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ROBERT RANDOLPH AND THE FAMILY BAND to Jam at Whitaker Center this July
Funk/jam band brings their signature amped-up-blues-with-rock-swagger-style to Harrisburg

Harrisburg, PA- Pedal steel guitarist Robert Randolph brings his American funk and soul jam band to Sunoco Performance Theater on Sunday, July 28 @7:00pm. This show is presented by Capital BlueCross.

Many musicians claim that they “grew up in the church,” but for Robert Randolph that is literally the case. The renowned pedal steel guitarist, vocalist and songwriter led such a cloistered childhood and adolescence that he heard no secular music while growing up. Which makes it all the more remarkable that the leader of Robert Randolph and the Family Band is today an inspiration to the likes of Eric Clapton, Carlos Santana and Derek Trucks, all of whom have played with him and studied his technique. It wasn't until he was out of his teens that Randolph broke away from the confines of his social and musical conditioning and discovered rock, funk, soul, jazz and the jam band scene, soon forging his own sound by fusing elements of those genres.

By the early 2000s, Randolph had begun applying his dazzling steel guitar technique to secular music, and from that grew the Family Band. The group's sound was so different than anything else around that they were soon packing New York City clubs. Their first album, 2002's *Live at the Wetlands*, was recorded at the now-defunct jam band haven, and was followed by four studio albums and another live set, each widening the band's audience - they've long been regulars on the festival circuit - and broadening their stylistic range as well.

“Things happened really fast,” Randolph - named one of the 100 Greatest Guitarists of All Time by *Rolling Stone* - says now. “When I look back on that time, to be honest, I had no idea what the hell we were doing. We'd get told, ‘You guys are going on tour with Eric Clapton.’ ‘Oh, OK.’ I thought, this guy must not have a clue who I am but the first time I met him we talked for about an hour and played music backstage.” The Family Band's improvisational skills quickly made them mega-popular among the jam band crowd, but for Randolph and his bandmates, what they were doing was just an extension of what they'd always done. “The jam band scene has that name but it's really a true music art form scene where you can just be who you are,” Randolph says. “We fit in that category in some sense but the jam band scene itself has changed a lot since that time. I've grown to like songs and I like to jam within the song.”

Tickets go on sale Thursday, April 18 at 10:00am at whitakercenter.org and ticketmaster.com or by calling the Whitaker Center Box Office. Tickets range from \$28.50 to \$39.50. For tickets and more information, please visit whitakercenter.org or call the Whitaker Center Box Office at 717-214-ARTS.

Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts is a non-profit center for the arts, education, entertainment and cultural enrichment located in the heart of Harrisburg's vibrant downtown. Whitaker Center is home to Sunoco Performance Theater, Harsco Science Center and Select Medical Digital Cinema featuring a four-story premium large format theater with a recently upgraded 4K digital projection system. Visit whitakercenter.org for a full list of events, shows, hours of operation, and ticket rates.