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**WHYY CONTINUES SECOND SEASON OF ON CANVAS PERFORMING ARTS SERIES
WITH FIVE NEW EPISODES APRIL 22 TO MAY 20**

*Episodes to Feature Hannibal Lokumbe, Turtle Island Quartet, Koresh Dance Company,
Ra Ra Riot and Philadanco*

PHILADELPHIA, April 8, 2009 — WHYY continues its second season of *On Canvas*, a weekly performing-arts series that explores Greater Philadelphia's rich, diverse cultural arts scene, with trumpeter-composer **Hannibal Lokumbe** on April 22 in a performance at Girard College and **Turtle Island Quartet** on April 29 at Montgomery County Community College.

Subsequent episodes will feature **Koresh Dance Company** on May 6 at Suzanne Roberts Theatre, **Ra Ra Riot** on May 13 at the Theater of Living Arts and **Philadanco** on May 20 at Montgomery County Community College.

On Canvas episodes premiere on WHYY-TV at 8 p.m. Wednesdays, and are rebroadcast at 2 p.m. Sundays. Episodes are also broadcast on WHYY's Y Arts Channel (12.2) at 9 p.m. Wednesdays, 10 p.m. Thursdays, 11 p.m. Fridays, 2 p.m. Sundays, 7 p.m. Mondays and 8 p.m. Tuesdays following the premier broadcast on WHYY-TV. Additionally, episodes are available on Comcast's on-demand service.

**Hannibal Lokumbe at Girard College celebrating Art Sanctuary's
10th Anniversary, 8 p.m. April 22**

Originally named Marvin Charles Peterson, trumpeter-composer Hannibal Lokumbe studied with John Coltrane and performed and recorded with big-name bandleaders such as Roy Haynes, Elvin Jones and Pharoah Sanders in the early 1970s.

Lokumbe's music is inspired by the spirituals he heard in the Texas cotton fields where he worked to the drums of the Masai, with whom he lived in Africa. His music has been performed by the Kronos Quartet of San Francisco and several orchestras, including the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Philadelphia Orchestra.

Lokumbe's *Children of the Fire*, released in 1973, was nominated for a Grammy Award. *African Portraits* is a highlight of Lokumbe's long and distinguished career — a 1996 orchestral piece that traced the African American experience by combining West African music, blues, jazz and classical music.



Hannibal Lokumbe performs *A Shepherd Among Us*, an original piece commissioned by Arts Sanctuary in celebration of the organization's 10th anniversary. *A Shepherd Among Us* is a tribute to Father Paul Washington and his work with The Church of the Advocate in North Philadelphia. Lokumbe premiered this piece at Girard College in Philadelphia on Nov. 14.

Turtle Island Quartet at Montgomery County Community College, 8 p.m. April 29

"It must have been like this when Beethoven was taking Vienna by storm — the exhilaration of seeing the future of classical music unfold before your eyes and ears."
— *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

With a name derived from creation mythology found in Native American folklore, Turtle Island Quartet has been creating chic and daring trends in chamber music for string instruments since 1985. Winner of the 2006 and 2008 Grammy Awards for Best Classical Crossover Album, Turtle Island Quartet embodies the classical quartet aesthetic with contemporary American musical styles.

Turtle Island Quartet — featuring David Balakrishnan (violin), Jeremy Kittel (viola), Mark Summer (cello) and Mads Tolling (violin) — has helped revive improvisational and compositional chamber traditions that have not been explored for almost two centuries. The group enjoys extraordinary international demand, predominantly in Europe. Turtle Island Quartet performed selections from American jazz music at Montgomery County Community College in Blue Bell, Pa., on Nov. 8.

Koresh Dance Company at Suzanne Roberts Theatre, 8 p.m. May 6

"Koresh dancers have long been known for their exceptionally fine-toned physiques — and the caliber of their movement execution is simply marvelous, regardless of the technical requirements. ... It's as if the outfit has been injected with a jolt of crisp energy."
— *Philadelphia City Paper*

Koresh Dance Company of Philadelphia has created high-energy, emotional dance performances since Israeli-born choreographer Ronen "Roni" Koresh founded the troupe in 1991. The company's repertoire exceeds 50 pieces, which fuse ballet and jazz into an innovative style of choreography.

Koresh Dance Co. played Suzanne Roberts Theatre in Center City Philadelphia on Dec. 2. In their piece, *Theater of Public Secrets*, dancers examine the complexity of relationships by entering people's homes and their most intimate and private moments.

**Ra Ra Riot at The Theater of Living Arts, 8 p.m. May 13**

"They have established a uniquely layered, beautiful and energetic aesthetic both on their record, *The Rhumb Line*, and during their live performances."

— *National Post*

The members of Ra Ra Riot met in 2006 while attending Syracuse University and have created a sound they describe as combining "elements of new wave and classic indie with sweeping orchestral chamber pop." Incorporating sweeping violin and cello arrangements, *The Rhumb Line*, the sextet's debut album, embodies youthful energy and haunting melancholy. It was partly influenced by the drowning of the group's drummer and songwriter, John Pike.

The Rhumb Line has made plenty of noise on Billboard charts since its release in August, peaking at No. 3 in the Top Heatseekers category in January. Ra Ra Riot, which has toured with Art Brut, Death Cab for Cutie and Vampire Weekend, played the Theater of Living Arts on South Street in Center City on Jan. 25.

Philadanco at Montgomery County Community College, 8 p.m. May 20

"Philadanco's dancers are a miracle of skill and energy. They work in a range of idioms most companies don't even try to possess. ... A company that can do more than just anything. It can represent the possibilities of human spirit through dance."

— *Dance Magazine*

Philadanco, or Philadelphia Dance Company, has had a significant impact in the dance world since its inception in 1970. Founded by Joan Myers Brown, Philadanco is a modern contemporary dance company that tours nationally and internationally. Performing pieces by choreographers Gene Hill Sagan and Christopher L. Huggins, Philadanco's seemingly limitless range is a reason the group is among the nation's most progressive dance companies.

The company tours more than any other Philadelphia cultural organization. Philadanco performs about 50 shows a year, reaching more than 100 million people via radio and television broadcasts. Philadanco played Montgomery County Community College in Blue Bell, Pa., on Feb. 6.

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.

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