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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**FirstWorks Brings Violin Virtuoso and Intrepid Musical Explorer  
REGINA CARTER to Providence**

*October 18, 2014 concert preceded by Arts Learning Residency in Barrington, Pawtucket  
and other locations  
Free Pre-Concert Conversation Just Added!*

PROVIDENCE, RI – Considered the foremost jazz violinist of her generation, **violin virtuoso Regina Carter** and her quintet are coming to Providence for the first time. FirstWorks, Providence’s premiere performing arts curator, announced today that on **Saturday, October 18, 2014, 8:00 pm** at the **RISD Auditorium**, Carter will perform a special open-to-the-public concert after her multi-day FirstWorks’ Arts Learning Residency, engaging with students in Barrington, Pawtucket and other areas. Known for her soulful and rooted blending of musical genres, Carter will perform tracks at the performance from her latest *Southern Comfort* album, a continuation of her quest to explore her family roots through the sounds of the violin.

*Just added:* A pre-concert conversation entitled “Cultural Identity and the Power of Improvisation” will take place the same evening at **6:30 pm at Metcalf Auditorium at RISD’s Chace Center, 20 North Main Street**. Free and open to the public, this conversation will be moderated by Karen Baxter, Managing Director, Africana Studies’ Rites and Reason Theatre, Brown University. There is no ticket required for the pre-concert conversation.

**Regina Carter’s** technical prowess and musical genius has been celebrated for decades. Having started her journey in music at the age of two, Carter took the jazz world by storm with her lush tones and sophisticated technique early in her career. Since then, she has been on a musical exploration that led to her selection as a MacArthur Foundation “Genius” Fellow in 2006, and creation of a body of work that pays homage to her family roots, through an alchemy of folk, blues, and gospel with jazz.

*Southern Comfort* is a tour-de-force of timeless traditional Southern folk songs infused with mid-20<sup>th</sup> century jazz and R&B, creating soulful and modern arrangements with the raw grain of their original history. It continues Carter's discovery of her roots through earlier albums that featured her mother's favorite early jazz standards (*I'll Be Seeing You: A Sentimental Journey*) and traditional African music re-imagined for violin, accordion, bass, drums and kora (*Reverse Thread*).

**Carter joins FirstWorks for a multi-day arts education residency** that begins on October 14 at Barrington High School with a school workshop focused on jazz and the Harlem Renaissance. Carter is scheduled to also visit Jacqueline M. Walsh School for the Performing Arts in Pawtucket on October 15 to host a similar workshop. Other visits in locations throughout Rhode Island on these days are being confirmed.

FirstWorks is entering its third year of developing arts learning curriculum in jazz, working with leading artists such as Wynton Marsalis' *Jazz at Lincoln Center*. Last year the program engaged nearly 1,000 students in learning about jazz and the Harlem Renaissance. Carter's residency expands this program in area public schools in Rhode Island. Her performance on Saturday, October 18 will culminate her stay.

"Regina is a modern master exploring the music at the heart of the American experience, through her own family's past. Her latest voyage takes us to the music of her paternal grandfather," said FirstWorks' Executive Artistic Director Kathleen Pletcher. "I've been following her work since FirstWorks began bringing performing artists from the world to Providence ten years ago. Regina is one of those remarkable creative forces we look for – an artist who is pushing the envelope in their artistic medium."

The Regina Carter Quintet is: Regina Carter, violin; Will Holshouser, accordion; Marvin Sewell, guitar; Chris Lightcap, bass and Alvester Garnett, drums. Tickets are \$20-45 and are available for purchase at [first-works.org](http://first-works.org) or call 401-421-4281.

Regina Carter's Arts Learning Residency is presented in partnership with RISD's Center for Student Involvement; additional support is provided by the Expeditions Program of the New England Foundation for the Arts, made possible with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional support from the six New England state art agencies.

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## About FirstWorks

FirstWorks is a non-profit arts organization that builds the cultural, educational, and economic vitality of our community through world-class performing arts and education programs. 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, Wynton Marsalis, Joffrey Ballet, 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 160,000 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 17 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.