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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: June 24, 2009

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THE ARTS COUNCIL

SMITHGALL ARTS CENTER SUMMER SERIES

ANNOUNCED FOR 2009

The 2009 Summer Series promises to have something for everyone...from children and families to beach music dance enthusiasts to lovers of the soothing sounds of a world class symphony orchestra.

The Summer Series opens with a fun family performance by Mallory Lewis and Lamb Chop on Sunday, July 12th in Brenau University's Pearce Auditorium. The performance begins at 2:30pm. As the daughter of a beloved children's entertainer-Sherry Lewis, MALLORY LEWIS has been deeply involved in children's entertainment her entire life. A multiple Emmy Award nominee and Emmy Award winner for "Outstanding Writing in a Children's Series," Lewis has an extensive background in all aspects of television production, including writing, producing, and performing. She began her career at age 12 working with her mother by ghostwriting for her newspaper column. After writing and producing for the Lamb Chop's Play-Along show, Lewis assumed the responsibilities of her mother's three prime-time variety specials, and served as executive story editor and producer of The Charlie Horse Music Pizza.

Following her mother's death, Lewis began appearing with Lamb Chop at live and televised events, performing in more than 400 shows at such venues as The Magic Castle and aboard the Queen Elizabeth 2. She has toured with the USO, entertaining the troops and their families around the world.

As an author, Lewis has penned 20 children's novels, including the popular Adventurers Inc. and Zoey and Me series.

Most recently Mally is also honoring her mother's legacy with her new DVD series, Phonics 4 Babies. The first DVD in the series, titled "Babies 1st Words" is currently available in stores and at

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phonics4babies.com. The second title in the series, titled Family and Friends will hit the stores Feb 25 '08.

Tickets for this family fun program are \$10 for adults and \$8 for children and students. For more information contact the Arts Council at 770-534-2787 or www.theartscouncil.net.

On Friday, July 17th get out you dancin' shoes and picnic baskets and be ready to enjoy Benny Anderson and the sounds of The Drifters. For over four decades, Benny Anderson and The Drifters have been a trend-setting Rhythm-&-Blues group with numerous chart-topping hits to their credit. First entering Billboard's Top 40 in June, 1959 with "There Goes My Baby," The Drifters went all the way to the number two position, bound for stardom with a million-dollar seller under their belts on their first try. The hits were non-stop as The Drifters rose in popularity on Billboard's Top 40 on the Atlantic record label. In September of 1960, The Drifters hit again with "Save the Last Dance for Me," a number-one recording that spent fourteen weekend weeks on Billboard's Top 40. "Up on the Roof" made 1962 a memorable year, followed by the other popular hit "On Broadway" in 1963. In July of 1964, The Drifters entered the Top 40 again with the unforgettable "Under the Boardwalk," a number four hit single (and to date, most requested song) that spent twelve weeks on the charts. The Drifters entertain year round at concert halls, convention halls, conventions, and on cruises as well as making television appearances and performing for Presidents and other world leaders. They receive accolades whenever they perform. Audiences are dazzled by their stage appearance, smooth lyrics, and are excited when invited to be involved in their performances, whether it be dancing, singing along, or both. Let The Drifters take you back in time and re-live all those great memories from the 50's, 60's, and 70's. The Drifters have played with many phenomenal groups, including The Temptations and Four Tops. The Drifters have had a long list of singers: Clyde McPhatter, Bill Pinkney, brothers Gearheart Thrasher and Andrew Thrasher, Ben E. King, Johnny Moore, Rudy Lewis, and Charlie Thomas. But of all their lead singers, Bennie Anderson is still singing today.

Tickets for Benny Anderson and the sounds of The Drifters are \$25 per person or you can purchase a table for 8 for only \$240.00. To order your tickets call 770-534-2787 or online at www.theartscouncil.net. A rain date for the Drifters will be announced shortly.

The third event has been an annual tradition since 1975. The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra marks its 34th anniversary performance for patrons in Gainesville, Hall County, and northeast Georgia on Friday, July 24th.

Regarded as one of the most creative and innovative orchestras in North America, the 95-member Atlanta Symphony Orchestra is complemented by the acclaimed Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus and the widely recognized Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra. Serving as the cornerstone for musical performance and training in an area extending far beyond our city's borders, the ASO reaches nearly half a million people through its various concert series and its diverse initiatives in music education and outreach.

The orchestra performs more than 200 concerts each year, with its main subscription series augmented

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by pops series, family concerts, and a full summer schedule including classical, pops, and parks concerts. Its educational concerts for young people are consistently sold out and, along with outreach initiatives in schools and community centers, serve more than 50,000 youngsters annually.

Recordings by the ASO have drawn international praise, winning an Audio Excellence Award, Gramophone and Ovation Magazine Awards, and 21 Grammy Awards, including three last year. The ASO records for Telarc, with additional releases available on the Argo, New World, Nonesuch, Sony Classical, and Vox labels.

Individual tickets for the ASO are \$25 per person or you may purchase a table for 8 for the ASO performance for \$240. The rain date for the ASO is July 26th.

The performances at The Arts Council *Smithgall Arts Center* begin at 8:00pm. Season Tickets are only \$60 for all three performances. Tickets and a table for the 2009 season are \$480 which includes 8 tickets to each outdoor performance plus 2 tickets to the Mallory Lewis and Lamb Chop performance on July 12th plus 1 60" round table for each outdoor event and 8 chairs. (Rental price does not include a table cover). To order tickets call 770.534.2787 or www.theartscouncil.net.

For artist contact information call Gladys Wyant at 770-534-2787.

DIRECTIONS TO ARTS COUNCIL SMITHGALL ARTS CENTER

From Atlanta: Take I-85 north to Exit 113 bearing left onto I-985 north to Exit 20 GA Highway 60 (Queen City Pkwy/Candler Rd). Turn left onto GA 60 and proceed approximately 2 miles to intersection with GA Hwy 369 (Jesse Jewell Pkwy), turn right onto GA 369 and proceed approximately 1/2 mile to intersection with W. Academy St (poultry monument/railroad museum on left, BB&T on right) turn left onto W. Academy and proceed 2 blocks and the Arts Council *Smithgall Arts Center* will be on the right at the intersection of W. Academy and Spring Streets