

High-resolution downloadable images of Pilobolus, James Taylor, *RAIN* - The Beatles Experience, *H.M.S Pinafore*, *The Gondoliers*, and Emmylou Harris are all available on Wolf Trap's Web site: <http://www.wolftrap.org/Media and Newsroom/Photos for Publication.aspx>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Month of June Heats Up With First Time Performances From James Taylor and his Band of Legends, and a Psychedelic Recreation of Beatlemania with *RAIN* - The Beatles Experience

Vienna, VA—Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts begins the week of June 16 on a unique note with an athletically graceful dance performance from Pilobolus on Tuesday, June 17. Legendary Grammy winner James Taylor debuts on the Filene center stage on Wednesday, June 18, followed by *RAIN* – The Beatles Experience, a psychedelic blast from the past on Thursday, June 19. The week continues with theatrical comedies from the New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players in *H.M.S. Pinafore* and *The Gondoliers* on Friday and Saturday, June 20-21st. Closing out the week is Washington D.C. local Emmylou Harris accompanied by special guest Jimmy Gaudreau and Moondi Klein.

Pilobolus

Tuesday, June 17 @ 8:30 p.m.
\$38 in house \$8 lawn

Wolf Trap welcomes back the unique style of this dance troupe for its fifth performance on the Filene Center stage. These dancer-athletes combine a startling mix of clever humor and athletic grace. In 1971 a dance class from Dartmouth College produced this collaborative choreographic process for the first time. With its unique weight-sharing approach to partnering, this style of dance gave the young company a non-traditional but powerful new set of skills. Soon the group became known and continued thriving with tremendous help from its participants. The members of this self-sufficient organization choreograph, dance, manage, and publicize their own programs, creating a well balanced team both on and off the stage. The company remains a deeply collaborative effort with an executive director, three artistic directors, and seven dancers contributing to the company's lasting reputation.

James Taylor and his Band of Legends

Wednesday, June 18 @ 8:00 p.m.

Tickets range from \$75 - \$30

The Filene Center welcomes five-time Grammy award-winning singer/songwriter James Taylor for his highly anticipated Wolf Trap debut. With 40 million albums sold worldwide and reputed as a pop music legend, Taylor remains an icon amongst his peers and the general public. Raised in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, Taylor began playing cello and guitar as a child and then branched out into singing and songwriting. Coming from a musically talented family, Taylor took his cue from his mother Gertrude, a celebrated soprano from Newburyport, Massachusetts. During his teen years, Taylor formed a folk duo with Danny Kortchmar; a band that played backup for his brother, Alex; and the more popular rock band The Flying Machine with Kortchmar and Joel O'Brien. He later moved to London where he released his first solo album, *James Taylor* (1968). After the album's distribution in the United States, he made his solo premiere performance at the Troubadour in Los Angeles and has continued to tour regularly ever since.

With his smooth soft rock sounds and poetic lyrics, Taylor has produced classics such as "Fire and Rain," "Country Road," and "Something in the Way She Moves," all receiving both public attention and critical acclaim. Taylor's music has been so successful that out of his 26 career releases, 18 were certified gold, platinum, or multiplatinum. His list of albums includes *Sweet Baby James* (1970), *JT* (1977), *Never Die Young* (1988), and *October Road* (2002). *Greatest Hits* (1976) joined the list of best sellers in 1996 when it received the diamond award from the Recording Industry Association of America upon selling more than 10 million copies. In addition, nine of Taylor's albums and 18 of his singles have reached the Top 10 on the *Billboard* charts, including five No. 1 singles. Taylor also received *Billboard's* highest honor, the Century Award for Creative Achievement in 1998, and induction into both the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Songwriter's Hall of Fame in 2000.

RAIN - The Beatles Experience

Thursday, June 19 @ 8:00 p.m.

\$40 in house \$22 lawn

Debuting on the Filene Center stage, *RAIN – The Beatles Experience* covers the Beatle era from the earliest beginnings through the psychedelic late 60s and their long-haired hippie, hard-rocking rooftop days. *RAIN* is a multimedia, multi-dimensional experience with a fusion of historical footage and hilarious television commercials from the 1960s, emphasized by large video screens and zoom cameras for close-ups. Patrons will enjoy such Beatle favorites as “Let It Be,” “Hey Jude,” “My Guitar Gently Weeps,” “Come Together,” and “Can’t Buy Me Love.” The ensemble features Joey Curatolo, Joe Bithorn, Ralph Castelli, and David Leon, all of whom starred in the Broadway production of *Beatlemania*.

H.M.S. Pinafore

Friday, June 20 @ 8:00 p.m.

Tickets range from \$48 - \$8

Experience an evening of music and laughter as a cast of sailors, sisters, cousins, and aunts sing and dance their way across the deck of the British naval vessel with the improbable name, *H.M.S. Pinafore*. First performed at the Opera Comique, London, on May 25, 1878, the show’s timeless satirical jabs at the British Navy, romantic struggles between members of various social classes, and parliamentary politics continue to resonate with theater-goers on both sides of the Atlantic.

The New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players’ production of *H.M.S. Pinafore* features an elaborate setting of a ship’s deck, based on drawings by Gilbert himself, and Belle Epoch costumes. Featuring a full orchestra, this production offers energetic action, lively choreography, and broad comedy. From a musical standpoint, Wolf Trap audiences will recognize such numbers as “I’m called little Buttercup” “I am the Captain of the Pinafore”, and “We Sail the Ocean Blue”.

The Gondoliers

Saturday, June 21 @ 8:00 p.m.

Tickets range from \$48 - \$8

Premiering in London, England on December 7, 1889, with its last Wolf Trap performance in 1978, *The Gondoliers* is perhaps the most celebrated of Gilbert & Sullivan’s 14 comic operas with the exception of *H.M.S. Pinafore* and *The Mikado*. Following its 1889 premiere, *The Gondoliers* ran for a successful 554 performances, which made it one of the longest running

musical theater productions in live performance history. Much like *H.M.S. Pinafore*, the libretto reflects a sharp criticism of British nobility and emphasizes a satirical relationship between Britain's many social classes.

The elaborate story line includes two sets of principal roles, and two story lines that weave seamlessly into one at the conclusion of the second act. In addition to its progressive storyline, *The Gondoliers* features complex score elements and elaborate choreography, making it one of the most challenging and satisfying of the G&S operettas.

Emmylou Harris w/ Jimmy Gaudreau and Moondi Klein

Sunday, June 22 @ 8:00 p.m.

\$40 in house \$22 lawn

Currently touring in support of her upcoming June 10 release *All I Intend to Be*, Emmylou Harris has attracted Washington, D.C. and Wolf Trap music fans for more than 30 years with her crystalline voice and harmonious lyrics. After studying music at the University of North Carolina, she followed the call of the thriving East Coast folk music scene and moved to New York, where she became part of the Greenwich club circuit. Soon thereafter Harris released her debut album, *Gilded Bird*, followed by a return to the Washington, D.C. area in 1970.

While performing several shows in downtown Washington, D.C. clubs she met Chris Hillman, who was a former member of the band Flying Burrito Brothers. Hillman later introduced Harris to young country-rocker, and Burrito band mate, Gram Parson. She moved to California and joined Parson for a brief, but career boosting, musical partnership, which led to a major label contract after a relocation back to D.C. in 1973.

Her first major label album, 1975's *Pieces of the Sky*, launched her national career and produced her first Top 5 hit, "If I Could Only Win Your Love." Harris's musical accolades include 12 Grammys, Country Music Association Best Female Vocalist, eight gold albums, and induction into the Country Music Hall of Fame. As a longtime social activist, she has lent her voice and energy to many causes, including the Humane Society, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, and the Campaign for a Landmine Free World. Recently Harris collaborated with Wolf Trap's 2008 artist Mark Knopfler on the 2006 album, *All the Roadrunning*.

Jimmy Gaudreau and Moondi Kleina

Rhode Island native Jimmy Gaudreau and New York City-raised Lawrence “Moondi” Klein are known for their successful performances of bluegrass roots and southern mountain music.

Gaudreau and Klein are top performers and veterans of some of the major bluegrass bands—the Country Gentlemen, the Seldom Scene, J.D. Crowe and the New South, and the Tony Rice Unit.

In 1996, Gaudreau, Klein, and other Seldom Scene veterans formed Chesapeake, a band that blended the sounds of country, bluegrass, folk, blues, and jazz. Although Chesapeake disbanded, Gaudreau and Klein teamed up again last summer for a tour of England and Scotland. The recording project for that tour produced their new CD, *2:10 Train*.

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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