

RUTH ECKERD HALL

RICHARD B. BAUMGARDNER CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

PRESS RELEASE

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**Ruth Eckerd Hall announces the return of
Richard Elliot, Rick Braun & Jonathan Butler
JAZZ ATTACK
on Saturday, June 27 at 8 pm**

Tickets go on sale Friday, May 8 at 10 am

May 4, 2009, Clearwater, FL – Richard Elliot, Rick Braun and Jonathan Butler will return to Ruth Eckerd Hall with Jazz Attack with on Saturday, June 27 at 8 pm. Tickets go on sale Friday, May 8 at 10 am.

Veteran saxophonist **Richard Elliot**, long known as the "James Brown of Contemporary Jazz" for the intense soul inspirations of his recordings, a relentless tour schedule and joyfully exhausting onstage performances. With a bestselling discography of more than 15 recordings since 1986's *Initial Approach*, thousands of live dates spanning more than two decades and one of the largest and most loyal fan bases in contemporary urban jazz, it's incredible to hear Elliot declare: "What I'm doing now, enjoying this upward trend in my career, is seriously the most fun I have ever had." Elliot's latest album, *Rock Steady* is set for release in May of this year.

In addition to recording and touring as a solo artist, trumpeter **Rick Braun** has worked as a sideman, touring with such rock and pop stars as Rickie Lee Jones, Sade, Rod Stewart, Tina Turner, Glenn Frey, Natalie Cole, Tom Petty, Crowded House and Phoebe Snow. Rick has virtually become an in-house producer for record label Mesa/Bluemoon. Rick's *Beat Street* album won him Gavin's Artist of the Year and Album of the Year in 1996. Rick was recognized as Best Producer (with Mesa/Bluemoon) and Best Brass Player at the Oasis Smooth Jazz Awards in 2000. Rick Braun performed at Ruth Eckerd Hall in December 2008 with Peter White and is scheduled to release *All It Takes* in July of this year.

South African born **Jonathan Butler** draws on his apartheid-dominated Capetown childhood, and then adds the influence of western pop, R&B and smooth jazz. His debut single was the first by a black artist to be played on white radio stations, earning him the South African equivalent of a Grammy®. He first sang publicly at age seven and was signed to Jive Records in England at thirteen. His international breakthrough came with *Lies* in 1987. *Mandela Bay*, a track on his album *Jonathan*, is a tribute to the legacy of Nelson Mandela, a celebration of life and freedom. In November 2008, Jonathan performed with Dave Koz at Ruth Eckerd Hall. In October of this year, this two time Grammy® nominated songwriter, guitarist, and producer, Jonathan plans to release *Live In South Africa*.

Reserved tickets priced at \$68.00 and \$40.50 will be 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 10 am to 6 pm and one hour prior to showtime.

Designed by the prestigious Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, Ruth Eckerd Hall celebrates its 26th season as the number six ranked venue in the world, according to the entertainment industry trade publication Billboard Magazine. 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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