

Adrienne Arsht Center

FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Eva Bordeaux Silverstein
786.468.2323
esilverstein@arshtcenter.org

Daisy Cabrera
786.468.2228
dcabrera@arshtcenter.org

ON SALE NOW!
THE ADRIENNE ARSHT CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS OF
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PRESENTS
GRAMMY AWARD-WINNING AFRICAN SONGSTRESS
ANGELIQUE KIDJO

"The Beninese singer exudes such energy that the audience can't help but get to its feet." -- *Los Angeles Times*

March 5, 2010 at 8 p.m.
Tickets \$30 - \$60
John S. and James L. Knight Concert Hall

MIAMI, FL February 17, 2010 – The Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County proudly presents **ANGELIQUE KIDJO**, the electrifying West African vocalist who mixes African traditions with American R&B, funk and jazz, on March 5, 2010, at 8 p.m. at the John S. and James L. Knight Concert Hall. Tickets range from \$30 to \$60, and may be purchased now through the Adrienne Arsht Center box office at (305) 949-6722 or online at www.arshtcenter.org.

Winner of the 2008 Grammy Award for Best Contemporary World Music Album, **ANGELIQUE KIDJO** has mesmerized audiences all over the world and performed for political luminaries such as Nelson Mandela, Jimmy Carter, and recently at President Obama's Inaugural Peace Ball. Now, she will bring her unique blend of African and Western music to Miami for a night that celebrates the beauty of diversity, as well as the unity of cultures. Her lush sounds meld the rhythms of Africa with a soaring dramatic voice, creating an internationally-acclaimed repertoire of rich music and sweeping melodies. Her engagement at the Arsht Center will feature audience favorites plus an exciting sneak preview of songs from her forthcoming album, *OYO*.

"**ANGELIQUE KIDJO**, the songstress affectionately known as *Africa's premier diva*, will fill the Knight Concert Hall with her universal sound and powerful voice," said M. John Richard, President and CEO of the Adrienne Arsht Center. "Anyone who loves uplifting lyrics and music that breaks cultural boundaries is in for a real treat. As a place that

celebrates diversity, I hope the South Florida community will take part in this special musical event that focuses on the beauty of cultural oneness.”

Dynamic and exhilarating, **ANGELIQUE KIDJO** is one of the most energetic and joyous performers in the world today. As a child, she was inspired by the rock, pop and soul music of Jimi Hendrix, Santana, Miriam Makeba, James Brown, and Aretha Franklin, which led her to trace the African roots of music from the United States, Brazil, and the Caribbean. The result has been a career of critically-acclaimed original music, including the trilogy of Grammy-nominated albums, *OREMI* (1998), *BLACK IVORY SOUL* (2002), and *OYAYA!* (2004).

In 2007, **ANGELIQUE KIDJO** released her landmark, Grammy Award-winning album *DJIN DJIN* (pronounced “gin gin”), bringing international artists to the music of her native country of Benin in West Africa. The album is a marriage of cultures with African and Western influences, and features stellar guest artists, such as Alicia Keys, Peter Gabriel, Josh Groban, and Carlos Santana. *DJIN DJIN* has been released in the languages of Benin, Nigeria, and Togo, and solidified **KIDJO**'s stature as the continent's single most celebrated musical exponent. In April of this year, **KIDJO** is set to release her latest album of innovative music, titled *OYO*, this time interpreting the songs of some of her childhood musical heroes, including Aretha Franklin, Curtis Mayfield, and Otis Redding, plus songs from Hollywood and Bollywood films.

ANGELIQUE KIDJO has performed in some of the most noteworthy events of this decade, including Nelson Mandela's historic 46664 concert in 2009 in Johannesburg, the Live 8 concert in 2005 in the United Kingdom, and the Nobel Peace Prize Concert honoring Jimmy Carter in 2002. With joy and passion **KIDJO** embodies the spirit of Africa and continues to tour the world, often appearing in London, Paris, Brussels, Barcelona, Amsterdam, Rome, Japan, and Singapore.

ANGELIQUE KIDJO has also contributed music to several major feature film soundtracks, including *Blood Diamond* and *The Lion King II: Simba's Pride*, as well as for the hit TV shows *Six Feet Under* and *Weeds*.

Highly dedicated to global charity work, **ANGELIQUE KIDJO** serves as a UNICEF and OXFAM goodwill ambassador. In January of 2009 she founded her own charitable organization, Batonga, dedicated to supporting the education of young girls in Africa. "Music brings us together, but after the music is over, you go back to your home, to your neighborhood, knowing that you can make a difference. You have to be proud of who you are. Whether you were born in America or Africa, you can celebrate life," says Kidjo.

CALENDAR LISTING

The Adrienne Arsht Center presents

ANGELIQUE KIDJO

"Her spirit is irrepressible, and she brings life to everything she touches." – Peter Gabriel.

Angeline Kidjo, the Grammy-winning, much-celebrated singer, composer, and performer began in the Beninese port village of Cotonou, where she launched her career at the age of six. Deemed *Africa's*

premier diva by Time Magazine, her unique blend of African and Western sounds has been praised by world luminaries – from Nelson Mandela to Carlos Santana. Her music embraces a seamless array of elements from funk, blues, reggae, rock, Afro-pop and jazz, energized by her soaring dramatic voice, and the dance-party rhythms of her homeland.

March 5, 2010 at 8 p.m.
Knight Concert Hall
Adrienne Arsht Center
1300 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, FL, 33132

Tickets: \$30 - \$60

For tickets visit www.arshtcenter.org, or call the Box Office at (305) 949-6722.

Visit www.arshtcenter.org for up-to-date information for details and schedules.

Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County is made possible by the public support of the Miami-Dade County Mayor and the Board of County Commissioners, Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, and Miami-Dade County Tourist Development Council. Education and Outreach is funded in part by The Children's Trust. The Adrienne Arsht Center also receives generous support from private contributions to the Adrienne Arsht Center Foundation, Inc. through its Visionary Society membership program and its Encore Circle major gifts program; American Express Company; Arison Arts Foundation; Bank of America Charitable Foundation; City of Miami Omni Community Redevelopment Agency; Dade Community Foundation; Funding Arts Network; John S. and James L. Knight Foundation; Southern Arts Federation; The Cowles Charitable Trust; The Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation; National Endowment for the Arts; and the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Arts Council.

Editor's Note:

Related high-resolution photos are available at www.arshtcenter.org/press and www.mediafire.com/arshtcenterphotos.

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About the Adrienne Arsht Center for Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County:

The Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County is one of the world's leading performing arts organizations and venues. Made possible by Miami-Dade County's largest ever public/private-sector partnership, the Center plays host to three resident companies (Florida Grand Opera, Miami City Ballet and New World Symphony, America's Orchestral Academy) in addition to numerous South Florida arts organizations that perform in its theaters regularly. Since opening in 2006, the Center has emerged as a leader in offering and presenting world-class programming that mirrors South Florida's diversity, as a catalyst for development in Miami, and as a host of impactful community and educational programs.

Designed by world-renowned architect Cesar Pelli of Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects, the venue is comprised of the 2,400-seat Sanford and Dolores Ziff Ballet Opera House, the 2,200-seat John S. and James L. Knight Concert Hall, the black box Carnival Studio Theater, a restored Carnival Art Deco Tower, the Peacock Foundation, Inc. Studio, the Peacock Foundation, Inc. Education Center, and the outdoor Parker and Vann Thomson Plaza for the Arts. Events impresario and restaurateur Barton G. Weiss brought his signature style to the Center in 2009 with PRELUDE BY BARTON G, a full-service upscale restaurant open five days a week.

Visit www.arshtcenter.org for more information.

