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REICHHOLD CENTER LAUNCHES 30TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

Reichhold Center for the Arts will mark its 30th year with a season filled with some of the biggest names in entertainment.

Reichhold Center staff unveiled its 2008-2009 season Thursday evening during the St. Thomas-St. John Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours, held in the theater.

The 30th anniversary season kicks off in October with a commemorative week of activities to mark the center's official opening on October 8, 1978. On Saturday, October 4, Reichhold Center presents the first offering in its Family Series, *Cirque Le Masque*. *Cirque*, a whimsical, magical adventure is fantasy come alive. The family show features colorful costumes, dazzling lights and daring acts.

Then, on Wednesday, October 8, the public is invited to celebrate with Reichhold staff at a 30th Anniversary gala featuring the Haitian folk group *Strings*. The commemorative activities conclude Saturday, October 11 with a concert featuring R&B legend Al Green, who will sing his classics, "Love and Happiness," and "Let's Stay Together," along with material from his new hit CD, "Lay It Down."

"We went all out this season to bring top performers in the music and dance genres," said Pamela Toussaint, co-director of the Reichhold Center. "This season is a milestone for us and we want it to also be very special for our subscribers and the general public."

Along with Al Green the season lineup features high-profile artists in a variety of genres, including R&B, jazz, classical, world music, and dance.

R&B sensation Mario has been added to the Reichhold Center Family Series. A standout among a new generation of singers, Mario has earned a legion of adoring young fans with his hits "Let Me Love You," and "How Do I Breathe."

The Family Series is rounded out by a storybook come to life in "The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley."

Reggae fans will no doubt enjoy the sultry sounds of Gregory Isaacs, dubbed "The Cool Ruler" after his album of the same name. Isaacs' 1982 "Night Nurse" became a hit that still burns the reggae charts today. Isaacs will perform with Tarrus Riley, who's song "She's Royal" blazed the reggae charts in 2007-2008.

Jazz fans will appreciate a performance by the son of a music dynasty, Branford Marsalis, whose saxophone sounds range from traditional to modern to improvisational.

In the World music category, Les Nubians have put Afro-European music on the map. The French/Camaroonian sister duo has intrigued audiences worldwide with their jazzing nuances and harmonious melodies. Their song "Makeda" was a hit on billboard charts.

Caribbean culture is also on display with the fourth installment of Reichhold Center's *Playing Ring* series. This original production will pay homage to artists who helped fuel the passions of *Quelbe* music. Performers include Milo and the Kings, Stanley and the 10 Sleepless Knights and the Lashing Dogs of Tortola.

Top dance companies also make their appearances in the 30th anniversary season. DanceBrazil performs a sexy, colorful piece titled “The Ritual.” The dance pays homage to the Bahia region of Brazil and the martial arts practice Capoeira.

Pilobolus Dance Company has gained international acclaim for its extravagant contortionist routines. As seen on the *Oprah Winfrey Show*, Pilobolus dancers transform their bodies into a penguin, a car, or any letter of the alphabet.

In conjunction with The Forum, Reichhold Center will present Cook, Dixon & Young: The Original Three Mo’ Tenors. From classical to jazz to pop, soul and gospel these three tenors take audiences on an exciting musical ride.

This landmark season closes with Trinidadian native and Grammy Award winning artist Billy Ocean. Best known for hits songs “Caribbean Queen,” “When the Going Gets Tough,” and “There’ll Be Sad Songs,” Ocean made a triumphant performance at the 2008 St. Kitts Music Festival.

The Reichhold Center for the Arts 30th Anniversary season is made possible by numerous sponsors. Commemorative Week activities are underwritten by Theodore Tunick Insurance Company. Season sponsors include Marriott Frenchman’s Reef and Morningstar Resort, First Bank, First Insurance, and the Virgin Islands Council on the Arts. Other sponsors include Innovative Cable TV, the Virgin Islands Department of Education, and the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation.

For more information contact the Reichhold Center box office at 693-1559 or visit www.reichholdcenter.com.