



The Kennedy Center Receives \$5 Million Gift from Vladimir Potanin

Golden Circle Lounge will be renovated by the Potanin Foundation and renamed The Russian Lounge

(WASHINGTON, D.C.)—The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts today announced a \$5 million gift from well-known Russian investor and philanthropist Vladimir Potanin. The gift is given in recognition of the Kennedy Center’s 40th anniversary and will support the Center’s programming and general operating expenses. The Kennedy Center Golden Circle Lounge, located on the Box Tier level of the Opera House, will undergo an extensive renovation this summer, additionally funded by The Vladimir Potanin Foundation, and be renamed the Russian Lounge upon reopening in fall 2012.

“We are very grateful for this generous gift from Vladimir Potanin,” stated Kennedy Center Chairman David M. Rubenstein. “Russia’s cultural heritage has enriched the Kennedy Center’s programming on countless occasions, including multiple performances by the Mariinsky Ballet, Opera and Orchestra and the Bolshoi Ballet, as well as the 17-year tenure of Mstislav Rostropovich as music director of our National Symphony Orchestra. I applaud Vladimir Potanin’s leadership and admirable philanthropy, which will help enable the Kennedy Center to continue its mission of presenting the best of national and international artistry to our audiences.”

“This is such an honor for me to make this gift on the 40th anniversary of The John F. Kennedy Center,” stated Vladimir Potanin. “I believe the Kennedy Center has been playing a very important role in building strong cultural relations between our countries by presenting the greatest Russian artists to the American people. I’m very grateful for the Kennedy Center Chairman David M. Rubenstein’s continued support to the Russian Lounge project that we

launch today and that is aimed to open new dimensions of Russia to the public. I believe that our cooperation with the Kennedy Center is natural expansion of the philanthropic activities that we carry out in Russia.”

The Russian Lounge design would be based on the findings of two of the Foundation’s programs: “First Publication” and “A Changing Museum in A Changing World.” Both programs present unknown, under-researched aspects of Russian culture, open unknown museum collections, and present museum collections in a unique printed form. The renovated lounge may include a multimedia zone which highlights Russian culture and museums, as well as feature unique museum collections from the Foundation’s archives.

The Golden Circle Lounge will undergo a comprehensive update, including new wall coverings, floor finishes, and service bar. Upgrades will be made to lighting, electrical, and plumbing systems and new Russian artwork and furnishings will fill the room.

Russian designer Yuri Avvakumov of AgitArch will provide interior design and layout while Baltimore-based Richter Cornbrooks Gribble, Inc. will provide overall architectural design support. Construction will begin in summer 2012 and the new lounge will be unveiled at a grand reopening celebration in the fall.

Located on the Box Tier level of the Opera House, the Golden Circle Lounge serves as a site for pre- and post-performance receptions, cast parties, and board meetings, as well as a rental space for outside organizations. Previously known as the South Opera Lounge, the Golden Circle Lounge was renamed in October 1973. With its Waterford crystal chandelier, a gift from Ireland for the opening of the Kennedy Center in 1971, the Lounge is a frequently-admired stop on the Center’s free memorial tours, which are given to hundreds of thousands of people each year. The chandelier will remain in the new Lounge.

The Russian Lounge will be the Center’s fourth lounge dedicated to a country or region of the world. The Center’s African Lounge, located in the Opera House Box Tier, is the home to tapestries and artwork from 22 African nations including Nigeria, Lesotho, Mali, and Ghana. The Israeli Lounge, located in the Concert Hall Box Tier, was dedicated in November 1971 and contains sculpted panels and a ceiling mural by Israeli artists. The Chinese Lounge, originally dedicated in 1975 in the Concert Hall Second Tier but moved to the Eisenhower Theater Box Tier in 2005, contains paintings, screens, and a custom rug. Earlier this year, the Lounge

received an additional gift of two porcelain vases from the people of China. Since opening its doors in September 1971, the Kennedy Center has hosted gifts from dozens of countries around the world. Such foreign gifts include 3,700 tons of Carrara marble from Italy which lines the interior and exterior of the building, 60-foot grand mirrors from Belgium in the Grand Foyer, the 50-foot-wide Lobmeyr crystal chandelier from Austria in the Opera House, the 16 Orrefors crystal chandeliers from Sweden in the Grand Foyer, and six Aubusson tapestries from Australia in the Nations Gallery, as well as dozens of paintings, sculptures, and furnishings which grace the building. As a Bicentennial gift to the United States, Japan gifted \$3 million to construct the Terrace Theater, which opened in 1979.

As a \$5 million donor to the Kennedy Center, Mr. Potanin's name has been carved into the marble at the entrance to the Hall of Nations for philanthropic leadership. Mr. Potanin joins such generous donors as the HRH Foundation, Jacqueline Badger Mars, David M. Rubenstein, Stephen & Christine Schwarzman, and Roger & Vicki Sant.

ABOUT VLADIMIR POTANIN

Vladimir Potanin, born on January 3, 1961, graduated from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO) is a founder of Interros Company (1990) which quickly has become one of the largest Russian private investment companies. Interros now manages assets of total value of \$20bn. Concurrently with his business career Vladimir Potanin has become actively involved in philanthropic activities. In 1999, he founded The Vladimir Potanin Foundation to implement socially significant long-term projects in the fields of Russian education and culture. In 2010, Mr. Potanin made a public commitment to give the majority of his wealth to philanthropy.

ABOUT THE JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, overlooking the Potomac River in Washington, D.C., is America's living memorial to President Kennedy. Under the guidance of Chairman David M. Rubenstein, President Michael M. Kaiser, and Music Director Christoph Eschenbach, the nine theaters and stages of the nation's busiest performing arts facility attract audiences totaling two million; Center-related touring productions, television, and radio broadcasts welcome 40 million more. Opening its doors on September 8, 1971, the Center produces and presents performances of music, dance, and theater; supports artists in the creation of new work; and serves the nation as a leader in arts education. With its artistic affiliates, the Washington National Opera, the National Symphony Orchestra, and VSA, the Center's achievements as a commissioner, producer, and nurturer of developing artists have resulted in more than 300 theatrical productions, dozens of new ballets, operas, and musical works. Each year, more than 11 million people nationwide take part in innovative and effective education programs initiated by the Center. As part of the Performing Arts for Everyone program, the

Center stages more than 400 free performances of music, dance, and theater by artists from throughout the world each year on the Center’s main stages, and every evening at 6 p.m. on the Millennium Stage.

ABOUT THE VLADIMIR POTANIN FOUNDATION

The Vladimir Potanin Foundation was established in 1999 to support active and creative people and effective institutions in the field of education and culture. Since 2000 The Foundation has spent about \$50 mln on the Federal Scholarship Program, including grants to talented students of Russia’s leading public educational institutions, as well as talented teachers. Cultural projects of The Foundation support Russian museums, helping them to adapt to modern challenges and to promote the creative and professional development of museum staff. Since 2003, the program “A Changing Museum in A Changing World” has provided support to 160 museum projects from 79 Russian regions sum total around \$10 mln.

ABOUT YURI AVVAKUMOV

Architect, artist, and curator Yuri Avvakumov was born in Tiraspol, Soviet Union in 1957 and graduated from the Moscow Architectural Institute in 1981. A founder of the AgitArch studio in 1988, his work has been seen throughout Russia as well as Paris, Berlin, Brussels, Milan, and the Venice Biennale. In 1984, he reintroduced the term “Paper Architecture” to describe the genre of conceptual design in the USSR of the 1980s. Since then he has organized exhibitions of the genre in Moscow, Paris, Milan, Frankfurt, Brussels, Cambridge, and New Orleans.

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