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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FirstWorks Presents Jazz Titans Chick Corea and Steve Gadd for First Providence Appearance with new Band

In advance of new album release, 22-time Grammy winner Chick Corea and iconic session drummer Steve Gadd kick off FirstWorks' 2017/18 season with concert performance and pre-show Creative Conversation

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 legends **The Chick Corea / Steve Gadd Band** on Sunday, October 15, 2017, 7:00 p.m. at The VETS (1 Avenue of the Arts, Providence). **FirstWorks** brings **The Chick Corea/Steve Gadd Band** to Providence ahead of the new band's international fall tour and a highly anticipated studio album release. Tickets 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.

Doors to **The Chick Corea / Steve Gadd Band** open at 6:00 p.m. for FirstWorks JumpStart performances. The ongoing pre-show JumpStart series highlights local artists and youth performers in venue lobbies.

Leading up to their **FirstWorks Artistic Icons Series** evening concert program, co-presented with The VETS, Corea and Gadd will participate in a **FirstWorks Creative Conversation** and Q&A moderated by WGBH radio's Eric Jackson, host of the celebrated jazz show "Eric in the

Evening." This conversation on collaboration and the creative process is presented in partnership with Moses Brown School, and will take place at the school's state of the art Woodman Family Community and Performance Center on Sunday, October 15 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public, but seating is extremely limited. Advance reservations are available exclusively to **The Chick Corea/Steve Gadd Band** evening concert ticketholders and members of the Moses Brown School community, first-come, first-served.

"FirstWorks is thrilled to connect Providence with these venerable icons of modern jazz on the cusp of their international tour. We're amplifying the gale force intensity of their new band's live concert experience with an opportunity to hear Chick and Steve kick back to talk about their music making. Partnerships are a driving force for FirstWorks, and we are delighted to be working with Moses Brown School to bring our communities together at their new arts center around this exclusive conversation," says Kathleen Pletcher, Executive Artistic Director of FirstWorks.

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.

As a way to connect Rhode Islanders with the legacy of this incredible musician, FirstWorks will co-host a screening of the Chick Corea documentary "The Musician" on Thursday, October 12

at 7:00 p.m. with the Jamestown Arts Center (18 Valley Street, Jamestown, R.I.) The screening is free and open to the public. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. for a pre-screening reception.

Steve 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", Gadd's seminal sound and signature style pervaded hit music of the 1970's, and continues to inspire a new generation of drummers today.

Although officially co-leading a band for the first time this year, Corea and Gadd 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".

Filling out the new 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 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

Listings Information:

WHO: **FirstWorks Creative Conversation with Chick Corea and Steve Gadd**

WHAT: Icons of jazz discuss their new collaboration and the creative process at conversation and Q&A moderated by WGBH's Eric Jackson.

WHEN: **Sunday, October 15, 2017 at 3:30 p.m.**

WHERE: **Moses Brown School – Woodman Center** (250 Lloyd Avenue, Providence)
TICKETS: **FREE**, Advance reservations available to members of the Moses Brown School Community and ticketholders to the 7 p.m. FirstWorks Artistic Icons concert at The VETS

Listings Information:

WHO: **FirstWorks and Jamestown Arts Center screen “The Musician”**

WHAT: A feature-length documentary film highlighting jazz great Chick Corea's life, musical career and standout collaborations.

WHEN: **Thursday, October 12, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. (doors open at 6:00 p.m.)**

WHERE: Jamestown Arts Center (18 Valley Street, Jamestown, R.I.)

TICKETS: **FREE and open to the public**

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