

**wexner center**  
for the arts

**For Immediate Release**  
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**AFROPOP SUPERSTAR BAABA MAAL RETURNS TO  
THE WEXNER CENTER IN RARE ALL-ACOUSTIC CONCERT**

**ETHIOPIAN SINGING SENSATION GIGI OPENS THE SHOW**

**“Undeniable charm and ingenious virtuosity.”—*Billboard*, on Baaba Maal**

A superstar on the international music scene, West African singer-guitarist **Baaba Maal** returns to the Wexner Center in January to perform an all-acoustic concert, something his many fans have been waiting for. Rising Ethiopian singing star **Gigi** opens the concert with her own all-acoustic set. Tickets are expected to sell quickly to this highly anticipated show, presented **Thursday, January 17 at 8 pm** in Weigel Hall, adjacent to the Wexner Center.

**BAABA MAAL**

Baaba Maal (BAH-ba mall) returns to his roots with his most recent release, *Missing You...Mi Yeewnii*. The acoustic album, featuring the mesmerizing, bluesy rhythms of West Africa, includes instruments indigenous to Senegal as well as other West African countries. His upcoming concert will feature a tight band anchoring Maal's soaring vocals.

Maal has toured internationally—and was last at the Wexner Center in 1997—and has released several other CDs, including *Firin' in Fouta* and *Baayo*. *Missing You* follows on the acoustic sounds of the CD *Djam Leelii*, featuring Maal and his musical partner Mansour Seck, who will perform in the Wexner Center show.

Maal is also a philanthropist, representing the United Nations Development Program and raising awareness of the AIDS crisis in Africa.

**GIGI**

Described as the “most important new African singer on the scene today” by the *Afropop Worldwide* radio program, Gigi is a link to future musical trends. Her stunning

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self-titled debut CD—produced by Bill Laswell and featuring the likes of Herbie Hancock and Pharoah Sanders—fuses East and West African and Afro-Asiatic musical styles, with strains of Indian classical, Western pop, jazz, and funk. The January concert will feature Gigi with an all-acoustic band.

For further information on Baaba Maal and Gigi visit [www.palmpictures.com](http://www.palmpictures.com).

### **WORLD MUSIC AT THE WEXNER CENTER**

Over its 12-year history, the Wexner Center has presented a wide range of acclaimed international music groups. Among the groups and artists who have appeared at the Center are the Buena Vista Social Club, Los Fakires, Oumou Sangare, Chucho Valdés, Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, Cesaria Evora, Virginia Rodrigues, and Rokia Traore. Many international music groups have made their regional, national, or world tour premieres at the Wexner Center.

### **EVENT SUPPORT**

Lead support for the Wexner Center's 2001–02 performing arts season is provided by **AT&T** and the **Doris Duke Charitable Foundation**.

Major season support is provided by **Philip Morris Companies Inc.**

Additional season support is provided by the **Ohio Arts Council** and the **Corporate Annual Fund of the Wexner Center Foundation**.

Promotional support is provided by **WCBE, 90.5 FM** and **WBNS 10TV**.

### **CALENDAR INFORMATION for Baaba Maal with Gigi**

**Description:** Senegalese superstar Baaba Maal returns for an all-acoustic concert. Ethiopian singer Gigi opens the show.

**Dates and times:** Thursday, January 17 at 8 pm.

**Location:** Weigel Hall, 1866 College Road at OSU (adjacent to Wexner Center).

**Tickets:** \$22 general public / \$18 members and OSU students. \$5 High 5 tickets available for middle and high school students (vouchers available at Ticketmaster outlets).

**Ticket outlets:** Wexner Center Ticket Office/Information Desk (614 292-3535) and Ticketmaster outlets (614 431-3600).

**Public information:** 614 292-3535 and [www.wexarts.org](http://www.wexarts.org).

**Images available upon request.**

The Wexner Center for the Arts is The Ohio State University's multidisciplinary, international laboratory for the exploration and advancement of contemporary art. Through exhibitions, screenings, performances, artist residencies, and educational programs, the Wexner Center acts as a forum where established and emerging artists can test ideas and where diverse audiences can participate in cultural experiences that enhance understanding of the art of our time. In its programs, the Wexner Center balances a commitment to experimentation with a commitment to traditions of innovation and affirms the university's mission of education, research, and community service.

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