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Marilyn Horne Foundation sponsors vocalist and pianist in residence at Georgia Southern Oct. 2-5

SEPTEMBER 25, 2006

Thanks to the generosity of the Marilyn Horne Foundation, two talented musical artists will be in residence at Georgia Southern University Monday, Oct. 2, to Thursday, Oct. 5. In addition to interacting with Georgia Southern music students during their residence, bass vocalist Jason Hardy and pianist Jerome Tan will perform at Greenbriar High School and the Davidson Fine Arts Academy in Augusta, Statesboro High School, and the Savannah Arts Academy.

Hardy and Tan will also present a free public concert Thursday, Oct. 5, at 7:30 p.m. in the Carter Recital Hall of the Foy Fine Arts Building at the University. Their program, titled 'Youth and Love,' will include works by Vaughan Williams, Strauss, Schumann, Finzi, Bernstein, Hahn, Tchaikovsky, and Rachmaninov.

'The Marilyn Horne Foundation's program has launched the careers of some of today's most popular artists,' said Dr. Allen Henderson, chair of the Department of Music at Georgia Southern. 'In recent years young artists I have worked with through this foundation have come to us from debuts at the Met and other significant career events. I am pleased to be able to bring this relationship with the Marilyn Horne Foundation to Georgia Southern and look forward to their continued sponsorship in coming years.'

Acclaimed on the opera, concert, and recital stage, bass Jason Hardy is emerging as one of today's most versatile artists. He has performed song repertoire and vocal chamber works ranging from Purcell to Prokofiev at the prestigious Marlboro Music Festival. He has presented recitals nationwide under the auspices of the Marilyn Horne Foundation, including a debut recital at Weill Hall, where he performed the world premiere of John Musto's "viva sweet love." Mr. Hardy is also a founding member of the Southeastern Festival of Song. He recently released his first solo CD, titled "Youth and Love."

Hardy has given numerous performances at Carnegie Hall, including Mozart's "Requiem" and "Ein Deutes Requiem" by Brahms, both under the baton of John Rutter. Concert highlights also include a debut at the Kennedy Center and appearances with the National Symphony Orchestra, New York Choral Society, and the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. He recently performed the role of Polyphemus (Acis and Galatea) in his debut with New York City Opera.

Hardy was a Regional Finalist in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, National Finalist for the Lyric Opera of Chicago Center for American Artists, Grand Prize-winner of both the Florida Grand Opera Competition and the Heinz Rehfuss Singing Actor Competition, and a winner in the Liederkrantz Foundation, Palm Beach Opera, Fort Worth Opera, Opera Birmingham, Connecticut Opera, and the Oratorio Society of New York vocal competitions. He is also the recipient of a Sullivan Foundation Career Grant.

A recipient of the Artist Diploma from the Peabody Conservatory, he currently lives in Atlanta, Georgia.

Pianist Jerome Tan was born in Singapore. He came to the United States on a music scholarship to the Peabody Conservatory of Music of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. In his studies at Peabody, he received a bachelor's degree in music, a master's degree in solo piano performance, and a master's degree in ensemble arts; also while there he was awarded a number of scholarships and merit awards.

For further information, telephone the Georgia Southern Department of Music at 912-681-5396.

Irish Folk Music Nights Oct. 9-10

SEPTEMBER 25, 2006

Irish Folk Music Nights will be held on Monday, Oct. 9, and Tuesday, Oct. 10. Popular and acclaimed Celtic folk musician Harry O'Donoghue will perform two shows each evening at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. at the French Quarter café in downtown Statesboro.

O'Donoghue, who is no stranger to the Georgia Southern, Statesboro and Savannah communities, has anchored Irish Folk Music Nights for a decade and uses his wit to bring the spirit of Ireland to life in music that appeals to people of all ages. He combines superb vocal and instrumental talents with a charismatic stage presence. O'Donoghue also hosts the popular radio show, *The Green Island*, broadcast weekly statewide on Georgia Public Radio.

Irish Folk Music Nights are sponsored by Georgia Southern's Center for Irish Studies in cooperation with the French Quarter Café. Admission is \$2 per person and reservations are recommended. Reservations can be made by calling (912) 489-3233. Due to high demand for Irish Folk Music Nights, reservations not honored 15 minutes into the show may be lost.

Irish Series focuses on Celtic identity

SEPTEMBER 25, 2006

Throughout the fall, the Center for Irish Studies at Georgia Southern University is presenting a series of lectures, discussions and workshops focusing on the seven Celtic nations and the larger topic of regionalism among those nations.

The series continues Tuesday, Oct. 17 at 7 p.m. with 'Celticness: The Modern Invention of an Identity," a lecture and discussion by Barbara Hendry, associate professor of anthropology, and Howard Keeley, assistant professor of literature and director of the Center for Irish Studies. Their talk will take place in Room 1004 of the College of Information Technology Building, and it is free and open to the public.

Well into the twentieth century, many have thought the Celts to be an ancient Indo-European race that invaded Britain, Ireland and nearby regions during the Copper and Bronze Ages. Archaeologists and paleolinguists are increasingly convinced that such an invasion never occurred but that the Celtic footprint in the Atlantic lands, now known as Celtic, was only partial the result of trade, not war.

In their lecture, Hendry and Keeley will outline and assess several key Celtic awakenings in modern Europe. They will trace an arc to our times, while considering the individuals and initiatives that produced modern Celticity.

To learn more about the Center for Irish Studies, go to <http://class.georgiasouthern.edu/irish/home.htm>.