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Augusta Amusements
Presents
**An Intimate Evening with
Jazz Great Earl Klugh**

Saturday, September 18, 2010 at 7:00 p. m.
At Fort Discovery's Paul Simon Theater

During a recording career that now spans three decades, master guitarist **EARL KLUGH** has been lauded as a prodigy, a groundbreaker, and a defining figure in contemporary jazz. Now one of its true statesmen, he brings his distinctive take on America's music with a solo performance at Fort Discovery's Paul Simon Theater on Saturday, September 18, as part of the 2010 Westobou Festival.

Klugh absorbed a world of influences in his youth—everything from Wes Montgomery to Sergio Mendes, from the guitar music of Brazil, Argentina and Spain to the pop songs of Burt Bacharach and the Beatles, and from the creative outburst of pop and folk in the early Sixties to Motown's legendary studio-session band, The Funk Brothers.

"Music for me has always been a driving force in my life," he says. "I love the emotion music evokes, and the stories it tells. No matter the genre, or style, I can always find something to enjoy. Music has no boundaries." Klugh's lifelong appreciation of contemporary popular music has resulted not in a pastiche of styles, but in a self-determined positioning of his music that is intended to reach the broadest possible audience. As a composer and recording artist, he has been counted among the lynchpin figures of a new contemporary jazz.

Years after first inspiring him—and by then a longtime friend and collaborator—guitar legend Chet

Atkins zeroed in on Klugh's forte in *Guitar Player* magazine, noting that Klugh's combination of profound talent and artistic daring created a new kind of mainstream music. "Earl can wail with the best," said Atkins, "but he prefers to touch people emotionally. He reaches your heart with

that romantic special something." Klugh was honored for 2008's "Best Jazz Concert" by the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, and the *New York Times* hailed Klugh, "...a guitarist with impeccable technique." Whether he is performing as a soloist, with his quartet, his electric band, his 'Little Big Band' or with symphony orchestras, Klugh's onstage musical presence delights audiences worldwide.

In recent years, Klugh has toured internationally, carrying the banner for jazz and his musical forebears. He has become a musical ambassador for peace and global social awareness. Joining such legends as George Duke, Stanley Clarke, Al Jarreau, Bob James, Patti Austin, and Ravi Coltrane, Klugh has twice traveled on goodwill tours, jointly sponsored by the U.S. State Department and The Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz, to India.

Klugh has recorded more than thirty albums, including twenty-three records that reached the Top Ten on Billboard's Jazz Album chart. He has been nominated twelve times for the Grammy, in jazz fusion, best arrangement and pop instrumental categories, winning the 1980 Grammy for Best Pop Instrumental Performance for the million-selling album "One on One with Bob James." In 1987, he won the Edison Award, Europe's equivalent to the Grammy, for "Life Stories." Klugh's first CD on the Koch label, "Naked Guitar," was nominated for Best Pop Instrumental Album, as was his second Koch effort, "The Spice of Life." "Collaboration," his 1987 album with George Benson, was certified Gold by the RIAA. "The Spice of Life," a follow-up to his 2005 "Naked Guitar" CD, earned him his twelfth Grammy® Nomination in 2008.

As composer and songwriter, Earl Klugh has contributed to recordings by Aretha Franklin, Jamie Foxx, Roberta Flack, Mary J. Blige, Kenny Loggins, Al Jarreau, and many others, and he has played as a guest artist on recordings by Jimmy Buffett, Kenny Loggins, Brenda Russell, Stevie Wonder, Miles Davis, and McCoy Tyner, to cite just a few. Klugh's guitar playing is heard in the soundtrack scores of several films, and he has performed frequently on *The Tonight Show*, *Late Night featuring David Letterman*, *The Today Show*, and *Good Morning America*.

"The essential excitement of music-making is renewed in every studio and stage performance," Klugh says. "Once I get into the actual song, I try to go back to what made me write the song or decide to perform it... Going into something unexpected is great, because the music takes on a life of its own. After all these years, that's what we try to do."

Despite all his accomplishments, Klugh doesn't believe he's reached his peak as a musician. He once reflected, "My enjoyment is searching out new things to play every day, and ways to play them. There's so much more I want to do. If there were nothing else to learn and do there'd be no reason to play."



"An Intimate Evening with Earl Klugh" begins at 7:00 p. m. in Fort Discovery's Paul Simon Theater on Saturday, September 18. Doors open at 6:00 p. m. Reserved Seats can be purchased on the Internet at www.augustaamusements.com.

Tickets are \$30, \$35 & \$40.

Fort Discovery is located at 1 Seventh Street in downtown Augusta, Georgia. Complimentary parking in the Fort Discovery Parking Deck located on Seventh Street is available for ticket holders.

Concertgoers are encouraged to dress in their favorite jazz-elegant attire and to walk the red carpet at the entrance to Ft. Discovery's Paul Simon Theater.

For more information on Augusta Amusements, visit www.augustaamusements.com. ###