



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Batte Center 2017-2018 Season Announced

Wingate, N.C. – The Batte Center raises the curtain on its *2017-2018 Batte Center Presents Season* of concerts, comedy and theatre events featuring its trademark blend of diverse and a diverting artists from around the world.

The season kicks off with the poetry slam talents of **The Mayhem Poets** blending the raw elements of hip hop, theatre, improvisation and comedy. Acoustic music offerings include Grammy nominated 12-string guitar master **Leo Kottke**, North Carolina's award winning bluegrass band, **Balsam Range**, and the **Wailin' Jennys**, known for their lush 3-part harmonies and frequent appearances on NPR's Prairie Home Companion radio show.

As part International Education Week, The Batte will host nine Tibetan Buddhist monks from the Drepung Loseling Monastery. During their 5-day residency, these practicing monk artists will create a colorful Mandala Sand Painting. Visitors are welcome to watch the creative process, try their hand and sand painting and see the final closing ceremony when the sand mandala is swept away and returned to the earth for a blessing of healing. The ceremony will be followed by an evening performance of ancient temple music and dances by the **Mystical Arts of Tibet**.

The Season's Special Event shines a spotlight on **The Midtown Men**, featuring four stars of the original cast of the Tony Award Winning Broadway production of "Jersey Boys" - the first vocal group ever formed by the principal cast of a high-profile Broadway show. After sharing the stage for 1000+ performances, they have forged a signature sound and chemistry bringing to life favorite 1960s hits originated by The Four Seasons, The Beatles, The Beach Boys and The Temptations.

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The Batte Center 2017-2018 Season:

Mayhem Poets

Sept 22, 2017 - 8PM

Dubbed “an amazing ride” by the New York Times, these theatre trained, lyrical virtuosos seamlessly blend raw elements of hip hop, theatre, improvisation and comedy to tell truths that leave audiences forever changed.

The Midtown Men

Oct 21, 2017 - 8PM

THE MIDTOWN MEN reunites four stars from the original cast of Broadway’s JERSEY BOYS bringing to life their favorite 1960s hits. Featuring stories and songs, their acclaimed concert features classic songs originated by The Four Seasons, The Beatles, The Beach Boys, The Temptations, and more.

Not A Performance Of, Not Affiliated With the Show JERSEY BOYS.

Leo Kottke

Nov 10, 2017 - 8PM

Known for his unique finger-picking style, Kottke draws on blues, jazz and folk music for his syncopated, polyphonic melodies. In concert, Kottke mixes humor and anecdotes with vocal and instrumental selections played on his six and twelve string guitars.

Mystical Arts of Tibet: Sacred Music & Dance for World Healing

Nov 17, 2017 - 8PM

The celebrated multiphonic singers from Tibet’s Drepung Loseling Monastery share their centuries-old sacred traditions. Robed in magnificent costumes and playing traditional Tibetan instruments the monks perform ancient temple music and dances that are believed to promote world healing.

American Spiritual Ensemble

Jan 26, 2018 - 8PM

The American Spiritual Ensemble is a group of the finest singers in classical music today thrilling international audiences with dynamic renditions of classic spirituals, jazz, and Broadway favorites highlighting the black experience in America.

The Wailin’ Jennys

Feb 2, 2018 - 8PM

A stand-out among a new generation of Canadian roots music bands, the Wailin’ Jennys’ beautiful three-part vocal harmonies and spare instrumentation weaves a shimmering tapestry of original and traditional songs interlaced with intelligent, dynamic stories and vivid imagery.

Vital Theatre presents “Pinkalicious, The Musical”

Feb 18, 2018 - 3PM

Based on the book by Elizabeth and Victoria Kann, *Pinkalicious* is the story of a little girl who can't stop eating pink cupcakes despite warnings from her parents. Her pink indulgence lands her at the doctor's office with Pinkitis, an affliction that turns her pink from head to toe. A Family Friendly Event.

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A Tribute to Benny Goodman: The Julian Bliss Septet

Feb 25, 2018 - 3PM

British clarinetist Julian Bliss brings the legendary King of Swing's music to life with an evening of songs and stories. Goodman was a colossus of the Swing Era and Bliss and Bliss stays true to his music with a bit of a modern twist as they perform the music of Hoagy Carmichael, Louis Prima, Euby Blake and George and Ira Gershwin.

Balsam Range

Mar 23, 2018 - 8PM

Balsam Range's ascent to the top of the bluegrass world has left a well-marked trail of success since the band's inception in 2007. One of the genre's most award-winning artists in recent years, Balsam Range has garnered ten International Bluegrass Music Association Awards on the heels of six critically acclaimed albums.

Tickets are now on sale to Season Subscribers and Members of The Friends of The Batte by mail, email, phone and fax. To subscribe, patrons can buy three or more shows and Friends of the Batte Memberships start at \$50. Single tickets will go on sale to the general public on June 27th. Visit Wingate University's Batte Center website at www.battecenter.org for a complete schedule of events, ticket prices, as well as subscriber and membership information or call 704-233-8300.

Learn more about The Batte Season: www.battecenter.org

Download high resolution photos at: www.battecenter.org/press/media/

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About The Batte Center

Opened in 1999, the George A. Batte, Jr. Fine Arts Center presents events in the Hannah Covington McGee Theatre, Plyer-Griffin Recital Hall and Austin Auditorium. A five-minute drive from Monroe and 29 miles southeast of Charlotte, The Batte is just off of Highway 74. Free parking is plentiful and all three performance spaces offer full wheelchair accessibility.

About Wingate University

Wingate University, consistently ranked as a top 10 "best value" in the South by *U.S. News & World Report*, serves more than 3,100 students on three campuses in Wingate, Charlotte and Hendersonville, N.C. Founded in 1896, the University offers 35 undergraduate majors, 37 minors and career concentrations, numerous pre-professional programs, graduate degrees in business, accounting, education, physician assistant studies and sport management, and doctorates in pharmacy, physical therapy and education. With a 15-to-1 student/teacher ratio, Wingate students gain the tools and support needed to excel in academics and apply that learning toward an extraordinary career and life.

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