Belle & Sebastian make their Columbus debut with Rasputina as the Wexner Center continues its fall performing arts series.

Date and time: Thursday, November 6 at 8 pm.

Location: Mershon Auditorium, 1871 N. High St.

Tickets: All seats \$24.

Ticket outlets: Wexner Center Ticket Office/Information Desk, 614 292-3535 and Ticketmaster outlets, 614 431-3600.

Public information: 614 292-3535 and www.wexarts.org.

Digital images available upon request. Call Erik Pepple at 614 688-3261.

EVENT SUPPORT

Major support for the Wexner Center's 2003–04 performing arts season is provided by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

Additional season support is provided by the Ohio Arts Council and the Corporate Annual Fund of the Wexner Center Foundation.

The Wexner Center for the Arts is The Ohio State University's multidisciplinary, international laboratory for the exploration and advancement of contemporary art. Through exhibitions, screenings, performances, artist residencies, and educational programs, the Wexner Center acts as a forum where established and emerging artists can test ideas and where diverse audiences can participate in cultural experiences that enhance understanding of the art of our time. In its programs, the Wexner Center balances a commitment to experimentation with a commitment to traditions of innovation and affirms the university's mission of education, research, and community service.