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First Midwest Bank Invests in New South Suburban Audiences for the Arts

University Park, IL - For the fifth straight year, First Midwest Bank is supporting the work of Governors State University’s Center for Performing Arts. The regional bank is no stranger to bringing the community together around arts-related and other community events, and has been doing so for years all over the Midwest, including its commitment to Governors State University since 2008. Now the bank will help build new audiences for the arts in Chicago’s Southland by supporting the Center’s “Made in Chicago” Series, which brings Chicago-based theatre, dance, and musical ensemble companies to the Southland through collaboration with diverse arts organizations.

First Midwest Bank is deeply rooted in the communities it serves, supporting organizations and events that expand access to services for families and enhance quality of life. Some of these organizations include The Tinley Park Park District, The South Suburban Special Recreation Association, and local school districts, hospitals, and libraries.

GSU President Dr. Elaine P. Maimon is pleased that First Midwest is supplementing five years of funding from The Chicago Community Trust, “I am delighted that First Midwest Bank is joining The Chicago Community Trust in sponsoring “Made in Chicago.” This program supports Chicago artists, encourages first-time theater attendance, and develops new audiences for Chicagoland’s lively cultural scene.”

“Made in Chicago” performances are priced at affordable rates ranging from $28-38, with discounts available for seniors, students and groups of ten or more. Upcoming Made in Chicago performances include:

**Ain’t Misbehavin’ by Porchlight Music Theatre** on Saturday, January 30 at 8 p.m. pays tribute to the Harlem Renaissance and the music of Fats Waller in a rowdy and humorous production that won the 2014 Joseph Jefferson Award for “Best Production – Revue.”

**Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater** on Saturday, February 6 at 8 p.m. is an epic celebration of Flamenco, classical, and contemporary dance, set to traditional Spanish rhythms. In this 40th anniversary tribute, the company highlights Maurice Ravel’s most popular work, the Bolero, and the work of choreographer Ron de Jesús creates “Mil Clavos – One Thousand
Sweet Home Chicago Blues* on Saturday, March 5 at 8 p.m. is the hottest blues ticket in town. Join three-time Grammy nominee BILLY BRANCH and the “Big Blues Band” in an unforgettable celebration of sound. Special guests include: Eddy “The Chief” Clearwater, Eddie Shaw (formerly of Howlin’ Wolfe), Zora Young, Demetria Taylor (daughter of the late Eddie Taylor), and more. *artists subject to change

For Tickets and Information
Online: CenterTickets.net
By Phone: 708.235.2222
In Person at the Box Office: 1 University Parkway, University Park, IL
Box Office Hours: Monday- Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (open to 6p.m. on Thursdays) & 2 hours prior to all performances
Parking is free. For best GPS directions always use the location search term “Governors State University” only.

About First Midwest Bank
For 70 years and counting, your friends, neighbors, and local businesses have chosen First Midwest as the bank they trust most. With some 100 branches, we continue to meet the needs of thousands of businesses and individuals through deeply-rooted fiscal responsibility and a sense of purpose that drives us to get things done . . . no matter what it takes. Trust your financial life to professionals who share your values and know your neighborhood. For more information and for a list of locations, visit Firstmidwestbank.org.