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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**Wolf Trap's 2008 Season Features World Premiere Dance Commission;
Wolf Trap Opera Company's D.C. Premiere of Verdi's *King for a Day*;
10 Nights with the National Symphony Orchestra including Eric Idle's *Not the Messiah!*;
Face of America: Hawa`i Revisited; and Debuts by James Taylor,
The Black Crowes, Gretchen Wilson, and *Les Misérables***

This Way to Broadway with Marvin Hamlisch, Rent, Pilobolus, Paul Taylor Dance Company, Hippiefest, Mark Knopfler, Herbie Hancock, Al Green, and Gladys Knight among scheduled shows

*****TICKETS ON SALE SATURDAY, MARCH 29 AT 10 AM*****

****March 29 and 30 only, purchase \$10 lawn tickets for any National Symphony Orchestra performance!****

Vienna, VA—Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts is proud to announce the performance schedule for the 2008 Filene Center Season at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts; the Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods; and the Wolf Trap Opera Company. This summer's schedule features an unprecedented lineup with a Wolf Trap commissioned, world premiere dance piece; an array of symphonic performances; opera; and multiple high-profile Wolf Trap debuts and old favorites. Although the schedule of almost 180 shows is nearly complete, there will be revisions and additions throughout the summer. For updated information, patrons are encouraged to visit **www.wolftrap.org** or call **(703) 255-1868**.

Continuing with efforts to present accessible and affordable arts experiences to the broadest possible audience, Wolf Trap offers tickets as low as \$8 to \$10, continues to allow patrons to bring their own food and beverages to Park, and provides public transportation and free parking for all shows at Wolf Trap's Filene Center. Wolf Trap's annual Summer Blast-Off! will help kick off the season once again, keeping with the Washington, D.C.-area tradition that features a complimentary United States Marine Band performance and fireworks show.

Wolf Trap's 2008 Summer Season opens May 23, 2008 and features:

World Premiere Dance; D.C.-Area Premieres; and Wolf Trap Debuts

Heralded as one of Spain's most successful companies of Flamenco dancers, singers, and guitarists, **Noche Flamenca's July 29 performance features a world premiere commissioned by Wolf Trap**, complete with the fiery passion and sensuality of this complex and mysterious art form.

In addition, two Washington, D.C.-area premieres will take the stage this summer. **On July 24, *Not the Messiah! (He's a Very Naughty Boy)*, starring Eric Idle and the National Symphony Orchestra**, will take the Filene Center by storm. The newest adventure by the team that unleashed *Spamalot* on the world, *Not the Messiah!* is a comic oratorio inspired by Handel's *Messiah* and Monty Python's hilarious *Life of Brian*. Python superstar Eric Idle, his *Spamalot* Grammy and Tony Award-winning co-composer John Du Prez, and a cast of thousands — actually, an audience of thousands, plus the NSO, chorus, soloists, bagpipers, and a sheep — tell the tragi-comic

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story of a man mistaken for the Messiah. And this **June, the Wolf Trap Opera Company presents the Washington, D.C.-area premiere of Giuseppe Verdi's rarely performed comedy, *King for a Day (Un giorno di regno)* at The Barns at Wolf Trap.**

Wolf Trap also welcomes the **debuts** of one of Broadway's longest running shows and the 1987 Tony Award winner for Best Musical, *Les Misérables*; a true icon of American popular music, **Gladys Knight**; and one of the most celebrated singer-songwriters of our generation, Rock and Roll Hall of Famer **James Taylor**. In support of the fall release of his upcoming album, **James Taylor and His Band of Legends** will perform on June 18.

Additional Wolf Trap debut performances include the hard-rocking Black Crowes, featuring music from their new album; down-home country music superstar **Gretchen Wilson**; one of the most energetic, new Cajun bands on the scene, **Pine Leaf Boys**; **Abigail Washburn & the Sparrow Quartet featuring Béla Fleck**; ska-crossover hit-makers **UB40**; **RAIN – The Beatles Experience**; smooth sax man **Kenny G**; quiet storm songstress **Lalah Hathaway**; **Sergio Mendes**; and **The Animals and Melanie** (who are part of this year's **Hippiefest – A Concert for Peace & Love, ALSO** featuring **Jack Bruce of Cream, The Turtles, and Jonathan Edwards**).

Wolf Trap Opera Company

One of the nation's most highly regarded and respected young artist programs, the **Wolf Trap Opera Company (WTOC)**, presents three new full-scale productions of operas by **Handel, Verdi, and Strauss**. Taking up summer residency at The Barns at Wolf Trap, the Company boasts the **Washington, D.C.-area premiere**, in June, of one of only two comedies ever written by Verdi, *King for a Day (Un giorno di regno)*.

In July, the company features *Alcina*, one of Handel's three magical operas, all of which were based on stories from Ariosto's *Orlando furioso* — a 16th-century poem with many fantastical elements, including a trip to the moon. *Alcina* is an exploration of human love in all its guises and the impetus for some of the most stunning, beautiful vocal music of the Baroque era.

And in August, the Company presents a new production of *Ariadne auf Naxos* by Richard Strauss. The opera was originally scored for a small transparent Mozartean orchestra plus harp and keyboards, making it very accessible for The Barns at Wolf Trap.

(Please refer to the individual Wolf Trap Opera Company press release for more details.)

National Symphony Orchestra (NSO) @ Wolf Trap

Wolf Trap celebrates the return of official NSO @ Wolf Trap Festival Conductor, Emil de Cou and the unrivaled National Symphony Orchestra in 10 performances throughout the Wolf Trap 2008 Summer Season. Featured performers and guest conductors include **Dame Kiri Te Kanawa** in her only Washington D.C.-area appearance this summer; pianist **Joyce Yang**; **Andrew Grams** and violinist **Ilya Gringolts**; **conductor Randall Craig Fleischer** with vocalists **Susan Egan, Capathia Jenkins, Doug LaBrecque & Rob Evan**; and

Stephen Lord with members of the Wolf Trap Opera Company. In only its second U.S. appearance, *Not the Messiah! (He's a Very Naughty Boy)*, starring **Eric Idle**, debuts on the Filene Center stage July 24. Additional highlights include two nights of big-screen movie magic with *Rodgers and Hammerstein at the Movies* and *Dial "H" for Hitchcock*, and *This Way to Broadway* with the incomparable **Marvin Hamlisch**.

(Please refer to the individual NSO @ Wolf Trap Festival press release for more details.)

2008 Kay Shouse Great Performance

This year's *Kay Shouse Great Performance*, honoring Wolf Trap's founder Catherine Filene Shouse and her vision for artistic excellence, is *Face of America: Hawai'i Revisited*. A replay of the sold-out, world premiere and fifth installment in Wolf Trap's multimedia artistic adventure series, *Face of America: Hawai'i Revisited* celebrates both the natural beauty and cultural traditions of Hawai'i through live performance and spectacular high-definition, giant-screen footage shot on location at Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park and throughout the islands. This unforgettable artistic adventure features a powerful portrayal of the epic myth of Pele by **Hālau O Kekuhi**, renowned keepers of sacred hula tradition; along with the music of **The Brothers Cazimero** and Grammy Award-winning slack key guitarist **Ledward Ka'apana**.

Musical Theater and Dance

Wolf Trap's 2008 Summer Dance Series includes the **Paul Taylor Dance Company** in their only Washington, D.C.-area performance; **Pilobolus**; and **Noche Flamenca** featuring the aforementioned world premiere commissioned by Wolf Trap.

In addition to *Les Misérables*, Wolf Trap welcomes Broadway sensation *Rent*, featuring 2002 *South African Idol* winner **Heinz Winckler** and 2004 *American Idol* contestant **Anwar Robinson**. Irish dance sensation *Riverdance* returns for its 11th appearance as a Filene Center favorite; and **The New York Gilbert & Sullivan Players** bring *The Gondoliers* and *HMS Pinafore* to the stage this summer.

(Please refer to the individual Musical Theater and Dance press releases for more details.)

Wolf Trap Favorites

This summer, Wolf Trap hosts one of the most influential soul singers in music history, **Al Green**, performing all of his hits and gospel favorites; 2008 Album of the Year Grammy Award-winner, **Herbie Hancock**; one of the greatest rock 'n' roll guitarists of our generation and former Dire Straits front man, **Mark Knopfler**; the King of the Blues, **B.B. King**; the 40th anniversary tour of the groundbreaking British rock band **Jethro Tull**; local folk music heroes **Eddie From Ohio** with **Great Big Sea**; entertainer extraordinaire and rockabilly personified, **Chris Isaak**; two nights of non-stop moving and shaking with world music super group the **Gipsy Kings**; one of the most prolific bands of the 20th century, **Crosby, Stills & Nash**; the one and only **Smokey Robinson**; country music legends **Kenny Rogers** and **The Oak Ridge Boys**; and an on-stage collaboration featuring three of the most versatile bass players in the world, *The Thunder Tour*, with **Stanley Clarke**, **Marcus Miller**, and **Victor Wooten**.

Also performing this summer is America's Band, **The Beach Boys**; two nights of the hottest ticket in town, **A Prairie Home Companion with Garrison Keillor; Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops in Bernstein: A Celebration!**; folk music favorites the **Indigo Girls**; an evening with Canadian folk legend **Gordon Lightfoot**; the glorious voices of **The Irish Tenors**; **Trisha Yearwood** on the heels of her new album; the groundbreaking collaboration between **Ricky Skaggs and Bruce Hornsby**; jazz guitar legend **George Benson** in a tribute to Nat King Cole; the soulful and smooth sounds of **Boz Scaggs**; Texas troubadour **Lyle Lovett**; elemental Americana from **Emmylou Harris**; a "Bad to the Bone" double bill with **George Thorogood and Buddy Guy**; the modern sounds of singer-songwriter **Ani DiFranco**; and some of the greatest lawn parties of the summer with Virginia's **Pat McGee Band; The Temps and Tops; Donna Summer; Chicago; Earth, Wind & Fire; Hootie & The Blowfish; Los Lonely Boys with Los Lobos; and Wolf Trap's 19th Annual Louisiana Swamp Romp**, starring **Nathan and the Zydeco Cha Chas, The Wild Magnolias, Balfa Toujours, and Pine Leaf Boys**.

Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods

Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts' Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods presents 68 family oriented performances **Tuesdays through Saturdays, from June 24 through August 9, 2008 at 10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.** Tucked away among the trees, surrounded by 117 rolling acres, the Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods offers live performance ranging from dance to opera, including a brand new production by **Grammy-nominated Dinorock; award-winning duo Magpie in their 35th anniversary year; the return of Instant Opera! – a Wolf Trap original; and eco-inspired performances throughout summer.** A venue loved by teachers, parents, and children alike, Wolf Trap recommends most performances for children between kindergarten and sixth grade.

(Please refer to the individual Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods press release for more details.)

Please note the following performances, although mentioned in this release, will not appear on Wolf Trap's website until April 7. They will go on sale to the general public April 12 at noon.

6/12 Kenny G
7/1 Sergio Mendes with Special Guest Zap Mama
7/23 Lalah Hathaway
8/11 Herbie Hancock

Tickets for Wolf Trap's 2008 musical theater performances; *A Prairie Home Companion* with Garrison Keillor; and Pilobolus and Paul Taylor Company from Wolf Trap's 2008 Dance Series have been on sale since December 2007.

Tickets for Wolf Trap's 2008 performances can be purchased via the Wolf Trap Box Office located at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts at 1551 Trap Road, Vienna, Virginia; by calling 1(877) WOLFTRAP; or online at www.wolftrap.org. For more information, please call Wolf Trap at (703) 255-1868.