



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FLAMENCO GUITARIST JESSE COOK HEATS UP 1200 CLUB

Omaha's one-of-a-kind nightclub features eclectic mix of artists

Omaha, Neb. – October 22, 2009 – Omaha Performing Arts presents virtuoso flamenco guitarist Jesse Cook in the 1200 Club at the Holland Performing Arts Center's Scott Recital Hall on Saturday, December 12 at 8:00 p.m.

Over the course of 15 years and numerous best-selling albums, Canadian Jesse Cook has explored the outer limits of popular music, breaking new ground with each successive recording. In the past, Cook has blended African percussion, Cajun accordion, classical cello and pop vocals with his own rumba flamenco style to create a thrilling, multi-textured global hybrid. And he's traveled far afield—from London to Cairo—to collaborate with some of the world's best musicians.

For Cook's latest recording, *The Rumba Foundation*, released in September 2009, he intended to travel to Cuba to trace rumba flamenco back to its roots. But then he got in touch with Latin Grammy® winners Los Gaiteros de San Jacinto, a traditional Vallenato group that makes their own instruments, and was invited to Colombia. After arriving in Bogotá the group collaborated on a unique fusion of culture and sounds with Cook producing the Vallenato-meets-rumba flamenco amalgam.

A charismatic entertainer who has sold over one million albums worldwide, the ruggedly handsome Cook has performed captivating concerts all over the map, regularly inspiring passionate dancing among audience members. His Canadian platinum-selling *Jesse Cook Live at the Metropolis* DVD, recorded at the 2007 Montreal Jazz Festival, was recognized with a *Juno* nomination. Two recent Cook albums that went top 5 on the *Billboard* chart - *Frontiers* and *Nomad* - were influenced by voyages to Egypt and Spain much like *The Rumba Foundation* was shaped by the visit to Colombia.

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Now in its fourth season, 1200 Club at the Holland transforms the Holland Performing Arts Center's most intimate venue, the Suzanne and Walter Scott Recital Hall, into a relaxed lounge where patrons can experience performances by national and internationally known artists in folk, jazz, blues, world music and comedy. While enjoying the evening's entertainment, audience members may order hors d'oeuvres and cocktails served right to their table.

Tickets for Jesse Cook are \$25 in advance and \$30 the day of the show. **Tickets to all performances in the 1200 Club are on sale now** and may be purchased through Ticket Omaha by phone at (402) 345-0606, online at TicketOmaha.com, or at the Ticket Omaha Box Office inside the Holland Performing Arts Center at 13th and Douglas streets. Ticket prices include admission to the 1200 Club and the performance. Food and beverages will be available for purchase.

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Omaha Performing Arts is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing world-class performances to the Omaha metropolitan area. Omaha Performing Arts' commitment to the arts extends into its own series, Omaha Performing Arts *Presents*, and includes a partnership with Broadway Across America to bring the finest in touring Broadway productions to Omaha, as well as education and community involvement programs that help ensure the arts have a far-reaching impact.

The organization manages two landmark venues, the Holland Performing Arts Center and the Orpheum Theater. Omaha Performing Arts also provides comprehensive ticketing services for cultural and performing arts within the region through Ticket 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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