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ELLNORA | THE GUITAR FESTIVAL AT KRANNERT CENTER UNVEILS 2011'S STELLAR ARTIST LINEUP

Diverse Three-Day Event Makes for a World-Class Musical Destination in September

On September 8, 9, and 10, 2011, a prestigious assortment of the globe's greatest musicians will gather for ELLNORA | The Guitar Festival, situated in the vibrant micro-urban setting of Champaign-Urbana, Illinois. The biennial event provides an unparalleled mixed-genre experience that features performances from many of today's most distinguished music-makers in a diverse array already being emulated by other festivals.

The internationally recognized event, which in recent years has emerged as a favorite destination for musicians and true guitar fans from around the world, will feature more than 30 performers drawing from guitar traditions rooted in the US, England, Canada, China, Spain, and Mali.

Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, located on the campus of the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana, incorporates seven distinctive performance spaces uniquely suited to showcase the event's impressive array of talent. This year's festival incorporates nine individually ticketed events, along with twelve free shows and more events being planned.

This year, ELLNORA's artist roster is headed by **Luther Dickinson**: member of the **North Mississippi Allstars** and **The Black Crowes** and one of *Rolling Stone's* "new guitar gods." Dickinson has been selected to serve as the festival's artist-in-residence and will collaborate on stage with Grammy Award/W.C. Handy Award-winning contemporary bluesman **Alvin Youngblood Hart** and influential pedal steel guitarist **Robert Randolph**. Dickinson will also interact with festival-goers and read passages from the soon-to-be-published memoirs of his father, Jim Dickinson.

Robert Randolph is one of *Rolling Stone's* 100 Greatest Guitarists of All Time, as are English folk-rock legend **Richard Thompson** and **Sonic Youth** member **Lee Ranaldo**, who will also grace ELLNORA's stages. The festival will also feature two of *DownBeat* magazine's 75 Great Guitarists, who'll build on the festival's commitment to film-based projects: **Bill Frisell**, who'll perform the stirring score to **Bill Morrison's** film in *The Great Flood*, and Marc Ribot, who'll accompany the bittersweet 1921 Charlie Chaplin film *The Kid*. Ribot will also lead a Cuban music tribute in a free set with his band Los Cubanos Postizos.

ELLNORA 2011's expansive musical palette also includes roots legend **Taj Mahal**, noted producer/recording artist **Daniel Lanois**, veteran rock adventurer **Adrian Belew**, alt-rock explorers **Calexico**, noted Malian singer/guitarist **Vieux Farka Touré**, family music guru **Dan Zanes**, bluegrass renegades **Chris Thile** and **Michael Daves**, contemporary acoustic favorites the **Russ Barenberg Trio**, string band revivalists the **Carolina Chocolate Drops**, the experimental sounds of **Noveller**, and the ambient band **Redhooker**.

ELLNORA, which bears the name of its venue's visionary founder, Ellnora Krannert, also provides a vital showcase for some of today's most prominent female artists, including the incomparable classical guitarist **Sharon Isbin**; peerless jazz guitarist **Sheryl Bailey**; **Toshi Reagon** and **Judith Casselberry** of **BIGLovely**; festival favorites **Cindy Cashdollar** and **Rory Block**; flamenco guitar virtuoso **Marija Temo**; and **Meng Su** and **Yameng Wang** of the **Beijing Guitar Duo**.

Originally known as the **Wall to Wall Guitar Festival** before being rechristened ELLNORA in 2009, the event is organized by Krannert Center's director, **Mike Ross**, and his staff, in collaboration with curator and artistic advisor **David Spelman**, who is also founder/director of the world-renowned New York Guitar Festival. In the years since its debut, ELLNORA has served as a model for other events in the US and around the world.

EllnoraGuitarFestival.com

ELLNORA | The Guitar Festival 2011 Scheduled Events

Opening Night Party

Toshi Reagon and BIGLovely

Vieux Farka Touré

Daniel Lanois' Black Dub

Russ Barenberg Trio

Th, Sep 8, 2011, at 6pm

The Opening Night Party features a quadruple bill of Toshi Reagon and BIGLovely, Daniel Lanois' Black Dub, and Vieux Farka Touré throwing down in the Center's expansive Lobby and the Russ Barenberg Trio entertaining crowds in the outdoor Amphitheatre. Tented areas, food vendors, interactive digital displays from eDream (Emerging Digital Research and Education in Arts Media Institute), and family-friendly activities complete the first night of the three-day festival.

Lobby and Amphitheatre, \$5

Local Heroes Night

Tu, Sep 6, 2011, at 5pm

Local axe slammers lay down the groove for ELLNORA's unmistakable style in a rocking celebration of Champaign-Urbana's music scene.

Lobby, Free

Circo and "e" for Orchestra

We, Sep 7, 2011, at 7:30pm

Circo by Aaron Schock documents the Gran Circo Mexico, a traveling circus in rural Mexico run by the Ponce family. Calexico provides the music for this view into a dying culture and a beloved tradition. Adrian Belew's composition *e*, always envisioned as a work for orchestra, finally gets a full symphonic treatment by the Metropole Orchestra of Amsterdam in a filmed live performance. Belew will answer questions after the screening.

The Art Theater, 126 W. Church St., Champaign, \$5-\$7

Steve Dawson and Special Guests

Fr, Sep 9, 2011, at noon

A "string virtuoso," Steve Dawson switches from slide to finger-style, from pedal steel to banjo, and from Hawaiian to jazz with effortless, smooth strokes (*Acoustic Guitar*).

Lobby, Free

Guitar Workout: How to Stay Injury Free

Fr, Sep 9, 2011, at 2pm

Physicians and physical therapy team members from Carle Occupational and Environmental Medicine will take you inside the body with information about dexterity, hearing, and common ailments. Get tips on ergonomic positions, proper adjustments for your strap, and safe carrying techniques, plus tune up with the experts through stretches and strengthening exercises.
Foellinger Great Hall, Free

Keynote Address by Adrian Belew

Fr, Sep 9, 2011, at 3pm

Grammy nominee Adrian Belew covers his career across the guitar spectrum from pop to progressive rock to experimental and speaks on his compositions and playing techniques to open ELLNORA 2011.

Foellinger Great Hall, Free

Luther Dickinson and Alvin Youngblood Hart

Fr, Sep 9, 2011, at 4pm

Dickinson is one of *Rolling Stone's* New Top 20 Guitar Gods, and Hart is the self-described "cosmic American love child of Howlin' Wolf and Link Wray."

Lobby, Free

Chris Thile and Michael Daves

Fr, Sep 9, 2011, at 5pm

Thile and Daves are bluegrass renegades upholding the catharsis Bill Monroe shot into the music as they pepper tunes with rock chords and classical finesse.

Lobby, Free

Cops with live music by Lee Ranaldo and The Kid with live music by Marc Ribot

Fr, Sep 9, 2011, at 6:30pm

The classic chase scenes in Buster Keaton's short film *Cops* are given textured licks by Sonic Youth's Lee Ranaldo, and the free-wheeling Marc Ribot provides live accompaniment for Charlie Chaplin's breakthrough 1921 film featuring a charming tramp who bonds with an abandoned child.

Colwell Playhouse, \$5-\$10

The Sheryl Bailey 3

Fr, Sep 9, 2011, at 8pm

Sheryl Bailey kicks it off with "blisteringly precise leads," Gary Versace's organ urges, and Ian Froman's drum licks usher this trio on a "communal musical journey" (*All about Jazz*).

Lobby, Free

Taj Mahal with the Carolina Chocolate Drops and Alvin Youngblood Hart

Fr, Sep 9, 2011, at 9pm

Taj Mahal's 50 years behind a fret board, a decades-long string band legacy animated by the Carolina Chocolate Drops, and the fierce tradition bred by Alvin Youngblood Hart converge in a jubilant dance with history.

Tryon Festival Theatre, \$10-\$45

Sonic Garden: Redhooker

Fr, Sep 9, 2011, at 10pm

With a Baroque spirit and an experimenter's daring, Stephen Griesgraber of Slow Six eases Redhooker into a conversation underpinned with patience and hope.

Amphitheatre, Free

Marc Ribot y Los Cubanos Postizos

Fr, Sep 9, 2011, at 10:30pm

Arsenio Rodriguez—a Cuban guitarist, tres player, and bandleader who died in 1972—left a wealth of tunes for Marc Ribot of Rootless Cosmopolitans and Spiritual Unity to bend into a singular tribute.

Lobby, Free

Beijing Guitar Duo

Sa, Sep 10, 2011, at 10am

These Peabody Conservatory of Music students have a breadth that encompasses Chinese folk music, classics, and premieres of works by Sergio Assad and Tan Dun.

Lobby, Free

Marija Temo

Sa, Sep 10, 2011, at 11am

Marija Temo unspools the full essence of flamenco—an art designated by UNESCO as a masterpiece of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity—from her hybrid classical-flamenco guitar.

Lobby, Free

Book Reading by Luther Dickinson

Sa, Sep 10, 2011, at noon

Luther Dickinson reads from the soon-to-be-published memoir written by his late father, the musician and record producer Jim Dickinson.

ELLNORA Studio Store, Free

Dan Zanes with the East Central Illinois Youth Orchestra

Kevin Kelly, music director

Sa, Sep 10, 2011, at noon

Former rock star Dan Zanes gets the whole crowd singing along at a “dance-party hootenanny” with the East Central Illinois Youth Orchestra (*Los Angeles Times*).

Tryon Festival Theatre, \$5-\$12

Homebrew Ukulele Union with Robeson Elementary School Students

Sa, Sep 10, 2011, at 1pm

The Homebrew Ukulele Union is the performing group from Matthew Thibeault’s course “Designing Musical Experiences” at the University of Illinois. As a part of the course, students build ukuleles, write songs, perform, and collaborate with local public schools. Their guests are students from Mary Anne Jusko’s fifth grade class at Robeson Elementary School who work with music specialist Sarah Filkins.

Stage 5, Free

Bill Frisell with film by Bill Morrison: *The Great Flood*

Ron Miles, trumpet

Tony Scherr, bass

Kenny Wollesen, drums

Sa, Sep 10, 2011, at 1:30pm

In its world premiere, this work co-commissioned by Krannert Center touches history and nature through documentary footage of the 1927 Mississippi River deluge and Bill Frisell’s songs that follow the displaced citizens and their music northward through roots music, down-home blues, and R&B.

Colwell Playhouse, \$10-\$30

Sharon Isbin

Saturday, September 10, 2011, at 3pm

Sharon Isbin's life is one of firsts—the first classical guitarist to receive a Grammy in 28 years, the first guitarist to record with the New York Philharmonic, the first head of the guitar department at the Juilliard School of Music—and she plays with “the precision of a diamond” (*Wall Street Journal*).
Foellinger Great Hall, \$10-\$34

Calexico

Sa, Sep 10, 2011, at 4:30pm

Calexico summons the drama of a sprawling western landscape in music that crosses the borders from indie to country to Latin to jazz.

Tryon Festival Theatre, \$10-\$30

Rory Block and Cindy Cashdollar

Sa, Sep 10, 2011, at 5:45pm

Rory Block's haunting music is just one step removed from the birth of the Delta blues, and Cindy Cashdollar has elegant, contemporary roots slides.

Lobby, Free

Richard Thompson and My Brightest Diamond

Sa, Sep 10, 2011, at 7pm

My Brightest Diamond roars on songs “personal, reachable, and earthen” (*Stylus*) as the opener for a solo acoustic performance by the folk-rocking top 20 guitar god Richard Thompson.

Colwell Playhouse, \$10-\$45

Adrian Belew: *Painting with Guitar*

Sa, Sep 10, 2011, at 8:30pm

Frank Zappa says it all about the impressionistic playing of this guitarist with King Crimson, the Talking Heads, David Bowie, Joe Cocker, Nine Inch Nails, and Robert Palmer: “Adrian Belew reinvented the electric guitar.”

Amphitheatre, Free

Robert Randolph and the Family Band with guest Luther Dickinson

Sa, Sep 10, 2011, at 10pm

One of *Rolling Stone's* 100 Greatest Guitarists of All Time, Robert Randolph will whip his band plus jam guest Luther Dickinson into “an innovative fusion of refried boogie, Hendrix wahwah rock, and traditional, Pentecostal ‘sacred steel’ exaltation” (*Vibe*).

Tryon Festival Theatre, \$10-\$25

Sonic Garden: Noveller

Sa, Sep 10, 2011, at 10pm

“An orchestra of one,” Noveller wields feedback, pedals, scissors, an electric bow, and a stadium-size assembly of axe-shredding sounds (NPR).

Amphitheatre, Free

Kevin Breit's Folkalarm

Sa, Sep 10, 2011, at 11:30pm

Kevin Breit and Folkalarm rip into ecstatic bluegrass rock to send ELLNORA 2011 off the charts.

Lobby, Free

SPECIAL FESTIVAL FEATURES

Krannert Coffeehouse

Intermezzo cafe at the north end of the Center's Lobby will be transformed into a coffeehouse for this year's festival. Guests can unwind and recharge with the Center's signature coffee blends, Carnegie deli cheesecake, and daily organic food specials.

Outdoor Food Vendors

Local food vendors will offer everything from appetizers to full meals to desserts in a large tented food area on the west terrace for the Opening Night Party.

The ELLNORA Studio Store

The ELLNORA Studio Theatre, located at the north end of the Center, will become the official festival store, featuring merchandise, sponsor tables, special displays of unusual guitars, digital art by eDream, and meet-and-greets with artists.

Sonic Garden

Refresh in an outdoor, tented performance atmosphere on the west terrace of the Center. This newly imagined space will resonate with a casual vibe for mingling, refueling, and experiencing experimental sounds. All ticketed theatre shows will be broadcast live to flat-screen TVs for free viewing.

TICKETS AND INFORMATION

Single tickets go on sale July 9 at 10am.

Festival Pass (includes all nine ticketed events):

General 208 / Senior Citizen 170 / Student 105 / University of Illinois Student & Youth 75

Ticket Office Information

Phone: 217/333-6280 or 800/KCPATIX (527-2849)

TTY: 217/333-9714 (for patrons who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, or speech-impaired)

Fax: 217/244-7469

Online: KrannertCenter.com and EllnoraGuitarFestival.com

E-mail: kran-tix@illinois.edu

Mail: Krannert Center Ticket Office

500 South Goodwin Avenue

Urbana, Illinois 61801-3788

In person: Krannert Center Ticket Office, 500 South Goodwin Avenue, Urbana, Illinois, from 10am to 6pm every day.