

High-resolution downloadable images of Sergio Mendes, Lyle Lovett, Donna Summer, and Bernstein's *Candide* are all available on Wolf Trap's Web site:

http://www.wolftrap.org/Media_and_Newsroom/Photos_for_Publication.aspx

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**Wolf Trap Kicks Off July with Performances from Disco Queen Donna Summer,
and *Seinfeld*'s Jason Alexander in The Wolf Trap Debut of
Bernstein's *Candide* in Concert**

Vienna, VA—Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts presents an eclectic week complete with the sounds of Brazil, country rock, disco, and opera, beginning with Grammy Award-winning Brazilian musician **Sergio Mendes**, supported by Belgium group **Zap Mama** on Tuesday, July 1. Four time Grammy Award-winning singer/songwriter **Lyle Lovett** takes the Filene Center stage on Wednesday, July 2, followed by “the queen of disco” **Donna Summer** on Saturday, July 5. The week concludes with **Bernstein's *Candide* in concert**, starring **Jason Alexander**, accompanied by the **National Symphony Orchestra** and the **Wolf Trap Opera Company** on Sunday, July 6.

Sergio Mendes w/ Zap Mama

*Tuesday, July 1, 2008 at 8:00 p.m.
\$40 in-house; \$22 lawn*

Touring on the heels of his latest album release, *Encanto*, produced by will.i.am of the Black Eyed Peas, the Filene Center stage welcomes internationally popular recording artist Sergio Mendes in his debut Wolf Trap performance. Stand out tracks on the album feature progressive drum programming, raps from Black Eyed Peas member and hit solo artist Fergie, as well as input from Latin superstar Juanes, Natalie Cole, and Brazil's Vanessa da Mata. Trained as a classical pianist in his earlier years, Mendes caught the ear of the world pop community with the formation of the band *Brasil '66*, after a career changing move from South America to U.S. soil. The band's debut album *Sergio Mendes and Brasil '66* went platinum on the strength of hit single "Mas Que Nada" (a Jorge Ben cover.) The 70's marked Mendes' solo period, initiated by 1975's self-titled release. Throughout the 70's and 80's, Mendes effectively changed his style to adapt to the changing musical landscape, and began to forge new directions in soul and R&B. By 1992,

Mendes had successfully built a massive international fan base, hooked on his infectious brand of pop-inflected Brazilian jazz.

Zap Mama

Currently touring in support of their 2007 album, *Supermoon*, Zap Mama accompanies Sergio Mendes in their debut performance on the Filene center stage. Inspired by a recording of pygmy tribal music, Zap Mama founder Marie Daulne built her band comprised of Belgian musicians in 1990, unleashing an unparalleled mixture of world music styles, including Afro-Cuban, gospel, soul, pop, and American R&B, fronted by Daulne's pygmy onomatopoeic vocal style.

Zap Mama originally sang a capella with the use of body percussion, but as their albums progressed they continuously added more instruments to their harmonious tunes. Their debut album, *Adventures in Afropea* in 1993, was the biggest-selling non-compilation album in Luaka Bop Records' history. Other albums include the Grammy-nominated *Sabyslma* in 1994, *7* in 1997, *A Ma Zone* in 1999, and *Ancestry in Progress* in 2004. Their most recent album, *Supermoon*, was released in 2007 to critical acclaim.

Lyle Lovett and his Large Band in Concert

Wednesday, July 2, 2008 at 8:00 p.m.

\$42 in-house; \$25 lawn

Following the warm reception of 2007 album *It's Not Big, It's Large*, Lyle Lovett returns to the Filene Center stage on Wednesday, June 2. An American singer-songwriter, actor, and record producer since 1980, Lovett has built a devoted fan base through his incorporation of folk, swing, blues, jazz and gospel while still maintaining a traditional country styling. *It's Not Big, It's Large* represents Lovett's 13th studio album to date. Several earlier albums were met with career defining critical praise, most notably 1996's *The Road to Ensenada*, which earned Lovett a Grammy for Best Country Album that same year. Lovett's Grammy success continued with an award for Best Country Duo/Group with Vocal in 1994 for "Blues For Dixie" with the Texas swing group Asleep at the Wheel, Best Pop Vocal Collaboration in 1994 for "Funny How Time Slips Away" with Wolf Trap featured artist Al Green, and Best Country Male Vocal in 1989 for *Lyle Lovett and His Large Band*. In 2003 Lovett earned two Grammy nominations for his record *My Baby Don't Tolerate*, which was his first album of completely original solo material since 1996. Always a Wolf Trap favorite, Lovett returns for a complete showcase of his broad, genre-bending catalogue.

Donna Summer

Saturday, July 5, 2008 at 8:00 p.m.

\$45 in-house; \$25 lawn

In the wake of the massive critical success and nationwide exposure for her 2008 album, *Crayons*, five-time Grammy Award-winner Donna Summer returns for her summer tour kick-off performance at Wolf Trap on Saturday, July 5. *Crayons* represents Summer's first full-length album of all new studio material in 17 years, and her highest charting album since "She Works Hard for the Money" in 1983. Additionally, *Crayons* debuted at #17 on the Billboard Top 200 Chart, making it Summer's highest debuting album to date. In the days leading up to her Wolf Trap engagement, Summer's name, music, and persona has been front and center with features on popular television programs including *Good Morning America*, *American Idol*, and *Entertainment Tonight*. Long recognized as the undisputed "queen of disco," Summer is the only artist to rack up three consecutive No. 1 platinum albums—*Live and More* (1978), *Bad Girls* (1979), and *On The Radio: Greatest Hits Volumes I and II* (1980). This 2007 Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame nominee arrives at Wolf Trap to perform selections from her surging new album and disco-era smash hits, "Hot Stuff," "She Works Hard for the Money," and "Love to Love You Baby."

Bernstein's *Candide* in Concert Featuring the National Symphony Orchestra, the Wolf Trap Opera Company, Starring Jason Alexander in the Role of Pangloss

Sunday, July 6, 2008 at 8:15 p.m.

Tickets range from \$55 - \$20

Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts and the National Symphony Orchestra welcome Tony Award-winning Jason Alexander, and the Wolf Trap Opera Company to the Filene center stage for the debut performance of Bernstein's *Candide*. Unbeknownst to many, Alexander was a Broadway song-and-dance man before going on to work in films and television. Prior to Alexander's star role as George Costanza in the hit sitcom *Seinfeld*, he appeared in such Broadway classics as Stephen Sondheim's *Merrily We Roll Along*, *The Rink*, Neil Simon's *Broadway Bound*, *Accomplice*, and Jerome Robbins' *Broadway*, for which he was awarded the 1989 Tony Award for Best Actor in a Musical. After a brief hiatus, Alexander returned to the stage in 2003, and was cast in a successful run of the Los Angeles production of Mel Brooks' *The*

Producers. To date, his Wolf Trap appearance is Alexander's lone singing engagement for the summer of 2008.

Voltaire's *Candide* is a comically bewildering satire that Leonard Bernstein reworked into a concert staging format, featuring a story about an optimistically naïve young man and the jaded cynical world around him. Musical favorites include *Candide*'s "It Must Be So," "I Am Easily Assimilated," "What a Day for an Auto-da-fé!," and "Make Our Garden Grow."

Distinguished opera conductor Stephen Lord and the well recognized National Symphony Orchestra work together to maintain the spirit of Bernstein's concert opera format. Famous for conducting both traditional and contemporary operatic works, Stephen Lord was recently chosen by *Opera News* as one of the "25 Most Powerful Names in U.S. Opera." He is currently music director for Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, and music director of Boston Lyric Opera until the conclusion of the 2007-08 season.

Each year, approximately 15 to 20 singers are chosen from an initial pool of more than 600 applicants who comprise Wolf Trap's stable of Filene Young Artists. Aside from Alexander as Pangloss, principal roles in *Candide* and other Wolf Trap Opera Company productions are filled by Filene Young Artist singers who will likely go on to perform these roles in other opera houses around the world. These performers take summer residence at Wolf Trap and appear in several professionally directed and designed operas in The Barns at Wolf Trap and the Filene Center. Several of Opera's contemporary elite launched their careers as previous members of the WTOC.

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Tickets can be purchased by calling 1 (877) WOLFTRAP; or online at www.wolftrap.org. For more information, call Wolf Trap at (703) 255-1868.

Wolf Trap is metro accessible! Our environmentally friendly shuttle travels from the West Falls Church metro stop every 20 minutes two hours prior to show time. For more information, please visit, http://www.wolftrap.org/Plan_Your_Visit/Access_by_Metro.aspx