



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NEW YEAR'S EVE 2008 with GORDON GOODWIN'S BIG PHAT BAND**

*Hollywood Composer, Arranger Helps Omaha Ring in 2009*

**Omaha, Neb.** – November 17, 2008 – Omaha Performing Arts is pleased to welcome Gordon Goodwin's Big Phat Band to the Kiewit Concert Hall at the Holland Performing Arts Center on Wednesday, December 31, 2008 at 8:30 p.m.

Gordon Goodwin has built a larger-than-life reputation for his composing, arranging and playing skills – both keyboards and woodwinds – throughout the music and film industries. Goodwin has worked with artists such as Ray Charles, Christina Aguilera, Johnny Mathis, Toni Braxton, John Williams and Natalie Cole. His cinematic scoring and orchestration craft can be heard on such films as "Get Smart," "The Incredibles," "Glory Road," "National Treasure," "Remember The Titans," "Armageddon," "The Majestic," "Con Air," "Gone In 60 Seconds," "Enemy of the State" and even the classic cult film "Attack Of the Killer Tomatoes."

Goodwin, however, has continued his rise in prominence in the American jazz world through his performances and recordings with the band that shares his namesake. Populated by eighteen of Los Angeles' finest players, the Big Phat Band takes the big band tradition into the new millennium. Their contemporary, highly original sound features Gordon's witty, intricate, and hard-swinging compositions in a veritable grab bag of styles including swing, Latin, blues, classical, rock and even an homage to Looney Tunes.

The lively performance on December 31 will be followed by a festive balloon drop and concert attendees are invited to enjoy a post-concert celebration encompassing the entire east wing of the Holland Center that will include party favors, a cash bar and dancing to music from Omaha favorite Taxi Driver.

Concertgoers also have the opportunity to upgrade their New Year's experience by purchasing a Holiday Package that includes valet parking, pre-performance cocktails, and dining featuring premium views of the downtown fireworks. Concertgoers can complete their seamless and sophisticated evening with a stay at the Marriott Courtyard Downtown, who is offering a special rate of \$119 plus tax per room (double occupancy) with shuttle service to and from the Holland and a made-to-order breakfast for two.

Preview music from Gordon Goodwin's Big Phat Band at [www.OmahaPerformingArts.org](http://www.OmahaPerformingArts.org).

**Tickets are on sale now** for Gordon Goodwin's Big Phat Band, and all of the performances within the Omaha Performing Arts *Presents* 2008/09 season. Tickets may be purchased through Ticket Omaha online at [TicketOmaha.org](http://TicketOmaha.org), by phone at (402) 345-0606 or in person at the Ticket Omaha Box Office at the Holland Center, 13<sup>th</sup> and Douglas streets. Tickets for Gordon Goodwin's Big Phat Band are \$40-\$85 and the Holiday Package may be added for \$125 per person.

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Omaha Performing Arts is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing world-class performances to the Omaha metropolitan area. The organization manages two landmark venues, the Holland Performing Arts Center and the Orpheum Theater – the former, which includes the acoustically acclaimed Kiewit Concert Hall and Scott Recital Hall and the latter, which includes Slosburg Hall, a proscenium theater. Omaha Performing Arts also manages Ticket Omaha, provider of customer-friendly ticketing services for the community.

Omaha Performing Arts' commitment to the arts extends into its own series, Omaha Performing Arts *Presents*, as well as education and community involvement programs that help ensure the arts have a far-reaching impact. In partnership with Broadway Across America-Omaha, Omaha Performing Arts also brings the finest in touring Broadway productions to Omaha. Omaha Performing Arts performances are supported in part by the Nebraska Arts Council, Nebraska Cultural Endowment, the Mid-America Arts Alliance, National Endowment for the Arts, the City of Omaha and the Douglas County Visitor Improvement Fund.

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