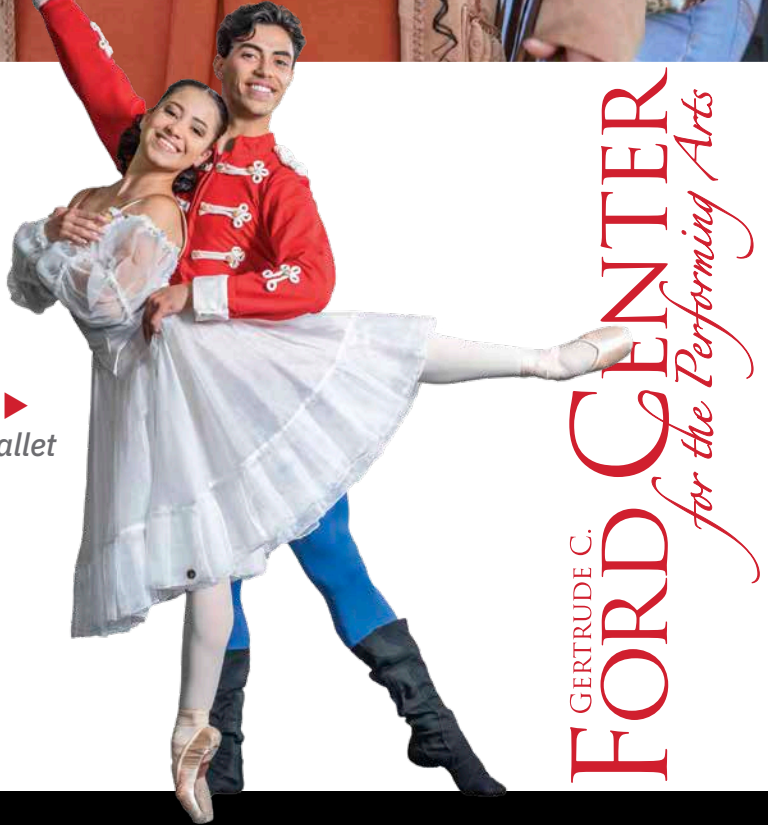


2023 FALL SEASON



Chapel Hart ▲
SEPTEMBER 7

The Nutcracker ►
Dance Alive National Ballet
DECEMBER 8



GERTRUDE C.
FORD CENTER
for the Performing Arts



Greetings from the Director

Variety is the Spice of Life!

It is a hard act to follow our amazing 20th anniversary season, but we have put together a varied and exciting fall 2023 and spring 2024 season of shows for you. Because of union disputes involving touring Broadway shows, we needed to split our season announcement in half. It will be well worth the wait with FIVE big Broadway shows and a famous pop star in spring 2024!

Our **Ford Series** starts in September featuring classical dance and music and ends in December with the perennial favorite, *The Nutcracker*. The **Artist Series**, selected by a committee of faculty and staff, kicks off our 2023 season with Chapel Hart and offers a play and an exciting physical theatre ensemble during the fall. Our new **Pop Series** starts strong with famous men at the keyboard and a celebration of one of the biggest-selling bands ever.

The spring 2024 **Broadway Series** will feature *My Fair Lady*, *On Your Feet*, *Come from Away*, *The Cher Show*, and *Shrek* as well as dynamic artists in the **Pop Series** and **Artist Series**. A special

Family Friendly treat in April is a fun musical based on *Cat Kid Comic Club*. Watch for the spring 2024 announcement in late September and save room in your social calendar for all these exciting performances!

We are grateful for the support from Nancye B. Starnes and Joc and Leigh Anne Carpenter who fund the **Daytime School Series** for public school children. We are featuring *Mister C: Air Is Everywhere*, *The Stinky Cheese Man* and *Dinosaur Zoo* (one of my all-time favorites) this season. Early exposure to a live theatrical performance can change lives!

THANK YOU to our *Friends of the Ford Center* who offer their support each year by attending our shows and contributing to our operating fund. It is because of this generosity that we are able to bring in high-quality performances to Oxford.

It is a privilege and honor to serve as Director of the Ford Center. I work with a wonderful staff, supportive university administration, and a fantastic Advisory Board. Thank you for helping 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
- ◆ Early Ticket Order & Seating for June Community Musical
- ◆ Early Order for Series Tickets
- ◆ Listing in Event Program and Lobby Friends Roll

Friends' benefits apply for the entire 2023-24 season.

Join online at fordcenter.org/support.

For questions, contact Kate Meacham at **662-915-6502** or **kmeacham@olemiss.edu**.





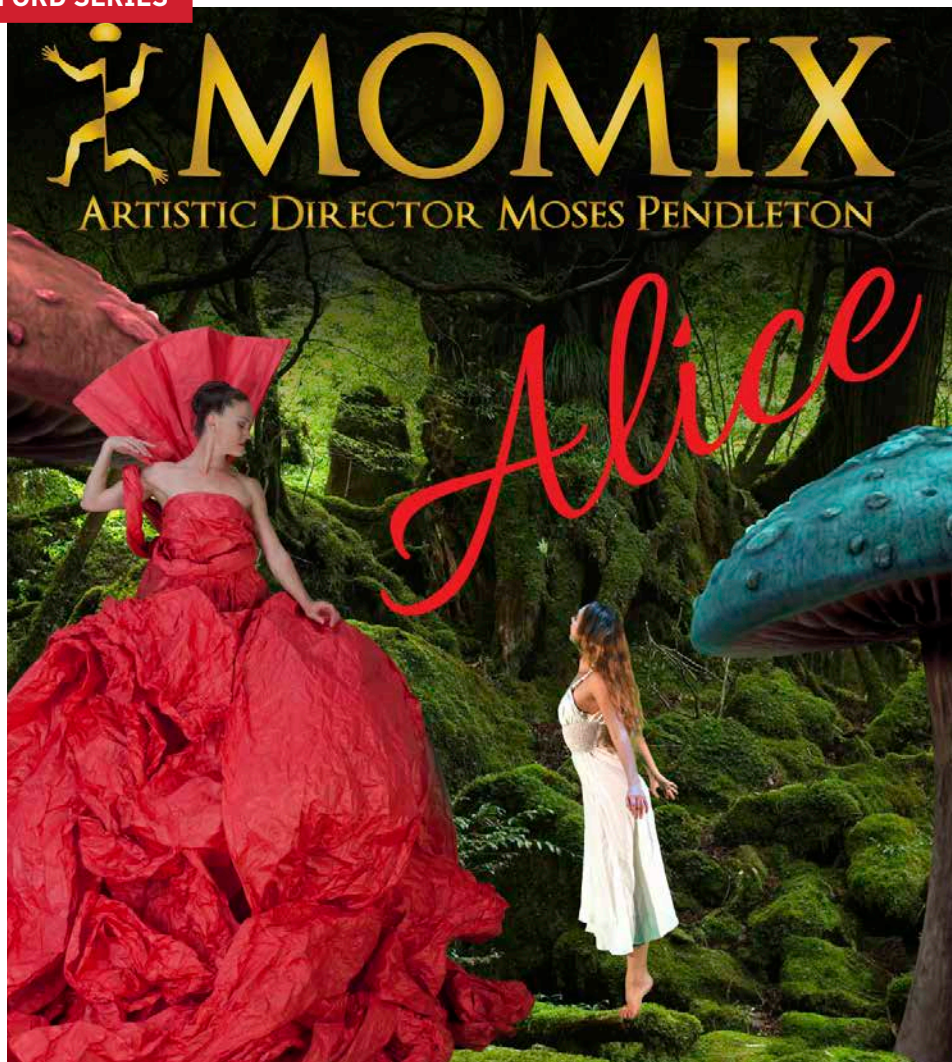
Chapel Hart

Thursday, Sept. 7, 2023 • 7:30 p.m.

Born and raised in the Mississippi mud and slow-simmered in Louisiana spice, Chapel Hart has brought a taste of the South to audiences around the world—and everyone is craving more! Made up of sisters Danica and Devynn Hart along with first cousin Trea Swindle, their meteoric rise came shortly after appearing on *America's Got Talent* and receiving the second ever “Group Golden Buzzer”. Deemed as “America’s Sweethearts” as they claimed a spot in the finals, Chapel Hart received praises from country music pillars such as Tanya Tucker, Darius Rucker and the one and only Dolly Parton. Shortly afterwards, the ladies made their Grand Ole Opry debut and received 4 standing ovations. Chapel has since returned to that iconic stage several times and has quickly become a mainstay in the country music industry.

This independent band has hit the ground running, contending with some of the nation’s biggest country stars and it doesn’t seem like they’re slowing down anytime soon.

The group has recently been named one of Music Row’s “Next Big Thing” for 2023 and CMT just announced that they are a part of their Listen UP class 2023 roster. Chapel Hart has entertained crowds from coast to coast, and the decision is always unanimous, there’s no experience quite like the Chapel Hart experience!



MOMIX *Alice*

Monday, Sept. 11, 2023 • 7:30 p.m.

Seamlessly blending illusion, acrobatics, magic, and whimsy, MOMIX sends audiences flying down the rabbit hole in Moses Pendleton's newest creation, *ALICE*, inspired by Lewis Carroll's classic *Alice in Wonderland*. "I don't intend to retell the whole Alice story" Pendleton says, "but to use it as a taking off point for invention." Join this dazzling company on a mind-bending adventure, as Alice encounters time-honored characters including the undulating Caterpillar, a lobster quadrille, frenzied White Rabbits, a mad Queen of Hearts, and a variety of other surprises. Filled with visual splendor and startling creative movement, *Alice* reveals that nothing in MOMIX's world is as it seems!



FORD SERIES

Manhattan Chamber Players

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2023 • 7:30 p.m.

Mozart: Clarinet Quintet in A major, K.581
Brahms: Clarinet Quintet, Op. 115

The Manhattan Chamber Players is a chamber music collective of New York-based musicians who share the common aim of performing the greatest works in the chamber repertoire at the highest level. Formed by Founding Artistic Director Luke Fleming, MCP is comprised of an impressive roster of musicians who all come from the tradition of great music making at the Marlboro Music Festival, Steans Institute at Ravinia, Music@Menlo, Yellow Barn and Kneisel Hall Chamber Music Festivals and Perlman Music Program, and are former students of the Curtis Institute, Juilliard School, Colburn School, New England Conservatory, and Yale School of Music.



POP SERIES

The Greatest Piano Men

Thursday, Sept. 21, 2023 • 7:30 p.m.

**A LIVE ROCK & ROLL CELEBRATION OF
THE GREATEST PIANO ICONS IN MUSIC**

This electrifying production from Jeff Davis, Executive Producer of Broadway's *Rock of Ages*, debuted to rave reviews at the Flamingo in Las Vegas celebrating the world's greatest pianists and showmen – from Little Richard, Jerry Lee Lewis and Ray Charles to Stevie Wonder, Elton John, Liberace and Billy Joel! The show features storytelling, video, female backup singers, a great band and 25 hit songs including “Good Golly Miss Molly”, “Superstition”, “Rocket Man”, “Tiny Dancer” and “New York State of Mind”.



COWBOY

Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2023 • 7:30 p.m.

COWBOY is the powerful story of Bass Reeves, a freed slave who protected the Wild West as the first black U. S. Deputy Marshal. Throughout his 32-year career, Reeves arrested more than 3,000 criminals, some of which were the most dangerous criminals of his time. Many scholars believe his life served as inspiration for the character of the Lone Ranger.

Set in 1888 Oklahoma Indian territory, this show follows Bass Reeves and his Native American companion as they seek out two criminals fleeing to the Mexican border, one of whom Reeves has a death warrant for. But soon, they find themselves stuck in an old saloon as a deadly tornado slowly approaches.

Revisiting Creedence

Saturday, Oct. 14, 2023 • 7:30 p.m.

They toured the world with original Creedence Clearwater Revival members & Rock and Roll Hall of Famers, now they're continuing the CCR legacy live in concert.

Revisiting Creedence's front men Dan McGuinness and Kurt Griffey, lead vocal and lead guitar respectively, performed over the past decade with rock royalty, fronting Creedence Clearwater Revival founding members Stu Cook and Doug "Cosmo" Clifford's touring project, Creedence Clearwater Revisited.

Revisiting Creedence's musicianship and experience are the key. With the purity and power of McGuinness' soaring voice, coupled with Griffey's lead guitar prowess, Revisiting Creedence nails signature hits "Green River", "Bad Moon Rising", "Down on The Corner", "Born on The Bayou", "Fortunate Son", "Proud Mary" and more. Kurt roams the stage driving extended jams such as "I Heard It Through the Grapevine" and "Susie Q". The show is an absolute blast for the audience.

Simply put, Revisiting Creedence is the only band in the world with the heritage, experience, and dedication to celebrate and honor the musical legacy of Creedence Clearwater Revival accurately and authentically.

**REVISITING
CREEDENCE**
THEY TOURED WITH ORIGINAL MEMBERS
OF CREEDENCE CLEARWATER REVIVAL

POP SERIES



Dan McGuinness



Kurt Griffey



Carmina Burana, Carl Orff

Memphis Symphony Orchestra, Robert Moody, conductor

Memphis Symphony Chorus, Dr. Lawrence Edwards, conductor

University of Mississippi University Choir,

Dr. Donald Trott & Dr. Elizabeth Hearn, directors

Sunday, Oct. 29, 2023 • 2:30 p.m.*

After the resounding success of the Beethoven Ninth in 2022, the Memphis Symphony and the UM Choirs collaborate again on a presentation of *Carmina Burana*, a cantata written by Carl Orff. The composer based his work on 24 poems from the medieval collection *Songs of Beuern*. This work is a perennial favorite with modern audiences with its spectacular evocation of how fate and fortune impact lives.

Many people will recognize the famous movement “O Fortuna” that begins and ends the work. Commercials and movie tracks have used this exuberant piece to invoke a majestic and other-worldly atmosphere. Based on the idea of the turning Wheel of Fortune, the listener will hear joy, bitterness, hope and grief as the compositional structure moves through a melodic conversation supported by powerful rhythmic energy in the large orchestra dominated by brass and percussion. The cantata features three soloists who lead a large chorus of voices.

**Note curtain time*

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[physical theatre]



PUSH Physical Theatre

Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2023 • 7:30 p.m.

Seeing award-winning PUSH Physical Theatre is like watching a live action movie. This talented group of performers inspires awe with physical illusions and gravity-defying, dance-infused, acrobatic high-jinx. It's cool, it's athletic, it's a perfect metaphor-in-motion; the narratives of our lives played out with hope, strength, and optimism. These masters of physical storytelling captivate audience attention and ignite their emotions. Once you've experienced the myth and magic of PUSH you will know the strength of the human soul expressed by the power of the human body.

FORD SERIES



The Nutcracker

Dance Alive National Ballet

Friday, Dec. 8, 2023 • 7:30 p.m.

"It wouldn't be the Holiday Season without the Nutcracker!"

Become entranced by the beauty of the Sugar Plum Fairy and her dazzling Court, enchanted by the swirling snowflakes and breathtaking snow, and cheer for the tiny toy soldiers and their leader, the handsome Nutcracker Prince. A sparkling production with beautiful costumes and sets, this is truly....'the all-time family favorite.'

Join us for "The Nutcracker" presented by Dance Alive National Ballet, a gem of a company that features an international roster of award-winning dancers. The company has been named the official State Touring Company of Florida for a record 34 consecutive years.

2023 FALL SEASON AT A GLANCE

FALL 2023

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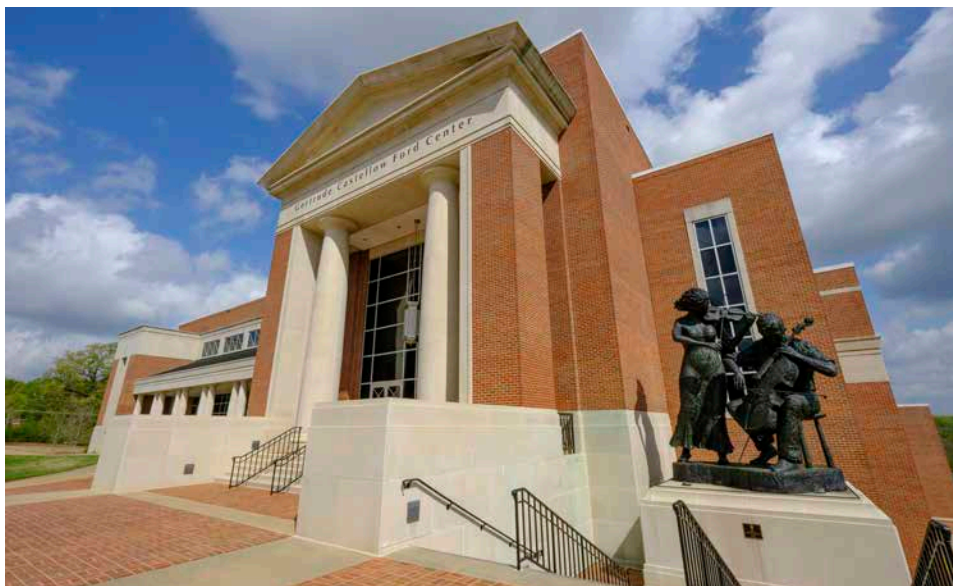
- *Ford Series*
- *Artist Series*
- *Pop Series*



The 2022-23 season is sponsored in part by
The Inn at Ole Miss and High Cotton Warehouse



*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 • 662-915-7411

