



For Immediate Release
March 21, 2012

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**IRA GLASS, LILY TOMLIN, ASPEN SANTA FE BALLET,
DRUMLINE LIVE AND THE 'NEA FOUR' HIGHLIGHT
ECLECTIC 2012/13 SEASON AT CARPENTER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

***Wit & Wisdom Series • Cabaret Series • Dance Series
Sunday Afternoon Concert Series • Music & Stage Events***

LONG BEACH, Calif. – March 21, 2012 – The Richard and Karen Carpenter Performing Arts Center on the campus of Cal State Long Beach has announced its 2012/13 Season featuring four subscription series and more—including inspiring and celebrated performers in music, comedy, dance and as well as thrilling events for the entire family.

"Our patrons appreciate the wide range of engaging performances we offer, and take advantage of our affordable ticket prices to bring their families and friends," said Executive Director Michele Roberge, adding "People want to create memorable experiences with the arts, and that's what we provide at Carpenter Center—a terrific performance in our comfortable theatre with easy parking. Plus the diverse selection of fine dining in Long Beach complements our patrons' lifestyle. The Carpenter Center is honored to welcome audience members from all over Southern California, from Hollywood to Dana Point, from the South Bay to the High Desert."

The season officially opens with controversial performing artists **Holly Hughes** and **Tim Miller** on Sept. 27 and **Karen Finley** and **John Fleck** on Sept. 28. Known as the 'NEA Four', the two evenings will feature performances with spirited humor and uninhibited insight into the human condition as each artist shares their latest work, including a world premiere from Karen Finley. The performances are the centerpiece of *The B-Word Project—Banned, Blacklisted and Boycotted: Censorship and the Response to It*—at Cal State Long Beach, an 18-month campus-wide initiative which runs through December 2012. In addition, the project will present the Southern California premiere of *Reading Mercy and the Artificial Nigger*, the landmark piece by internationally renowned dancer and choreographer Bill T. Jones in collaboration with the CSULB Department of Dance. The piece is inspired by a Flannery O'Connor short story and transcends boundaries as it mixes dance, literature and racial stereotypes.

The popular Wit and Wisdom Series delivers comical insights and wildly witty observations about the human condition beginning with ***An Evening with Lily Tomlin*** on Sept. 29. Next in the series is Ira Glass, charismatic creator and host of the award-winning public radio program *This American Life*, in an appearance at Carpenter Center with ***Reinventing Radio***. Lastly, **The Improvised Shakespeare Company** brings spontaneous comedy and skits inspired by the language and themes of William Shakespeare.

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Over the past few seasons, Carpenter Center has become a leading presenter of dance in Southern California, offering a range of established companies, emerging choreographers, and sought after international performers. The highly acclaimed **Aspen Santa Fe Ballet** kicks off the Dance Series on Oct. 13 with an evening that will include the West Coast premiere of *Over Glow*—a dramatic piece by Finnish choreographer Jorma Elo, where he contrasts contemporary movement with music from Mendelssohn and Beethoven. The series also includes the Orange County company, **Backhausdance**. Named “one of seven emerging dance companies to watch” in North America by New York’s Joyce Theatre, Backhausdance brings artistic repertory of powerful, athletic dances and emotionally charged dramatic pieces that reveal whimsical, humorous glimpses of the human experience. The series finishes with the West Coast debut of **Companhia Urbana de Dança**, the all-male Brazilian contemporary dance company that fuses hip-hop and contemporary dance into an energetic performance.

This season’s Sunday Afternoon Concert Series opens with a hilarious tribute to legendary comedian Groucho Marx by actor Frank Ferrante—hailed as “the greatest living interpreter” of Groucho by *The New York Times*—in **An Afternoon with Groucho**. The series continues with **New Directions Veterans Choir** comprised of formerly homeless U.S. Military veterans who sing renditions of doo-wop, traditional gospel and pop music. Next, **Susan Werner** returns to the Carpenter Center stage with her own innovative and bold contemporary folk songs. Lastly, **The Tommy Dorsey Orchestra** ‘swings’ into Carpenter Center as the big band continues the Dorsey legacy under the leadership of Terry Myers.

The Cabaret Series, now in its 14th season, offers patrons an intimate experience as the four-event series transforms the Carpenter Center stage into Club Cabaret, with table seating that is less than 40 feet from the artists. Patrons may arrive early to enjoy dinner or drinks before the performance. The series begins on Oct. 3 with **Dala**, two darlings of the Canadian music scene who blend their voices to create lush harmonies inspired by Joni Mitchell, Neil Young and Bob Dylan. **The Pieter Meijers Quartet** delivers humor, lyrical artistry and technical brilliance of jazz—joined by singer Brady McKay. Acclaimed singer **Kurt Elling**, hailed by *The New York Times* as “the standout male jazz vocalist of our time,” will make his Carpenter Center debut. The series culminates with a rousing concert of Louisiana-style blues with **Pokey LaFarge and the South City Three**, named “best discovery” by *Spin* at the 2010 Newport Folk Music Festival.

Carpenter Center presents an eclectic and entertaining mix of performances that are not part of a subscription series. First is the return of **Circus Zoppé** for seven performances as the colorful circus tent goes up at the majestic Queen Mary in Downtown Long Beach. Legendary folk singer and Grammy Award winner Judy Collins mixes seasonal favorites with her greatest hits in the **Judy Collins Holiday Concert**. At the heels of the presidential inauguration, **Capitol Steps** returns after three sold out appearances to recap a frenzied political year. Making his Carpenter Center debut, country music legend **Clint Black** will perform all his classic hits for a one-night performance. The Carpenter Center then launches into a trio of spectacular events: the explosive energy and sounds of **Drumline Live**; an up-close experience with amazingly life-like prehistoric creatures at the **Dinosaur Petting Zoo**; and the return of the **Pink Floyd LaserSpectacular** featuring cutting edge laser technology choreographed to the music of one of the greatest bands of all time. For St. Patrick’s, the **Makem & Spain Brothers**—the three sons of Irish music icon Tommy Makem and brothers Liam and Mickey Spain—perform an evening of rollicking traditional Irish music. Finally, the internationally renowned **Kronos Quartet** performs *Sun Rings*—a piece originally commissioned by NASA with intergalactic sounds and a multi-media display.

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Patrons who subscribe to one of the four subscription series get the best seats in the house, as well as numerous benefits—from significant discounts on single tickets to free parking for all subscribed events. A 2012-13 advance priority subscription order form is available online at www.CarpenterArts.org. The Wit and Wisdom Series three-event subscription is \$109, the Dance Series three-event subscription is \$99, the Sunday Afternoon Concert Series four-event subscription is \$99, and the Cabaret Series four-event subscription ranges from \$156-\$282. Advance single tickets will be available online starting June 1 at a discount of \$5 off each ticket through August 6. All programs, performers, prices, dates, and times are subject to change.

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Where: **The Richard and Karen Carpenter Performing Arts Center**
6200 Atherton Street, Long Beach 90815
(On the campus of Cal State Long Beach)

Tickets: **Call (562) 985-7000 | Online starting June 1 www.Carpenterarts.org**

Box Office: **Monday-Friday, 11am-6pm; Saturday, noon-4pm**

CARPENTER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
2012/13 SEASON CALENDAR LISTING

Wit and Wisdom Series

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| An Evening with Lily Tomlin | Sat., Sept. 29, 2012 at 8pm |
| Reinventing Radio: An Evening with Ira Glass | Sat., Feb. 9, 2013 at 8pm |
| The Improvised Shakespeare Company | Sat., Mar. 9, 2013 at 8pm |

Cabaret Series

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| Dala | Wed./Thu., Oct. 3-4, 2012 |
| Pieter Meijers Quartet with Brady McKay | Wed./Thu., Dec. 12-13, 2012 |
| Kurt Elling | Wed./Thu., Feb. 6-7, 2013 |
| Pokey LaFarge and the South City Three | Wed./Thu., May 8-9, 2013 |

Note: All Cabaret performances start at 7pm. Optional dinner service 6-6:50pm.

Dance Series

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| Aspen Santa Fe Ballet | Sat., Oct. 13, 2012 at 8pm |
| Backhausdance | Sat., Feb. 2, 2013 at 8pm |
| Companhia Urbana de Dança | Sat., Mar. 30, 2013 at 8pm |

Sunday Afternoon Concert Series

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| An Afternoon with Groucho | Sun., Oct. 14, 2012 at 2pm |
| New Directions Veterans Choir | Sun., Nov. 25, 2012 at 2pm |
| Susan Werner | Sun., Mar. 24, 2012 at 2pm |
| The Tommy Dorsey Orchestra | Sun., May 19, 2012 at 2pm |

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Music & Stage Events

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| Holly Hughes and Tim Miller | Thu., Sept. 27, 2012 |
| John Fleck and Karen Finley | Fri., Sept. 28, 2012 |
| Circus Zoppé | Fri./Sun., Sept. 28-30, 23, 2012 |
| Bill T. Jones and CSULB Department of Dance | Fri./Sat., Nov. 16-17, 2012 at 8pm |
| Judy Collins Holiday Concert | Sat., Dec. 22, 2012 at 8pm |
| Capitol Steps | Sat., Jan. 12, 2013 at 8pm |
| Clint Black | Thu., Jan. 26, 2013 at 8pm |
| Drumline Live | Sat., Jan. 26, 2013 at 8pm |
| Dinosaur Petting Zoo | Sun., Feb. 10, 2013 |
| Pink Floyd LaserSpectacular | Fri., Mar. 15, 2013 at 8pm |
| The Makem and Spain Brothers | Sat., Mar. 16, 2013 at 8pm |
| Kronos Quartet | Sat., Mar. 23, 2013 at 8pm |

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