

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**MARCUS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER TO OFFER
VIRTUAL BENEFIT CONCERT
CHRISTOPHER JACKSON: LIVE FROM THE WEST SIDE
STREAMED LIVE FROM NEW YORK
SATURDAY, AUGUST 15 AT 7 P.M. CST
TICKETS ON SALE JULY 28, 2020 at 11am**

[MILWAUKEE, WI] (July 27, 2020) – Marcus Performing Arts Center announced today that it is one of a select group of nonprofit arts organizations participating in a livestream concert event, ***Christopher Jackson: Live from the West Side*** on Saturday, August 15 at 7 p.m. CST. Jackson is a Grammy and Emmy Award winning songwriter/composer and a Tony Award nominated actor best known for originating the role of George Washington in the cultural phenomenon *Hamilton*. Tickets for ***Christopher Jackson: Live from the West Side*** will go on sale **July 28 at 11am CST**.

Tickets for ***Christopher Jackson: Live from the West Side*** are \$40 per household and are available at **MarcusCenter.org**. Tickets include access to the livestream performance plus an additional 72 hours of on-demand viewing of a video recording of the livestream, available beginning one hour after the live broadcast ends. Proceeds from ticket sales will support **the Marcus Center's mission to connect our community to the world through the transformative power of the live performing arts**.

Accompanied by a live band, Jackson will be performing songs from his favorite musicals, pop standards, and some of his original material, and will share stories from his time affiliated with two of the most important musicals of the last decade *In The Heights* and *Hamilton*. Audience members will also be invited to text in questions, some of which will be answered during the live event.

Kendra Whitlock-Ingram, President and CEO of the Marcus Center states "In these unprecedented times, the Marcus Center recognizes how important it is to keep us all connected through the arts. We are thrilled to be able to share this amazing live concert experience with the Milwaukee community."

“Nonprofit arts presenters are the lifeblood of the performing arts industry and a pipeline for young talent. Without them there is no Broadway,” said Jackson. “While everything is shutdown during this terrible pandemic, I am delighted to be able to help spread some joy and help raise some much needed support for these deserving organizations.”

The livestream, which is a co-production of Dallas Summer Musicals and Entertainment Benefits Group, is being shared by a number of nonprofit arts presenters around the country. The event will take place at New York’s New World Stages, the off-Broadway venue that has housed productions of *Jersey Boys*, *Avenue Q* and many others.

ABOUT CHRISTOPHER JACKSON

Christopher Jackson is a Tony Award nominated actor as well as a Grammy and Emmy Award winning songwriter/composer best known for starring as George Washington in the critically acclaimed, award-winning musical, *Hamilton*, on Broadway. He can currently be seen starring in the hit CBS drama "Bull" and has recently finished *Freestyle Love Supreme* on Broadway for a limited run. He also starred in Ava DuVernay’s Netflix mini-series *When They See Us* with Michael K. Williams, Vera Farmiga and John Leguizamo.

In December 2018, “One Last Time (44 Remix)” was released as a part of the Hamildrop series which featured Chris alongside President Obama and BeBe Winans.

His Broadway credits include *Holler if Ya Hear Me*, *After Midnight*, *The Bronx Bombers* (Derek Jeter), *In The Heights* (Benny), *Memphis* (Delray Farrell) and *The Lion King* (Simba). Off Broadway includes *Bronx Bombers* (Primary Stages), *The Jammer* (Atlantic Theater Co.), *Lonely, I’m Not* (Second Stage), *In the Heights* (37 Arts), and *Cotton Club Parade* (ENCORES at City Center).

In film and TV, he has appeared in *Freestyle Love Supreme* (Pivot Network) *Person of Interest*, *A Gifted Man*, *Fringe*, *Gossip Girl*, *Tracers*, and *Afterlife*.

Christopher recorded an original song written by Lin-Manuel Miranda for the Disney film *Moana* and was also the Composer/Songwriter for *Sesame Street* (6 Emmy nominations and 1 win), and co-Music Supervisor and Writer for *The Electric Company* (PBS).

Chris won an Emmy Award for his song with Will.I.Am, “What I Am”. In 2010 he released his first solo album titled, *IN THE NAME OF LOVE* with Yellow Sound Lab Records and is currently working on his 2nd album. Recently, Chris performed at Kennedy Centers Honors Gala celebrating Lin-Manuel Miranda. He also has several musical projects in development for the musical stage and has sold out concerts at Carnegie Hall and The Kennedy Center.

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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 celebrates 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.

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