



NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Greg Langel
Media and Marketing Manager
412-371-0600, ext. 524
GLangel@TheFrickPittsburgh.org

For Immediate Release

THE FRICK ART & HISTORICAL CENTER ANNOUNCES

FIRST FRIDAYS AT THE FRICK BROUGHT TO YOU BY FIRST NIAGARA

2011 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES



Greg Abate
Friday, June 3, 2011
7:00 p.m.



Daphne Alderson
Friday, July 1, 2011
7:00 p.m.



Marley's Ghost
Friday, August 5, 2011
7:00 p.m.



St. Petersburg String Quartet
Friday, September 2, 2011
7:00 p.m.

PITTSBURGH, PA, May 13, 2011—One of Pittsburgh's most popular and enduring summertime events begins its 17th season in June. The annual *First Fridays at the Frick* outdoor musical performance series takes place on the first Friday of each summer month on the Frick

Art & Historical Center's Great Lawn. The 2011 season, ***FIRST FRIDAYS AT THE FRICK BROUGHT TO YOU BY FIRST NIAGARA***, promises to be as exciting and delightful as always, with a diverse selection of musical and vocal performances. *First Fridays at the Frick* events provide Frick visitors four opportunities each summer to spend evenings under the stars, enjoying music, friends and delicious food in one of the city's most beautiful outdoor settings.

The season begins on June 3 with a performance by jazz saxophonist, flutist and recording artist **Greg Abate** and his trio. On July 1, cabaret singer **Daphne Alderson** will delight audiences with her diverse repertoire, which ranges from Edith Piaf and Judy Garland to 1960s folk rock and Oscar Hammerstein. **Marley's Ghost** performs its distinctive style of music that blends bluegrass with Appalachian folk, traditional Celtic and honky-tonk music on August 5. And capping the season on September 2, **St. Petersburg String Quartet**, one of the world's most esteemed chamber ensembles, helps the Frick prepare for its Fabergé exhibition opening in October.

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. The Frick Art Museum, Car and Carriage Museum and Museum Shop remain open until 10:00 p.m. on the evenings of performances. Admission to museums is always free. Free parking is available in the Frick's off-street lot, or along adjacent neighborhood streets.

ABOUT THE CONCERTS

GREG ABATE

Friday, June 3, 2011

Media Sponsor: DUQ 90.5 FM

Jazz saxophonist, flutist and recording artist Greg Abate, who has been playing for audiences around the world for more than 30 years, performs with his trio at the Frick. *Metro San Jose* describes his sound as “a distillation of swing's easygoing vibe and bop's more animated

groove.” Howard Reich of the *Chicago Tribune* says that “the sharp angularity of his phrases and the often startling pauses in his fast-moving lines give his work a feeling of constant invention and creativity.” Abate, a graduate of the Berklee College of Music, spent two years as alto player with the Ray Charles Orchestra before forming his own group, Channel One, in 1978. He then went on to play tenor sax with the revived Artie Shaw Orchestra, led by Dick Johnson, from 1986 to 1987 before venturing out as a soloist. Since releasing his first CD, *Live at Birdland NYC*, on the Candid label in 1991, he has played on more than 12 other recordings—one of which, *Evolution*, was nominated for four Grammy Awards in 2004.

DAPHNE ALDERSON

Friday, July 1, 2011

Media Sponsor: WQED-FM 89.3

It is Daphne Alderson’s dream to bring cabaret to people everywhere. Critically acclaimed as an artist of “dignified passion” by the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, her warm, contralto voice has moved and delighted audiences of all ages. Her debut recording *A Matinee at the Love Café* has been called “an enchanting and mesmerizing” collection of American, French and Latin song standards. And her repertoire is exceptionally diverse repertoire—it ranges from Edith Piaf and Judy Garland to 1960s folk-rock and Oscar Hammerstein. Alderson made her New York cabaret debut performing her show *Songs & Chansons*. Since then, she has toured throughout the Northeast in cabaret and classical venues. In addition to being a featured artist at the Center for American Music and the International Poetry Forum in Pittsburgh, Alderson has recorded American and French song standards for public broadcast on WQED-FM, and performed at the prestigious Eugene O’Neill Theatre Center in Connecticut.

MARLEY’S GHOST

Friday, August 5, 2011

Media Sponsor: 91.3fm WYEP

While their music has a strong bluegrass emphasis, Marley’s Ghost’s unique sound also

encompasses Appalachian folk songs, traditional Celtic music, honky-tonk, and reggae. For this reason, the members of Marley's Ghost have trouble describing their sound; they just say that "it always comes out sounding uniquely like—Marley's Ghost." According to the band's website, mandolinist Jon Wilcox attributes this sound to the vocals, while steel guitarist Ed Littlefield notes the band's broad repertoire and guitarist Dan Wheetman describes the sound as American roots music, if you count reggae. Formed in northern California during the mid-1980s, Marley's Ghost—which also includes Mike Phelan (guitar, dobro and fiddle) and Jerry Fletcher (drums, percussion and keyboards)—has recorded nine albums and performed thousands of shows across the country.

ST. PETERSBURG STRING QUARTET

Friday, September 2, 2011

Media Sponsor: WQED-FM 89.3

The St. Petersburg String Quartet is one of the world's most esteemed chamber ensembles and, with its Russian roots, the perfect group of performers to help the Frick prepare for its site-wide Fabergé celebration beginning October 23, 2011. The quartet, founded as the Leningrad String Quartet in 1985 by first violinist Alla Aranovskaya and cellist Leonid Shukayev, was renamed the St. Petersburg String Quartet when the city of Leningrad resumed its historic name. Violist Boris Vayner joined the quartet in 2005 and second violinist Evgeny Zvonnikov in 2010. In addition to winning numerous chamber music competitions, the quarter has been honored with a Grammy nomination, "Best Record" honors in both *Stereo Review* and *Gramophone* magazines, an opening night performance at Mostly Mozart at Lincoln Center, a five-year residency at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, and hundreds of concerts on many of North America, Europe and Asia's most prestigious series and festivals.

FIRST FRIDAYS AT THE FRICK BROUGHT TO YOU BY FIRST NIAGARA

First Niagara is corporate sponsor of the 17th season of the *First Fridays at the Frick* summer outdoor concert series.

ABOUT THE FRICK ART & HISTORICAL CENTER

The Frick Art & Historical Center is the legacy of Helen Clay Frick, daughter of 19th-century industrialist and art collector Henry Clay Frick. Having established The Frick Art Museum in 1969, Miss Frick desired that her family home, Clayton, and the surrounding estate be preserved for, and opened to, the people of Pittsburgh after her death. Her vision was realized in 1990.

Today, the Frick Art & Historical Center houses a galaxy of collections—including fine arts, decorative arts, automobiles and carriages, and historic artifacts— in multiple galleries and venues, many of which are historic objects in and of themselves. These collections, and the programs that interpret them, illuminate the era during which Pittsburgh became one of the nation’s most important cities and also make meaningful connections to contemporary times. Although still a relatively young institution, the Frick ranks among Pittsburgh’s most important cultural and educational assets.

GENERAL INFORMATION

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. The public should call 412-371-0600 for information, or visit the Frick online at TheFrickPittsburgh.org.

For additional information or images, please contact Greg Langel, Media and Marketing Manager, at 412-371-0600 ext. 524 or 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.