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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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22-Time Grammy-Winning Jazz Legend Chick Corea opens FirstWorks Artistic Icons Series with rare concert appearance in Rhode Island

New England native Chick Corea co-leads new band with iconic session drummer Steve Gadd on tour for release of new album

PROVIDENCE, RI – FirstWorks, a Rhode Island non-profit dedicated to building community through world-class arts, kicks off its 2017/2018 **Artistic Icons Series** with jazz powerhouses **The Chick Corea / Steve Gadd Band** on **Sunday, October 15, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.** at **The VETS** (1 Avenue of the Arts, Providence). Tickets for the performance, presented by **FirstWorks** and **The VETS** range from **\$35-\$68** and are on sale now at first-works.org and 401-421-ARTS (2787), and at The VETS Box Office at 220 Weybosset Street, Providence.

Keyboardist, composer and bandleader **Chick Corea** has attained iconic status in music, with a career of collaborations spanning over 50 years with some of the most legendary names in modern jazz music. A DownBeat Hall of Famer and NEA Jazz Master, Chick is also the **fourth-most nominated artist in Grammy Awards history with 63 nods and 22 wins**. He's also earned 3 Latin Grammy Awards, the most of any artist in the Best Instrumental Album category.

The Chick Corea / Steve Gadd Band tours on the cusp of the Fall 2017 release of the new band's highly anticipated studio album. Corea and Gadd's musical partnership is the stuff of legend, but the music is always new. Although co-leading a band for the first time this year, these two musicians have been collaborating since the 1970's, when Gadd became the first electric drummer in Corea's jazz fusion/rock group, Return to Forever. Since then, they have turned out one game-changing record after another, including "The Leprechaun", "My Spanish Heart", "Three Quartets" and "Friends".

Gadd is one of the most highly regarded session and studio drummers in the industry. The percussive architect behind the syncopated groove on Paul Simon's "50 Ways to Leave Your Lover" and the drum solo on the title track to Steely Dan's top selling album "Aja", and the unforgettable Number One disco sensation "The Hustle", Gadd's seminal sound and signature style pervaded hit music of the 1970's.

"Every drummer wants to play like Gadd because he plays perfect[ly]," said Corea. "He has brought orchestral and compositional thinking to the drum kit while at the same time having a great imagination and a great ability to swing."

"**FirstWorks Artistic Icons Series** engages Rhode Island audiences with performances from artists who have truly defined their genres," said **FirstWorks** Founder and Executive Artistic Director Kathleen Pletcher. "This is an unprecedented opportunity to witness

towering greats of jazz and rock live on stage in Providence for a new chapter of a shared musical history spanning over four decades."

The **Chick Corea / Steve Gadd Band's** FirstWorks Artistic Icons Series appearance at The VETS comes close on the heels of a 10-day run at the legendary Blue Note Jazz Club in New York City. Filling out the band's all-star lineup are young guns Lionel Loueke, the Beninian genius on guitar; Steve Wilson, Chick's Origin protégé, on sax and flute; the great Carlitos Del Puerto on bass; and Venezuelan master Luisito Quintero on percussion.

About FirstWorks

FirstWorks is a non-profit based in Providence, Rhode Island whose purpose is to build the cultural, educational and economic vitality of its community by engaging audiences with world-class performing arts and education programs. Since 2004, **FirstWorks** festivals, performances and programs have attracted more than 400,000 participants. The **FirstWorks Arts Learning Program** reaches over 4,000 students from public and charter schools across Rhode Island with transformative arts-based learning experiences. **FirstWorks** is Founding Creative Partner for PVDfest, partnering with the City of Providence to produce an international arts celebration held each June that draws tens of thousands of visitors to Providence to experience music, art and spectacular performances. Visit <http://first-works.org> to learn more.

About Chick Corea

Born in Chelsea, MA in 1941, **Chick Corea** has helped define jazz's vanguard for half a century, ever since recording his debut album "Tones for Joan's Bones" in 1966 and jazz classic "Now He Sings, Now He Sobs" in 1968. From straight-ahead jazz to avant-garde, bebop to jazz-rock fusion, children's songs to chamber and symphonic works, Corea has touched an astonishing number of musical bases since his start with the genre-shattering bands of Miles Davis in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Yet Corea has never been more productive than in the 21st century, whether playing acoustic piano or electric keyboards, leading multiple bands, performing solo or collaborating with a who's who of music. He remains today a tireless creative spirit, continually reinventing himself through his art. As The New York Times has said, he is "a luminary, ebullient and eternally youthful."

About Steve Gadd

Steve Gadd is one of the most well-known and highly regarded session and studio drummers in the recording industry, recognized by his induction into the Modern Drummer Hall of Fame in 1984. Born in 1945 in Irondequoit, NY, Gadd began his long association with Corea in 1975 on the album "The Leprechaun", and that same year recorded one of the iconic drum licks of pop music history on Paul Simon's "50 Ways to Leave Your Lover." From his drum solo on Steely Dan's "Aja", to the unforgettable groove of the Number One disco sensation "The Hustle", Gadd's signature style pervaded hit music of the 1970's and cemented his reputation as one of the true masters of the instrument.

Listings Information:

WHO: **FirstWorks Artistic Icons Series presents The Chick Corea / Steve Gadd Band**

WHAT: Jazz piano icon Chick Corea forms new band with legendary session drummer Steve Gadd

WHEN: **Sunday, October 15, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.**

WHERE: **FirstWorks at The Vets** (1 Avenue of the Arts, Providence)

TICKETS: **\$35-\$68** (includes a \$3 restoration fee)

PURCHASE: Tickets are available at <http://first-works.org> and at the Vets Box

Office: **401-421-ARTS (2787)**, 220 Weybosset Street, Providence

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