

# North Carolina's Musical Treasure™



[www.EasternMusicFestival.org](http://www.EasternMusicFestival.org)

— Press Release —

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## MASTER CLASS WITH REMARKABLE PIANIST AWADAGIN PRATT

*Greensboro, NC- On Thursday, July 16, 2009* EMF follows up on its commitment to music education and excellence by bringing celebrated **pianist Awadagin Pratt** for a master class. Mr. Pratt will share his knowledge and musical journey with students and the audience, providing valuable feedback for all kinds of music followers. The general public is invited to eavesdrop on these one-on-one coaching sessions with EMF students. Master classes are an educationally enriching experience for all participants. The piano master class is scheduled **at 4pm in the Sternberger Auditorium at Guilford College** (5800 West Friendly Avenue, Greensboro, NC, 27410). Tickets may be purchased at the door only for \$15. Admission is free for season ticket holders.

Among his generation of concert artists, pianist Awadagin Pratt is acclaimed for his musical insight and intensely involving performances in recital and with symphony orchestras. Mr. Pratt will join the Eastern Festival Orchestra on Saturday, July 18 at 8pm in a special performance of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4 in G major in Dana Auditorium, Guilford College. He will also perform on Monday evening, July 20, as part of EMF's UNCG Chamber Concert (100 McIver St., Greensboro).

Horacio Gutiérrez, who was originally scheduled to perform and conduct this Master Class, had to cancel due to illness.

### **More About Awadagin Pratt**

Among his generation of concert artists, pianist **Awadagin Pratt** is acclaimed for his musical insight and intensely involving performances that receive tremendous audience response and press attention throughout the United States. Born in Pittsburgh, Awadagin Pratt began studying piano at the age of six. Three years later, having moved to Normal, Illinois, with his family, he also began studying violin. At the age of 16, he entered the University of Illinois where he studied piano, violin and conducting. He subsequently enrolled at the Peabody Conservatory of Music where he became the first student in the school's history to receive diplomas in three performance areas - piano, violin and conducting. In 1992 Mr. Pratt won the Naumburg International Piano Competition and two years later was awarded a 1994 Avery Fisher Career Grant.

He has played numerous recitals throughout the U.S. including performances in New York at Lincoln Center, Washington, D.C., at the Kennedy Center, Los Angeles at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion and Chicago at Orchestra Hall. His many orchestral performances include appearances with the New York Philharmonic, Orchestra of St. Luke's, Minnesota Orchestra, and the Pittsburgh, St. Louis, National, Detroit and New Jersey symphonies. Major summer festival engagements include Ravinia, Blossom, Wolf Trap, Caramoor, Aspen, the Hollywood Bowl and the Mostly Mozart Festival in Tokyo. Mr. Pratt is also the artistic director of the Next Generation Festival, a two-week chamber music festival in Lancaster, Pa.; tours with the Dedalus String Quartet; and appears with cellist Zuill Bailey in duo recitals throughout the U.S. Recent and upcoming appearances include recital engagements at the Kennedy Center and National Gallery in Washington, D.C., the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark and in La Jolla and Savannah, as well as return appearances with the orchestras of Atlanta, Baltimore, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, Seattle, Colorado, Kansas City, Utah, Nashville and San Antonio. As a conductor, Mr. Pratt has participated in American Symphony Orchestra League and Conductor's Guild workshops as well as in the National Conducting Institute, where he worked closely with Leonard Slatkin and conducted the National Symphony at the Kennedy Center. He has also conducted the Toledo, New Mexico, Winston-Salem, Santa Fe and Prince George County symphonies, the Concertante di Chicago and two orchestras in Japan.

A great favorite on college and university performing arts series and a strong advocate of music education, Awadagin Pratt participates in numerous residency and outreach activities wherever he appears; these activities may include master classes, children's recitals, play/talk demonstrations and question/answer sessions for students of all ages. Internationally, Mr. Pratt has toured Japan four times and performed in Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Poland, Israel and South Africa. Awadagin Pratt has been the subject of numerous articles in the national press, including *Newsweek*, *People magazine*, *USA Weekend*, *New York Newsday*, *Emerge* and *Mirabella*. He was named one of the 50 Leaders of Tomorrow in *Ebony magazine's* special 50th anniversary issue and has been featured on National Public Radio's "Performance Today," "St. Paul Sunday Morning" and "Weekend Edition." On television, Mr. Pratt has performed on the "Today" show, "Good Morning America," and "Sesame Street," been profiled on CBS "Sunday Morning" and was one of the featured soloists on PBS's "Live from the Kennedy Center - A Salute to Slava." He also performed twice at the White House at the invitation of

President and Mrs. Clinton. In September 1993 Mr. Pratt signed an exclusive recording contract with Angel/EMI. His debut album, *A Long Way From Normal*, was released in 1994. Subsequent recital discs include an all-Beethoven sonata CD, *Live from South Africa* and *Transformations*. His most recent Angel/EMI recording is an all-Bach disc with the St. Lawrence String Quartet. Mr. Pratt is currently an associate professor of piano and artist in residence at the College Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati.

**Tickets:** Triad Stage Box Office 336.272.0160 or 866.579.TIXX or [www.EasternMusicFestival.org](http://www.EasternMusicFestival.org).

\*a service fee will apply

Discounts are available for full-time students with a valid ID, seniors aged 65 or older, and groups of 10 or more for most performances. Young Artists and EMF*kids* concerts offer family-friendly packages. Please call the box office about packages. This season most discounts will be available at the door. Discounts and gift certificates will not be accepted for concerts designated as special events.

*\*Dates, programs, venues, and artists are subject to change.*

The 2009 Eastern Music Festival season is sponsored in part by the United Arts Council of Greater Greensboro, the North Carolina Arts Council, Lincoln Financial Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Southern Arts Federation, WFDD Triad Arts Station, Greensboro's News and Record, Continental Airways, Yes! Weekly, and Piedmont Music Center (Steinway Pianos).

For more information about EMF or its programs, please visit [www.EasternMusicFestival.org](http://www.EasternMusicFestival.org), or call toll free: 1.877.833.6753

### **More about Eastern Music Festival**

Now in its 48th year, the Eastern Music Festival & School is recognized for its prodigious contributions to the field of American music and its commitment to nurturing talented American and international youth through a collaborative learning process. The program brings together a cross-section of America's most sought-after artists with pre-professional students in a five-week schedule of 100 concerts and music-related events. Music Director Gerard Schwarz heads a distinguished list of participating artists scheduled for 2009, including **Peter Serkin, Sarah Chang, Awadagin Pratt, Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, Xavier Phillips**, plus many others.

The Festival also produces a popular EMF*fringe* series of alternative programming, featuring everything from Americana to alt country, blues, jazz and gospel with artists such as **Mike Cross, The John Cowan Band, Laurelyn Dossett, Steep Canyon Rangers, Waybacks, The Chris Hicks Band**, blues artist **Larry McCray** and more. EMF*kids* offers camps and concerts with each uniquely designed to foster a love and knowledge for classical and non-classical music. This year's concerts are **Shana Banana** and **Dan Zanes**. EMF*jazz&blues* runs each spring and EMF Fringe in the Fall each

autumn. Single tickets and FlexPasses on sale now. [www.EasternMusicFestival.org](http://www.EasternMusicFestival.org); Box Office 336.272.0160 or 866.579-TIXX.

*The Eastern Music Festival's mission is to promote musical enrichment, excellence, professional collaboration, innovation and diversity through a nationally-recognized teaching program, music festival, concerts and other programs which will enhance the quality of life, health and vitality of our region.*

EMF is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

All contributions are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

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