

RUTH ECKERD HALL

RICHARD B. BAUMGARDNER CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

PRESS RELEASE

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RUTH ECKERD HALL ANNOUNCES MAXWELL IN CONCERT THURSDAY, JULY 30 AT 8 PM

GRAMMY® NOMINEE'S EXCLUSIVE TAMPA BAY PERFORMANCE

Tickets on sale now.

June 16, 2009, Clearwater, FL – He's sold more than four million albums world wide, garnered multiple hit singles (*Ascension (Don't Ever Wonder)*, *Fortunate*, *Lifetime*, *Pretty Wings*), received countless awards (including Billboard Music Awards Best R&B single *Fortunate*) and four Grammy® nominations. Now Maxwell comes to Ruth Eckerd Hall on Thursday, July 30 at 8 pm. Tickets are on sale now.

In the age of immediacy the idea of waiting sounds hopelessly outdated. But that said, there is something to be said about anticipation. Such is the case with Maxwell's new album. Yes, after an extended hiatus the sexy ambassador of soul has returned with a brand new look and fresh yet deliciously vintage sound. The same artist who brought us the classic song *Sumthin' Sumthin'* and the unforgettably ethereal cover of Kate Bush's *This Woman's Work* is back with a challenging, mature, sensual, courageous and emotionally open album entitled *BLACKsummers'night*, the first installment of a trilogy of album releases.

Composed of nine indelible songs *BLACKsummers'night* finds Maxwell exploring life with a bold and purposeful sensuality unmistakably his own. Opening with a delicate hint of wistful chimes, the first single, *Pretty Wings*, is nostalgic, ("your face will be the reason I smile") and yet undeniably passionate. "It's about the last relationship I had," Maxwell describes. "How you meet the person of your dreams but at the wrong time. She was a serious muse and the song is a testament to what I wanted to say and say, to her. I can be a bit emotionally handicapped" he elucidates, "but through music, I can say what I want to."

For the first time in more than two years, Maxwell is touring in support of his new album and his performance at Ruth Eckerd Hall will be his only Tampa Bay area appearance.

Reserved tickets priced at \$131.00, \$81.00, \$61.00 and \$41.00 are available at the Ruth Eckerd Hall Ticket Office located at 1111 McMullen Booth Road in Clearwater, by calling 727.791.7400 or by logging onto www.rutherfordhall.com. The Ruth Eckerd Hall Ticket Office is open Monday through Saturday, from 12 noon to 6 pm and one hour prior to showtime.

Designed by the prestigious Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, Ruth Eckerd Hall is known for its 2,180-seat, acoustically perfect auditorium. Artists from America and around the world, ranging from classical, rock, opera, Broadway, jazz, pop and more are included in the stellar lineup of more than 200 performances a year.

Ruth Eckerd Hall and the Ruth Eckerd Hall Foundation are 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organizations.

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