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Mark O'Connor's Appalachia Waltz Trio will play at Performing Arts Center on April 27

MARCH 19, 2007

Mark O'Connor has been hailed as one of the most gifted composers and musicians of his generation.

The Grammy Award-winning violinist will bring his unique combination of bluegrass, jazz and classical music to the Performing Arts Center (PAC) at Georgia Southern University.

Mark O'Connor's Appalachia Waltz Trio will appear at the PAC on Friday, April 27, at 7:30 p.m.

Accompanied by Carol Cook on the viola and Natalie Haas on the cello, O'Connor produces a truly original sound that one critic described as 'chamber music without boundaries.'

Tickets for Mark O'Connor's Appalachia Waltz Trio are \$30 plus tax per person for the general public. Georgia Southern faculty, staff and students will receive a 10 percent discount. Groups of 15 or more people from outside the University community are also eligible for a 10 percent discount.

In addition, if any tickets are available 10 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the performance, any Georgia Southern student with a valid University I.D. can purchase one ticket for \$10 plus tax.

A product of America's rich folk aural tradition, O'Connor first honed his craft at the feet of legendary Texas fiddler Benny Thomasson and famous French jazz violinist Stephanie Grappelli. Between these two extremes, O'Connor absorbed a multitude of musical styles and genres.

Along the way, O'Connor melded and shaped the various influences into a new American classical music, prompting a critic for the Los Angeles Times to note that he has 'crossed over so many boundaries that his style is purely personal.'

O'Connor has recorded more than 20 albums and collected two Grammy Awards. In 1991, he took home the award for Best Country Instrumental Performance for 'The New Nashville Cats.' In 2000, he earned the award for Best Classical Crossover Album for 'Appalachian Journey,' his collaboration with Yo-Yo Ma and Edgar Meyer.

In addition, O'Connor contributed music to the soundtracks for two motion pictures, 'The Patriot' and 'Gods and Generals.' He also contributed to the soundtrack of a six-part PBS documentary on the American Revolution.

O'Connor has performed at the White House, the Presidential Inauguration Celebration and the Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta. During a recent stop on his current tour, he performed with Roseanne Cash in New York City.

The PAC is located on the Georgia Southern campus at the corner of Chandler Road and Plant Drive. The box office is open every Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. If there is an event on a Monday, the box office will be open on that day from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. The box office is also open one hour prior to the start of each performance.

To purchase tickets or obtain additional information, call (912) 486-7999 or toll free (866) PAC-ARTS, or visit the PAC Web site at <http://ceps.georgiasouthern.edu/pac>. –

Georgia history comes to life in *A Scholar Under Siege*

MARCH 19, 2007

When *A Scholar Under Siege* makes its world-premiere debut Friday, April 20, at Georgia Southern University, audiences will welcome a new American opera that tells one of the nation's and Georgia's most colorful 20th century political stories.

Georgia's populist governor of the 1930s and early 40s, Eugene Talmadge, listened to a handful of friends and supporters who believed in the sovereignty of "southern tradition," and through controlling the Board of Regents fired Georgia Southern President Marvin Pittman in 1941. He charged Pittman with using college staff and equipment to improve his farm near the college not mentioning that Pittman had assigned the profits of his farm to the college. He also criticized Pittman for entertaining faculty from the all-black Tuskegee Institute and circulating books in the library that advocated interracial cooperation. The fiery hearing that resulted provides the story for *A Scholar Under Siege*.

Although the conflict that unfolds in *A Scholar Under Siege* was sometimes overshadowed by America's entrance into World War II, Talmadge's effort to squelch academic freedom in Georgia eventually became national news.

'Composer Michael Braz is highly respected both at Georgia Southern University and among his musical colleagues around the world," said Jane Hudak, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences at Georgia Southern. 'He's a valued colleague at Georgia Southern and a much-loved member of the Statesboro community, too.'

Although music is his first love, Braz has always had a fascination with both philosophy and comparative religions. In 1996, as an extension of these interests, Braz first began trekking in the Nepal Himalaya. In addition to the Kathmandu Valley, he has traveled in the Annapurna/Pokhara

area and, more recently, in the Mustang region bordering Tibet. A much of the of *A Scholar Under Siege* was conceived during his travels in this region.

The debut of *A Scholar Under Siege* takes place Friday, April 20, at 7:30 p.m. at Georgia Southern University's Performing Arts Center in Statesboro, Ga. Additional performances are Saturday, April 21, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, April 22 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults (including faculty) and \$5 for Georgia Southern students with ID and children under 18.

Tickets for *A Scholar Under Siege* are on sale at the Performing Arts Center Box Office. To purchase tickets, call the 1-800-PAC-ARTS or go to <http://ceps.georgiasouthern.edu/pac/pactickets.html>.

ArtsFest '07 at Georgia Southern University April 14

MARCH 19, 2007

It's our 25th anniversary! ArtsFest '07, the largest spring festival in the Statesboro area, is coming to Sweetheart Circle at Georgia Southern University on Saturday, April 14, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Come and celebrate this year's festival and its new and exciting activities!

"The spring arts festival has been a premier event at Georgia Southern for decades," says Betty Foy Sanders Art Department Chair Trish Carter. "After 25 years, literally generations of families hold fond memories of this event that was once a part of their childhood, and is now part of their children's experience."

ArtsFest '07 is an event that celebrates the visual, musical, literary, and performance arts while honoring creativity and cultural development. This 25-year-old festival is like no other in its range of art and cultural presentations and breadth of regional and national participants. After the success of last year's festival, ArtsFest '07 promises more fun for all ages with a mix of brand new events and festival favorites!

ArtsFest '07 will feature a juried Artist's Market with distinguished artists from the low country selling their art work and demonstrating their art forms, which include jewelry, photography, basketry, painting, pottery and more. Non-stop musical attractions fill the all-day schedule and include a variety of musical groups, vocal, and dramatic performers. There will be a new look this year with different activities and events that children and adults of all ages will find exciting and entertaining. A rock wall, a 5K morning run, and more than 25 ArtStops where everyone will be able to create art are some of this year's activities.

ArtsFest '07 is a free event that is open to the public. The festival will be held from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., with setup beginning at 8 am. For more information on how you can participate, volunteer, or support an activity, contact ArtsFest '07 Coordinators, Marsha Lott at (912) 681-5284 (marshalott@georgiasouthern.edu) or Emily Peterson at (912) 681-5284 (emily_b.peterson@georgiasouthern.edu). You may also contact the Art Department main office at (912) 681-5358.