FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 1, 2015

Media Contact: Carly Leviton/Matt de la Peña
Carol Fox and Associates
(773) 327-3830 x 104/113
carlyl@carolfoxassociates.com
mattp@carolfoxassociates.com

UKULELE VIRTUOSO JAKE SHIMABUKURO TEAMS UP WITH
THE CITY LIGHTS ORCHESTRA FOR THE FINAL 2015 PERFORMANCE OF
THE AUDITORIUM THEATRE’S “MADE IN CHICAGO” SERIES

The Hawaiian Music Sensation Makes His Auditorium Theatre Debut to Close Out the Theatre’s Historic 125th Anniversary Season

CHICAGO — Ukulele virtuoso Jake Shimabukuro, described by Rolling Stone as a music “hero,” makes his Auditorium Theatre debut with The City Lights Orchestra, conducted by Rich Daniels, Wednesday, June 24 at 7:30 p.m., concluding the Auditorium’s inaugural “Made in Chicago” performance series. Likened by rock and jazz critics to such legends as Miles Davis and Jimi Hendrix, Shimabukuro brings his talents to the Auditorium’s landmark stage to cap the Auditorium’s historic 125th Anniversary Season. Tickets ($29 – $65) are available at AuditoriumTheatre.org, by calling (800) 982-ARTS (2787) or in-person at the Auditorium’s Box Office (50 E. Congress Pkwy).

“While the ukulele is an unlikely instrument to be featured in a concert of this scale, this is not true when it is in the hands of Jake Shimabukuro.” said Auditorium Theatre Executive Director Brett Batterson. “He combines the skill of a classically trained musician with the raw attitude and passion of a rock star, earning a reputation as ‘the Jimi Hendrix of the ukulele.’ Indeed, Jake Shimabukuro is every bit as captivating as the late guitar legend. Together with The City Lights Orchestra, Jake’s Auditorium debut is sure to be one of the best artistic collaborations of the summer.”

Shimabukuro is accompanied by Chicago’s heralded The City Lights Orchestra, which has performed all over the world with artists including Paul McCartney, Garth Brooks, Ray Charles and Tony Bennett. Shimabukuro’s recent 2012 album, “Grand Ukulele”, features a mix of his original compositions as well as interpretations of “Over the Rainbow” and “Fields of Gold,” by Sting, accompanied by orchestral arrangements. The music phenom has appeared on national TV with appearances on “Jimmy Kimmel Live,” “Late Night with Conan O’Brien,” “Good Morning America” and “The Today Show,” among others.

About Jake Shimabukuro

Jake Shimabukuro began his music career in the mid-90s, performing at local coffee shops as a sideman with his first band, Pure Heart. Shimabukuro’s solo career took off in 2002 when he signed with Epic Records, becoming the first ukulele player to sign with Sony Music. While his well-received solo releases positioned Shimabukuro as an established musician in Hawaii and Japan, his career skyrocketed when a cover of “While My Guitar Gently Weeps” went viral on
YouTube with more than 13 million views, opening the rest of the world’s eyes to Shimabukuro and his unique playing style.

In the years since the YouTube clip aired, Shimabukuro has collaborated with an array of artists that include Yo-Yo Ma, Jimmy Buffett, Bette Midler, Cyndi Lauper, Jack Johnson, Ziggy Marley, Dave Koz, Michael McDonald, Bela Fleck and The Flecktones, Tommy Emmanuel and Lyle Lovett – as well as orchestras around the world. He’s sold out world-class venues, played at Bonnaroo, SXSW, the Playboy Jazz Festival, Fuji Rock Festival, the influential TED conference, and even performed for Queen Elizabeth II at the Royal Variety Performance in Blackpool, England.

Shimabukuro has topped Billboard’s World Music Chart numerous times, been declared a musical “hero” by Rolling Stone Magazine, which also stated: “one of the hottest axmen of the past few years doesn’t actually play guitar.” He has also won accolades from the disparate likes of Eddie Vedder who states: “Jake is taking the instrument to a place that I can’t see anybody else catching up with.” Shimabukuro has been the subject of an award winning documentary “Jake Shimabukuro: Life On Four Strings,” currently on Netflix, and re-airing on Chicago’s WTTW Channel 11 on Monday, June 8 at 9pm.

About The City Lights Orchestra

Rich Daniels and The City Lights Orchestra have been entertaining audiences in Chicago and across the nation with their renditions of everything from the Beatles, to The Big Band Era to Sinatra, to Motown, since 1974. The orchestra has also appeared with top notch national musicians like Ray Charles, Mel Torme, Paul McCartney and many others, since its inception. While making their home in Chicago, the orchestra regularly performs for fantastic events across the country.

Performance Schedule and Ticket Information

Jake Shimabukuro with The City Lights Orchestra

Wednesday, June 24, 2015 | 7:30 p.m.

Tickets ($29 – $65) are 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.

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.” For the first time in over 50 years, the NFL Draft returned to Chicago, taking place at the Auditorium Theatre April 30 – May 2.

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.

#     #     #