UNCSA and the Kenan Institute for the Arts Announce the Music Academy of the American South
New summer program to take place June 8-10, 2012

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (April 27, 2012) – The University of North Carolina School of the Arts (UNCSA) and the Thomas S. Kenan Institute for the Arts announce the Music Academy of the American South (MAAS), a new summer program that will celebrate the music of the American South through dynamic performances and workshops by noted musicians. MAAS will take place on the UNCSA campus at 1533 South Main Street and at nearby Old Salem Museums & Gardens from Friday, June 8, through Sunday, June 10, 2012.

MAAS will feature renowned musicians known for their unique representation of the music of the American South. Among the artists participating in this inaugural year are The Del McCoury Band, Jim Lauderdale, Preservation Hall Jazz Band and Tony Rice. MAAS will also feature interactive workshops with some of the best-known contributors to the roots music genres in our region, including gospel legends The Branchettes, banjoist Riley Baugus, blues preacher Bishop Dready Manning, songwriter Laurelyn Dossett, songstress Martha Bassett, guitar maker Wayne Henderson and many others.

The music of the American South has had an enormous influence far beyond the region, ultimately impacting culture on a global scale. Traditional folk music was brought into the southern United States by immigrants from Western Europe and intermingled with the songs of African slaves. The collision of these musical vocabularies led to the development of the styles that define American roots music today. Blues, country, bluegrass, string-band, gospel and jazz are America’s great claims to the global artistic landscape, and are revered as uniquely American and worthy of preservation. UNCSA is a natural leader for the performance and study of American roots music, because it is the preeminent conservatory of the South and its campus lies in a region where much of this music originated.
“A few years ago, it occurred to me that our acclaimed music school taught a lot of great music from all over the world but did not teach the indigenous music of North Carolina—with its mountains to the west, its Atlantic Coast to the east, its culture of African-American musicians, all mixed together with early settlers from Europe (the Moravians), who brought the classical traditions of Austria and Germany to America via their church service and the Moravians’ commitment to community,” said John Mauceri, Chancellor of UNCSA. “And so, born of this perception, I thought ‘Why not create a Music Academy of the American South?’ One thing was clear to me: It does not exist anywhere in the world. I am excited to bring this idea to fruition this summer in Winston-Salem.”

MAAS is unique among existing festivals and summer programs because it presents roots music genres simultaneously—highlighting their cross-pollination. Attendees of MAAS will have the hands-on experience of exploring musical vocabularies across genres. They will discover the musicians who developed these uniquely American styles and those who continue the tradition today. MAAS will serve as a venue with a living history, a catalyst for collaboration and experimentation between genres, and as a guide for integrity in roots music concert programming, education, and preservation.

UNCSA has named North Carolina born composer, guitarist and roots music specialist Justin Poindexter as Artistic Director of MAAS. Poindexter currently designs and leads education and outreach concerts throughout New York City for Jazz at Lincoln Center. He is also a member of the celebrated New York “hot folk” trio, The Tres Amigos. “I was fortunate as a student to be welcomed into the fertile musical network around UNCSA,” said Poindexter, UNCSA Music Composition, ‘06. “Our local scene is full of open-mined, enthusiastic artists, where collaboration between genres is a daily occurrence. I am so proud to recognize the amazing legacy of our region and to provide a platform for new collaborations and musical discovery.”

MAAS is part of UNCSA’s new summer program, “Going All Art.” With courses and workshops for high school students, college students, professional artists and arts teachers, Going All Art has an energy and a synergy all its own.

UNCSA and the Kenan Institute for the Arts are very grateful to founding sponsor Flow Automotive Companies for its generous lead gift to help launch the inaugural Music Academy of the American South in Winston-Salem.

The MAAS schedule for 2012 is below. Please note: All events will take place on the UNCSA campus unless otherwise noted. More detailed information will be available soon on the UNCSA website (uncsa.edu):

**Friday, June 8, 2012**

7:30 pm  
**Opening ceremony and concert in Performance Place Thrust Theatre**  
The Del McCoury Band with special guests, Martha Bassett, The Branchettes
Saturday, June 9, 2012

10:30 am
Bluegrass/String-band Master Class  
*Riley Baugus and Tony Williamson*

12:00 noon
Interview: Wayne Henderson, Guitar Maker and Musician  
Wayne Henderson

1:00 pm
Southern Picnic Lunch/Bluegrass and Old-time Jam Session  
*Martha Bassett, Riley Baugus, Tony Williamson*

2:30 pm
Interactive Lecture: *The Southern Church and its Role in Community*  
The Branchettes, Martha Bassett, David Nelson

4:00 pm
Panel discussion with Guest Artists  
Jim Lauderdale, Representatives from Carolina Music Ways, Music Maker  
Relief Foundation, Piedmont Blues Preservation Society, Fiddle and Bow  
Society, Moravian Music Foundation

6:00 pm
Dinner featuring North Carolina cuisine

7:30 pm
Evening Concert: Performance Place Thrust Theatre  
Preservation Hall Jazz Band, The Tony Rice Unit, The Tres Amigos

Sunday, June 10, 2012

1:30 pm
Appalachian Songwriting Workshop  
Laurelyn Dossett

3:00 pm
Blues Master Class  
Bubba Klinefelter, Logie Meachum

5:00 pm
Site Visit: Moravian Music and the Salem Settlement/Moravian Brass  
Band Performance – St. Philips Heritage Center, Old Salem Museums  
& Gardens  
Dr. Michael O. Hartley, Dr. Nola Knouse

6:00 pm
Informal Jam Session/Dinner in Old Salem  
The Tres Amigos
7:30 pm
Evening Concert: St. Philips Heritage Center, Old Salem Museums & Gardens
*Jim Lauderdale, Bishop Dready Manning, Bump and Logie*

All workshops and master classes are free and open to the public.

Tickets for the evening concerts on Friday, June 8, Saturday, June 9, and Sunday, June 10, are $25, $20 for students and seniors, and can be purchased at the Stevens Center, 405 West 4th Street, Winston-Salem or by calling 336-721-1945. Tickets may also be purchased online at uncsa.edu.

**The Thomas S. Kenan Institute for the Arts** ([uncsa.edu/kenan](http://uncsa.edu/kenan)) is a privately funded program of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts that incubates projects that sustain artists at every point in their creative development through strategic partnerships that capitalize on visionary thinking in the arts.

**The University of North Carolina School of the Arts** ([uncsa.edu](http://uncsa.edu)) is the University of North Carolina’s conservatory for the arts, dedicated entirely to the professional training of students possessing exceptional talents in the performing, visual and moving image arts. UNCSA offers students focused, intense, professional training at the high school, baccalaureate, and master’s levels in its schools of Dance, Design and Production, Drama, Filmmaking and Music.

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