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Contact: Penny Kemp at 601.480.7557 or penny@msarts.org
Jeremy Sollie at jeremy@msarts.org

**GRAMMY Nominee and *American Idol* Winner Jamal Roberts to
Lead Free Student Choral Performance at The MAX on March 12**

MERIDIAN, Miss. (March 10, 2026) – GRAMMY-nominated singer and Season 23 *American Idol* winner Jamal Roberts has partnered with the Mississippi Arts + Entertainment Experience (The MAX) to lead a choral residency for local students March 9-12, during spring break.

Capping off the week-long residency, Roberts will lead the Soul Sound Choir in a public performance on Thursday, March 12, at 6 pm. This is a homecoming of sorts for Roberts, a Meridian native who first began performing at The MAX as a young adult. Fresh off a national tour alongside fellow Mississippians Brandy and Monica, Roberts is working with approximately 100 students across grades 5-12, channeling his success into hands-on mentorship.

“When we approached Jamal about doing something at The MAX for students during spring break, he immediately expressed a desire to put his choir back together,” said Penny Kemp, President/CEO of The MAX. “We couldn’t be more excited to provide students this opportunity to work with a nationally recognized, professionally touring artist. We also couldn’t be more impressed with Jamal’s commitment to give back to his community.”

The public is invited to experience the free performance by Jamal Roberts’ Soul Sound Choir on Thursday, March 12, at 6 pm in the Citizens National Bank Courtyard at The MAX.

Spring break is a busy time at The MAX, with students ages 12-18 taking part in hands-on workshops from industry professionals in the Governor’s Recording Studio.

A few spots remain for Beat Making Workshops with Meridian native and multi-Billboard-charting hip-hop producer Twysted Genius on Friday, March 13 and Saturday,

March 14. Registration is required. Interested students can learn more about the workshops and register online at www.msarts.org/events or by calling 601.581.1550 (ext. 33).

About The MAX:

The Mississippi Arts + Entertainment Experience (The MAX) is an arts and cultural center in the heart of downtown Meridian that celebrates Mississippi's creative legacy through interactive exhibits, workshops, and live performances. The multipurpose facility contains a two-story Hall of Fame celebrating the state's groundbreaking artists like Walter Anderson, William Faulkner, Morgan Freeman, Jim Henson, B.B. King, Elvis Presley, and Leontyne Price to name a few, along with over 20,000 square feet of interactive exhibits, art studios, a recording studio, and performance spaces. Every visit to The MAX is a unique experience that leaves visitors feeling inspired and in awe of Mississippi's global impact on music, literature, art, and entertainment. Visit www.msarts.org to learn more.

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