

RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY
Office of Communications and Public Affairs

Press Release

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**The Angelica and Russ Berrie Center for Performing and Visual Arts
Announces the 2013/2014 Season of Music, Comedy, Theatre and Dance**

(MAHWAH, NJ) – Rock, Jazz, World music and Broadway icons, as well as award-winning comedians are highlights of Ramapo College’s Berrie Center for Performing and Visual Arts’ 2013 fall season.

“This is a stellar lineup for the Berrie Center,” said Stephanie Chaiken, interim director of the Berrie Center. “There is something for everyone in the entire family in our calendar of shows ranging from concerts to comedy to theatre and acrobats. Our patrons can experience incredible performances right here in Northern, New Jersey with free parking.”

The Berrie Center will begin the fall season on **September 27**, with Grammy Award-winner **Arturo O’Farrill’s Quintet and special guest, Claudia Acuña**.

Audiences will be treated to a musical journey into the small ensemble world of GRAMMY winning composer, pianist, and bandleader, Arturo O’Farrill. Here, O’Farrill expands on what many consider his true calling, as a pianist, in an intimate show. His collaborations with Chilean vocalist Claudia Acuña resulted in a lovely recording titled “In These Shoes” (ZOHO). Claudia and Arturo will perform some of these songs and perhaps even spin out some new arrangements.

On **October 4**, the Berrie Center welcomes the **Average White Band**. Renowned for the hits “Pick Up The Pieces” and “Cut the Cake,” Average White Band has been performing sold-out shows around the world for the past 30 years. While their roots are Scottish, AWB performs infectious danceable funky soul, based on the sounds of Memphis, Motown and Philadelphia. The current band line-up features noted U.S. recruits augmenting founding members Alan Gorrie and Onnie McIntyre, as they continue receiving critical acclaim to worldwide tours and recording.

On **October 5**, the Berrie Center presents a unique program from a superb trilogy of talent. **Marlene VerPlanck** sings great American standards, and **Harry Allen** leads an all star sax section with **Billy VerPlanck's** award winning arrangements. *LA Jazz Scene* raves "Peak performance!", while *The Star Ledger* crowns, "A national treasure. VerPlanck OWNS the American songbook."

A runner up for "Best Big Band" in the *Jazz Times* readers' poll, the **Westchester Jazz Orchestra** will make its Ramapo debut on **Saturday, October 19** in a fabulous evening of pop music. Hailed by *The New York Times* as having "strikingly executed performances," WJO performs beautiful and original versions of hits by Stevie Wonder, the Beatles, Joni Mitchell, Carole King and Billy Joel.

On **Sunday, October 20**, **Galumph** will perform a show for all ages audiences, combining stunning acrobatics, striking visual effects, physical comedy and inventive choreography that brings to life a world of imagination, beauty, muscle and merriment. The three performers create a sensory feast of images ranging from the ridiculous to the sublime, drawn together into a seamless whole, consistently bringing audiences of all ages to their feet.

Are you ready to laugh? **Rondell Sheridan**, actor and comedian, probably best known as Chef Victor from Disney's "That's So Raven," will headline the Berrie Center stage on **October 26**. Rondell has appeared multiple times on the *Tonight Show* with Johnny Carson and Jay Leno, *Late Night* with Conan O'Brien, *the Late, Late, Late Show* with Craig Ferguson and has had several *Showtime* and *Comedy Central* specials. His quick-witted timing is second to none, making him a must see!

For more than two decades, **HOTEL CALIFORNIA** has touched the hearts of fans all over the world, and will bring their dynamic, highly-acclaimed tribute show to the Berrie Center this **October 27**. This show faithfully and accurately reproduces the Grammy Award-winning sounds of the Eagles by incorporating The Eagles' mega-hits such as "Take it Easy," "Heartache Tonight," and of course "Hotel California," as well as selected titles from the solo works of Don Henley, Glen Frey, and Joe Walsh.

November begins with an **International Vocal Festival** on **Saturday, November 2**. This exciting festival is an exchange of music, ideas and workshops, featuring Canadian a capella sensation Countermeasure plus Professor Lisa Lutter's acclaimed groups: Skylark, CantaNOVA and Take 12. The festival is rounded out by Ramapo student-directed a capella hipsters 4Gotten SuitCase.

On **Saturday, November 9**, the Berrie Center presents the **Ramapo Faculty Music Concert**. This acoustic program in the intimate Adler Theater spans from classical piano and chamber music, to Broadway vocals and Latin Jazz, performed by the Ramapo College faculty. A divine treat!

Next, on **Saturday, December 8, Maureen McGovern** will headline The Berrie Center with her acclaimed show “**A Long and Winding Road,**” celebrating early 1960-70s music by iconic singer/songwriters Carole King, Bob Dylan, Jimmy Webb, Joni Mitchell, and James Taylor, among others. Their classic songs including ‘Fire and Rain,” “Let It Be,” “The Times, They Are A Changing,” “The Circle Game,” “Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow?” and many more will be performed. The evening will end with a selection of holiday favorites.

The busy season wraps up on **December 14**, when **Eileen Ivers and Immigrant Soul** capture the spirit and magic of the season with two performances of their heartwarming holiday show, “**An Irish Christmas – An Nollaig.**” Nine time All-Ireland Fiddle Champion and music star of *Riverdance*, Eileen Ivers will change the way you think about the violin. Hailed as one of the great innovators and pioneers in the Celtic and World Music genres, Ivers has established herself as the pre-eminent exponent of the Irish fiddle in the world today. "... the Jimi Hendrix of the violin." - *The New York Times*

A world of stellar entertainment...very close to home, the Berrie Center has exceptional seating, affordable ticket prices and free parking. For tickets and more information on these fall 2013 events, plus a description of spring 2014 events, call the Berrie Center Box Office at 201-684-7844, or order online at <http://www.ramapo.edu/berriecenter/tickets.html> .

Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as sixth in the Best Regional Universities North category, Ramapo College of New Jersey is sometimes mistaken for a private college. This is, in part, due to its unique interdisciplinary academic structure, its size of approximately 6,008 students and its pastoral setting in the foothills of the Ramapo Mountains on the New Jersey/New York border.

Established in 1969, Ramapo College offers bachelor's degrees in the arts, business, humanities, social sciences and the sciences, as well as in professional studies, which include nursing and social work. In addition, Ramapo College offers courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels. The College also offers six graduate programs as well as articulated programs with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, New York Chiropractic College, New York University College of Dentistry, SUNY State College of Optometry and New York College of Podiatric Medicine.