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Musical Series to Celebrate Reopening of Foy Building at Georgia Southern University

MARCH 26, 2009



Georgia Southern University's Department of Music is celebrating its return to the newly renovated and expanded Foy building with a series of musical events running April 1-8.

Foy recently reopened its doors to faculty, staff and students after a remodeling process that began in August 2007. The renovations added nearly 4,000 square feet and redesigned the existing facilities into spaces suitable for music rehearsal and performance.

The series begins on April 1 at 7:30 p.m., with a two-piano recital featuring faculty member and department chair Richard Mercier and guest artist Marcelina Turcanu from Georgia College & State University. Mercier, a pianist and author, joined the Georgia Southern University faculty in 2008. He has performed extensively as a collaborative pianist and soloist throughout the United States as well as in Canada, Europe and China, where he has an open invitation for future performances and master classes.

Turcanu has performed extensively in Russia, Sweden, Romania, Germany, Spain, Greece, France, Italy, Portugal, Haiti and the United States. The Stockholm News has called her a pianist of "noble playing, combining a remarkable technique with a delicate and seductive tone," and The St. Petersburg Times has called her "a passionate, generous and dramatic musician of an extreme concentration."

A Georgia Southern alumna, Laura Brooks Rice, from Westminster Choir College, will present a master's class for singers from 2:30-5 p.m. on April 3. Rice, a mezzo-soprano, has won acclaim on the opera and concert stage for her rich, warm voice, musicality, charm and sensitive acting ability.

International solo saxophonist, recording artist and educator Otis Murphy will take the stage at 7:30 p.m. on April 5. Saxophone Journal has judged Murphy's musicianship to represent "a hallmark of all the artistry and craftsmanship involved in saxophone performance." He has, says the publication, "a bright and rich sound that at times is pure emotion singing from the artist's very essence."

The series wraps up April 8 with a guest performance by the Georgia Guitar Quartet at 7:30 p.m. The Georgia Guitar Quartet has emerged as an exciting new voice in today's chamber music scene. These four young men from the American South deliver a high-energy blend of breathtaking virtuosity and imaginative programming while taking an adventurous approach to classical music.

All performances will take place in the Carol A. Carter Recital Hall located inside the Foy Building on the Georgia Southern University campus. All events are free and open to the public. Seating is limited, so call ahead to reserve tickets at 912-478-5396.

Georgia Southern University, a Carnegie Doctoral/Research University, offers 116 degree programs serving nearly 18,000 students. Through eight colleges, the University offers bachelors, masters and doctoral degree programs built on more than a century of academic achievement. The University, one of Georgia's largest, is a top choice of Georgia's HOPE scholars and is recognized for its student-centered approach to education. Visit: www.georgiasouthern.edu. - See more at: <http://news.georgiasouthern.edu/pressrelease.php?id=1793#sthash.169cGqq6.dpuf>