

High-resolution downloadable images of Ani DiFranco, Paul Taylor Dance Company, Chicago, Kiri Te Kanawa, Marvin Hamlisch, and Hootie & the Blowfish are available on Wolf Trap's Web site:

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

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Contact: Graham Binder, Manager, Public Relations
(703) 255-1917 or grahamb@wolftrap.org

Wolf Trap's High-Profile Schedule Rolls On with This Summer's Most Diverse Week of Performances to Date

Vienna, VA—Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts offers eight performances in seven days during the week of July 7, ranging from power-pop ballads to symphonic selections by Tchaikovsky. **Ani DiFranco** returns to the Filene Center in support of her new studio release *Canon* on July 7, followed by three selections from arguably the world's greatest choreographer and leader of the celebrated **Paul Taylor Dance Company** on July 8. Pop-rock icons **Chicago** arrive for a set on July 9, leading into a weekend of three straight evenings with the **National Symphony Orchestra** and special guests, featuring *Tcheers for Tchaikovsky*, *An Evening with Kiri Te Kanawa*, and *This Way to Broadway*. American rockers **Hootie & the Blowfish** close the week as part of Wolf Trap's "Be Good, Be Green, Be There" evening on July 13.

Ani DiFranco

Monday, July 7, 2008 at 8:00 p.m.
\$40 in-house; \$28 lawn

Currently touring in support of her 2007 album *Canon*, Wolf Trap welcomes back DiFranco for her sixth performance on the Filene Center stage. *Canon* represents a collection of 36 tracks that reveal how her poetry and technique have evolved throughout her previously released albums, which total over 20 studio and live albums released on her own label, Righteous Babe Records. DiFranco's success is a product of ingenious independent marketing and distribution strategies; high-energy, passionate live performances; and word-of-mouth, viral buzz. Known throughout her career for her feminist stance and activism in support of social issues like racial equality and poverty, her words embody a spirited boldness inherent in each lyric, accompanied by an energetic fusion of rock and folk music. Four of her albums have peaked at No. 1 on the

Billboard Top Independent Album chart. A career highlight remains her 2003 receipt of a Grammy for Best Recording Package for *Evolve*. Since this award, DiFranco has been nominated four consecutive times in this category.

In other endeavors, DiFranco recently released her first book, titled *Ani DiFranco: Verses*, expressing her thoughts and feelings through a collection of poems and paintings from the 1990s to the year 2006. Equally known for effective political and social advocacy as she is for her music, DiFranco received the 2006 Woman of Courage Award at the National Organization for Women (NOW) Conference and Young Feminist Summit in Albany, New York. DiFranco is the first musician to receive the award.

Paul Taylor Dance Company

Tuesday, July 8, 2008 at 8:30 p.m.

\$38 in-house; \$8 lawn

Returning to the Filene center stage for their fourth performance, this contemporary dance company is one of the world's most sought after dance troupes. Since the company's humble beginnings in 1954, D.C. native Paul Taylor and his dancers have represented the United States at arts festivals in more than 40 countries, with original work commissioned by leading companies, theaters and presenting organizations. Maintaining a strong international presence, Taylor's troupe has travelled abroad for performances in over 520 cities in 62 countries. The company consists of sixteen dancers: Lisa Viola, Richard Chen See, Michael Trusnovec, Annmaria Mazzini, Orion Duckstein, Amy Young, Robert Kleinendorst, Julie Tice, James Samson, Michelle Fleet, Parisa Khobdeh, Sean Patrick Mahoney, Jeffrey Smith, Eran Bugge, Francisco Graciano, and Laura Halzack.

53 years after his company's inception, Taylor has amassed a collection of 125 dances performed by his own troupe as well as by other renowned ballets and modern dance companies here and abroad. The Company also has a reputation for giving guidance and encouragement to students who wish to start their own company. Dancers and choreographers who emerged from his company over the years include David Parsons, Twyla Tharp, Laura Dean, Dan Wagoner, Christopher Gillis and Senta Driver. Taylor and company have appeared in PBS programs nine times, including a 1999 feature in Matthew Diamond's *PBS American Masters* series.

Chicago

Wednesday, July 9, 2008 at 8:00 p.m.

\$45 in-house; \$30 lawn

Producers of 30 albums in 40 years, Chicago returns for their sixth performance at the Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts. Likely to perform several of their thirteen new power-pop, country tinged ballads featured on the band's 2006 release *Chicago XXX*, Chicago will also draw from classic material that has made them one of the top 10 best-selling groups in the United States.

First brought together in 1967 by band member Walter Parazaider, Chicago became known for their eclectic mix of rock, classical, jazz, R&B, and pop. To further their career, the band relocated to Los Angeles in 1969 and released its self-titled debut, *Chicago Transit Authority*. After shortening their name simply to Chicago in 1970, the group released *Chicago II*, which introduced the trademark logo and began the numbering sequence that would title almost all of their albums. Chicago continues to thrive on their reputation for exciting live concerts, highlighted by passionate performances of hit songs "Hard to Say I'm Sorry," "Hard Habit to Break," and "You're the Inspiration," to name a few.

NSO@Wolf Trap - Tcheers for Tchaikovsky

Thursday, July 10, 2008 at 8:15 p.m.

Tickets range from \$20 to \$48

The National Symphony Orchestra makes their second of ten 2008 appearances on the Filene Center stage alongside guest conductor Andrew Grams and violinist Ilya Gringolts, performing excerpts from such classics as *The Nutcracker* and *Sleeping Beauty*. Conductor Andrew Grams is in his third season as assistant conductor of The Cleveland Orchestra/American Symphony Orchestra League Conducting Fellow. A Maryland native, Grams began conducting at 17, when he led the World Youth Symphony Orchestra at Interlochen Arts Camp in Michigan. Although Grams still a relatively young professional in his field, he has performed with a variety of other orchestral ensembles including the Brooklyn Philharmonic, New Jersey Symphony, Orchestra of St. Luke's, and the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra.

Also appearing with the National Symphony Orchestra is distinguished violinist Ilya Gringolts. Gringolts has garnered worldwide recognition amongst the chamber music community for his

success in the 1998 International Violin Competition “Premio Paganini,” while also receiving two awards for the youngest ever competitor to be placed in the final and the best interpreter of Paganini’s *Caprices*. With regard to his appearance schedule, Gringolts is in very high demand with a resume that includes extensive tours of Asia and Australasia, including visits to Kuala Lumpur in which he toured with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Western Australia Symphony Orchestra, Tasmania Symphony Orchestra, New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, and the Auckland Philharmonia. Gringolts received his education under the tutelage of Tatiana Liberova, Jeanna Metallidi, Itzhak Perlman, and the late Dorothy Delay.

NSO@Wolf Trap - An Evening with Kiri Te Kanawa

Friday, July 11, 2008 at 8:15 p.m.

Tickets range from \$55 to \$20

This elegant soprano makes her only D.C.-area appearance at the Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts on the evening of July 11, backed by the District’s own National Symphony Orchestra. Widely regarded as one of the finest opera singers of her time with frequent appearances at the world’s leading opera houses including Covent Garden, the Metropolitan, the Chicago Lyric Opera, Paris Opera, and the Sydney Opera House, Dame Kiri’s vocal abilities translate to a wide array of musical contexts, most notably as a concert recitalist. In addition to performances with the Chicago Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, London Symphony, and the Boston Symphony, Dame Kiri nows add a performance with the National Symphony Orchestra at Wolf Trap’s Filene Center to her list of career accolades.

Aside from her operatic and recitalist achievements, her recordings consist of Mozart concert arias, the Strauss *Four Last Songs*, *Songs of the Auvergne* (top of the best-seller charts in Britain), Berlioz’s *Nuits d’été*, Brahms’ *German Requiem*, Handel’s *Messiah*, and the Beethoven 9th and Mahler 4th Symphonies. Other departures from opera include interpretations of American popular songs, most visible on her collaboration with Nelson Riddle on the record *Blue Skies*, featuring recordings of Gershwin, Porter, and Kern songs, and American theater classics *My Fair Lady*, *South Pacific*, and Bernstein’s only recording of *West Side Story*.

Dame Kiri's international appeal was confirmed upon performing as a soloist at the 1981 wedding of HRH Prince Charles to the late Princess Diana in St Paul's Cathedral, which was telecast to over 600 million people. Wolf Trap welcomes her in this exciting debut event alongside the National Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Emile De Cou.

NSO@Wolf Trap - This Way to Broadway

Saturday, July 12, 2008 at 8:15 p.m.

Tickets range from \$20 to \$40

World renowned, multi-award-winning conductor and composer Marvin Hamlisch makes his highly anticipated return to the Filene Center stage, leading the National Symphony Orchestra through an evening of Broadway favorites including hits by George Gershwin and Irving Berlin, and tunes from his own Pulitzer Prize-winning production, *A Chorus Line*. Program however, is subject to change. Hamlisch has won a staggering number of prestigious awards including three Oscars, four Grammys, four Emmys, a Tony, and three Golden Globes. The Julliard alumnus has scored various films including *Three Men and a Baby* and *Save the Tiger*.

Hootie & The Blowfish w/ Drew Davis Band

Sunday, July 13, 2008 at 8:00 p.m.

\$40 in-house; \$28 lawn

Hitting the road again this summer as advocates for enhanced childhood education and environmental sustainability, Hootie and The Blowfish return for their fifth and potentially final time on the Filene Center stage, given their recently announced plans for an indefinite hiatus. As is their yearly tradition, two-time Grammy Award-winning Hootie & The Blowfish will perform as part of their nationwide Homegrown Concert Series; an effort designed to collect supplies for city schools in need through ticket-holder donations. The band—made up of Mark Bryan, Dean Felber, Darius Rucker, and Jim Sonefeld—launched this initiative after the overwhelming success of an education awareness hometown concert in Charleston, South Carolina, where attendees filled a 55-seat school bus with supplies that would later be donated to local schools in need. In 2006, the band took the Homegrown Tour to a national level, expanding the tour to 12 dates where combined efforts with the fans have helped raise more than \$100,000 and 21 busloads worth of much needed school supplies for children.

This multi-platinum selling band is also this year's headlining act for Wolf Trap's inaugural **National Arts and Environment Summit**. The two-day event begins on **Sunday, July 13** with environmentally responsible components of the evening's activities planned with assistance from **Reverb**. Founded by environmentalists Lauren Sullivan and Adam Gardner, Reverb is deeply rooted within the music and environmental communities, working to educate and engage musicians and their fans in environmental sustainability. Concert-goers, Wolf Trap supporters, and the local community will be encouraged through the evening's festivities to "**Start Where You Are**" and join Wolf Trap on its journey to become a zero waste and carbon neutral organization devoted to an environmentally and socially responsible future.

Drew Davis Band

In town for their Wolf Trap debut, the Drew Davis Band arrive as opening support for Hootie and the Blowfish, armed with their debut single, "Back There All the Time," which is currently climbing *Billboard's* Hot Country Songs charts. The Drew Davis Band came together in 2004, when they entered a local talent competition and found themselves winning the first level of the Colgate Country Showdown. The band went on to win the state, regional, and national titles from the competition, along with a cash prize of \$100,000. Their success in the contest caught the ear of singer-songwriter Jeffrey Steele, who agreed to produce their debut album. The band includes lead singer Drew Davis, guitar/fiddle player Mike Drake, guitar/mandolin/banjo player Loren Ellis, drum player Jay Hawks, bass player Mo Levone, and keyboard player Roger Malinowski.

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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