

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

April 19, 2007

Contact: Chris Guerre (703) 255-4096 or [chrisg@wolftrap.org](mailto:chrisg@wolftrap.org)

Lisa LaCamera (703) 255-1997 or [lisal@wolftrap.org](mailto:lisal@wolftrap.org)

## **Private Gala Performance by Mary Wilson on May 22** **Kicks-Off Wolf Trap's 2007 Summer Season**

Vienna, VA—Wolf Trap's 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala for Arts and Education, featuring Mary Wilson of The Supremes, is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 22, 2007**. The annual black-tie affair is a highlight of the Washington D.C. area's social scene and offers Wolf Trap supporters, as well as political and cultural leaders, an evening of fine cuisine and music in the unique surroundings of America's Only National Park for the Performing Arts. **Wolf Trap Board of Directors member and President, PNC Bank – Greater Washington Area, Michael N. Harreld and his wife Susan will chair the event.** The 2007 Wolf Trap Gala will kick-off the summer season with a cocktail reception and elegant dinner in a beautifully decorated tent in the Lower Meadow of the National Park for the Performing Arts. After dinner, the evening culminates with an exclusive performance by Wilson and a night of dancing under the stars.

Education has been central to Wolf Trap's mission throughout its history. Every year, Wolf Trap hosts several major events to support its Education Programs, including the **Wolf Trap Gala**, the **Wolf Trap Ball**, and the **Annual Invitational Golf Tournament and Auction for Education**.

Proceeds from these events directly benefit Wolf Trap's nationally acclaimed Education Programs, including the Wolf Trap Opera Company and the Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning Through the Arts. In classrooms across the country and around the world, the Wolf Trap Institute is offering teachers innovative and creative ways to teach, while providing children with engaging ways to learn. The goal of the Institute is to coach early childhood professionals in the use of drama, music, movement, and puppetry to help children learn literacy and academic concepts, as well as life skills.

Funds raised also benefit and expand programs at the Center for Education at Wolf Trap, a national arts-in-education resource center for children, parents, educators, and performing artists.

For more information, please call (703) 255-4030, or e-mail [specialevents@wolftrap.org](mailto:specialevents@wolftrap.org).

The Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded by Catherine Filene Shouse (1896-1994) that presents and produces a full-range of performance and education programs in the Washington, D.C. area, as well as nationally and internationally. Wolf Trap is home to two performance venues, the Filene Center, located at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, and The Barns at Wolf Trap; the Wolf Trap Opera Company, one of the country's outstanding resident ensemble programs for young professional singers; and the Center for Education at Wolf Trap, which serves as home to Wolf Trap's Education programs (including the nationally acclaimed Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning Through the Arts, scholarships, master classes and internships), and Wolf Trap's Foundation staff. The Filene Center, operated in partnership with the National Park Service, is a 7,028-seat outdoor pavilion that showcases an extensive list of diverse artists, ranging from pop, country, folk and blues, to orchestra, dance, musical theater, and opera, and multimedia presentations, from May through September each year. Visit the Wolf Trap Web site at [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org) for more information. Terrence D. Jones is president and CEO of the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts.

###