

THE UNIVERSITY of  
**MISSISSIPPI**

FALL 2021 SEASON

GERTRUDE C.  
**FORD CENTER**  
*for the Performing Arts*

**Renée Fleming**  
SEPTEMBER 20





## Greetings from the Director

Dear Friends,

How exciting to open our doors again after this long Intermission! I want to thank those of you who continued to support the center while we were “dark” during 2020 – 2021.

I hope you’re ready to experience the arts, in person, at the beautiful Ford Center. We have stellar events, varied and diverse, that will appeal to a wide range of arts enthusiasts. Because the re-start is a little slow for the touring groups, we are offering the fall season only at this point.

Our spring season brochure will be available by October. We are bringing back shows that were canceled with a Broadway series (*Beautiful*, *Waitress*, and *An American in Paris*), plus adding a great blues event with Edgar Meyer, and a Saturday morning with *Dog Man*.

### Highlights

- ♦ We are incredibly fortunate to bring the superb **Renée Fleming** to our performing arts center. Through the generosity of Nancye B. Starnes, this will be a three-day event featuring Ms. Fleming leading *Music and the Mind* with regional guest panelists. We are privileged to offer this international star in concert the following evening. On Tuesday morning, Ms. Fleming will work with a few

young singers in a vocal masterclass. These events are open to the public.

- ♦ Our season opener is the premiere of *Voices of Mississippi*. It will be another three-day event that will engage our students, faculty, and general public in lectures, masterclasses, and a phenomenal multi-media event featuring **William (Bill) Ferris** and well-known Mississippi musicians. We are pleased to collaborate with the Center for the Study of Southern Culture for this event.
- ♦ In collaboration with the Center for Inclusion and Cross-Cultural Engagement, we are bringing the *Fannie Lou Hamer Story* to the main stage. A Mississippian and activist, Ms. Hamer established a national reputation fighting for voting rights. Mzuri Aimbaye will engage students to join her on stage for her powerful presentation of Ms. Hamer’s journey as a civil rights activist.
- ♦ Our new Pop Series brings you Bruce Hornsby, Post Modern Jukebox, and a Christmas show from **The Beach Boys**.

Our sincere appreciation to the Ford Foundation, Friends of the Ford Center, sponsors, and volunteers for their generous contributions supporting this season!

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

— Julia Aubrey

## Join the Friends of the Ford Center

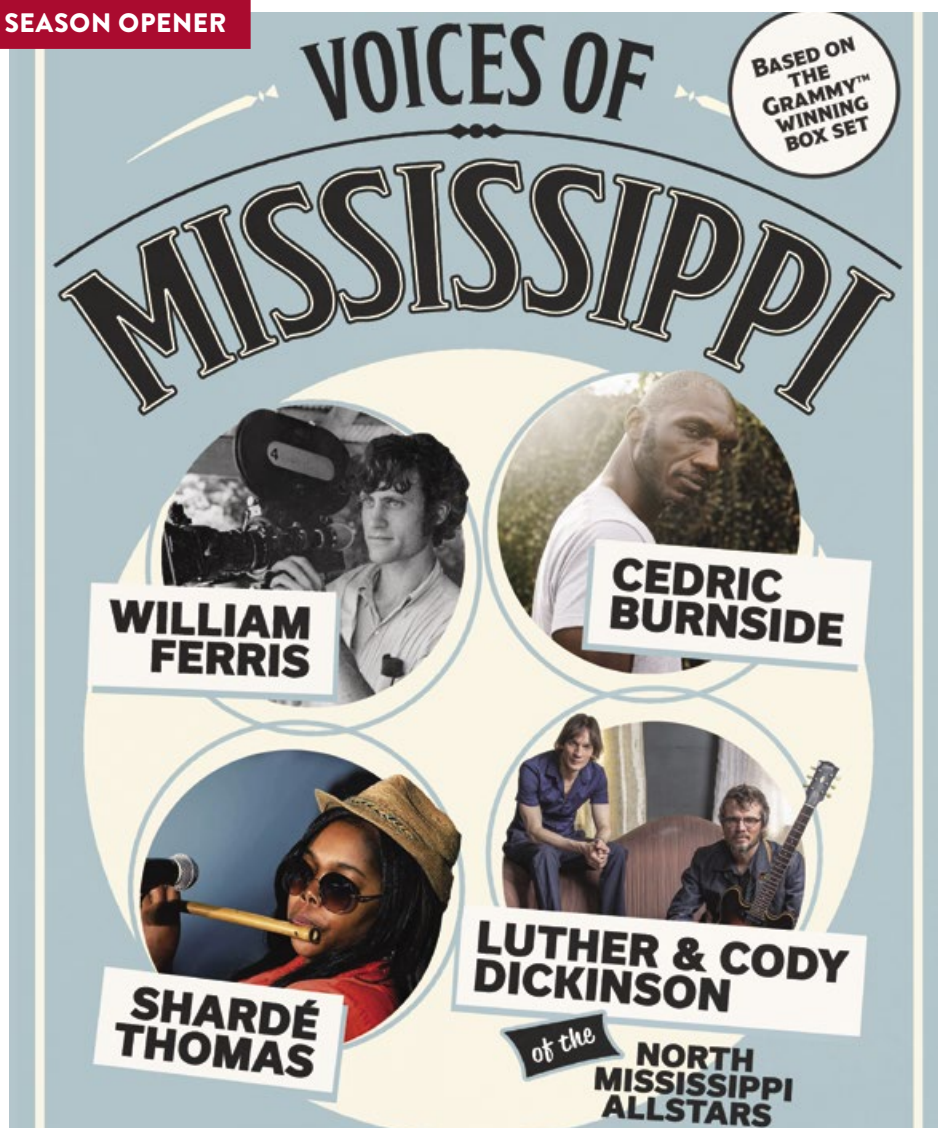
In addition to the satisfaction of helping bring excellent programming to the Ford Center, members will receive a variety of benefits according to their giving level including:

- ♦ One Reserved Parking Pass for Season Ticket Holders
- ♦ Guaranteed Seat Selection (if tickets purchased by August 16, 2021)
- ♦ Ford Center Cloisonné Ornament
- ♦ Early Order for Series Tickets
- ♦ Listing in Event Program and Lobby Friends Roll

For more information, visit [www.fordcenter.org](http://www.fordcenter.org) or contact Kate Meacham at 662-915-6502 or [kmeacham@olemiss.edu](mailto:kmeacham@olemiss.edu).



SEASON OPENER



## **Voices of Mississippi**

Tuesday, Sept. 14 • 7:30 p.m.

*Voices of Mississippi* is an immersive multimedia experience and concert event that celebrates the people and art of the southern blues, gospel, and storytelling traditions. Based on and inspired by the acclaimed 2019 double Grammy winning four-disc box set of the same name, *Voices of Mississippi*, the program features musical performances by notable Mississippi artists plus archival film and images. The show includes fascinating personal narratives and accounts from Dr. William Ferris, founding director of The University of Mississippi Center for The Study of Southern Culture and former Chairman of The National Endowment for the Humanities.



**SPECIAL APPEARANCE**

**WINNER OF FOUR  
GRAMMY® AWARDS**

## **Renée Fleming**

Monday, Sept. 20 • 7:30 p.m.

***Ms. Fleming's appearance is sponsored by Nancye B. Starnes.***

Renée Fleming is one of the most acclaimed singers of our time. In 2013, President Obama awarded her America's highest honor for an artist, the National Medal of Arts. In 2014, she became the first classical artist ever to sing the National Anthem at the Super Bowl. Winner of four Grammy® awards, Renée has sung for momentous occasions from the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony to the Diamond Jubilee Concert for Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace.

In 2018, Renée appeared on Broadway in a major new production of Rodger's and Hammerstein's *Carousel*, for which she earned a Tony Award nomination. Her recent tour schedule has included concerts in New York, London, Vienna, Paris, Madrid, Tokyo, and Beijing. She is heard on the soundtracks of the Best Picture Oscar winner *The Shape of Water* and *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*, and she will soon be heard as the singing voice of Roxane, played by Julianne Moore, in the film of the best-selling novel *Bel Canto*. As Artistic Advisor to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, she spearheads a collaboration with the National Institutes of Health focused on music, health, and neuroscience.

Renée's most recent album *Distant Light* was released in 2017 by Decca. She has recorded everything from complete operas and song recitals to indie rock, jazz, and the soundtrack of *The Lord of the Rings*.

Among Renée's awards are the Fulbright Lifetime Achievement Medal, Germany's Cross of the Order of Merit, Sweden's Polar Music Prize, and France's Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur.

**[www.reneefleming.com](http://www.reneefleming.com)**

**Music and the Mind panel on Sunday, September 19 at 4 p.m.**



# THE FANNIE LOU HAMER STORY

**"ENTRANCING!"**

**-JULIAN BOND**  
**NAACP CHAIRMAN EMERITUS**  
PROTESTER, POLITICIAN, SCHOLAR, AND LECTURER

**"I'M SICK  
AND TIRED OF  
BEING SICK  
AND TIRED!"**



**ARTIST SERIES**



## **The Fannie Lou Hamer Story**

Wednesday, Oct. 6 • 7:30 p.m.

Mzuri Moyo Aimbaye channels Fannie Lou Hamer transfixing the audience in a riveting 60-minute journey of storytelling showered with eleven inspiring songs and a video montage of the Civil Rights movement. Ms. Aimbaye has the power of a warrior when she speaks and the voice of an angel when she sings evoking emotions with tears of joy and pain as well as sorrow and laughter. A critic once wrote, "When Ms. Mzuri sings God smiles and angels flap their wings". The audience will experience the courageous spirit and determination of Mrs. Hamer's emotional twists and turns in her triumphant quest for human dignity and freedom.



## ARTIST SERIES

### **Andreas Klein** **Concert Project** with Fine Arts Photographer, **Andreas Rentsch** Thursday, Nov. 4 • 7:30 p.m.

Pianist Andreas Klein is offering a Concert Project with Swiss Fine Arts Photographer Andreas Rentsch whose body of work is an ongoing exploration of the connections of fate, geography, and politics in the direction of justice.

The first part of the program consists of the Bach Partita, a Chopin Ballade and Beethoven Sonata enhanced with light projection, beginning with white lighting progressing to more dramatic color palettes. After intermission, the images of photographer, Andreas Rentsch, will be projected onto the stage while Andreas Klein performs the Prokofiev “Sonata No. 7.”



## An Evening with Bruce Hornsby

Sunday, Nov. 7 • 7:30 p.m.

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Known for such hits as “The Way It Is” and “Mandolin Rain”, Grammy-winner, Bruce Hornsby has built one of the most diverse, collaborative and adventurous careers in contemporary music. Drawing from a vast wellspring of American musical traditions, the singer/pianist/composer/bandleader has created a large and accomplished body of work and employed a vast array of stylistic approaches. Throughout this period, Hornsby has maintained the integrity, virtuosity and artistic curiosity that have been hallmarks of his work from the start.

In addition to his work as Bruce Hornsby and the Range, he has collaborated with musicians such as Bob Dylan, Willie Nelson, Don Henley, Brandon Flowers (of the Killers), Elton John, Jerry Garcia, Eric Clapton, Sting and Justin Vernon (of Bon Iver). Hornsby opened for the Grateful Dead in 1987 which lead to him playing with the band in more than 100 shows in the early 1990’s.

Hornsby’s latest album, *Non-Secure Connection*, was released in August 2020.

### POP SERIES







## ARTIST SERIES

# STOMP

Monday, Nov. 29 • 7:30 p.m.

*STOMP* is explosive, provocative, sophisticated, sexy, utterly unique and appeals to audiences of all ages. The international percussion sensation has garnered an armful of awards and rave reviews, and has appeared on numerous national television shows. The eight-member troupe uses everything but conventional percussion instruments – matchboxes, wooden poles, brooms, garbage cans, Zippo lighters, hubcaps – to fill the stage with magnificent rhythms. The return of the percussive hit also brings some new surprises, with some sections of the show now updated and restructured and the addition of two new full-scale routines, utilizing props like tractor tire inner tubes and paint cans. As *USA Today* says, “*STOMP* finds beautiful noises in the strangest places.” *STOMP*. See what all the noise is about.



## Post Modern Jukebox

Saturday, Dec. 4 • 7:30 p.m.

From its Etta James-inspired rendition of Radiohead's "Creep" to its New Orleans jazz interpretation of Meghan Trainor's "All About That Bass," Postmodern Jukebox has established a sound like no other, crafting hits as exquisitely sublime as they are humorously absurd.

Today, the rotating supergroup devoted to period covers of pop songs – is a bona fide global sensation, having collected more than three million subscribers on YouTube while selling out major venues around the world and developing previously unknown talent into superstar singers.

***A vintage filter on today's hits performed by the most original cover band - Postmodern Jukebox. Experience the style and craftsmanship of another era.***



## The Beach Boys

Saturday, Dec. 11 • 7:30 p.m.

As The Beach Boys mark more than a half century of making music, the group continues to ride the crest of a wave unequalled in America's musical history. The Beach Boys have become synonymous with the California lifestyle and have become an American icon to fans around the world.

Since the band's co-founder, lead-singer and chief lyricist Mike Love penned the lyrics to The Beach Boys' first hit, "Surfin'" (1961), dozens of the bands chart toppers have become eternal anthems of American youth: "Surfin' USA," "Surfer Girl," "Fun, Fun, Fun," "I Get Around," "California Girls," "Help Me Rhonda," "Barbara Ann," "Good Vibrations," "Wouldn't It Be Nice," "Rock and Roll Music" and "Kokomo."

The Beach Boys have sold over 100 million records worldwide and have received more than 33 RIAA Platinum and Gold record awards. The Rock And Roll Hall of Famers were also honored at the 2001 Grammy Awards with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

With more than five decades of touring under their belts, The Beach Boys have performed more concerts than any major rock band in history.

*Sounds Of Summer: The Very Best Of The Beach Boys*, Capitol/EMI's 30-track collection of the band's biggest hits, has achieved triple-platinum success with sales of more than three million copies in the U.S. since its release.

The Beach Boys are led by Mike Love, who, along with longtime member Bruce Johnston, musical director Scott Totten, Brian Eichenberger, Christian Love, Tim Bonhomme, John Cowsill, Keith Hubacher and Randy Leago continue the legacy of the iconic band. This concert will not feature Brian Wilson, Al Jardine or David Marks.

POP SERIES



## FALL 2021 SEASON AT A GLANCE

**Voices of Mississippi** ..... Tuesday, Sept. 14

*(Season Opener)*

7:30 p.m.

**Music and the Mind with Renée Fleming**..... Sunday, Sept. 19

*(Panel Discussion — no ticket needed)*

4:00 p.m.

**Renée Fleming** ..... Monday, Sept. 20

*(Special Appearance)*

7:30 p.m.

**The Fannie Lou Hamer Story**..... Wednesday, Oct. 6

*(Artist Series)*

7:30 p.m.

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**The Beach Boys** ..... Saturday, Dec. 11

*(Pop Series)*

7:30 p.m.

**The Inn**  
at *Ole Miss.*  
HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER

*The Fall 2021 season is sponsored  
in part by The Inn at Ole Miss.*



Wine is available  
at all shows.





## Gertrude Castellow Ford

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**

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**[fordcenter.org](http://fordcenter.org) • 662-915-7411**

