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Critically-acclaimed Broadway star Norm Lewis kicks off the return of Flow Performance series celebrating Black artists with his renowned holiday show *Naughty and Nice*

(October 15, 2021) — **SAG and Tony-Nominated Broadway star Norm Lewis brings his *Naughty and Nice* holiday show to the Aronoff Center's Jarson-Kaplan Theater for two performances only from December 3-4, 2021.** The much-anticipated show marks the return of *Flow*, an African American Arts Experience.

Tickets go on sale Friday, October 15 at 10 a.m. at artswave.org/norm, by calling 513.621.2787, and they can be purchased at the Aronoff Center Ticket Office.

Flow offers quarterly performances by renowned Black artists and ensembles working in various disciplines. The series is presented by ArtsWave, the region's engine for the arts, with support from area businesses, foundations and individuals and with guidance from a steering committee comprised of representatives from the region's top corporations.

Flow is purposefully designed to showcase professional, evocative African American artists from around the country whose work is unique and exciting. The goal for the series is to attract a highly diverse, culturally adventurous audience and create a shared and elevated appreciation for artists of color. *Flow* complements and expands the region's existing inventory of multicultural experiences offered by local arts organizations.

The 2021-22 series kicks off with ***Norm Lewis: Naughty and Nice***. Lewis is one of Broadway's most sought-after leading men, known for his roles in *Dessa Rose*, *Miss Saigon*, and *The Wild Party*. The Tony-nominated star was also the first African American actor to portray the title role in *The Phantom of the Opera*. With *Norm Lewis: Naughty and Nice*, he'll ring in the holiday season along with his musical director and arranger, Joseph Joubert, and their band. Lewis' annual shows in New York City have become the barometer for celebrating the yuletide season, featuring classic Christmas songs, Broadway showstoppers, and selections from his best-selling *The Norm Lewis Christmas Album*.

With friends and family being separated last holiday season, Lewis said, "It's going to be a special celebration this year to perform live and be able to see all those beautiful faces up close and personal."

Three additional artists will visit the region over the next year as part of *Flow*, including the award-winning jazz vocalist **Jazzmeia Horn, scheduled for April 1-2, 2022, also at the Aronoff's Jarson-Kaplan Theater.**

Flow's founding sponsors include: Fifth Third Bank; Greater Cincinnati Foundation and the David C. Herriman Fund at GCF; the Cincinnati Arts Association, which also serves as the series' production partner; Duke Energy; GE; TriVersity; The Cincinnati Enquirer; U.S. Bank; d.e. Foxx & Associates and U.S. Bank. Clever Crazes and Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center are the series' youth education sponsors. Media sponsors include: The Cincinnati Enquirer, The Cincinnati Herald, Radio One and Easley Blessed Media.

More information is available at artswave.org/flow.

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About ArtsWave

ArtsWave, a nonprofit serving the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky Region, is the engine for the arts. Its roots stem back to the late 1920s when the Cincinnati Taft family provided initial investment matched by community support. In the late 1940s, it evolved to become the first united arts fund in the nation and in the mid-1970s, the first organization to initiate workplace giving for the arts. ArtsWave continues to innovate while leading, as illustrated by its No. 1 rank nationally in community arts fundraising; coordination of a sector-wide Blueprint for Collective Action; piloting of new technologies to maximize arts engagement; and development of resources for the arts.

Strong funding for the arts has allowed Cincinnati's arts and culture scene to become a national draw and regional asset, creating a wave of economic and community benefits. Each year, ArtsWave supports the work of over 100 arts organizations, school outreach programs, festivals, community centers, neighborhoods and various collaborations through impact-based grants. ArtsWave raised \$11 million for the arts in 2021, despite the difficult 18-month health and economic crisis that has affected the entire region. Donations can be made at artswave.org/give.