



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

**FRICK ART & HISTORICAL CENTER ANNOUNCES  
*FIRST FRIDAYS AT THE FRICK*  
2009 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES**

**June 5, 2009, 7:00 p.m.**  
*Emam and Friends*

**July 3, 2009, 7:00 p.m.**  
*Babatunde Lea*

**August 7, 2009, 7:00 p.m.**  
*Wailing Souls*

**September 4, 2009, 7:00 p.m.**  
*Mediaeval Baebes*

PITTSBURGH, PA— Now in its fifteenth year, the *First Fridays at the Frick* summer outdoor concert series travels around the world and back in time with a diverse selection of musical performances guaranteed to delight and excite. The 2009 season of *First Fridays at the Frick* concerts provides opportunities for concert-goers to spend summer evenings under the stars enjoying good friends and delicious food in one of Pittsburgh's most glorious outdoor settings—the great lawn at the Frick Art & Historical Center.

On June 5, the *First Fridays at the Frick* series opens with the exciting world fusion music of *Emam and Friends*. On July 3, *Babatunde Lea* performs African-inspired jazz,

– more –

and on August 7, the legendary *Wailing Souls* present a lively concert of roots reggae. The concert series closes on September 4 with evocative music of *Mediaeval Baebes*.

All concerts begin at 7:00 p.m. on the grounds of the Frick Art & Historical Center. A donation of \$5 per adult is suggested. Guests are invited to come early and create a gourmet picnic with selections from the award-winning Café at the Frick, which begins serving at 5:30 p.m., or bring a picnic supper. The Frick Art Museum, the Museum Shop and the Car and Carriage Museum remain open until 10:00 p.m. on the evenings of the performances. Free parking is available in the Frick's off-street lot, or along adjacent neighborhood streets.

## **EMAM AND FRIENDS**

**Friday, June 5, 2009**

*Media Sponsor: DUQ 90.5 FM*

*First Fridays at the Frick's* 2009 season begins with a concert of world fusion music performed by Emam (tabla and dumbak), Matthew Montfort (guitar), Josh Massad (percussion), and Gari Hegedus (oud, mandocello and violin).

They will perform as an all-acoustic, world fusion ensemble, presenting original compositions based on Indian classical, Eastern European and Middle Eastern music. Concert selections will include tracks from the *Sacred Insanity* and *Jai Ganesh* albums by Emam and Friends.

Emam was trained in North Indian classical drumming by Ustad Alla Rakha and Ustad Zakir Hussain, the grand masters of tabla. He also studied with the late Ustad Inam Ali Khan and his son Gholam Haidar at the Delhi Gharana of Tabla. In 1991, Emam was awarded a scholarship for study of music in India by the American Institute of Indian Studies with funding from the Smithsonian Institute.

Over the past 25 years, Emam has performed with numerous great artists from around the world, including Grateful Dead drummer Mickey Hart, original Santana drummer Michael Shrieve, singer Nina Hagen, and many notable musicians.

**BABATUNDE LEA**  
**Friday, July 3, 2009**

*Event Sponsor: BNY Mellon*

*Media Sponsor: DUQ 90.5 FM*

Babatunde Lea has been described as “one of those old souls—wise and serene, deeply in touch with spiritual essences, blessed with a culturally diverse perspective, and bubbling over with ideas and creative energies that strongly suggest he’s been this way before.”

Lea has forged a career steeped in the rhythms of the motherland of Africa and its Caribbean and South American diaspora. Raised in New York City and Englewood, New Jersey, he migrated westward during the late 1960s to the San Francisco Bay area, where he was further immersed in global rhythms.

Now an established session musician and performer, Lea offers an African-inspired jazz journey with his mastery of trap drums and hand percussion. *San Francisco Weekly* has honored him with its Best Jazz Musician award, and he’s been named First Place prize winner of the prestigious “Adventurous Programming” Award from Chamber Music America/ASCAP. *Jazz Times* calls his music “a wonderful tapestry of richly woven textures held together by the woof and warp of drums and percussion. The band clicks like magic with an impressive level of communication and understanding.”

**WAILING SOULS**  
**Friday, August 7, 2009**

*Media Sponsor: 91.3 WYEP*

The legendary Wailing Souls are part of the small surviving group of reggae and roots originators still musically active today. They emerged from the same Trenchtown yards in Kingston, Jamaica as Bob Marley, Joe Higgs and other reggae icons of the late 1960s and early 70s.

The longevity of the veteran band is largely due to its adaptability to trends without a compromise of vision. The group, which enjoys a huge international following, has amassed three Grammy

nominations and has been critically lauded for albums released by Island, Tuff Gong and CBS Records.

During the early 1990s, the Wailing Souls' songs were featured on such soundtracks as the certified gold album for Disney's film *Cool Runnings*. On their 1992 album *All Over the World*, the group pushed the musical limits of the reggae genre, blending sounds of funk, rhythm & blues and country into their roots tradition and securing their reputations as pioneers in the genre.

**MEDIAEVAL BAEBES**  
**Friday, September 4, 2009**

*Media Sponsor: WQED-FM 89.3*

Six talented, attractive women breathe renewed life into the rich texts of medieval songs and poetry, while also offering their distinctive interpretation of Celtic music. The Baebes sing in a variety of medieval languages including French, Spanish, English, Italian, Gaelic, and Swedish.

Although their original music evokes an earlier time, it is accessible to modern audiences. In fact, their hauntingly beautiful sound has so effectively captured their audiences' imagination and devotion that, in the past 10 years, the Baebes have placed three studio albums into the top of the United Kingdom classical charts; performed before enthusiastic audiences in the UK, United States, Canada, and Europe; and received the 2007 Ivor Novello Award for Best Television Soundtrack for their contribution to the BBC production of *The Virgin Queen*.

**GENERAL INFORMATION AND HOURS OF OPERATION**

The Frick Art & Historical Center is located at 7227 Reynolds Street in Pittsburgh's Point Breeze neighborhood. Free parking is available in the Frick's off-street lot or along adjacent streets. The Frick is open 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Tuesday–Sunday and closed Mondays and major holidays. Admission to The Frick Art Museum, Car and Carriage Museum, Greenhouse, and Playhouse is free. Information about the Frick is available online at [TheFrickPittsburgh.org](http://TheFrickPittsburgh.org).

For information and reservations, please call 412-371-0600, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.,  
Monday–Sunday.

For further information or images, please contact Greg Langel, Media and Marketing Manager in  
the External Affairs Department at the Frick Art & Historical Center,  
at 412-371-0600 ext. 524, or [GLangel@TheFrickPittsburgh.org](mailto:GLangel@TheFrickPittsburgh.org).

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*The Frick Art & Historical Center, a museum, historic site and cultural center serves the public through  
preservation, presentation, and interpretation of the fine and decorative arts and historically significant  
artifacts for all residents of and visitors to Western Pennsylvania.*