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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**Motown Revue with Broadway's Chester Gregory
will headline the Marcus Performing Arts Center
50th Anniversary Season Broadway Bash
Presented by Johnson Financial Group**

Preview Night Friday, June 12

MILWAUKEE, WI (May 8, 2020) -The Marcus Performing Arts Center's Broadway Bash presented by Johnson Financial Group is one of the hottest tickets in Milwaukee. This year we celebrate our 50th Anniversary season with the annual fundraiser on Friday, August 28, and will feature a private Motown Revue with Broadway's **Chester Gregory** (CHESS). Also, the 2020 Bash will showcase a few surprises including "**Music and Movies.**"

The Marcus Center's new "**Music & Movies**" drive-in series invites supporters to preview the Bash and allow the community to gather safely with social distancing. The Marcus Center will host a Bash Preview Night on Friday, June 12 with a sneak-peek of music from Chester Gregory followed by the movie, *Dreamgirls*. Gregory starred in the *Dreamgirls* Broadway tour that delighted audiences at the Marcus Center in 2010.

The “**Music & Movies**” drive-in series will be held on the roof of the Marcus Center parking structure, with passes for 40 cars available to reserve in advance of each event. Additional dates and “**Music & Movies**” titles will be announced in the near future.

Marcus Center President & CEO, Kendra Whitlock Ingram looks forward to expanding this year’s Broadway Bash. “The Marcus Center’s 50th Anniversary Season reminds us how the arts can bring our community together. Through our Broadway Bash, we will raise important funds to continue to serve our eight local resident partners that depend on the Marcus Center, as our community has for the last 50 years. As we manage through this unprecedented time - we are so looking forward to celebrating safely together when this extended "intermission" is over.”

Funds raised through the Broadway Bash support the Center’s nonprofit mission. Through community engagement and inclusion programming, the Marcus Center provides arts education, arts access, job training, and mentorship to 20,000 underserved youth in Milwaukee annually as well as free arts access to thousands more. Gregory will support Marcus Center community engagement and inclusion programs by providing arts education workshops and mentorship to underserved youth in Milwaukee through the Broadway Bash.

More information and sponsorships are available by contacting Kelly Candotti, Director of Development, at KCandotti@MarcusCenter.org.

The Broadway Bash main event is scheduled for Friday, August 28. Serving as the Marcus Center’s annual fundraising appeal, the Broadway Bash is always a fun evening of gourmet dining, entertainment, desserts, dancing, unique auctions, and even a few surprises. In light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Marcus Center has made unique accommodations for the Broadway Bash to ensure the safety of our guests. For more information, please visit MarcusCenter.org.

Broadway showstopper Chester Gregory (CHΞSS) had his breakthrough performance of Jackie Wilson in ***The Jackie Wilson Story***, which led to his Broadway debut in ***Hairspray***, and he has since been featured in principal roles *in Motown: The Musical, Tarzan, Cry-Baby, Sister Act*, and *Dreamgirls*. On August 28, CHΞSS will treat Broadway Bash attendees to a full Motown Revue, highlighting songs from ***Motown: The Musical*** as well as other music from throughout his career.

The Broadway Bash is supported by Presenting Sponsor, Johnson Financial Group, as well as Reception Sponsors, Saz’s Hospitality Group and CG Schmidt, Inc. Media

partners include Exciting Events, 95.7 BIG FM, FM106.1, V100.7, News/Talk1130 WISN, 97.3 The Game and The BIG 920.

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ABOUT THE MARCUS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Established in 1969, the Marcus Performing Arts Center is the premier performing arts community gathering space in Southeastern Wisconsin. As the Marcus Center moves into its 50th year, it continues to build bridges between diverse members of our community through high-quality arts entertainment in the region and the state. The touring Broadway series, sponsored by Johnson Financial Group, is recognized as bringing the best of Broadway entertainment to Milwaukee for the past 20 years and provides opportunities to educate, entertain and engage audiences. The Marcus Center is also the home to the Milwaukee Ballet, Florentine Opera, First Stage, Black Arts MKE plus a variety of other important community and family events throughout the year. For more information about events visit the Marcus Center website at www.MarcusCenter.org. The Marcus Center is a private non-profit 501(c) 3 corporation and is a dedicated veterans memorial in Milwaukee.

ABOUT JOHNSON FINANCIAL GROUP

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