

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 9, 2007

CONTACT: Karen Gutloff
(340) 693-1563

REICHHOLD CENTER UNVEILS 2007-2008 PERFORMANCE SEASON

The Reichhold Center for the Arts unveiled one of the center's most diverse seasons of entertainment Thursday evening, during the St. Thomas-St. John Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours.

The 2007-2008 season includes rhythm and blues, jazz, zouk, reggae, choral music, and contemporary dance performances.

More than 200 people filled the Reichhold theater, where oversized billboards announced performers for the Center's 29th season—a season that continues a tradition of providing the territory with established music artists seldom seen in the Virgin Islands.

Rhythm and blues group Maze featuring Frankie Beverly headline the season on October 20, 2007 at 8 p.m. The group, critically acclaimed for the energy and excitement of their live performances, has released a steady stream of number one hits over 30 years, including "*Joy and Pain*," "*I Can't Get Over You*," and "*Golden Time of Day*."

Jazz offerings include seasoned veteran George Benson, and Chris Botti, a hot-newcomer to the jazz scene. Benson performs November 17, 2007, while Botti takes the stage February 16, 2008.

Benson is acclaimed as one of the greatest guitarists in jazz history. His versatility extends to the pop world where his smooth lyrics spawned such hits as "The Greatest Love of All," "This Masquerade" and "Give Me the Night."

Botti has taken the jazz world by storm with his innovative trumpet melodies. Botti puts a fresh twist on traditional favorites, such as "Good Morning Heartache," "Embraceable You," and "Pennies From Heaven." His CD, "The Duets," features performances with Sting, Gladys Knight, and Jill Scott.

Caribbean music is a highlight of the Reichhold season with three special programs devoted to the genre.

World music sensation Kassav hits the stage January 12, 2008. Kassav, a favorite with Caribbean audiences has traversed the Caribbean and Europe, as global ambassadors of Caribbean zouk music.

Reichhold Center presents the third installment of its Playing Ring series on February 2, 2008. The new production will celebrate the influence of music from St. Lucia, Dominica and Puerto Rico on Virgin Islands culture.

Reggae music takes center stage when Beres Hammond returns to Reichhold Center on March 15, 2008. Hammond is a favorite with the Reichhold Center audience, performing to a sold-out crowd in 2001. The proclaimed King of Lovers Rock will perform many of his hit songs, including, "*Putting up a Resistance*," "*Tempted to Touch*" and "*Rockaway*."

On March 28, 2008, Reichhold Center presents the Morgan State University Choir.

The Morgan State University Choir, one of the nation's most prestigious university choral ensembles, has performed with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. The University of the Virgin Islands choral group and high school choral groups perform will perform with the choir. The concert, a co-production with the Virgin Islands Council on the Arts, will take place on St. Croix on March 29.

Riveting dance performances continue to be a staple of the Reichhold season.

On December 8, 2007, more than a dozen dancers/illusionists perform as part of MOMIX. MOMIX is hailed internationally for presenting work of exceptional inventiveness and physical beauty. Audiences are left spellbound by the group's ability to conjure up a world of surrealistic images using props, light, shadow, humor and the human body.

Dance continues on May 17, 2008 with the Complexions Ballet Company. Created by two former Alvin Ailey dancers, Complexions features a cultural mix of dancers, in a wide array of dance styles. Complexions dancers gracefully pirouette to a Swedish Ballet, or funk it up in a tribute to Marvin Gaye.

For the second year, Reichhold Center presents its Family Series, featuring affordable performances selected to appeal to children and their parents.

The family series begins with Break! The Urban Funk Spectacular on October 6, 2007. This theatrical dance production features the country's premiere break dancers combining hip hop music with back flips, spins and gravity-defying leaps. Led by master deejays on turn-tables, *Break* charts the rise of Hip-Hop dancing over the last 30 years.

The Golden Dragon Acrobats leap onto the Reichhold stage for the second family series program. The world's leading company of Chinese acrobats, Golden Dragon combines traditional Chinese dance, spectacular costumes, contemporary music and theatrical techniques to present a show of breathtaking skill and spellbinding beauty. From juggling to tumbling to aerial twirling the acrobats perform daring feats that delight children and adults alike.

Tickets to Reichhold performances are available through the box office at (340) 693-1559. All shows begin at 8 p.m., except the family series program, which begin at 7 p.m.

The 2007-2008 Reichhold Center season is sponsored by First Bank, First Insurance, Innovative Cable TV, Marriott Frenchman's Reef, Tropical Shipping, and the Virgin Islands Council on the Arts.

