

For Immediate Release

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EXPANDED FAMILY PROGRAMMING FRONT AND CENTER IN MCANINCH ARTS CENTER'S 2014-2015 SEASON

New For This Season: Mini MAC Pack Subscriptions, Tea Parties,
and Birthday Party Offerings

Single Tickets On Sale In Person at the MAC Box Office Saturday, Aug. 16, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

GLEN ELLYN, Ill. – For the first time in two years family entertainment returns to the McAninch Arts Center (MAC) at College of DuPage, 425 Fawell Blvd. in Glen Ellyn, as part of the MAC's 2014-2015 Performance Series. Shows include **Story Pirates**, described as "Saturday Night Live for kids" by BroadwayWorld.com (Oct. 4); COD's popular staging of William J. Norris' adaptation of Charles Dickens' "**A Christmas Carol**" (Nov. 28-30); Von Heidecke Chicago Festival Ballet's 25th Anniversary production of "**The Nutcracker**" (Dec. 20-21); the gravity-defying **New Shanghai Circus** (Jan. 9); the Russian National Ballet's exquisite classical ballet "**Sleeping Beauty**" (Jan. 17); Theatreworks USA's adaption of Doreen Cronin's "**Click, Clack, Moo**" (Feb. 14); "Come Together," an inspirational concert featuring **Soul Children of Chicago with special guest Anima Young Singers of Chicago** (Feb. 28); and Theatreworks USA's beloved presentation of "**Junie B. Jones**" (April 11). The MAC hosts Tea Parties before select performances. A list of these events with ticket prices can be found at the end of this release.

These shows are eligible for **Mini MAC Pack subscription packages, offering a 10% discount off of single ticket prices when ordering two Mini MAC Pack events; 15% when ordering three or more.** For more information, call 630.942.4000 or visit AtTheMAC.org.

In addition, the MAC's in-residence professional symphony orchestra **New Philharmonic (NP)**, has always made it part of their mission to make classical music accessible to all ages. In keeping with that tradition, NP is pleased again to offer young concert goers the opportunity to mix and mingle with Maestro Kirk Muspratt, members of New Philharmonic and guest artists during the "**Cookies with Kirk**" receptions in the lobby after each performance. New for this year: select concerts will feature a **Youth Musician Spotlight** performance showcasing the talent of a local youth musician (see list at the end of this release). A limited number of \$10 student tickets will be offered for these performances as well. \$10 student tickets are subject to availability and can be purchased in-person only with presentation of a valid student ID.



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The **MAC's Single Tickets On-Sale Party Saturday, Aug. 16** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. is the first time the public will be able to purchase in person individual tickets for these and other MAC 2014-2015 season events before single tickets go on sale online and by phone Tuesday, Aug. 19 at noon. Attendees to the MAC's Single Tickets On-Sale Party will enjoy free food including hot dogs, chips, pop and ice cream. Gift bags will go to the first 100 people who buy tickets (one gift bag per person). This day will also be the last day for art lovers to take in the popular "Vivian Maier: Exposed" photo exhibit at the Cleve Carney Art Gallery. This exhibit is free and open to the public. For more information call 630.942.4000 or visit AtTheMAC.org.

Also new this season, the MAC can host and help plan birthday parties surrounding the Mini MAC shows. For more information call 630.942.4000 or visit AtTheMAC.org.

About the MAC

McAninch Arts Center (MAC) at College of DuPage is located 25 miles west of Chicago near I-88 and I-355, and houses three performance spaces (the 780-seat proscenium Belushi Performance Hall; the 186-seat soft-thrust Playhouse Theatre; and the versatile black box Studio Theatre), plus the Cleve Carney Art Gallery, classrooms for the college's academic programming and Lakeside Pavilion. The MAC has presented theater, music, dance and visual art to more than 1.5 million people since its opening in 1986 and typically welcomes more than 75,000 patrons from the greater Chicago area to more than 230 performances each season.

The MAC began major renovations in fall 2012 to update its three performance spaces, construct a new art gallery and outdoor pavilion, and make improvements to the infrastructure, teaching and learning spaces and patron service areas. The MAC renovation was funded as part of the \$168 million referendum that voters of District 502 passed in November 2010. The MAC completed its 14-month, \$35 million renovation in December 2013 and officially opened its doors to the public with the MAC Madness Celebration on March 8. The MAC's 2014-2015 Season is its first full season following the landmark renovation.

The mission of the MAC is to foster enlightened educational and performance opportunities, which encourage artistic expression, establish a lasting relationship between people and art, and enrich the cultural vitality of the community. For more information about the MAC, visit AtTheMAC.org. You can also learn more about the MAC on Facebook at facebook.com/AtTheMAC or on twitter at twitter.com/AtTheMAC.

McAninch Arts Center (MAC) is supported in part by the **College of DuPage Foundation**. Established as a 501(c) 3 not-for-profit charitable organization in 1967, the College of DuPage Foundation raises monetary and in-kind gifts to increase access to education and to enhance cultural opportunities for the surrounding community. For more information about the College of DuPage Foundation, visit cod.edu/foundation or call 630.942.2462.

Programs at the MAC are partially supported through funding from the **Illinois Arts Council**, a state agency.

New Philharmonic's 2014-2015 performances are funded in part by a grant by The DuPage Community Foundation's JCS Fund for Arts and Education and the Illinois Arts Council.

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**McAninch Arts Center 2014-2015 Season
Family-Friendly Fare**

Events as of Aug. 6, 2014
(Events, dates, artists and prices subject to change)

The following performances are featured in the MAC's 2014-2015 Mini MAC Pack series and will take place in the MAC's Belushi Performance Hall:

Story Pirates

Saturday, Oct. 4, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.
Tickets: \$16 Adults/\$14 Youth.

Story Pirates begins by collecting stories from local kids and adapts them into a hilarious sketch comedy musical. Described as "Monty Python meets Schoolhouse Rock," this show is perfect for grownups and kids alike. Recommended for Grades K-8.

**College of DuPage Theater Department presents "A Christmas Carol"
By Charles Dickens, Adapted by William J. Norris**

Friday, Nov. 28, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 29 & Sunday, Nov. 30, 3 & 7 p.m.
Tickets: \$15 Adults/\$12 Youth.

For their 14th holiday season, College Theater presents Dickens' classic story of the miserly Ebenezer Scrooge, his poor but optimistic clerk Bob Cratchit and the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come, sent to soften Scrooge's heart to the meaning of Christmas. This 70-minute production features a cast of more than 40 local actors and children and is perfect for the entire family. Recommended for all ages.

**Von Heidecke's Chicago Festival Ballet and the New Philharmonic present
"The Nutcracker"**

Saturday, Dec. 20, 2 & 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 21, 1 & 5 p.m.
Performance tickets: \$43 Adults / \$32 Youth. Pre-matinee Tea Party tickets: \$25.
There will be a MAC Chat prior to both evening performances.

"The Nutcracker," featuring the exquisite music by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky is a classic holiday fairy tale ballet in two acts. As a family's Christmas Eve party ends, a dream takes the young daughter Clara to a magical world where she meets the Sugar Plum Fairy, the Snow Queen, dancing snowflakes and many other enchanting characters. Chicago Festival Ballet, under the direction of Ken Von Heidecke and the New Philharmonic, under the direction of Maestro Kirk Muspratt, bring this Von Heidecke's Chicago Festival Ballet's 25th Anniversary production of this magical tale, replete with dazzling costumes, scenery and live orchestral music, to the MAC for four memorable performances. Recommended for ages 6 through adult.

There will be a Tea Party prior to the Saturday, Dec. 20, 2 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 21, 1 p.m. matinee performances, featuring sandwiches, scones, sweets and tea. Lemonade, cheese and PBJ sandwiches will be available for younger guests. Tea Parties are a separately ticketed event.

New Shanghai Circus

Friday, Jan. 9, 7:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$46 Adults/\$36 Youth.

The New Shanghai Circus presents Chinese circus acts dating back to harvest festivals of 2,000 years ago. This modern-day performance featuring breathtaking feats is enhanced by fabulous choreography, amazing lighting, enchanting scenery and powerful music. Recommended for all ages.

Russian National Ballet Presents “Sleeping Beauty”

Saturday, Jan. 17, 3 & 8 p.m.

Performance tickets: \$55 Adults/\$45 Youth. Pre-matinee Tea Party tickets: \$25.

The 1890 original St. Petersburg staging “Sleeping Beauty” performed to Tchaikovsky’s glorious score was a spectacular illustration of the Russian Imperial style at its zenith. Today it remains the cornerstone of the Russian National Ballet’s repertoire. The MAC performance will feature a cast of 50 dancers in a fairy-tale setting and spectacular costumes. Recommended for ages 6 through adult.

There will be a Tea Party prior to the matinee featuring tea-sandwiches, scones, sweets and tea. Lemonade, cheese and PBJ sandwiches will be available for younger guests. The Tea Party is a separately ticketed event.

Theatreworks USA presents “Click, Clack, Moo”

Saturday, Feb. 14, 10:30 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Tickets: \$16 Adults /\$14 Youth.

Farmer Brown has a problem. His cows like to type. All day long he hears “Click, clack, moo. Click, clack, moo. Click, clack, moo.” Farmer Brown’s problems really begin when his cows go on strike and the chickens join them in solidarity. The delightful storybook written by Doreen Cronin has been adapted for the stage by Theatreworks USA. Recommended for ages 5-9.

“Come Together” - Soul Children of Chicago with Special Guest Anima Young Singers of Chicago

Saturday, Feb. 28, 7 p.m.

Tickets: \$38 Adults/\$24 Youth.

The repertoire of the international touring sensation The Soul Children of Chicago, under the direction of founder Walt Whitman, spans from The Beatles to Stevie Wonder to modern day songs by artists such as Pharrel Williams, providing hope and inspiration in a world filled with challenges and despair. Opening the show will be the Anima Young Singers of Chicago, formerly the Glen Ellyn Children’s Chorus. This world-class group is known for their pristine voices and solid harmonies. Anima is the Latin word for breath, life, soul and spirit, and this choral group has been serving the community since 1964. Recommended for all ages.

Theatreworks USA presents “Junie B. Jones”

Saturday, April 11, 11 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Tickets: \$16 Adults / \$14 Youth

A Theatreworks original play brings some of the popular Junie B. Jones books to life on stage. Chosen for the play are author Barbara Parks’ “Junie B., First Grader (at Last!),” “Junie B., Boss of Lunch” and “Junie B., One-Man Band.” Recommended for ages 5-10.

The following performances are part of **New Philharmonic’s 2014-2015 Season** and are recommended for ages 6 through adult. Each features a **Youth Musician Spotlight** performance showcasing the talent of a local youth musician. In keeping with NP tradition, audiences will have the opportunity to mix and mingle with Maestro Kirk Muspratt, members of New Philharmonic and guest artists during the “**Cookies with Kirk**” post-show receptions in the lobby and **MAC Chats** will take place prior to select concerts as noted below. **A limited number of \$10 student tickets** will be offered for the following performances as well. \$10 student tickets are subject to availability and can be purchased in-person only with presentation of a valid student ID. For tickets or more information about any of these events, call 630.942.4000 or visit AtTheMAC.org

Oktoberfest with a New Philharmonic Twist

Saturday, Oct. 11, 8 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 12, 3 p.m.

Performance tickets \$46. Pre-show Oktoberfest dinner tickets \$30.

New Philharmonic, under the direction of Maestro Muspratt, performs works by, Bach, Mozart and Strauss, as well as polkas, toasts and more. Attendees can add to the fest experience with a pre-show outdoor Oktoberfest dinner with Oom-Pah Band, bratwurst and schnitzel. The dinner is a separately ticketed event.

Featured in the **Youth Performance Spotlights**: a cello solo by Wheaton’s Ben Graves.

New Philharmonic: Ravel and Rachmaninoff

With Guest Pianist Winston Choi

Saturday, Feb. 7, 8 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 8, 3 p.m.

Tickets: \$46.

There will be a MAC Chat prior to each performance.

Winston Choi, laureate of the 2003 Honens International Piano Competition and winner of France’s 2002 Concours International de Piano, teams up with New Philharmonic and Maestro Kirk Muspratt to perform Joseph-Maurice Ravel’s “Concerto for the Left Hand” and Sergei Rachmaninoff’s “Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini.” One of the most sought after pianists in Chicago, Choi frequently performs with members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and has been featured on WFMT-FM. These concerts will also feature the Rodion Shchedrin’s “Carmen Suite” written for five percussionists and string orchestra.

The **Youth Performance Spotlights** for these concerts will feature violin trio and Wheaton’s own Ben Fefferman, Kevin Li and Luke Mondia (Saturday, Feb. 7); and Naperville vocalist Madison Perry (Sunday, Feb. 8).

**New Philharmonic: Bach to Bock
With Guest Violinist David Taylor**

Saturday, April 18, 8 p.m. and Sunday, April 19, 3 p.m.

Tickets: \$46.

There will be a MAC Chat prior to each performance.

David Taylor helped John Williams edit the Bock/Williams Cadenzas from “Fiddler on the Roof.” Now MAC audiences will have the opportunity to hear Taylor and New Philharmonic unite to perform that work. The concert will also feature Bach’s “Double Concerto for Oboe and Violin,” as well as works by Ralph Vaughan-Williams, Felix Mendelssohn and more.

Featured in the **Youth Performance Spotlights** for these performances: violin duo Sophia Lekas (Willowbrook) and Hugo Zoells (Hinsdale).