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**WHYY CONTINUES SECOND SEASON OF ON CANVAS PERFORMING ARTS SERIES  
WITH EIGHT NEW EPISODES FEBRUARY 11 TO APRIL 15**

*Episodes to Feature George Stanford, Arturo O’Farrill & The Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra, Cuartetango Music & Dance, Mehr and Sher Ali, Philomel Baroque Ensemble, Tempesta di Mare, Pascal Gallois, Terence Blanchard Quintet, Ragamala Music and Dance Theater and Janis Ian*

PHILADELPHIA, February 9, 2009 — WHYY continues its second season of *On Canvas*, a weekly performing-arts series that explores Greater Philadelphia’s rich, diverse cultural arts scene. *On Canvas* will feature Philadelphia native **George Stanford**’s performance at the Tin Angel on February 11. Following episodes will feature **Arturo O’Farrill & The Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra** on February 18 at The Painted Bride Art Center and **Cuartetango Music & Dance** on February 25 at the Stockton Performing Arts Center. Additionally, a special March 18 compilation episode will showcase Pakistani musicians **Mehr and Sher Ali** at The Painted Bride Art Center, **Philomel Baroque Ensemble** at the Mercer Museum and **Tempesta di Mare: No Strings Attached** at the Plays and Players Theater.

Additional episodes will feature **Terence Blanchard Quintet** on March 25 at the University of the Arts, master bassoonist **Pascal Gallois** on April 1 at Temple University’s Rock Hall, **Ragamala Music and Dance Theater** on April 8 at Montgomery County Community College and **Janis Ian** on April 15 at the Grand Opera House.

**George Stanford at the Tin Angel, 8:00 p.m. February 11**

A Philadelphia native, George Stanford returns home from Los Angeles to deliver some of the latest of his country-inspired tunes. Stanford got his start with Townhall, but went solo after the popular local band broke up in 2006. Now, with one EP and an album behind him — *The EP* and *Big Drop*, respectively — Stanford is being praised for his unique voice and sound.

Influenced by the legendary stars of country and bluegrass, Stanford offers his audience a fresh blend of instruments and genres, with a noted emphasis on the stories within his songs. Stanford played the Tin Angel in the Old City section of Philadelphia on December 5, 2008.



**Arturo O’Farrill & The Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra at The Painted Bride Art Center, 8:00 p.m. February 18**

Arturo O’Farrill, the famed pianist, composer, educator and winner of the Latin Jazz USA Outstanding Achievement Award for 2003, is the founder of the 18-piece Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra. O’Farrill’s debut album with the orchestra, *Una Noche Inolvidable* earned a Grammy Award nomination in 2006. Their latest release, *Song for Chico*, in 2008, has also been nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Latin Jazz Album.

O’Farrill and the orchestra brought the rhythms and heat of Latin jazz to Philadelphia when they performed at The Painted Bride Art Center in Philadelphia’s Old City section on September 20, 2008. Joining the orchestra was special guest and pre-eminent Latin jazz bassist Andy Gonzalez.

**Cuartetango Music & Dance at the Stockton Performing Arts Center, 8:00 p.m. February 25**

The Cuartetango **Music & Dance** is an innovative group of musicians at the forefront of new tango, accomplishing all the aggressive nuances of the genre with a bare skeleton of instruments, just two violins, a viola and cello. The band’s 2006 debut record, *L’Atelier*, incorporates classic works from the golden age of tango and original arrangements from new tango.

The quartet is led by violinist, composer and director Leonardo Suarez Paz, son of violinist Fernando Suarez Paz, a leader in the new-tango revolution. Paz and the three other members of Cuartetango — Alejandro Drago (violin), Ron Lawrence (viola) and Daniel Miller (cello) — are regarded as some of the best tango and classical soloists from Buenos Aires and New York. Cuartetango played the Stockton Performing Arts Center on the campus of The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey in Pomona, N.J., on October 18, 2008.

***Special Compilation Episode***

**Mehr and Sher Ali, Philomel Baroque Ensemble and Tempesta di Mare, 8:00 p.m. March 18**

**Mehr and Sher Ali**

Born in the Pakistani border town of Kasur, brothers Mehr and Sher Ali were trained from an early age in Sufi philosophy, poetry, texts and Qawwali, the spiritual and devotional music performed by Sufis.

Internationally recognized as among the best Qawwali performers, Mehr and Sher Ali strike a balance between the musical quality of performance and an authentic presentation of traditional Sufi texts. Mehr and Sher Ali performed at The Painted Bride Art Center in the Old City section of Philadelphia on May 4, 2008.



### **Philomel Baroque Ensemble**

Founded in 1976, Philomel is considered one of Philadelphia's foremost baroque ensembles. The ensemble performed a program of 17th and 18th century sonatas and concertos by Vivaldi, Telemann and other gems of the High Baroque period on February 9, 2008, at the Mercer Museum in Doylestown, Pennsylvania.

### **Tempesta di Mare**

One of the only permanent baroque ensembles in Pennsylvania, Tempesta di Mare showcases Baroque opera in a new and alternative way with the help of master puppeteer Doug Roysdon. Tempesta di Mare weaves together puppetry, dance and performance with the musical texts of Claudio Monteverdi's *Battle of Tancredi* and George Frideric Handel's *Through the Flames*. Marguerite Krull (soprano) and David Newman (baritone) provide vocal talents. Tempesta di Mare's latest CD, *Fasch Orchestral Music*, was released in 2008. The group performed at the Plays and Players Theater in the Rittenhouse Square section of Philadelphia on March 7, 2008.

### **Terence Blanchard Quintet at Levitt Auditorium, University of the Arts, 8:00 p.m. March 25**

Terence Blanchard is an internationally renowned jazz trumpeter, bandleader, composer and arranger. Born and raised in New Orleans, Blanchard emerged on the jazz scene in 1980 with the Lionel Hampton Orchestra and shortly afterward with Art Blakely and the Jazz Messengers. Still a New Orleans resident, Blanchard is the Artistic Director of The Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz Performance at Loyola University.

Blanchard is perhaps best known for his prolific work in the film industry. His trumpet can be heard on almost 50 film scores, and he has composed the score for all of Spike Lee's films since *Jungle Fever* in 1991. He recently scored the original music for Darnell Martin's Cadillac Records. He most recently composed the music for Darnell Martin's film *Cadillac Records* and won a Grammy this year for Best Jazz Instrumental Solo. The Terence Blanchard Quintet performed at Levitt Auditorium at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia on October 31, 2008.

### **Pascal Gallois at Rock Hall, Temple University, 8:00 p.m. April 1**

Pascal Gallois is one of the world's most celebrated and active bassoonists. Specializing in music of the postwar and beyond, Gallois has performed world premieres of new compositions and impressive performances at festivals and conservatories around the globe.

Gallois performed with pianist Charles Abramovic at Temple University's Rock Hall in Philadelphia on October 30, 2008.



**Ragamala Music and Dance Theater at Montgomery County Community College, 8:00 p.m. April 8**

In a combination of artistic virtuosity and aesthetic beauty, Ragamala Music and Dance Theater presents the highly sophisticated Indian performance tradition of Bharatanatyam, the traditional South Indian form of dance in which performers tell stories through quick, subtle movements and animated facial expressions. In their presentation of *Sva (Vital Force)*, Ragamala explores the connections between Japanese taiko drumming and Bharatanatyam and the spiritual traditions from which they each emerge.

Ragamala Music and Dance Theater performed at the Science Center Theater on the campus of Montgomery County Community College in Blue Bell, Pennsylvania, on November 22, 2008.

**Janis Ian at the Grand Opera House, 8:00 p.m. April 15**

In 1960, when she was just a teen, Janis Ian wrote and sang what would become her first hit single, *Society's Child*. The story of an interracial romance forbidden by a girl's mother and frowned on by her peers, *Society's Child* was considered by some to be taboo and banned by various radio stations at the time of its release.

Ian recounts the story of *Society's Child* and many others in her 2008 autobiography, *Society's Child*, packaged with the double-CD set *Best of Janis Ian: The Autobiography Collection*. With a diverse career that has spanned more than 40 years, Ian can list a 1975 Grammy award, published works in Science Fiction and regular contributions to the LGBT magazine, *The Advocate*, on her long list of accomplishments. Ian performed at the Baby Grand in the Grand Opera House in Wilmington, Delaware, on November 13, 2008.

Trudi Brown serves as executive producer for *On Canvas*; Hugh Haynie, producer; and Heidi Saman, associate producer. Pete Scaffidi serves as editor and technical director. Part of WHYY's wide variety of community programming, *On Canvas* serves as a window to artists' stories, combining interviews with performances captured live at venues throughout Greater Philadelphia.

*On Canvas* is made possible through the extraordinary generosity of an anonymous family of donors and the Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation. For more information, visit [www.whyy.org/artsandculture/oncanvas](http://www.whyy.org/artsandculture/oncanvas).