

wexner center
for the arts

For Immediate Release: April 30, 2004

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

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

WEXNER CENTER SUMMER CONCERT LINEUP ANNOUNCED

This summer, the Wexner Center presents some of the best and most innovative artists in music. June features shows by acclaimed jazz group **Chris Potter Quartet** and indie cult faves **The Magnetic Fields**. In July it's the local debut of Norwegian sensations **Jaga Jazzist**. Tickets for these shows go on sale May 3. Additional concerts will be announced in the coming months.

CHRIS POTTER QUARTET

Date and time: Wednesday, June 2 / 7:30 pm

Location: Wexner Center Performance Space, 1871 N. High St. Cabaret-style with tables, chairs, cash bar.

Tickets: \$16 for general public; \$13 for members, and \$12 for Ohio State students. On sale May 3.

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

"An imagination to match his prodigious technical skills."—*Los Angeles Times*

Jazz saxophonist Chris Potter initially made his reputation as a first-call sideman for Dave Holland and Dave Douglas, among others. But now Potter is stretching out as a composer and a leader in his own right. His Verve release *Gratitude* earned him widespread kudos as an artist who's arrived, justifying his top spot in the *Downbeat* Critics' Poll for "Talent Deserving of Wider Recognition." On *Gratitude* he gives a heartfelt nod to the pantheon of jazz giants who have inspired him (including John Coltrane and Wayne Shorter), while displaying the keen originality and spark he now draws from his own stellar quartet.

A featured performer in the quartet is pianist and organist Craig Taborn. Taborn's latest release on Matthew Shipp's lauded Thirsty Ear Blue Series, *Junk Magic*, was praised by the *All Music Guide* as a "stunner from start to finish."

For more information on Chris Potter: www.vervemusicgroup.com

THE MAGNETIC FIELDS

with Andrew Bird

Date and time: Wednesday, June 30 / 8 pm

Location: Weigel Auditorium, 1866 College Rd.

Tickets: \$20 all audiences. Tickets for members are on sale now. Public sales begin May 3.

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

“The greatest songwriter of his generation.”—*Time Out New York*, on The Magnetic Fields’ Stephin Merritt

Led by genius tunesmith Stephin Merritt, The Magnetic Fields is back with its first release in five years—its debut on Nonesuch Records, *i*. This show in Columbus is a rare chance to see one of the most acclaimed groups in independent music. Fans are advised to get their tickets soon, as they will go fast.

i’s biting wit and bittersweet mood signals the most personal approach Merritt has taken to date—a departure from the multitude of perspectives at play on Magnetic Fields’ magnum opus, *69 Love Songs*. Eschewing synthesizers for this outing, the band performs intricate acoustic passages on ukulele, cello, guitar, banjo, and piano, framing Merritt’s smart wordplay with deft understatement.

Leftfield violinist and vocalist Andrew Bird opens the show with a set of his inimitably timeless songs. His latest release, *Weather Systems*, finds him advancing his fluid style and soaring vocals into a mix that *Pitchforkmedia* called “music for the ages that demands to be heard.”

More information on The Magnetic Fields: www.houseoftomorrow.com

More information on Andrew Bird: www.bowloffire.com

-more-

JAGA JAZZIST

Date and time: Saturday, July 3 / 8 pm

Location: Wexner Center Performance Space, 1871 N. High St. Standing room only; non-alcoholic cash bar.

Tickets: \$12 for general public; \$10 for members and Ohio State students. On sale May 3.

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

“The new new thing for 2004?”—*The Observer*

The 10-piece ensemble Jaga Jazzist will play inspired instrumentals that marvelously transpose glitchy drum 'n' bass dance rhythms to arrangements featuring horns and Fender Rhodes piano, instruments more commonly associated with jazz. This is a rare American date for this Norwegian band, which has been earning critical accolades around the world, with *New Musical Express* calling them “the ground floor for musical innovation.” *The Stix*, the band’s most recent release from electronica label Ninja Tune, won unanimous praise from savvy critics and such fans as the members of Radiohead.

More info: www.jagajazzist.com

Digital images for press are 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.

WEXNER CENTER FOR THE ARTS

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.

###30###