

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 3, 2016

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DECEMBER 2016 AT THE GREEN MUSIC CENTER

MASTERCARD PERFORMANCE SERIES

Tommy Emmanuel – Classics & Christmas Tour

Angélique Kidjo

Hawaiian Favorites Na Leo

American Bach Soloists & American Bach Choir

Dave Koz Christmas Tour 2016

Sweet Honey in the Rock

SUNDAYS AT SCHROEDER

Cellist Zoë Keating

(Sonoma County, CA) — Sonoma State University's Green Music Center ends the 2016 calendar year with a celebration of winter and the holiday season, highlighting the world-class chamber, world, orchestral, and jazz offerings featured throughout the 2016–17 Fifth Anniversary Season.

While the cherub-voiced **Vienna Boys Choir** technically kick-off the holiday festivities at the GMC on November 27, there is plenty to pick from in the month of December. First, an action-packed weekend of music: Australian master of the guitar **Tommy Emmanuel** brings his Classics & Christmas tour to Weill Hall Friday, December 9; 2016 Grammy Award-Winner **Angélique Kidjo** performs her special blend of jazz and West-Africa traditions Saturday, December 10; and Bay area cellist **Zoë Keating**, “a one-woman orchestra,” comes to Schroeder Hall for a sold-out show Sunday, December 11.

The following week, Hawaiian favorites **Na Leo** return to Weill Hall Friday, December 16, for a festive display of hula and song. On Sunday, December 18, the fantastic **American Bach Soloists and American Bach Choir** present Handel's *Messiah*. Rounding out the holiday season are contemporary jazz icon **Dave Koz** (Dec. 20), and the soulful **Sweet Honey in the Rock** with “Celebrating the Holydays” (Dec. 22).

Tickets are available. Call 1.866.955.6040 or visit gmc.sonoma.edu.

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**TOMMY EMMANUEL – CLASSICS & CHRISTMAS TOUR FEATURING PAT BERGESON, ANNIE SELLICK,
AND JOHN KNOWLES, CGP**

Mastercard Performance Series

Friday, December 9, 2016, 7:30 p.m., Weill Hall

Tommy Emmanuel, *guitar*
Pat Bergeson, *guitar, harmonica*
Annie Sellick, *vocals*
John Knowles CGP, *guitar*

Australian-born Tommy Emmanuel is a guitar-playing phenomenon. "It's all about the feeling of the music," Emmanuel says. "And it has to make me feel something." An accomplished fingerstyle player, he frequently recreates the sounds of an entire band on a single guitar. The Classics & Christmas tour features one set of fan favorites followed by a set of Christmas classics.

Tickets start at \$25

ANGÉLIQUE KIDJO

Mastercard Performance Series

Saturday, December 10, 2016, 7:30 p.m., Weill Hall

Angélique Kidjo, *vocals*
Dominic James, *guitar*
Magatte Sow, *percussion*
Ben Zwerin, *bass*
Yayo Serka, *drums*

2016 Grammy Award-Winner Angélique Kidjo has gained an international following with her unique ability to seamlessly weave West African traditions, funk, jazz and R&B into a sound all her own. Along with her outstanding voice and the celebrity status as "Africa's premier diva," Angélique has become one of international music's most notable artists.

Tickets start at \$25

ZOË KEATING, Cello

Sundays at Schroeder

Sunday, December 11, 2016, 3:00 p.m., Schroeder Hall

Not your standard cellist, Zoë Keating's music defies easy labels, though it is often pegged as avant-garde. Eschewing the complicated building process of music like this in the studio, Ms. Keating is a one-woman cello symphony using microphones, a laptop, and foot pedals to record richly textured musical themes in real time.

Tickets are \$30

NA LEO HOLIDAY SHOW

Mastercard Performance Series

Thursday, December 16, 2016, 7:30 p.m., Weill Hall

The most popular and biggest selling female Hawaiian group in the World, Na Leo returns to the Green Music Center, performing a combination of their island contemporary hits and holiday favorites, many choreographed to art of hula.

Tickets start at \$35

HANDEL'S MESSIAH - AMERICAN BACH SOLOISTS AND AMERICAN BACH CHOIR

Mastercard Performance Series

Sunday, December 18, 2016, 3:00 p.m., Weill Hall

Jeffrey Thomas, Musical Director
Hélène Brunet, soprano
Emily Marvosh, contralto
Derek Chester, tenor
Mischa Bouvier, baritone

HANDEL *Messiah*

Tickets start at \$40

DAVE KOZ CHRISTMAS TOUR 2016 WITH SPECIAL GUESTS JONATHAN BUTLER, KENNY LATTIMORE, AND ASHFORD & SIMPSON'S VALERIE SIMPSON

Mastercard Performance Series

Tuesday, December 20, 2016, 7:30 p.m., Weill Hall

Dave Koz, saxophone
Jonathan Butler, guitar, vocals
Kenny Lattimore, vocals
Valerie Simpson, vocals

Saxophonist Dave Koz is one of the most recognizable and acclaimed figures in contemporary jazz. Joining him for this holiday spectacular are R&B superstars Valerie Simpson, Jonathan Butler and Kenny Lattimore.

Tickets start at \$40

SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK: CELEBRATING THE HOLYDAYS

Mastercard Performance Series

Thursday, December 22, 2016, 7:30 p.m., Weill Hall

Louise Robinson, vocals
Carol Maillard, vocals
Nitanju Bolade Casel, vocals
Aisha Kahlil, vocals
Shirley Childress, American Sign Language interpreter
Roomier Mendez, guest bassist

This treasured ensemble has maintained a distinguished legacy for the past forty years while taking a cappella in new and exciting directions. Mixing a variety of genres including blues, jazz, African and gospel, their excellent "Holyday" program is a multicultural celebration of good tidings for the season.

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.

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