

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- 0845 *Prelude Music by Professor Joseph Golden, University Organist.
Played on the Jordan Organ, Legacy Hall.*
- 0858 *Official Party is seated*
- NARRATOR** Good morning ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the **Tri-Community Covenant Signing Ceremony**, please rise for the *National Anthem, Pledge of Allegiance*, and the *Invocation*. The Anthem will be sung by **Carrie Beth Barnett**, of Houston, Texas. She is a student of **Professor Earl Coleman**, The William and Isabelle Curry Distinguished Faculty Chair in Voice, at the Schwob School of Music, Columbus State University.
- ORGANIST** *National Anthem*
- NARRATOR** At this time **Marshal Greg Countryman** of the Muscogee County Marshals representing Law Enforcement and **Colonel (Retired) John Mitchell**, US Army representing Veterans, will lead us in the *“Pledge of Allegiance.”*
- Pledge*
- NARRATOR** Ladies and Gentlemen **Chaplain, COL, Scott Davis** will now give the *Invocation*.
- CHAPLAIN** *Invocation*
- NARRATOR** Ladies and gentlemen please be seated.

*Community Covenant Signing Ceremony
Legacy Hall, RiverCenter of the Performing Arts
17 April 2008*

NARRATION The RiverCenter for the Performing Arts is located in the heart of the Tri-Community of Columbus Georgia, Fort Benning, and Phenix City Alabama. This river community region, known originally for its textile mills and military for many decades, has transitioned a diverse, high technology, business focused community with tremendous cultural growth. This 246,000 square foot RiverCenter complex contains the 2,000-seat Bill Heard Theatre, the 450-seat Legacy Hall, where we are seated and the 220-seat Studio Theatre. The Columbus State University Schwob School of Music is located in the complex, as are six other nonprofit arts organizations. A public-private partnership entitled The Columbus Challenge raised over \$100 million to endow the Arts. Several facilities such as the RiverCenter and renovations to The Springer Opera House: the State Theatre of Georgia, and an expansion to the historic Liberty Theatre Cultural Center were part of this effort.

The Columbus Challenge was an unprecedented public-private fundraising effort revitalized key local cultural venues with a \$17-million state appropriation, a \$20-million matching pledge from the Bradley-Turner Foundation and the rest from the local community.

The 240,000-square-foot RiverCenter is the center piece of the cultural, arts and entertainment district.

The hall that we are currently in is Legacy Hall. It has 450 seats and I think you all can tell by the elegant ambiance that includes orchestra and parterre levels and a balcony that wraps entirely around the stage. This hall has flexible acoustics and a magnificent, \$1,000,000 Jordan concert organ

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adorning the center of the second tier. Walls are covered in a textured clay tile, and the balcony and parterre (*par-tair*) fascias (*fay-she-uhs*) are covered in rich cherry wood. From the ceiling a series of light, colored wood acoustical reflectors support striking copper chandeliers. Known for its perfect acoustics and impressive Jordan Concert Organ, the hall is a popular venue with many noted musicians.

Legacy Hall and the facility's Studio Theater also provide rehearsal and performance space for the Columbus State University Schwob School of Music. The music school's classrooms, studios, rehearsal rooms and practice rooms also are located at RiverCenter.

Fulfilling its mission of providing quality entertainment and promoting the artistic enrichment of the Columbus area, the RiverCenter for the Performing Arts has become much more than a great performing arts center. It has become a key player in the preservation of the social, economic, and civic vitality of the region.

THIS IS LEGACY HALL!

ORGAN PERFORMANCE

NARRATOR Ladies and gentlemen please enjoy a performance by **Professor Joseph Golden, University Organist** on this gorgeous Jordan (*Jur-den*) Concert Organ. His selection today will be “*God Bless America*” and will be sung by Ms. Carrie Beth Barnett.

REMARKS

NARRATOR Ladies and gentlemen, the Mayor of Phenix City, Alabama, the **Honorable Jeff Hardin**.

Remarks

NARRATOR Ladies and gentlemen, the Mayor of Columbus, Georgia, the **Honorable Jim Wetherington**.

Remarks

NARRATOR Ladies and gentlemen, the Commander of Fort Benning, Georgia, **MG Walt Wojdakowski**.

Remarks

NARRATOR Ladies and gentlemen, the Secretary of the Army, the **Honorable Pete Geren**.

Remarks

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READING & SIGNING OF THE COVENANT

NARRATOR We will now have the *Reading* and *Signing* of the Covenant.

Select individuals and Community Representatives move to signing table.

NOTE: Standing behind the individuals signing will be a community selected group and a Military family member and child.

Narrator introduces signers as well as those standing behind them representing the community.

NARRATOR Signing the Covenant, from left to right are:

- **Honorable Jim Wetherington**, Mayor of Columbus, GA
- **MG Walt Wojdakowski**, Commander of Fort Benning
- **Honorable Jeff Hardin**, Mayor of Phenix City, AL
- **Mr. Drew Ferguson**, Chairman, Valley Partnership
- **Mr. Mike Gaymon**, President, Greater Columbus Georgia Chamber of Commerce
- **Mr. Victor Cross**, President, Phenix City/Russell County Chamber of Commerce
- **Mrs. Barbara Jackson**, Fort Benning Family Member
- **Master Damien Jackson**, Student Faith Middle School, Fort Benning
- **Drill Sergeant Imari Jackson**, Sergeant First Class, US Army

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The following Community Representatives standing behind the signers from left to right are:

- **Command Sergeant Major Russell Sadler**
Garrison Sergeant Major, Fort Benning
- **Mrs. Marie Cordero**
Greater Columbus Georgia Chamber of Commerce
Vice President Small & Minority Business Development
- **Command Sergeant Major (R) Eddie Roberts**
Tri-Community Volunteer and Military Retiree
- **Colonel (R) and Mrs. Ralph Puckett**
Former Honorary Colonel of the 75th Ranger Regiment, Noted Author and Military Retiree Family
- **Mr. Kike Seda (Say-duh)**
Chairman of the Board
Phenix City/Russell County Chamber of Commerce
- **Drill Sergeant of the Year, Terrence Gassop**
192nd Infantry Brigade, Fort Benning; and
- **CPT Brad Maroyka**
Department of the Army General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award Recipient,
Ranger Training Brigade, Fort Benning

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NARRATOR The **Community Covenant** reads as follows:

Together, we are committed to building strong communities.

We, the Community, recognize...

- The commitment Military members and their Families are making every day.
- The strength of Military members comes from the strength of their Families.
- The strength of Families is supported by the strength of the Community.
- The strength of the Community comes from the support of Employers, Educators, Civic and Business leaders, and its Citizens.

We, the Community, are committed to...

- Building partnerships that support the strength, resilience, and readiness of Soldiers and their Families.
- Assisting in the implementation of the Military Family Covenant.

Covenant Is Signed

NARRATOR Ladies and gentlemen, please stand and join in the singing of the *Army Song*. The words are located on the back of your program.

Army Song

NARRATOR Ladies and gentlemen, this concludes the Signing of the Tri-Community Covenant Ceremony. Thank you for your attendance this morning.
Please join us for refreshments in the Grand Lobby of the RiverCenter and sign the Community Covenant Book also located in the Grand Lobby.

Have a Great Day!