

Something Old, Something New

Legendary artists and up-and-coming Irish group to warm up the winter

From groovy, finger-snapping jazz to classically American ballet to heart-stopping Irish music, the Arts Center's Presenting Series offers entertainment everyone can warm up to this winter.

Starting off the New Year is the legendary Dance Theatre of Harlem, the much-revered dance institution co-founded 40 years ago by former New York City Ballet principal Arthur Mitchell, who made history as the first black star of a major American ballet company.

Hailed by *The New York Times* as "one of ballet's most exciting undertakings," the multi-cultural dance company has achieved international acclaim for its bold and innovative neo-classical repertory and its outreach and education program Dancing Through Barriers.

On January 17, the Dance Theatre of Harlem Ensemble will bring 14 of its dancers to the Arts Center to present its new interactive family program. Performance highlights will include two one-act ballets, the pas de deux

"Greatest Love of All" and other contemporary works, such as "Joplin Dances."

Ballet Master Keith Saunders will serve as narrator and MC, introducing each piece and offering audiences a behind-the-scenes perspective of "the making of a dancer."

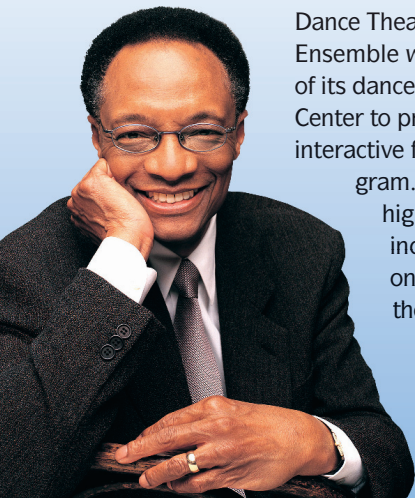
The Dance Theatre of Harlem Ensemble will be followed February 16 by Chicago jazz legend Ramsey Lewis, who topped the pop charts in the '60s with the crossover hits "The In Crowd," "Hang on Sloopy" and "Wade in the Water."

A three-time Grammy winner, Lewis altered the public's concept of jazz, producing a distinctive sound that blends gospel, blues, soul, R&B, rock and classical music.

During his 50-plus year career, the renowned pianist has recorded more than 80 albums, earning five gold records and the National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Master Award, the nation's highest jazz honor. His weekly syndicated radio program, "Legends of Jazz with Ramsey Lewis," is heard in more than 75 cities in the U.S. He also served as host of the 2006 public television series, "Legends of Jazz."

While remaining true to the jazz tradition, the Ramsey Lewis Trio boasts a richly varied catalog of music that's funky, fun and totally accessible to the casual jazz listener.

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Ramsey Lewis

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Just in time for St. Patrick's Day, the Arts Center will present Celtic Crossroads, the hottest musical act to come out of the Emerald Isle in the last two decades. Composed of seven musicians playing 20 different instruments, the group has revitalized the image of traditional Irish music by fusing it with bluegrass, gypsy, jazz and Irish dance percussion.

Their inventive arrangements and bass-driven grooves have roused crowds to standing ovations, performance after exhilarating performance. *The Galway Independent* credited Celtic Crossroads with "elevating Irish music

to an exciting and electrifying dimension."

Following three highly successful seasons in Ireland, the group presented its first concert in the United States in 2007. They were so well-received, word-of-mouth led to a sellout tour. Back on the road in 2009, Celtic Crossroads will stop on Hilton Head Island to present one concert only on March 5 in the Elizabeth Wallace Theatre.

You won't want to miss any of these exciting Presenting Series performances, so be sure to reserve your seats early. Call the box office today at 842-2787 (ARTS).



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