(Sonoma County, CA) — Sonoma State University’s Green Music Center kicks off the new year with an impressive lineup of diverse programming. With artists ranging from seasoned professionals like Garrison Keillor (Jan. 21) to emerging artists like Wei Luo (Jan. 22), January is a true portrayal of the distinct talent that frequents the Green Music Center.

We resume the Mastercard Performance Series on Friday, January 20, as the celebrated pianist Emanuel Ax returns to Weill Hall for an evening of Schubert and Chopin. The following night Saturday, January 21, radio personality Garrison Keillor will captivate the crowd with his unparalleled blend of charisma, wisdom, comedy, and music. The master storyteller talks about life after A Prairie Home Companion and offers insight from his life journey. The weekend ends as Sundays at Schroeder presents the stellar young piano whiz Wei Luo on January 22. Beginning lessons at age 5, Ms. Luo has since built an impressive resume, winning multiple competitions including first prize in the 11th Chopin International Competition.

Completing the month is the Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio, Sunday, February 29. After four decades, this trio of internationally acclaimed soloists continues to dazzle audiences with their technical mastery, expressive depth, and magnetism to the concert stage.

Tickets are available. Call 1.866.955.6040 or visit gmc.sonoma.edu.
EMANUEL AX
Mastercard Performance Series
Weill Hall at the Green Music Center

Friday, January 20, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

Emanuel Ax, piano

Sony Classical exclusive recording artist, Emanuel Ax is a pianist of exceptional faculty both in technique and musical feel. The San Francisco Chronicle puts it well, stating, “One of Ax’s great strengths as a performer, in fact, is his ability to blend tenderness and muscle in a single amalgam.”

SCHUBERT
Four Impromptus, D. 935 (Op. 142)
Klavierstücke No. 2 in E-flat Major, D. 946

CHOPIN
Impromptu No. 1 in A-flat major, Op. 29
Impromptu No. 2 in F-sharp major, Op. 36
Impromptu No. 3 in G-flat major, Op. 51
Impromptu No. 4 in C-sharp minor, Op. 66
Sonata No. 3 in B minor, Op. 58

Tickets start at $35

This performance is made possible, in part, by Breguet

AN EVENING WITH GARRISON KEILLOR
Mastercard Performance Series
Weill Hall at the Green Music Center

Saturday, January 21, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

A Prairie Home Companion host emeritus Garrison Keillor shares hilarious anecdotes about growing up in the American Midwest, the people of Lake Wobegon and "late-life fatherhood." With a wonderful, dry sense of humor, Keillor captivates audiences using his unique blend of comedy, class, charisma, wisdom and music.

Tickets start at $45

WEI LUO, Piano
Sundays at Schroeder
Schroeder Hall at the Green Music Center

Sunday, January 22, 2017, 3:00 p.m.

Wunderkind pianist Wei Luo gave her debut recital in Hong Kong at age 6. Winner of numerous competitions in China, Wei also claimed first prize in the 11th Chopin International Competition for Young Pianists in Poland and the 2nd Rachmaninov International Piano Competition for Young
Pianists in Frankfurt, both in 2010. Prepare to be dazzled “because she immerses herself in the music with an intensity that borders on madness.” (Philadelphia Inquirer)

SHOSTAKOVICH: 24 Preludes and Fugues, Op. 87
   No. 5 in D major
   No. 24 in D minor
ALBÉNIZ: Iberia, Book 1
PROKOFIEV: Sonata No. 7, Op. 83

Tickets are $30

THE KALICHSTEIN-LAREDO-ROBINSON TRIO
Mastercard Performance Series
Weill Hall at the Green Music Center

Sunday, January 29, 2017, 3:00 p.m.

Joseph Kalichstein, piano
Jaime Laredo, violin
Sharon Robinson, cello

For nearly forty years, pianist Joseph Kalichstein, violinist Jaime Laredo and cellist Sharon Robinson have garnered numerous awards and set the standard for performance of piano trio. The Washington Post writes, "Among the superstars of the chamber music world, few induce as much open-mouthed rapture as the Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio."

BEETHOVEN: Trio in B-flat major, Op. 11
SHOSTAKOVICH: Trio No. 2 in E minor, Op. 67
BRAHMS: Trio in B Major, Op. 8

Tickets start at $35

About the Green Music Center
Nestled in the picturesque foothills of Northern California’s esteemed wine country, the Green Music Center (GMC) is a focal point for arts in the region, with its spectacular 1400-seat Weill Hall, an acoustically exceptional venue with a modular rear wall that opens to terraced lawn seating, providing picturesque views of the surrounding countryside, and the 240-seat Schroeder Hall, a cathedral-like recital hall designed specifically to accentuate instruments, organ and voice in a small, intimate setting. A program of Sonoma State University, the GMC presents year-round programming of top classical, contemporary, jazz and world music artists through the Mastercard Performance Series and is home to the Santa Rosa Symphony.

About Sonoma State University
Sonoma State University is a public liberal arts college located in California's premier wine country, one hour north of San Francisco. Nestled at the base of the idyllic Sonoma Mountains, the campus is home to more than 9,000 undergraduate students and is among the most popular campuses in the California State University system. Named a "Most Wired" campus by The Princeton Review and a "Best Regional University" by U.S. News & World Report, SSU was first in the country to offer an undergraduate degree in Wine Business.
PRELUDE RESTAURANT
Elegant surroundings, gourmet cuisine, and a full bar are just steps away from Weill Hall pre-concert, at intermission and following every performance. For more information or reservations, call 1.866.955.6040, ext. 2 or visit gmc.sonoma.edu/prelude.

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