



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAMMONS CENTER PRESENTS JAZZ PRODIGY MARCH 29, 2019 *Concert to Benefit Envision Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind*

Dallas/February 28, 2019 — The Sammons Center for the Arts, 3630 Harry Hines at Oak Lawn, will present the José André Trio, led by the 13-year-old jazz pianist and composer, in a benefit concert on Friday, March 29, 2019, 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$50 for general admission and \$150 for reserved seating. Ticket proceeds will be given to Envision Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind, another 501(c)(3), in honor of José André, who was born in Bolivia with cerebral palsy and blind from birth.

“As the producer of Sammons Jazz for the past 30 years, we are excited to present this gifted young jazz artist in concert,” said Joanna St. Angelo, Sammons Center Executive Director. “José André has overcome many challenges and is proof that the arts can transform lives.”

The concert also represents another collaboration with a local organization to expand awareness about the therapeutic properties of music, dance and theater, St. Angelo explained.

“We partnered with the Perot Museum of Nature and Science, UT Southwestern Medical Center and the Dallas and Northeast Texas Chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association on earlier projects,” she continued, “to show that music therapy is a clinical and evidence-based tool that helps people manage physical, emotional, social and cognitive needs.”

“Art has countless benefits in the lives of people who are blind or visually impaired, giving them an outlet for creative expression and a way to express their unique viewpoints with the world around them,” said Max Allen, executive director of Envision Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind. “We appreciate the generosity of the Sammons Center and the Dallas community, whose support of this concert will enhance our efforts to improve the quality of life for people with visual impairments.”

Admission to “Sammons Center Presents the José André Trio” includes beverages, a light dinner and valet parking. For tickets or more information, call the Sammons Center at (214) 520-7788 or visit www.sammonsartcenter.org.

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About José André

José André was born in Cochabamba, Bolivia, in 2005. Born blind and with cerebral palsy, he began teaching himself how to play the piano when he was three years old. He formed his first Latin jazz band in 2011 and recorded his first album, *Ama a Todos*, two years later. José André has delighted audiences at the Kennedy Center and other venues across the Americas and in Europe with his enthusiasm, speed and accuracy. He has shared the stage with Marcus Miller, Jason Moran and Renee Fleming in

performances that bridged jazz, rock, blues, bossa nova, Latin American folklore and world music. For more about him, visit www.jose-andre.com.

About Envision Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind

Founded in 1931, Envision Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind is a leader in the North Texas nonprofit community, offering more than 150,000 individuals with visual impairments living in 11 counties meaningful employment opportunities and resources. Its mission is to improve the quality of life and provide inspiration and opportunity for people who are blind or visually impaired through employment, outreach, rehabilitation, education and research. Part of Envision, Inc., based in Wichita, Kansas, Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind promotes advocacy and independence for people with vision loss to help them succeed and thrive in the workplace, have productive and meaningful lives and contribute to their communities. For more information, visit dallaslighthouse.org.

About the Sammons Center for the Arts

The Sammons Center for the Arts was founded in 1981 to renovate the historic Turtle Creek Pump Station, built in 1909 at 3630 Harry Hines Boulevard, and operate it as a multipurpose arts center. After several years of renovation, the Sammons Center opened March 1, 1988. A 501(c)(3) organization, the Sammons Center is home to 14 performing arts groups representing dance, theater, orchestral music and choral music. It provides low-cost office, rehearsal, audition, meeting, and workshop and performance space as well as administrative, operational and educational resources to its resident groups and more than 90 other nonprofit cultural organizations. For more information, call (214) 520-7788 or visit www.sammonsartcenter.org.