AUDITORIUM THEATRE CONTINUES 125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION WITH THE ADDITION OF TWO AUDITORIUM DEBUTS FEATURING LILA DOWNS AND JAKE SHIMABUKURO

One-Night-Only Performances by Grammy Award-Winner Lila Downs on May 6 and Acclaimed Ukulele Artist Jake Shimabukuro with The City Lights Orchestra on June 24

CHICAGO — Continuing the celebration of the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University’s 125th Anniversary Season, Executive Director Brett Batterson is thrilled to announce the addition of two new shows. One-night-only performances will give audiences two evenings of eclectic and innovative music as the national historic landmark stage welcomes award winning musicians from both Mexico and Hawaii both making their Auditorium Theatre debuts. On May 6, the Auditorium welcomes Grammy Award and three-time Latin Grammy Award-winner Lila Downs. On June 24, acclaimed ukulele artist Jake Shimabukuro takes the Auditorium stage alongside Chicago’s own The City Lights Orchestra conducted by Rich Daniels.

Tickets to both shows are currently available as part of a Season Subscription at a 15-20% discount. For more information, visit sales@auditoriumtheatre.org or call (312) 341-2357. Individual tickets go on sale for Lila Downs on Friday, February 27 at 10 am. Individual tickets go on sale for Jake Shimabukuro on April 3 at 10 am. Tickets will be available online at AuditoriumTheatre.org, by calling (800) 982-ARTS (2787) or at the Auditorium Theatre Box Office (50 E. Congress Pkwy).

“As our 125th Anniversary Celebration continues we are thrilled to present these two outstanding performers who have made a name for themselves on an international level,” said Auditorium Theatre Executive Director Brett Batterson. “Not only is it a pleasure to welcome talent from around the world, but to have Chicago’s own City Lights Orchestra, led by Rich Daniels, alongside one of these international phenomenon’s, is a real treat for Auditorium audiences.”

LILA DOWNS

The Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University in partnership with the Mariachi Heritage Foundation presents Grammy and three-time Latin Grammy Award-winner Lila Downs on May 6, 2015. Known for her innovative approach to music, the New York Times raves, “Lila Downs has made it her mission to fuse deep Mexican folklore with modern, Pan-American possibilities, sleek modern Mexican pop with a thrilling, chameleonic voice at its center. Ms. Downs makes border-hopping sound easy.” During her upcoming North American tour, Downs
will perform music from her highly-anticipated new album “Balas y Chocolate (Bullets and Chocolate),” a heartfelt declaration to passionately fight for the preservation of one's land and country.

**JAKE SHIMABUKURO with THE CITY LIGHTS ORCHESTRA**

Declared a music “hero” by Rolling Stone, ukulele virtuoso Jake Shimabukuro makes his Auditorium Theatre debut with The City Lights Orchestra, conducted by Rich Daniels, for a one-night-only performance June 24, 2015. Praised for his original works, as well as such covers including “My Guitar Gently Weeps” and “Bohemian Rhapsody,” JazzTimes calls Shimabukuro “a musician who has completely and irrevocably reimagined the role of his chosen instrument.” The Hawaii-born musician has also been heralded by his own peers who state, “Jake is taking the instrument to a place that I can’t see anybody else catching up with” (Eddie Vedder). Shimabukuro will be accompanied by Chicago’s very own heralded The City Lights Orchestra, which has performed all over the world with such artists as Garth Brooks, Ray Charles and Tony Bennett.

**Program Schedule and Ticket Information**

**Lila Downs**

Wednesday, May 6 | 7:30 pm

**Jake Shimabukuro with The City Lights Orchestra**

Wednesday, June 24 | 7:30 pm

Tickets will be available online at AuditoriumTheatre.org, by calling (800) 982-ARTS (2787) or in-person at Auditorium Theatre’s Box Office (50 E. Congress Pkwy). Discounted tickets for groups of 10 or more are available at (312) 341-2357 or sales@auditoriumtheatre.org.

**Auditorium Theatre’s 2014 – 15 Season:**

The Auditorium Theatre 2014 – 15 Season includes Grupo Corpo (February 28 – March 1); Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (March 6 – 15); River North Dance Chicago (March 28); Eifman Ballet of St. Petersburg (May 8 – 10); Chicago Rhythm Fest (May 13); “His Way - Sinatra’s Centennial Celebration” (May 30); and The Royal Ballet’s “Don Quixote” (June 18 – 21). For a complete listing of events at the Auditorium Theatre, please click here.

**125th Anniversary Season Sponsors**

The Auditorium Theatre would like to thank their 125th Anniversary Season Sponsors: Lead Corporate Sponsor Nicor Gas, Lead Foundation Sponsor Robert R. McCormick Foundation and David D. Hiller, International Dance Series Sponsor NIB Foundation, and “Made in Chicago” Dance Series sponsor The Boeing Company. Media sponsors include Chicago Magazine and WXRT, and the Pasquinelli Family Foundation is the Gala Dinner Celebration Sponsor. Student Matinee Series Sponsors for the 2014 – 15 Season include The Private Bank and The Robert Thomas Bobins Foundation.
About the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University

The Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, located at 50 E. Congress Pkwy, is an Illinois, not-for-profit organization committed to presenting the finest in international, cultural, community and educational programming to Chicago, and to the continued restoration and preservation of the National Historic Landmark Auditorium Theatre. In September of 2014, the Auditorium Theatre was awarded the inaugural Fifth Star Award by Mayor Rahm Emanuel and the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events. On December 9, 2014, the Auditorium Theatre celebrated its 125th Birthday with a proclamation from the City of Chicago declaring it “Auditorium Theatre Day.”

The Auditorium Theatre is generously supported by the MacArthur Foundation, the Illinois Arts Council, the Sage Foundation, and the Palmer House Hilton. For more information about programming, volunteer and donor opportunities or theatre tours, call (312) 341-2310 or visit AuditoriumTheatre.org.

About Mariachi Heritage Foundation

The Mariachi Heritage Foundation was founded in 2013 to expand mariachi music education in underserved Chicago schools. The K-12 grade standards-based student mariachi music program is the first of its kind in Chicago, allowing students to meet general music requirements through a structured curriculum in mariachi performance taught as part of the regular school day. In addition, the Mariachi Heritage Foundation seeks to promote Mexican performing arts through authentic entertainment programming with the highest production values.

The following schools are participating in the 2014-2015 program: Joseph E. Gary Elementary, Nathan S. Davis Elementary, Edward N. Hurley Fine and Performing Arts Magnet Cluster, Richard Edwards Elementary, Calmeca Academy of Fine Arts and Dual Language and UNO Soccer Academy. For more information visit mariachiheritagefoundation.org.

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