

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Kathleen Van Gorden  
KVG Communications  
401-480-1840  
kathleenv@kvgcom.com



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**FirstWorks Announces Cornerstone Headliners  
*The 2013 – 2014 Season, A Celebration of Inspiration***

**PROVIDENCE, RI** – [FirstWorks](http://FirstWorks) today announced the cornerstone performances to anchor its 2013 – 2014 Season – a celebration of inspiration in world-class theater, dance, music and visual arts. The season kicks off November 1 and 2 with the dazzling acrobatics, illusions and imagery of **Cirkopolis**, the latest creation of **Cirque Éloize**, a one-of-a-kind company that has partnered with Cirque du Soleil® for a long-term relationship based on common creative visions and international entertainment appeal. Next, **FirstWorks** partners with Community MusicWorks to present a rare Providence performance by **Kronos Quartet** culminating with a new work jointly commissioned by FirstWorks and **Community MusicWorks** to debut in Providence. The season continues with the dazzling rhythms of Broadway tap phenomenon **Savion Glover** and a concert event by **Mark Morris Dance Group** combining amazing choreography with live music. Tickets are available at [firstworks.org](http://firstworks.org).

“We are thrilled to share this expansive range of brilliant performances with our audiences in Providence,” said Kathleen Pletcher, Executive Artistic Director, FirstWorks. “This promises to be our best season yet, with these and many more fantastic performances to be announced – all culminating in a season of fun, beauty and the provocative ideas that propel art.”

**FirstWorks Season Cornerstone Headliners**

**Cirkopolis**

The FirstWorks season kicks off at the Providence Performing Arts Center with **Cirkopolis**, a spectacular show by Montreal-based Cirque Éloize that transports performers into a vibrant world, alive with video projections and an original musical score that push the boundaries of visual and audio innovation. Positioned at the heart of the renewal of circus arts, this one-of-a-kind company has captivated audiences in 36 countries.

Twelve acrobats and multidisciplinary artists perform within an inventive stage design as **Cirkopolis** unfolds, scene-by-scene, like an elemental universe with sculptural imagery. Jugglers brave the space, a contortionist is lifted by her companions in a surge of inspiration, and aerial artists defy the height of skyscrapers.

FirstWorks presents **Cirkopolis** by Cirque Éloize, Friday, November 1, 2013 at 7:30pm and Saturday, November 2, 2013 at 4:00pm at Providence Performing Arts Center, 220 Weybosset Street, Providence. Tickets are \$38-68 and are available online at [first-works.org](http://first-works.org) and at the PPAC Box Office: 401-421-ARTS, 220 Weybosset Street, Providence. Ticket prices include a \$3 restoration fee.

### **Kronos Quartet**

A legendary force at the forefront of the performing arts, **Kronos Quartet** returns to Providence for a world-premiere piece commissioned through a bold partnership between FirstWorks and Community MusicWorks (CMW). This intimate and exhilarating performance celebrates spectacular virtuosity and some of the best music of our time created especially for Kronos. With a host of international composers including Laurie Anderson, Serbian wunderkind Alexandra Vrebalov, and Canadian electronic trickster, John Oswald, the evening's highlight is the first-ever performance of *A Voice Exclaiming*, a musically bi-lingual piece by the internationally renowned Kareem Roustom for Kronos and the The Community MusicWorks Players.

Over four decades, Kronos has become one of the worlds most celebrated and influential ensembles. Having sold over 2.5 million records and with more than 3,000 performances, Kronos embraces a spirit of fearless exploration to tell the stories of new music like no other. Featuring David Harrington (violin), John Sherba (violin), Hank Dutt (viola) and Sunny Yang (cello), Kronos are the only recipients of both the Polar Music Prize and the Avery Fisher Prize, two of the most prestigious awards given to musicians.

The Community MusicWorks Players is the resident ensemble of Community MusicWorks, a nationally recognized organization in Providence that connects a professional chamber music ensemble with several urban communities to re-energize the public role for musicians in today's world. New Yorker music critic Alex Ross describes Community MusicWorks as "a revolutionary organization in which the distinction between performing and teaching disappears."

FirstWorks and Community MusicWorks present Kronos Quartet, Friday, November 8, 2013, 8:00pm at RISD Auditorium, 17 Canal Walk, Providence. Tickets are \$28-65 and are available online at [first-works.org](http://first-works.org), or call 401-421-4281.

### **Savion Glover – STePz**

Savion Glover's *STePz* is his newest exuberant celebration of tap dance to sound and sound to dance. Since **Savion Glover** first exploded onto the stage with his Broadway smash hit *Bring In da Noise*, *Bring In da Funk*, he has become one of the precious few artists to radically embody, redefine and expand their art form. In this production, Mr. Glover and his ensemble of dancers take tap dance to new heights by fusing traditional music selections of the past with Glover's self-proclaimed tap style and energy of the future.

*STePz* demonstrates Mr. Glover's incredible ability to perform the complexities of jazz phrasing—both bass line and melody—as well as wild improvisations—structure and deconstruction—from departure to return. FirstWorks' audiences will have the opportunity to experience the versatility and virtuoso of Savion Glover's genius as a tap dance superstar and witness the seemingly impossible: a continuous flow of percussive taps with the subtlest of moves.

FirstWorks presents Savion Glover & Company in *STePz*, Friday, January, 31, 2014, 7:30pm at The Vets, 1 Avenue of the Arts, Providence. Tickets are \$28-58 and are available online at [first-works.org](http://first-works.org) and at The Vets box office: 401-421-ARTS, 220 Weybosset Street, Providence. Ticket prices include a \$3 restoration fee.

### **Mark Morris Dance Group**

The **Mark Morris Dance Group**, one of the world's leading dance companies, joins FirstWorks for an exhilarating evening of live music and dance. Mark Morris is a master choreographer of endless invention still brilliantly sculpting his legacy. Hailed as the "Mozart of modern dance", he is committed to live music as an integral part of the dance experience.

This celebration of joyous creativity includes a selection from *Mozart Dances* performed against a backdrop of rich visuals by British painter Howard Hodgkin, which inspired John Rockwell of The New York Times to describe it as, "a masterpiece, a triumph and one of Mr. Morris's greatest achievements". In the primitive and mysterious *Grand Duo* – acclaimed as "one of the most viscerally

charged passages in the annals of modern dance” by The Boston Globe – Morris turns to ancient rites inspired by Lou Harrison’s thrilling score. The intensely musical Morris, who recently became the first choreographer to serve as musical director for the Ojai Music Festival, makes his Rhode Island conducting debut for Bach’s *Jesu, meine Freude* featuring the Brown University Chorus.

FirstWorks presents The Mark Morris Dance Group, Saturday, March 8, 2014, 8:00pm at The Vets; Tickets are \$38-68 and are available online starting Monday, August 5, 2013 at [first-works.org](http://first-works.org) and at The Vets box office: 401-421-ARTS, 220 Weybosset Street, Providence. Ticket prices include a \$3 restoration fee. This performance is presented in part with support from the Brown University Creative Arts Council.

### **About FirstWorks**

FirstWorks is a non-profit arts organization that presents world-class performing arts programs that build the cultural, educational, and economic vitality of our community. Since 2004, FirstWorks has offered Rhode Islanders access to some of the most exciting artists of our time including Yo-Yo Ma & the Silk Road Ensemble, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Sweet Honey in the Rock, Laurie Anderson and the master artists of Pakistan through the *Caravanserai* project (2011-12). Beginning with an unprecedented collaboration with Providence’s Department of Art, Culture + Tourism, FirstWorks has produced 22 groundbreaking arts festivals, attracted more than 155,000 participants, presented over 361 international artists and innovators, engaged more than 100 nonprofit community organizations and schools, and grown into a multidimensional arts organization recognized with 15 National Endowment for the Arts grants. In fall 2012, FirstWorks partnered with the City of Providence to present the inaugural FirstWorks Festival: On the Plaza, leading a consortium of 18 organizations to create an event that drew 40,000 people into downtown Providence. In July 2013, the City of Providence and FirstWorks were named recipients of a second NEA Our Town grant to support a community design effort to create a cultural corridor in downtown Providence along Washington Street, and to establish the FirstWorks Festival on the Plaza as a biennial signature event in Providence. Visit [www.first-works.org](http://www.first-works.org) to learn more.

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