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International Performing Arts 2010-11 Series at Touhill Announced

St. Louis / June 7, 2010 – The Center for International Studies at the University Missouri-St. Louis has announced its 2010-11 International Performing Arts Series at the Touhill.

The series includes **Chinese Dance: Classical; Modern and Folk; Mavrothi Kontanis and the Maeandros Ensemble; Taikoza; Chiwoniso: Rebel Woman; and Triptych.**

Subscriptions are available now. Single tickets go on sale August 9.

The International Performing Arts Series (IPAS) kicks off its 2010-11 season with **Chinese Dance: Classical, Modern and Folk, September 18, 2010.** In three acts - Dragon Rhythm, Chinese Trend and Swing China - this evening of dance takes the audience through a sweeping scope of Chinese culture. With dances titled *Painting Fan Dance*, *Sleeve Dance*, *Northeast Yangee (Handkerchief) Dance* and the *Han & Tang Dynasty music dance*, the performance promises an outstanding sample of the Chinese culture's distinctive aesthetic.

On **October 28, 2010, The Maeandros Ensemble** will perform its traditional folk, urban and classical music of Greece and the Near East. The result is an effortless blend of rich and varied traditions, a musical travelogue of the region. "These aren't musty recreations," notes the *Chicago Reader*, "the arrangements are lively, the performances are vigorous, and Kontanis's singing glows with soulfulness and sorrow."

Roughly translated, Taiko means "big drums" – and that's exactly what **Taikoza** delivers on **January 29, 2011.** The group combines thunderous rhythms of ancestral Japanese drums with delicate melodies of bamboo flutes to revitalize an art form pulsing with energy. And the stunning sound of the drums is but one dramatic feature of a Taikoza performance. Dancers in vivid, traditional costumes create a dynamic aspect as powerful for the eyes as the Taiko drums are for the ears.

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International Performing Arts 2010-11 Series / Touhill / Add 1

The IPAS closes its 2010-11 series with **Triptych** on **May 12, 2011**. Triptych is a vivacious three-part ensemble featuring fiddler Laura Risk, guitarist/percussionist/vocalist Paddy League, and dancer Kieran Jordan. This remarkable trio delivers elegant and soulful renderings of traditional music and step dance, from Irish, Scottish, and French-Canadian traditions. Each boasts a robust solo career, but as Triptych, these three accomplished performers create a tasteful yet gutsy sound and a visually invigorating live concert performance.

In addition to its five-show series, IPAS presents a special engagement of **Masters of the Fiddle**, featuring **Natalie MacMaster** and **Donnell Leahy** on **October 28, 2010**. Two of the world's most celebrated fiddlers, Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy showcase Celtic music, dance and song in Masters of the Fiddle. MacMaster is an electrifying artist whose signature sound on the beloved four-string resonates with audiences around the world. She plays effortlessly, even while incorporating step dancing into the performance. And Leahy, with his Canadian powerhouse family band of eight musical brothers and sisters, has wowed audiences worldwide and sold more than half a million recordings.

Each IPAS presentation is an E3! performance, *Explore – Experience – Engage*. E3! pre-show discussions, which begin 50 minutes prior to the performance, and post-show receptions are free to ticket holders.

The five-show IPAS subscription package is \$80. The Masters of the Fiddle special engagement can be added to the ASQ subscription package for \$31.

Subscriptions for IPAS 2010-11 series are on sale now. Single tickets go on sale August 9. They will be available at the Touhill Performing Arts Center Ticket Office; online at www.touhill.org; or by phone at **314-516-4949**.

The Touhill's Ticket Office is located at One University Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63121. All St. Louis area students receive a 10% discount on two tickets with their I.D. Group and senior discounts are also available.

The Touhill Performing Arts Center is located on the north campus of the University of Missouri-St. Louis, just 10 minutes from Clayton. (Exit #240 from I-70). There is ample free parking, and the UMSL North Campus MetroLink Station is just steps from the Touhill's main entrance.

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About the Touhill Performing Arts Center

Now in its eighth season of presenting the finest in the performing arts to the St. Louis region, the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center opened its doors in September 2003. The \$52 million facility designed by Pei Cobb Freed and Partners, features the 1,600-seat Anheuser-Busch Performance Hall and the 350-seat E. Desmond and Mary Ann Lee Theater.

About E3! Program

The Touhill's Explore – Experience – Engage, or E3! program, offers great insight into the cultural realm. The *Explore* phase involves a pre-show discussion with experts and provides guidance for patrons who wish to gain a greater understanding of the performance. After the *Experience* – the performance itself – patrons assemble for a reception to *Engage* in conversation. Frequently, artists join these post-show gatherings to speak with the audience and answer questions. E3! is sponsored by RAC and friends of the Touhill.