HAVE THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE
2019-20 SEASON

Gertrude C. Ford Center
for the Performing Arts

IT'S SOME KIND OF WONDERFUL!

Beautiful
The Carole King Musical

THE RIGHTHEOUS BROTHERS
BILL MEDLEY & BUCKY HEARD

STOMP

THE INTERNATIONAL SENSATION

STOMP ONLINE.COM

FOR THE FORMING ARTS

INCLUDIING THE HITS "UNCHAINED MELODY" (FROM "GHOST")
"I'VE HAD THE TIME OF MY LIFE" (FROM "DIRTY DANCING")
"YOU'VE GOTTEN THAT LEAFY FEELIN" (FROM "WICKED")
Dear Friends,

We have another wonderful season of shows for you this year! Special Appearances is an exciting addition to our Broadway shows, ballets, acrobats, play and instrumental groups including STOMP.

This past year:

Our capital campaign was highly successful thanks to the dedication of an enthusiastic committee. We celebrated in style with our “Boots and Bling” event, honoring Chancellor Emeritus Robert C. Khayat. Entertainment by Marty Stuart, joined by hosts Erin and Ben Napier, was followed by a wonderful meal and dance accompanied by Moonstone and Friends. Watch for the next Friendship Ball in March 2020. We plan to pull out all the stops again and hope you will join us.

We dedicated the Studio Theatre to Mary Ann Mobley and Gary E. Collins in October. It was a special occasion to honor Mississippi’s first Miss America and favorite adopted son. Thank you to their daughter, Clancy Collins White, for her new Ford Center endowment and Department of Theatre & Film scholarship named for this exceptional couple.

A new design for the 2019 edition of the cloisonné ball will debut this fall. Watch for an announcement to add this beautiful ornament to your collection.

And you still have an opportunity to join our inaugural donors on the spectacular “Celebrating the Arts” tree sculpture that is on display in the lobby. Buy a leaf, acorn or bough today!

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Ford Foundation, our Friends of the Ford Center, and our volunteers, donors and sponsors whose generous contributions support programming this season.

Thanks to all of you for making sure the Arts thrive in Oxford.

— Julia Aubrey

Greetings from the Director

Michael Bolton
Tuesday, Sept. 17 • 7:30 p.m.

Known for such hits as “When a Man Loves a Woman,” “How Am I Supposed to Live Without You” and “Soul Provider,” Michael Bolton’s music has touched millions. The Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter has sold more than 65 million records globally and continues to tour the world.

For one night only, join Michael Bolton for an evening of timeless hits and a musical journey through pop, rock, soul, standards and even classical, specially arranged for symphony orchestra.
The Righteous Brothers
Saturday, Feb. 8 • 7:30 p.m.

The Lovin’ Feelin’ is Back – The Righteous Brothers Live!

Blue-eyed soul pioneers The Righteous Brothers are back! With a string of No. 1 classics, including the most played song in radio history, “You’ve Lost That Lovin’ Feelin’,” the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame duo of Bill Medley and Bobby Hatfield topped the charts during four decades. After Hatfield’s death in 2003, Medley continued to perform to sold-out crowds around the world, but fans and friends pleaded with him to keep The Righteous Brothers alive. Said Medley, “No one could ever take Bobby’s place, but when I caught Bucky Heard’s show it all came together — I found the right guy to help me recreate the magic.”

The concert experience features their biggest hits: “Lovin’ Feelin’,” “Soul & Inspiration,” “Unchained Melody,” “Rock and Roll Heaven,” Medley’s Grammy-winning “Dirty Dancing” theme “The Time of My Life” and much, much more!

Drew Holcomb and the Neighbors: Dragons Tour with Birdtalker
Monday, Oct. 28 • 7:30 p.m.

For the past decade, Drew Holcomb has established himself as one of Americana and Southern roots music’s freshest upstarts. The Tennessee-based musician’s songs have always charged his listeners’ hearts and minds while inspiring them to think, feel, dance and love. But with his new album, “Dragons,” his subject material finds the singer using a finer brush and mixing more of the joys, struggles and specific moments of his own life than ever before to help him paint his masterpieces and connect with fans on a universal level.

For Holcomb, music is what helps us try to understand our place in a world full of equal parts chaos, confusion, love and community, and “Dragons” is his reminder to all of us to keep fighting the good fight and to never give up.
Chicago NATIONAL TOUR
Sunday, Sept. 8 • 7:30 p.m.

There’s never been a better time to experience Chicago, Broadway’s razzle-dazzle smash. This triumphant hit musical is the recipient of six Tony Awards, two Olivier Awards, a Grammy, thousands of standing ovations and now the No. 1 longest-running American musical in Broadway history.

Chicago has everything that makes Broadway great: a universal tale of fame, fortune and all that jazz; one showstopping song after another; and the most astonishing dancing you’ve ever seen. It’s no surprise that Chicago has wowed audiences from Mexico City to Moscow, from Sao Paulo to South Africa. And now it’s coming to your town!

Whether you’re looking for your first Broadway musical, you’ve seen the Academy Award-winning film and want to experience the show live on stage, or you’ve seen it before and want to recapture the magic, Chicago always delivers!

Diavolo | Architecture in Motion
Tuesday, Oct. 1 • 7:30 p.m.

Founded in 1992 by French-born choreographer and visionary Jacques Heim, Diavolo is a cultural pillar of the Los Angeles community and has performed for hundreds of thousands of concertgoers worldwide as well as millions more on television. Diavolo aims to capture and comment upon the ironic and frequently humorous patterns, as well as the darker consequences, of human behavior in the world it’s built. The work is searching to expand the boundaries of what is considered to be dance by creating a living cinematic experience of powerful images and abstract narratives. Architectural structures provide the backdrop for dramatic and risky movement, revealing metaphors for the challenge of maintaining humanity and human relationships in modern environments.
An American in Paris
NATIONAL TOUR
Monday, April 13 • 7:30 p.m.

In postwar Paris, romance is in the air and youthful optimism reigns. Gershwin’s soaring melodies are matched by gravity-defying dance as the world rediscovers the power of love in this breathtaking production. Hoping to start a new life, World War II veteran Jerry Mulligan chooses newly liberated Paris as the place to make a name for himself as a painter. But Jerry’s life becomes complicated when he meets Lise, a young Parisian shop girl with her own secret — and realizes he is not her only suitor.

Winner of four Tony Awards and inspired by the Academy Award-winning film, this exquisite production features your favorite Gershwin songs including “I Got Rhythm,” “Liza,” “‘S Wonderful,” “But Not for Me” and “Stairway to Paradise.” “Pure Joy ... An American in Paris is a TRIUMPH!” – The New York Times

Beautiful – The Carole King Musical
NATIONAL TOUR
Sunday, March 29
7:30 p.m.

Beautiful – The Carole King Musical tells the Tony and Grammy Award-winning, inspiring, true story of King’s remarkable rise to stardom, from being part of a hit songwriting team with her husband, Gerry Goffin, to her relationship with fellow writers and best friends Cynthia Weil and Barry Mann, to becoming one of the most successful solo acts in popular music history. Along the way, she made more than beautiful music, she wrote the soundtrack to a generation.
1984 | Aquila Theatre Company
Tuesday, Nov. 12
7:30 p.m.

As our modern world grapples with the threats and benefits of technological integration, Aquila Theatre’s production of 1984 provides a space to appreciate the value of individual thought—an evocative and timely narrative of personal freedom against political repression.

Written by George Orwell in 1944, near the end of World War II, 1984 depicts a society controlled by a perfectly totalitarian government bent on repressing all subversive tendencies. “Big Brother” is always watching, and technology is wielded as a weapon to inundate citizens with propaganda and monitor thoughts and actions. Imagined before the existence of computers, this dystopian future explores the power of technology as a mental manipulator and source of curated information.

Carmen/Romeo and Juliet
Russian National Ballet
Tuesday, Feb. 18
7:30 p.m.

Carmen Suite is a one-act ballet created in 1967 by Cuban choreographer Alberto Alonso, on music written by Russian composer Rodion Shchedrin. The music, taken from the opera Carmen by Georges Bizet, is not a 19th-century pastiche but rather “a creative meeting of the minds,” as Shchedrin put it, with Bizet’s melodies reclothed in a variety of fresh instrumental colors (including the frequent use of percussion), set to new rhythms and often phrased with a great deal of sly wit. Russian National Ballet’s Romeo and Juliet is based on the classic by William Shakespeare. It was choreographed by Elena Radchenko to Tchaikovsky’s “Romeo and Juliet Fantasy-Overture” and Symphony No. 6 in B minor, Op. 74.

Windscape
Tuesday, Nov. 19 • 7:30 p.m.

Created in 1994 by five eminent woodwind soloists, Windscape has won a unique place for itself as a vibrant, ever-evolving group of musical individualists, an “unquintet,” which has delighted audiences throughout North America. Windscape’s innovative programs and accompanying presentations are created to take listeners on a musical and historical world tour—evoking, through music and engaging commentary, vivid cultural landscapes of distant times and places.
Presidio Brass
... And All That Brass
Thursday, April 16 • 7:30 p.m.

Presidio brings you its newest offering titled “... And All That Brass,” which features music from the most iconic shows on Broadway. Come and meet those dancing feet and swinging horns down Broadway!

Since forming in 2006, Presidio Brass has rocketed to success as the face of a bold new generation in brass entertainment. By combining a brass quintet, piano and percussion with fresh, original arrangements, the group’s unique sound has become a trademark for the ensemble.

STOMP
Tuesday, April 21 • 7:30 p.m.

STOMP is explosive, provocative, sophisticated, sexy, utterly unique and appeals to audiences of all ages. The return of the percussive hit also brings some new surprises, with some sections of the show updated and restructured and the addition of two new full-scale routines, using props such as tractor tire inner tubes and paint cans. STOMP. See what all the noise is about.
The Midtown Men
Holiday Hits
Saturday, Dec. 7 • 7:30 p.m.

The Midtown Men, reuniting stars from the Broadway smash hit Jersey Boys, will ring in the Christmas season this year with their “Holiday Hits” show. This evening of songs and stories will feature iconic Yuletide classics such as “Winter Wonderland,” “Let It Snow” and “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas,” as well as their signature renditions of the greatest rock ‘n’ roll hits of the 1960s. The popular vocal group will treat their audiences to the songs of The Beatles, The Temptations, The Four Seasons and more! The Midtown Men also will perform their holiday single, “All Alone on Christmas,” which they recorded with Stevie Van Zandt and members of Bruce Springsteen’s E Street Band. Come celebrate “the most wonderful time of the year” with these seasoned Broadway veterans.

Huntertones
Thursday, Oct. 10
7:30 p.m.

Huntertones brings people together around the globe with fun, imaginative and fearless music. The group’s high-energy, horn-driven sound features genre-bending composition and unconventional covers. Every show is a social experience celebrating the joy of music.

“Soulful, Tasty and Groovy. I dare you not to dance or be in a good mood during and after listening to this beautiful music.”
– Lionel Loueke, guitarist
Pete the Cat, the Musical
Saturday, Nov. 2
10:30 a.m.

For Pete the Cat, life is an adventure no matter where you wind up. So the minute the groovy blue cat meets The Biddles, he gets the whole family rocking. That is, except for young Jimmy Biddle, the most organized second-grader on planet Earth.

But when Jimmy draws a blank in art class during the last week of school, it turns out Pete is the perfect pal to help him out. Together, they set out on a mission to help Jimmy conquer second-grade art, and along the way, they both learn a little something new about inspiration. Join Jimmy and Pete on an adventure of friendship, all the way to Paris and back in a VW bus!

Holiday Village Opens Dec. 5

Celebrate the holiday season with a visit to the Ford Center’s 10th Holiday Village. Enjoy the magic of our traditional Gingerbread Village, the Miniature Christmas Village, and learn about holiday traditions from around the world. The Village will open daily and have special story times for preschoolers and elementary school-aged children, plus a visit from Santa.
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**The Inn at Ole Miss**

The 2019-20 season is sponsored in part by The Inn at Ole Miss.

- Special Appearances
- Ford Series
- Artist Series
- Holiday Special
- Campus Connection
- Family Friendly

Wine is available at all shows except **Pete the Cat**.
Celebrate the Arts and Honor Friends and Family

The Gertrude C. Ford Center commissioned an original donor recognition tree sculpture from Sanford Werfel Studios, hand carved and signed by artist Richard Teller. The solid bronze grove of trees is on permanent display in the lobby near the entrance to the Sam and Mary Haskell Theatre. Three mighty tree trunks support full foliage honoring supporters of the arts in Oxford. The center trunk represents the Muse of music and features Gertrude C. Ford rising from the roots with her violin; a rose lies at her feet. The other two trunks hold figures representing the Muses of drama and dance. The trees have 750 donor-recognition leaves in engraver’s brass gold. Nestled among the leaves are various size boughs, and on the ground, golden acorns complete the grove ensuring future trees.

Giving Levels and Donor Recognition

**BOUGH**
For a gift of $20,000-$30,000, the donor receives a sculpted bough with an engraved plate for personalization. The boughs vary in size and will be individually customized.

**GOLDEN ACORN**
For a gift of $10,000, the donor receives a sculpted acorn with an engraved plate for personalization.

**LEAF**
For a gift of $1,000, the donor receives an engraved leaf-shaped plate for personalization. A donor may make multiple gifts for a cluster of leaves.

A gift of $100,000 from the Gertrude C. Ford Foundation is being celebrated with the naming of the sculpture’s main tree trunk. The adjacent two trunks were named to honor the support of Mary and Sam Haskell and Nancye Starnes, who each gave $50,000.
With an ever-inquisitive mind, Gertrude Castellow Ford fully embraced the arts. As a patron, an observer and a practitioner, Ford engaged in a lifelong exploration of all things of beauty and inspiration, and held true to classic traditions in the fine arts. She was an accomplished flutist, violinist and pianist as well as fluent in French, Latin and Spanish. Exceedingly well-read in poetry and classic literature, she was often at the center of spirited discussions about the merits of all manner of literary works and was not afraid to raise challenging concepts in literature, especially concerning the authorship of Shakespeare’s plays. Always at the very foundation of her spirit was a great and sincere love of the arts and letters.

Raised in a generations-old tradition of philanthropy, Ford established the Gertrude C. Ford Foundation in Jackson with a generous gift in 1991. In 1998, the Ford Foundation awarded the University of Mississippi $20 million to design and build the Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts on the Oxford campus. This regal facility is a physical testament to Ford’s lifelong dedication to the arts. Ford died in September 1996. She and her husband, Aaron Lane Ford, who was an Ackerman attorney and U.S. congressman representing what was Mississippi’s 4th District, are buried in Cuthbert, a small town in southwest Georgia.

Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts
351 University Ave., P.O. Box 1848, University MS 38677
fordcenter.org • 662-915-7411