

For Immediate Release

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THREE SUMMER CONCERTS AT THE WEXNER CENTER

Bands from three continents hit the Wexner Center this summer: Senegalese music legends Orchestra Baobab; electronica from Iceland (Múm with Kippi Kaninus); and Ethan Iverson's Bad Plus, a jazz trio from New York.

ORCHESTRA BAOBAB

Date and time: Tuesday, July 16 at 8 pm

Location: Weigel Hall, 1866 College Road (adjacent to Wexner Center)

Tickets: Public \$18, members \$16, OSU students \$12. Tickets on sale to the public July 1. 614-292-3535.

Aptly tagged "Africa's Buena Vista Social Club," Senegal's legendary Orchestra Baobab brings its lilting rhythms, rippling guitar lines, and mesmerizing vocals to town in its Columbus debut. The 10-piece group assimilates Cuban rumba sounds into its Afropop, which revolutionized the African scene in the '70s. Its openness to music trends from Mali and points throughout West Africa has also signaled a pan-African spirit that transcends national and cultural boundaries.

Founded in Dakar in 1970 by saxophonist Baro Ndiaye and bassist Sidathe Ly, Orchestra Baobab quickly captivated a global audience with its unprecedented fusion of African and Cuban styles. The all-star cast of players performed weekly at the Baobab Club, an intimate meeting spot created by and for Senegalese government officials. Although Orchestra Baobab was at the height of its popularity by the early 1980s, the group folded in 1987, due in part to a new wave of dance music.

Orchestra Baobab has recently reunited for the first time in 15 years to record a new album produced by Youssou N'Dour and set for release this year on World Circuit/Nonesuch. In addition, Orchestra Baobab's 1982 landmark album *Pirate's Choice* was rereleased this January, also on World Circuit/Nonesuch. The group—called "one of West Africa's greatest bands ever" by *Folk Roots*—features four vocalists, a percussion section, saxophones, and guitars, and is likely to inspire spontaneous dancing in the aisles. For more information on Orchestra Baobab, visit the company's web site at www.concertedefforts.com/Baobab.htm.

NEWS RELEASE

MÚM with KIPPI KANINUS

Date and time: Friday, July 19 at 10 pm

Location: Wexner Center Performance Space. Standing room only.

Tickets: Public \$12, members and OSU students \$10. Tickets on sale to the public July 1. 614 292-3535.

First Björk, then Sigur Rós—now Múm emerges from Iceland’s vibrant art-rock scene to captivate audiences worldwide. This Reykjavik boy/girl band combines analog and digital electronica with a wide array of instruments, including accordion, melodica, and glockenspiel alongside guitar, bass, and cello, all of them integrated with synthesizers, electronics, and sumptuous vocal melodies. British magazine *JockeySlut* called Múm (pronounced “moom”) an “utterly charming” band; *Ministry* magazine (UK) called its sound “blissful.” The band’s most recent release *finally we are no one* on London’s FatCat label offers a preview of Múm’s sound. For more information on Múm, visit www.fat-cat.co.uk.

Opening the show is Icelandic electronica solo artist Kippi Kaninus, who has a new release called *Huggun* on the Kitchen Motors label.

Performance Space shows have been selling out quickly; early ticket-buying is encouraged for this concert.

ETHAN IVERSON’S BAD PLUS

Date and time: Friday, August 16, 2002 at 8 pm

Location: Wexner Center Performance Space; cabaret-style setup with cash bar.

Tickets: Public \$14, members \$12, OSU students \$9. Tickets on sale to the public July 1. 614 292-3535.

Young jazz pianist Ethan Iverson—whom *Down Beat* called “one of the brightest, most original young pianists in jazz”—and his trio Bad Plus bring their smartly crafted jazz to the cabaret-style Performance Space. Iverson, whose day job is music director for Mark Morris Dance Group, is receiving his due for strong original compositions and distinctive playing, and Bad Plus—his trio featuring bassist Reid Anderson and wild-card drummer David King—is also gaining notice for an unexpected selection of cool covers. Taking on Nirvana, ABBA, and others, these musicians update pop tunes as legit jazz standards while bringing a sense of big fun to the proceedings.

For more information on the band, visit www.thebadplus.com.

SEASON SUPPORT

Major support for the Wexner Center's 2002–03 performing arts season is provided by **Bank One** and 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**.

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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.

The Wexner Center galleries will be undergoing renovations in mid-2002 through fall of 2003. Check the web site at www.wexarts.org for updates on programs and locations.

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