First Look + Listen Special Event

WHEN: November 14, 2012 – 7:00 p.m.
WHERE: Center for Performing Arts Recital Hall

WHO: Ashley Kahn is an American music historian, journalist, and producer, as well as a regular commentator on Morning Edition. Kahn has had different jobs related to music in his career: from DJ to video producer and freelance writer, from road manager to concert producer and TV music editor for VH1. As a road manager, he has toured with jazz musicians including Henry Threadgill, Cassandra Wilson, and Greg Osby; with African artists including Ladysmith Black Mambazo, Hugh Masekela, and Lucky Dube; with rock artists including Paul Simon and Peter Gabriel; and with pop stars including Britney Spears.

His most critically acclaimed books have been on two major jazz albums, Kind of Blue from Miles Davis and A Love Supreme from John Coltrane. Apart from his books, his contributions as a journalist have appeared in the New York Times, Downbeat, Jazz Times and Rolling Stone in the USA; Mojo and New Statesman in the UK; GQ in Japan, and many others.

WHAT: Ashley Kahn presents a multi-media presentation and lecture on the Miles Davis album, Kind of Blue, described by music writers as the best-selling jazz album of all time. Kind of Blue is regarded by many critics as the greatest jazz album of all time and is at the top of numerous best album lists. The album's influence on music, including jazz, rock, and classical music, has led music writers to acknowledge it as one of the most influential albums ever made. In 2002, it was one of fifty recordings chosen that year by the Library of Congress to be added to the National Recording Registry. In 2003, the album was ranked number 12 on Rolling Stone magazine's list of the 500 greatest albums of all time.