

High-resolution downloadable images of Rokia Traoré, Julie Murphy Wells, and Shemekia Copeland are available on Wolf Trap's Web site:

http://www.wolftrap.org/Media_and_Newsroom/Photos_for_Publication.aspx

February 6, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contemporary African Beats, Broadway Tunes, and the Soulful Blues **Showcased at The Barns at Wolf Trap**

Vienna, VA—The Barns at Wolf Trap offers the “fantastic fusion” sounds of a genre-bending African singer, show-stopping jazz and Broadway standards, and bold tunes from the emerging Queen of the Blues from February 12-14. Progressive West African musician, **Rokia Traoré** bridges the divide between world music, jazz, and blues on Thursday, February 12, followed by **Julie Murphy Wells** featuring her Sophisticated Lady tour that highlights songs from the 1940s and Broadway on Friday, February 13. **Shemekia Copeland** closes the week with fierce, playful vocals in support of her forthcoming release, *Never Going Back*, on Saturday, February 14.

Rokia Traoré

Thursday, February 12, 2009 at 8 p.m.

\$25

Rising international sensation Rokia Traoré makes her Wolf Trap debut, featuring tunes from her newly released album, *Tchamantché*. Never one to take the conventional path, Traoré's performance style melds traditional African instruments with acoustic guitar and electric bass, punctuated by deeply reflective lyrics sung primarily in her native language of Bamanan. Traoré's albums have earned widespread critical acclaim in many of the world's most respected publications, including the *New York Times*, *Billboard*, *MOJO*, *Rolling Stone*, and *Time*. 2003's *Bowmboï*, was voted World Music Album of the Year in the BBC Critics' Poll. *Tchamantché*, was recently nominated for the French equivalent of the Grammys, the Victoires de la Musique Award, in the Best World Music Album of the Year category. Showcasing a stronger rock and blues influence than her previous albums, this mostly self-penned record also includes a virtuosic rendition of Billie Holiday's "The Man I Love". *Time Out London* says of her live performance, "arguably the most exciting, most thrilling live African music show around."

Julie Murphy Wells

Friday, February 13, 2009 at 8 p.m.

\$20

Best known as the lead vocalist of the Northern Virginia-based popular acoustic-folk group, Eddie from Ohio, Julie Murphy Wells returns to The Barns for a presentation of her solo Sophisticated Lady show featuring a collection of the jazz standards and Broadway tunes that Wells loved as a child. As five-time Wammie winners for Best Contemporary Folk Group since 1997, Eddie from Ohio has toured across the country with their jazzy roots blend of folk-rock, playing such prestigious festivals as Philadelphia Folk and Falcon Ridge. Capturing the essence of the Sophisticated Lady's sound, *The Washington Post* describes Wells' voice as "wax brassy, dreamy, sultry, and hip." The show features songs by the Gershwins, Cole Porter, Jerome Kern, Billie Holiday, Stephen Sondheim, and Nat King Cole as Wells breathes life into each of these timeless classics with her gentle, sweet, and well-controlled vocals.

Shemekia Copeland

Saturday, February 14, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

\$20

In her return to the The Barns at Wolf Trap, Shemekia Copeland continues to command audiences with powerful and sultry vocals rooted in the rich, soulful tradition of blues music. This performance will feature music from Copeland's fifth album, *Never Going Back*, due to release February 24. Daughter of the late Texas blues guitar legend Johnny Clyde Copeland, she often draws comparison to Etta James and Koko Taylor, with the *Boston Globe* declaring that "she roars with a sizzling hot intensity." Copeland's second album, *Wicked*, received a Grammy nomination as well as three Handy Blues Awards. Before the age of 30, Copeland performed a headlining slot at the Chicago Blues Festival and earned critic's choice awards from *The New York Times* and *The Times* of London. Copeland has shared the stage with some of the industry's finest musicians, including the Rolling Stones, B.B. King, Taj Mahal, Buddy Guy, and John Mayer.

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**Tickets can be purchased by calling 1 (877) WOLFTRAP; or online at [http://www.wolftrap.org/Purchase Tickets.aspx](http://www.wolftrap.org/Purchase_Tickets.aspx)
For more information, call The Barns at Wolf Trap at (703) 938-2404.**