



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 12, 2011

MATRIX:MIDLAND Announces MATRIX:MIDLAND Festival 2011

MIDLAND - MATRIX:MIDLAND at Midland Center for the Arts has announced the launch of its **33rd annual MATRIX:MIDLAND Festival**, featuring world-class performers, musicians and professional speakers. This year's festival runs from Wednesday, May 25, through Friday, June 24. **Tickets go on sale Monday, April 11, 2011.** Information and ticket prices are available online at www.mcfta.org or by calling the Ticket Office at (989)631-8250 or 800-523-7649.

Always an exhilarating and eclectic array of entertainment, this year's MATRIX:MIDLAND Festival highlights include: a wild and unscripted evening of on-stage cooking; essential information for anyone with unfulfilled dreams or a life still to live; a fusion of fancy footwork; a Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer; lush musical atmospheres and thoughtful on-stage jazz improvisations; crackerjack banjo players in an evening of toe-tapping bluegrass & banjo.

Festival and program sponsors include The Dow Chemical Company, Dow Corning Corporation, MidMichigan Medical Center – Midland, William Blair & Company, Morley Companies, Inc., Tri-Star Trust Bank, AT&T, Chemical Bank, Pioneer Sugar, Fabiano Brothers, Dow Chemical Employees' Credit Union, and LaLonde's Markets.

MATRIX:MIDLAND Festival 2011 – AT A GLANCE:

- **The Guy Fieri Food Show** – An unscripted evening mixing the best elements of a live cooking show, the fun of a variety revue, and the non-stop adrenaline rush of a rock concert. (May 25)
- **Sir Ken Robinson: *The Element: How Finding Your Passion Changes Everything*** – Discovering where your passions and skills intersect provides a real platform for meeting the challenges of the 21st century. It is essential information for anyone with children, unfulfilled dreams or a life still to live. (June 8)
- **The StepCrew** – Fall into step with the international dance sensation! A fusion of fancy footwork starring the world's top step dance talents and world-class fiddlers. TAP, STEP, FIDDLE – *PHEW!* (June 10)
- **Stacy Schiff: *Cleopatra's Leadership Secrets*** – Pulitzer Prize-winner Stacy Schiff uncovers the life of Cleopatra, the legendary figure who stood at one of the most dangerous intersections in history: that of women and power. (June 15)
- **Chris Botti** – GRAMMY Award-winning trumpeter Chris Botti combines lush atmospheres and thoughtful improvisations for an unforgettable evening that bridges the gap between jazz and classical music. (June 18)
- **Steve Martin and the Steep Canyon Rangers** – The multi-talented Steve Martin adds crackerjack banjo player to the list as he teams up with The Steep Canyon Rangers for an extraordinary evening of toe-tapping bluegrass & banjo. (June 24)

MATRIX:MIDLAND Festival 2011 – DETAILS:

The Guy Fieri Food Show

Wednesday, May 25 • 7:30 pm – Auditorium, Midland Center for the Arts

MATRIX:MIDLAND Festival 2011 opens with Guy Fieri, host of NBC's *Minute to Win It* and three hit Food Network shows, mixing food, fun and Rock n' Roll on our stage! It's a wildly unscripted evening complete with interactive cooking stations, secret tips and dishes from his forthcoming cookbook, as well as behind-the-scenes stories from the road, and much more. The Guy Fieri Food Tour is sponsored by The National Pork Board. www.guyfieri.com

Tickets: \$25 | \$35 | \$50 | plus 2 exclusive seating opportunities: \$252 "Off Da Hook" Package & \$152 "Kulinary Krew" Package

Sir Ken Robinson: *The Element: How Finding Your Passion Changes Everything*

Wednesday, June 8 • 7:30 pm – Little Theatre, Midland Center for the Arts

Sir Ken Robinson's 2009 breakthrough book about talent, passion, and achievement provides a real platform for our futures. It is essential information for anyone with children, unfulfilled dreams or a life still to live. Be prepared to be inspired by one of the most forward thinkers of our time: the video of his famous 2006 TED Conference talk has been seen by an estimated 200 million people in over 150 countries, and is currently listed on the TED website as the most favored video of all time. www.sirkenrobinson.com

Tickets: \$30 Adults | \$18 Students

The StepCrew

Friday, June 10 • 8 pm – Auditorium, Midland Center for the Arts

Fall into step with the international dance sensation from Canada! The fusion of fancy footwork stars the world's top talents in three captivating dance styles – Irish Step, Ottawa Valley Step and Modern Tap – and three world-class fiddlers backed by an amazing five-piece ensemble comprised of some of the most talented and respected musicians in the Celtic music scene today! www.stepcrew.com

Tickets: \$27 & \$30 Adults | \$16 & \$20 Students | Family 4-Pack \$69

Stacy Schiff: *Cleopatra's Leadership Secrets*

Wednesday, June 15 • 7:30 pm – Ballroom, Midland Country Club

Cleopatra's name alone casts a spell. History remembers her as an irresistible seductress, but she was also a canny political strategist, a brilliant manager, and a tough negotiator. She knew how to build a fleet, control a currency, and quiet an insurrection. In *Cleopatra: A Life*, Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer Stacy Schiff uncovers the life of the legendary historic figure, an individual who stood at one of the most dangerous intersections in history: that of women and power. Refreshments and a book signing immediately following the lecture. www.stacyschiff.com

Tickets: \$28

Chris Botti

Saturday, June 18 • 8 pm – Auditorium, Midland Center for the Arts

Since the release of his 2004 critically acclaimed CD *When I Fall in Love*, GRAMMY Award-winning trumpeter Chris Botti has become the largest selling American jazz instrumental musician of all time. A master artist and performer, he's sold nearly three million albums worldwide, worked closely with an unparalleled roster of the world's greatest musicians, and bridges the gap between jazz and classical music. Hear him live when he makes a one-night stop at Midland Center for the Arts! www.chrisbotti.com

Tickets: \$38 | \$46 | \$50

Steve Martin and The Steep Canyon Rangers

Friday, June 24 • 8 pm – Auditorium, Midland Center for the Arts

Following up on his 2010 GRAMMY Award for Best Bluegrass Album, the multi-talented Steve Martin, actor/comedian/musician and bestselling author, teams up with the Steep Canyon Rangers for an extraordinary evening of toe-tapping bluegrass & banjo. www.stevemartin.com

Tickets: \$48 | \$55 | \$62

MATRIX:MIDLAND presents professional, world-class entertainment to the mid-Michigan region. For over 30 years, Matrix has hosted an extraordinary schedule of cutting-edge entertainment including cinema, music, comedy, family programs, world-renowned authors and more.

Midland Center for the Arts, Inc. is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation formed under the laws of the State of Michigan incorporating six groups: Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art, MATRIX:MIDLAND, Midland County Historical Society, Midland Symphony Orchestra, Music Society and Theatre Guild. Activities at Midland Center for the Arts are supported in part by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. For the latest Center news, visit our web site at www.mcfta.org.

Contact:
Julie Dukes
Communications Manager
(989) 631-5930 x 1602
dukes@mcfta.org

#

Midland Center for the Arts • 1801 W. St. Andrews Rd. • Midland, MI 48640 • (989) 631-5930 • (989) 631-7890 fax • www.mcfta.org