



*Where the Power of Knowledge  
meets the Power of Faith*

**For Immediate Release**

**Belhaven College to Host Lester Senter Production of *Robinson & Friends***

**JACKSON, Miss. (Oct. 30, 2003)** — To celebrate the centennial year of the birth of Mississippi artist Walter Inglis Anderson, mezzo-soprano Lester Senter has produced a newly augmented version of *Robinson: The Cat*, incorporating additional music inspired by the works of Walter Anderson.

*Robinson and Friends—The Pleasant History of an Unusual Cat* will be performed at 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 14, at the Belhaven College Center for the Arts. Senter will be joined by the Belhaven dance department and a musical ensemble from the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra. For ticket information, call the Thalia Mara Foundation World Performance Series box office at 960-0090.

In addition, a Walter Anderson symposium will be presented from 9:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 15, at the Mississippi Museum of Art by Friends of Robinson in collaboration with Belhaven College.

“Robinson, an ordinary cat, discovers his extraordinary talents and journeys to success — a universal message to young and old,” says Senter.

“Robinson always inspires me as does Walter Anderson’s ‘Little Room’ — so full of wonder and color! To see it fills one with great joy and appreciation of nature, plants, and animals — this beautiful world in which we live.”

*Robinson and Friends* is a preview for an upcoming tour including scheduled engagements Jan. 9 and 10 at the Discovery Theatre, Smithsonian Associates, in Washington, D.C.

In addition, the Smithsonian’s Arts and Industries Building is hosting the *Walter Inglis Anderson Centennial Traveling Exhibition: Everything I See Is New and Strange* through Jan. 11, 2004.

The original *Robinson: The Cat* was composed for Senter by former MSO conductor Colman Pearce and based upon a children's story by Walter Anderson. With that she opened the Mississippi Chamber Symphony in 1998 and has performed the piece across the South and in Ireland. Pearce has written additional material for the rendition of *Robinson and Friends*.

Senter has had an extensive career encompassing theatre, vocal and symphonic accomplishments. She holds a doctorate from the University of Texas at Austin, a master's degree from Louisiana State University, a bachelor's degree from Oberlin Conservatory of Music and a certificate from Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria.

Her repertoire includes "Marthe" in a performance of *Faust* featuring Placido Domingo, "Hermis" in Mississippi Educational Television's *A Midsummer's Night Dream*, "Carmen" in Shreveport Symphony's *Carmen*, and many more.

Belhaven College is a Christian liberal arts college with campuses in Jackson, Miss., Memphis, Tenn., and Orlando, Fla. The vision of Belhaven College is to prepare men and women academically and spiritually to serve Christ Jesus in their careers, in human relationships and in the world of ideas.

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