

GERTRUDE C.
FORD CENTER
for the Performing Arts

SPRING 2022 SEASON



BROADWAY SERIES



Greetings from the Director

The Spring Season is Ready!

Thank you for your patience. We had to adapt this year by offering

two separate seasons for 2021- 2022 and appreciate your willingness to wait while the touring shows were able to get back on the road. We are offering electronic versions of the brochure and ticket order form to facilitate ordering in December and January. If you want a paper copy, we will be happy to mail it to you. Go to fordcenter.org to get all the information and latest news on our new website.

Friends of the Ford Center! Thank you for your support. If you joined in Fall 2021, your benefits are still valid for the Spring 2022 season. If you have not joined, there is still time. If you join at the Sponsor (\$300 level) or above, you are eligible to order tickets EARLY and we will hold your preferred seats until tickets are offered to the general public.

Spring Season Opener! Edgar Meyer has won 5 Grammys and considered a virtuoso on the bass in classical, folk, and bluegrass music. Sam Bush is a multi-winner Mandolin Player of the Year and the Lifetime Achievement Award for

Instrumentalist. These musicians are definitely masters of American music. Start the new year with an exceptional arts experience.

The Broadway Series! The third time's a charm. We have three fabulous Broadway musicals coming to the Ford Center. I saw both *Waitress* and *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* in NYC and loved both of them; you will, too. The visual beauty of the dance and wonderful music in *An American in Paris* will be an memorable experience.

There is so much more! Ask your children and grandchildren about Dog Man. The Memphis Symphony joins our UM Choral program to present Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*. *Cordis/Condition Blue* and *Presidio Brass* are small, but mighty groups that offer a quality classical and popular musical experience and FUN. Read more about these shows and add them to your "must see" list.

The Ford Center will celebrate its 20th Anniversary in 2022-23. We are going to pull out the stops, and hope you will be a part of the events marking this important year. The arts THRIVE at the Ford Center with your patronage. **Thank you!**

— 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
- ✦ Ford Center Cloisonné Ornament
- ✦ Early Order for Series Tickets
- ✦ Listing in Event Program and Lobby Friends Roll

If you are already a member from the Fall season, your benefits transfer to the spring season. However, it is not too late to join! For more information, visit fordcenter.org or contact Kate Meacham at 662-915-6502 or kmeacham@olemiss.edu.



SPRING SEASON OPENER



Bush/Marshall/Meyer/Meyer Quartet

BLUEGRASS/AMERICANA

Friday, Jan. 28 • 7:30 p.m.

American Music masters Sam Bush, Mike Marshall and Edgar Meyer join together with George Meyer for a special collaboration usually only heard on the summer bluegrass festival circuit! Expect to hear works from the genre bending *Short Trip Home* album of many years ago as well as new music written especially for this tour. Edgar's son George is charting his own course in the musical world and represents the next generation of artists expressing their unique voices and perspective. He certainly has strong roots!

IF ONLY LIFE WERE AS EASY AS PIE

"A BLUE-RIBBON
BROADWAY MUSICAL!"

Entertainment



BROADWAY SERIES

NATIONAL TOUR

Wednesday, Feb. 9 • 7:30 p.m.

Meet Jenna, a waitress and expert pie-maker who dreams of a way out of her small town and rocky marriage. Pouring her heart into her pies, she crafts desserts that mirror her topsy-turvy life such as "The Key (Lime) to Happiness Pie" and "Betrayed By My Eggs Pie." When a baking contest in a nearby county - and a satisfying encounter with someone new - show Jenna a chance at a fresh start, she must find the courage to seize it. Change is on the menu, as long as Jenna can write her own perfectly personal recipe for happiness.



FAMILY FRIENDLY

Dog Man: the Musical

Saturday, Feb. 12 • 10:30 a.m.

Based on the worldwide bestselling hit series by Dav Pilkey, *Dog Man: The Musical* is a hilarious and heartwarming new production following the chronicles of Dog Man, who with the head of a dog and the body of a policeman, loves to fight crime and chew on the furniture. But while trying his best to be a good boy, can he save the city from Flippy the cyborg fish and his army of Beastly Buildings? Can he catch Petey, the world's most evil cat, who has cloned himself to exact revenge on the doggy do-gooder? And will George and Harold finish their show before lunchtime?? Find out in this epic musical adventure featuring the hilarity and heart of beloved characters from Dav Pilkey, the creator of *Captain Underpants*. *Recommended for ages 6-10*





ARTIST SERIES

Beethoven's Ninth, Ode to Joy, Memphis Symphony with University of Mississippi Choir and Memphis Symphony Chorus Friday, Mar. 25 • 7:30 p.m.

Robert Moody, conductor
Memphis Symphony Chorus ·
Lawrence Edwards, conductor
University of Mississippi Choir ·
Dr. Donald Trott, director
MARKOWSKI *Joyride*
BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 9

The Beethoven Ninth Symphony has become the world anthem of Hope for Humanity, and provides the perfect celebration and healing for these times. Robert Moody commissioned celebrated composer, Michael Markowski, to write *Joyride* in 2012; a perfect pairing with “The 9th”.



CORDIS/Condition Blue: The Acoustics of Aquatics

Tuesday, Mar. 29 • 7:30 p.m.

Condition Blue: The Acoustics of Aquatics celebrates one of our planet's most precious resources by exploring the unique and dramatic effects water can have on sound production. This innovative multi-media event features the dramatic live music of CORDIS creatively affected and enhanced by the boundless properties of water. The music comes to life amidst breathtaking aquatic imagery artfully curated by The National Geographic Society. Condition Blue is part of a multi project the ensemble has embarked on in an effort to raise awareness of our earth and its precious resources.

CORDIS has been fusing an original combination of custom-made and traditional, ethnic instruments to create their signature sound since 2007. This sparkling distortion of progressive chamber music is defined by the talents of electric cimbalomist (and founder/composer) Richard Grimes, multi-percussionist Andrew Beall, electro-acoustic cellist Jeremy Harman and pianist/keyboardist Dan Padgett. The group further crafts their sound by weaving the unlikely timbre of electric mbiras, modified typewriters, pitched wind tubes, 19th-century talking machines and the world's longest-playing cylinder-driven music box into the mix.



ARTIST SERIES



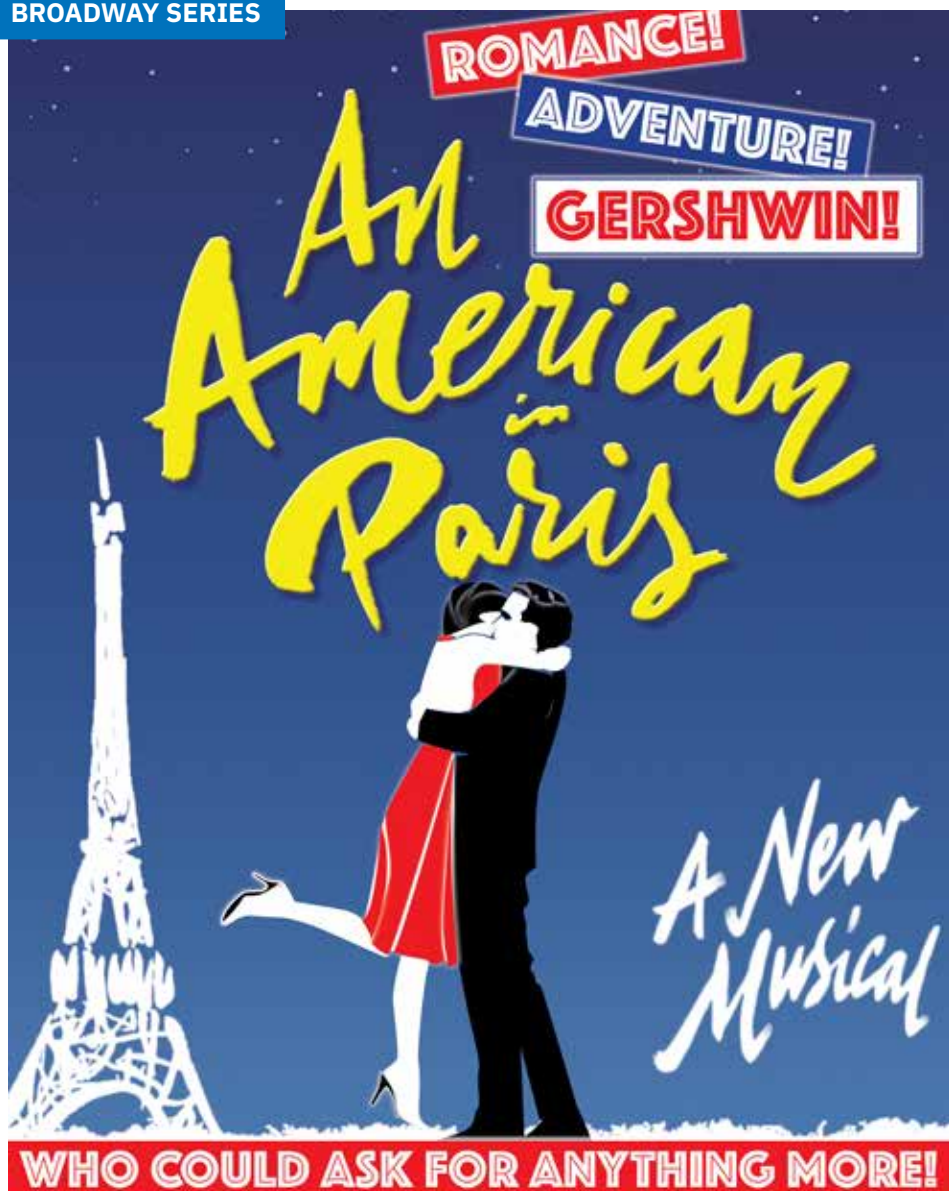


ARTIST SERIES

Presidio Brass...And All That Brass

Tuesday, Apr. 5 • 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.



NATIONAL TOUR

Tuesday, Apr. 26 • 7:30 p.m.

“Pure Joy...An American In Paris is a TRIUMPH!”
– New York Times

In post war 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.”

BEAUTIFUL – The Carole King Musical

NATIONAL TOUR

Thursday, May 19 • 7:30 p.m.

BEAUTIFUL – The Carole King Musical tells the 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.

Featuring a stunning array of beloved songs written by Gerry Goffin/Carole King and Barry Mann/Cynthia Weil, including “I Feel The Earth Move,” “One Fine Day,” “(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman,” “You’ve Got A Friend” and the title song, *BEAUTIFUL* has a book by and Tony® Award-nominee and Academy® Award-nominated writer Douglas McGrath, direction by Marc Bruni, choreography by Josh Prince, and took home two 2014 Tony® Awards and a 2015 Grammy® Award.

BROADWAY SERIES



SPRING 2022 SEASON AT A GLANCE

Bush/Marshall/Meyer/Meyer Quartet

BLUEGRASS/AMERICANA **Friday, Jan. 28**

Spring Season Opener

7:30 p.m.

Waitress **Wednesday, Feb. 9**

NATIONAL TOUR

Broadway Series

7:30 p.m.

Dog Man: the Musical **Saturday, Feb. 12**

Family Friendly

10:30 a.m.

Beethoven's Ninth, Ode to Joy, Memphis Symphony **Friday, Mar. 25**

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Artist Series

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CORDIS/Condition Blue: The Acoustics of Aquatics **Tuesday, Mar. 29**

Artist Series

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Presidio Brass...And All That Brass **Tuesday, Apr. 5**

Artist Series

7:30 p.m.

An American in Paris **Tuesday, Apr. 26**

NATIONAL TOUR

Broadway Series

7:30 p.m.

BEAUTIFUL – The Carole King Musical **Thursday, May 19**

NATIONAL TOUR

Broadway Series

7:30 p.m.



*The Spring 2022 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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