

**For Immediate Release:**  
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**SEPTEMBER 2015  
PERFORMANCES AT THE WILLIAMS CENTER FOR THE ARTS**

**The Williams Center debut of Mark Morris Dance Group;  
Jazz pianist Barry Harris with Monk Competition winners Jon Irabagon and  
Marquis Hill; Colombia's sizzling Cimarrón; and the incomparable  
PRISM saxophone quartet open the 2015/16 season**

**EASTON, PA. August 18, 2015** – The fall arts season in the Lehigh Valley is launched at Lafayette College's Williams Center for the Arts with a roster of distinguished and individualistic talents in the fields of chamber music, jazz, world music and modern dance. Opening night, **Friday, September 11 at 8:00 p.m.** welcomes **Barry Harris** and his Trio, joined by special guests — saxophonist **Jon Irabagon** and trumpet player **Marquis Hill**; the concert is part of the 29th Annual Easton Jazz Festival presented in association with the Boys and Girls Club of Easton. A highlight of the 2015/16 performance season will be the **Mark Morris Dance Group**, “the most transportingly natural performers in the world” (*The New York Times*), on **Wednesday, September 16 at 8:00 p.m.**; the company's debut appearance at the Williams Center will be accompanied by live musical performance. Kicking off Hispanic Heritage Month on **Friday, September 18 at 8:00 p.m.**, Colombia's **Cimarrón** delivers the rich folk tradition of *loropo*, and the month closes with the exceptional saxophone quartet **PRISM**, opening the Chamber Music series on **Sunday, September 27 at 3:00 p.m.**

## BARRY HARRIS TRIO

An eminent bebop statesman, pianist **Barry Harris** has been a major force in the jazz world for more than half a century. The Detroit native was embraced by New York's jazz scene where he joined the ranks of Miles Davis, Max Roach, Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, Bud Powell, Thelonious Monk and Coleman Hawkins. A recipient of such distinguished awards as the NEA American Jazz Masters Fellowship, and the American Jazz Hall of Fame Lifetime Achievement award, he is a noted educator and champion of the next generation. With Ray Drummond (bass) and Leroy Williams (drums), Harris will introduce two notable newcomers at the Williams Center: First Place Thelonious Monk Competition winners, saxophonist **Jon Irabagon** (2008) and trumpeter **Marquis Hill** (2014). The concert is a tribute to the late pianist and Easton resident Mulgrew Miller, and is presented as part of the 29th Annual Easton Jazz Festival in association with the Boys and Girls Club of Easton. (Friday, September 11 at 8:00 p.m.; pre-concert talk at 7:00 p.m.).

## MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP

The 2015/16 dance schedule commences with the Williams Center debut appearance of **Mark Morris Dance Group**. An artist whose prodigious and constantly original output defies limit, Mark Morris has been hailed "the most successful and influential choreographer alive" (*The New York Times*). His wide-ranging emotional landscape and insightful musicality is fully articulated in a program that features the rich, multi-dimensional **Words** (2014) set to ten of Felix Mendelssohn's "Songs without Words" and commissioned for the 2014 Fall for Dance Festival at City Center (NY); and **Grand Duo** (1993) set to *Grand Duo for Violin and Piano* by the late West Coast composer Lou Harrison, whose irresistible music has inspired some of Morris's most lauded works. **Words** and **Grand Duo** will be performed with live musical accompaniment by MMDG music director and pianist **Colin Fowler** and violinist **Georgy Valtchev**. Finally, in **A Wooden Tree** (2012), Morris draws his inspiration from the poetry and music of Scotsman Ivor Cutler, whose recordings bring to life whimsical, irreverent and endearing observations of human behavior. (Wednesday, September 16 at 8:00 p.m.).

## CIMARRÓN

Hispanic Heritage Month gets off to a spirited start when the driving rhythms and rippling melodies of Colombian *joropo* set the Williams Center ablaze. Led by harpist Carlos Rojas, **Cimarrón** has thrilled the world's music festivals with this rich legacy from the cattle rearing Llanos Orientales region of Colombia. *Música llanera*—otherwise known as “South American cowboy music”—is a virtuosic display of Andalusian gypsy, Indigenous Indian and African influences, performed on folk harp, *bandola llanera* and *cuatro*, and accompanied by bass, *cajón*, *maracas* and high-pitched vocals. Guardians and advocates of this joyous, breathtaking music, Cimarrón honors the tradition while pushing the form in new directions. (Friday, September 18 at 8:00 p.m.).

## PRISM

“This bold ensemble has set the standard for contemporary-classical saxophone quartets with its rhythmic acuity and elegant sound,” *The New York Times* extols of **PRISM**. Always at the forefront of the instrument's chameleon-like personality, PRISM quartet opens the Williams Center's 2015/16 Chamber Music series. Having commissioned over 200 new works, the ensemble continuously reveals the saxophone's surprising agility in nuanced concerts performed without amplification. These intrepid champions of new music – **Timothy McAllister** (recipient of the 2015 Grammy Award for Best Orchestral Performance with The Saint Louis Symphony and conductor David Robertson, for John Adams's *City Noir* and the Saxophone Concerto), **Taimur Sullivan, Matthew Levy** and **Zachary Shemon** – bring a program consisting entirely of music written by living composers, featuring such far-reaching thinkers as Terry Riley, John Adams, Julia Wolfe, Michael Torke, Zack Browning, Frank J. Oteri, Jennifer Higdon, Tim Ries, Gregory Wanamaker, Roshanne Etezady, Chris Potter and Matthew Levy. (Sunday, September 27 at 3:00 p.m.)

## TICKETS AND OTHER INFORMATION

The Williams Center for the Arts Performance Series offers increased subscription packages and new discounts this year. Series subscription packages receive 20% discount off single ticket prices, and a 10% discount on additional single tickets purchased throughout the season; and new Choose-Your-Own subscriptions offer 10% discount for packages of 4 events;

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and 15% discount for packages of 5 or more events. Groups of 15 or more receive a 15% discount. New subscription and single ticket orders may be placed online at [williamscenter.lafayette.edu](http://williamscenter.lafayette.edu) or by calling 610-330-5009; mailed; or faxed to (610) 330-5642. For more information, call the Williams Center for the Arts at (610) 330-5009, email a brochure request to [williamscenter@lafayette.edu](mailto:williamscenter@lafayette.edu) or visit the website at [williamscenter.lafayette.edu](http://williamscenter.lafayette.edu).

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**Calendar editors, please note:**

**WILLIAMS CENTER FOR THE ARTS**

Lafayette College Campus

**September 2015 - Calendar of Events**

<http://williamscenter.lafayette.edu/>

SEPTEMBER 2015

**Friday, September 11 at 8:00 p.m.**

Pre-concert talk at 7:00 p.m.

**Williams Center for the Arts**

317 Hamilton Street at High St.

Lafayette College Campus

Easton, PA

*Jazz*

**Barry Harris Trio**

**with special guests**

**Jon Irabagon**, saxophone

**Marquis Hill**, trumpet

**Program:**

The Barry Harris Trio, with Barry Harris (piano), Ray Drummond (bass), Leroy Williams (drums); Jon Irabagon (saxophone) and Marquis Hill (trumpet).

**Tickets:** \$21.00, available through the Williams Center for the Arts ticket office, open 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. weekdays, and 1 hour prior to performance; by phone at (610) 330-5009; and online at [williamscenter.lafayette.edu](http://williamscenter.lafayette.edu)

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**Wednesday, September 16 at 8:00 p.m.**

**Williams Center for the Arts**  
317 Hamilton Street at High St.  
Lafayette College Campus  
Easton, PA

*Dance*

**Mark Morris Dance Group**

**Colin Fowler**, piano

**Georgy Valtchev**, violin

**Program:**

*Words* (2014), music by Felix Mendelssohn, “Songs without Words”

*A Wooden Tree* (2012), words and music by Ivor Cutler

*Grand Duo* (1993) music by Lou Harrison, “Grand Duo for Violin and Piano”

All choreography by Mark Morris

**Tickets:** \$25.00, available through the Williams Center for the Arts ticket office, open 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. weekdays, and 1 hour prior to performance; by phone at (610) 330-5009; and online at [williamscenter.lafayette.edu](http://williamscenter.lafayette.edu)

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**Friday, September 18 at 8:00 p.m.**

**Williams Center for the Arts**  
317 Hamilton Street at High St.  
Lafayette College Campus  
Easton, PA

*World Stage*

**Cimarrón**

**Program:**

From the Llanos Orientales region of Colombia, Cimarrón performs the festive *zoropo*, on harp, *bandola*, *cuatro*, bass, *cajon*, *maracas* and high-pitched voices.

**Tickets:** \$19.00, available through the Williams Center for the Arts ticket office, open 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. weekdays, and 1 hour prior to performance; by phone at (610) 330-5009; and online at [williamscenter.lafayette.edu](http://williamscenter.lafayette.edu)

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**Sunday, September 27 at 3:00 p.m.**  
Master class for pre-selected students and professionals follows performance: open to the public for observation.

**Williams Center for the Arts**  
317 Hamilton Street at High St.  
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Easton, PA

*Chamber Music*  
**PRISM Quartet**

**Program:**

Michael Torke (b. 1961) / *July* (1995)  
Matthew Levy (b. 1963) / *Above* (2013)  
20th Anniversary Dedications  
    Zack Browning (b. 1953) / *Howler Back* (2004)  
    Frank J. Oteri (B. 1964) / *Fair and Balanced? Incremental Change* (2004)  
    Jennifer Higdon (b. 1962) / *Bop* (2004)  
    Tim Ries (b. 1959) / *Lu* (2004)  
    Gregory Wanamaker (b. 1968) / *speed metal organum blues* (2004)  
Julia Wolfe (b. 1958) / *Cha* (2015)  
John Adams (b. 1947) / *Fearful Symmetries* (1988) (excerpt, arr. Tim McAllister, 2012)  
Roshanne Etezady (b. 1973) / *KEEN* (2004)  
Terry Riley (b. 1935) / *Mandala Miniatures* (selected movements, 1999)  
Chris Potter (b. 1971) / *Improvisations* (2015)

**Tickets:** \$23.00, available through the Williams Center for the Arts ticket office, open 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. weekdays, and 1 hour prior to performance; by phone at (610) 330-5009; and online at [williamscenter.lafayette.edu](http://williamscenter.lafayette.edu)

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