



NEWS RELEASE

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ARIZONA MUSICFEST 27TH SEASON BRINGS DIVERSE LINEUP OF EXCEPTIONAL ARTISTS TO THE VALLEY

The 27th annual Arizona Musicfest festival season brings a diverse lineup of exceptional artists to Valley audiences from country superstars **Mary Chapin Carpenter** and **Lee Ann Womack** to Broadway legends **Chita Rivera** and **Tommy Tune**, and from famed singer/pianist **Michael Feinstein** to internationally celebrated **Pink Martini** and the iconic bandleader/trumpeter **Doc Severinsen**.

At the heart of the festival is The **Festival Orchestra** with **Maestro Robert Moody**, featuring premier musicians from the nation's finest orchestras.

The 2017-18 season features 25 performances beginning with the six-concert Fall Fest (November 3-17) followed by the popular Winter Festival from January 26 to March 16, 2018.

Arizona Musicfest's **Festival Orchestra**, under the baton of Maestro **Moody** will take the stage with special guest pianist **Olga Kern** and, during Festival Week in February, will perform renowned works by Beethoven, Vivaldi, Brahms, Gershwin, Mozart and Strauss. On Feb. 25, Musicfest honors the centennial of Leonard Bernstein with his monumental *Kaddish Symphony*, narrated by the composer's daughter, Jamie Bernstein.

"Our goal is a concert schedule that coincides with the metro area's incredibly varied musical appetite," says Arizona Musicfest Executive and Producing Director Allan Naplan. "At the same time, our mission also is to provide music education programs to area students and schools, important performance opportunities and financial assistance to aspiring young musicians, and lifelong learning programs to the entire community."

Fall Fest tickets are now on sale. Winter Festival tickets go on sale Aug. 14 at www.azmusicfest.org or by calling (480) 422-8449.



Arizona Musicfest Fall Fest (Nov. 3-17, 2017)

Super Diamond: The Neil Diamond Tribute, Nov. 3

Highlands Church, 9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale

"Good times never seemed so good..." Arizona Musicfest welcomes the premier Neil Diamond tribute band for a celebration of the singer-songwriter's greatest hits. **Super Diamond** has been channeling the music and soul of "the Man" for more than 20 years, delivering a high-octane show that rocks with all of your Diamond favorites.

Young Musicians Fall Concert, Nov. 5

Musical Instrument Museum, 4725 E. Mayo Blvd., Phoenix

Arizona's brightest young classical musicians showcase their astounding virtuosity, technique and prodigious musicianship. Committed to promoting these rising stars, Arizona Musicfest is proud to showcase these extraordinary young artists in a concert that is sure to delight and entertain you.

Dennis Rowland with Diana Lee, Nov. 7

Pinnacle Presbyterian Church, 25150 N. Pima Road, Scottsdale

Don't miss award-winning recording artists and Arizona legends, **Dennis Rowland** (former lead singer of the Count Basie Orchestra) with friend and musical partner **Diana Lee**. Their talent and charisma burst beyond the stage, delivering an exquisite blend of jazz, soul, and joy as they are backed by the Greg Warner Trio.

Stan Kenton Legacy Orchestra, Nov. 11

La Casa de Cristo Church, 6300 E. Bell Road, Phoenix

The legendary Big Band sound and spirit live on! Featuring alums of the original Kenton Band, the **Legacy Orchestra** honors and amplifies the beloved bandleader's enduring tradition by nimbly blending classic arrangements with new compositions in the Kenton style.

Mary Chapin Carpenter, Nov. 12

Highlands Church, 9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale

Five-time Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter and Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame inductee **Mary Chapin Carpenter** performs songs from her expansive 14-album catalog and new songs from her latest record ***The Things That We Are Made Of***. The album features eleven new songs written by Carpenter, and has received critical acclaim from NPR and Rolling Stone, among others.

The HillBenders, Nov. 17

Pinnacle Presbyterian Church, 25150 N. Pima Road, Scottsdale

Winners of the distinguished Telluride Bluegrass Band Competition, **The HillBenders** are favorites on the bluegrass scene with their own brand of acoustic fusion. Acclaimed for their distinctive interpretation of The Who's *Tommy* (selections to be included in their Musicfest performance), The HillBenders have defined a unique sound and style combining classic rock and roll with traditional bluegrass.

Arizona Musicfest Winter Festival (Jan. 26-March. 16, 2018)

Chita Rivera and Tommy Tune: Two for the Road, Jan. 26, 2018

Highlands Church, 9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale

Chita Rivera and Tommy Tune—two of Broadway's most celebrated legends—join together for an extraordinary concert event. With a combined 12 Tony Awards to their credit, this stellar duo will perform an evening showcasing the artistry, history and celebrity that have made them iconic stars of the Great White Way and beyond.

Young Musicians Winter Concert, Jan. 28

Musical Instrument Museum, 4725 E. Mayo Blvd., Phoenix

Don't miss your chance to hear the stars of tomorrow...today! Featuring some of the best young classical talent in Arizona, this concert will delight you as these superb musicians showcase their astounding musical talent, maturity and artistry.

Presented in collaboration with the Musical Instrument Museum.

Alison Brown Quartet, Jan. 31

La Casa de Cristo Church, 6300 E. Bell Road, Phoenix

Grammy Winner **Alison Brown** has established herself as not only one of the best banjo players in the world, but also one of the most innovative musicians around today. With a unique sound and style that combines bluegrass, classical, folk, and jazz, "in Brown's hands the banjo is capable of boundless beauty." (*Billboard Magazine*)



The Fab Faux, Feb. 2

Highlands Church, 9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale

The Fab Faux will dispel your previous notions of a Beatles tribute act. As featured on The Late Show with David Letterman, Late Night with Conan O'Brien, and CNN, and recently heard in performance at Madison Square Garden and Radio City Music Hall, the band brings impeccable attention to reproducing The Beatles' seminal songs and sound. "The greatest Beatles cover band – without the wigs." (David Fricke, *Rolling Stone*)

Pink Martini, Feb. 6

Highlands Church, 9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale

A Valley favorite comes to Musicfest! Self-described as a "little orchestra," **Pink Martini's** music masterfully spans classical, Latin, jazz and classic pop. Featuring a dozen musicians including lead singer China Forbes, **Pink Martini** has distinguished itself for its genre-defying, multilingual repertoire that seduces and swings."

Michael Feinstein, Feb. 8

Highlands Church, 9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale

One of the most important musical figures of our time, **Michael Feinstein**, backed by a 17-piece big band, brings his mastery of the Great American Songbook to the Musicfest stage. From his early days as assistant to Ira Gershwin, to multiple Grammy nominations, PBS specials, and concerts around the world, Feinstein has built a dazzling career over the last three decades. Don't miss this unforgettable evening!

The Doo Wop Project, Feb. 10

Highlands Church, 9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale

From Bop to Pop, **The Doo Wop Project** is street corner singing for a new generation, featuring Doo Wop's classic tight harmony songs alongside the biggest hits on the radio today. Showcasing stars of Broadway's *Jersey Boys* and *Motown: The Musical*, these five charismatic, triple-threat performers—along with their hot 5-piece band—tear it up!

American Brass Quintet, Feb. 12

Musical Instrument Museum, 4725 E. Mayo Blvd., Phoenix

The New York Times recently raved, "among North American brass ensembles, none is more venerable than the **American Brass Quintet.**" Internationally recognized as one of the premier chamber music ensembles of our time, the group's performance history spans the globe, including nearly sixty recordings and the premieres of 150 works. Audiences and critics agree: the American Brass Quintet richly deserves acclaim as "the high priests of brass" (*Newsweek*).

Lee Ann Womack, Feb. 16

Highlands Church, 9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale

Country star and Grammy Award winner **Lee Ann Womack** makes her debut at Musicfest. From her chart-topping global hit, *I Hope You Dance*—which sold over million albums—to her recent album, *The Way I'm Livin'*, and other beloved and award-winning favorites, Womack has become known for her deeply personal songwriting and remarkable voice.



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Festival Sinfonia: Vivaldi & Mozart, Feb. 18

Pinnacle Presbyterian Church, 25150 N. Pima Road, Scottsdale

Following its successful debut in 2016, the **Festival Sinfonia**, comprised of **Festival Orchestra** musicians, performs an intimate concert of beloved orchestral works for smaller ensembles. Vivaldi's fervent *Winter* from *The Four Seasons* is featured as the concert's centerpiece, with Wagner's *Siegfried Idyll* and Mozart's *Symphony No. 40* rounding out the afternoon's musical offerings.

Festival Orchestra: Strauss & Brahms, Feb. 20

La Casa de Cristo Church, 6300 E. Bell Road, Phoenix

Maestro **Robert Moody** leads the superlative **Festival Orchestra**, comprised of players from the nation's finest orchestras. Richard Strauss' exuberant tone poem *Don Juan* and Johannes Brahms' passionate *Symphony No. 3* highlight an evening that also includes David Ott's captivating *Concerto for Two Cellos*, featuring distinguished Festival Orchestra musicians Brant Taylor (Chicago Symphony) and Brian Thornton (Cleveland Orchestra).

Olga Kern with the Festival Orchestra, Feb. 22

La Casa de Cristo Church, 6300 E. Bell Road, Phoenix

The striking young Russian pianist and 2001 Van Cliburn Piano Competition Gold Medalist **Olga Kern** makes her much-anticipated Musicfest debut performing Rachmaninoff's electrifying *Piano Concerto No. 3*. Maestro **Robert Moody** and the **Festival Orchestra** begin the evening with Copland's brilliant *Fanfare for the Common Man*, followed by the stunning *Symphony No. 5* by Finnish composer Jean Sibelius.



Festival Orchestra POPS! with Robert Moody & Friends, Feb. 23

La Casa de Cristo Church, 6300 E. Bell Road, Phoenix

Gershwin's beloved *Rhapsody in Blue*, featuring jazz star **Tamir Hendelman**, headlines a concert filled with symphonic favorites and beloved classics. Selections from Leonard Bernstein's *Candide* and *West Side Story* mix with film scores, and even a little opera to create an entertaining and thoroughly enjoyable evening of thrilling orchestral music.

Festival Orchestra: Beethoven & Bernstein, Feb. 25

La Casa de Cristo Church, 6300 E. Bell Road, Phoenix

The Festival Orchestra Week finale pairs Beethoven's iconic *Symphony No. 5*—one of music's best-known works—with a tribute to one of America's best-known composer-conductors. Musicfest honors the centennial of Leonard Bernstein with his monumental *Kaddish Symphony*. Narrated by the composer's daughter, Jamie Bernstein, this massive work for orchestra, adult and children's choruses and soloist offers a moving and virtuosic display of musicianship and emotion.

Doc Severinsen's Trumpet Kings, March 1

Highlands Church, 9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale

Legendary trumpeter and bandleader **Doc Severinsen** returns to the Valley for a special concert experience. Joined by trumpet virtuoso **Byron Stripling**, Doc Severinsen's *Trumpet Kings* honors and celebrates the world's greatest jazz trumpeters of the 20th century. Featuring classics from Louis Armstrong, Harry James, Miles Davis, and Dizzy Gillespie, Doc and his band will light up the stage in an electrifying and heartfelt tribute to the greats.

Alice Tatum Band, March 6

Fairway House at Grayhawk, 8620 E Thompson Peak Pkwy, Scottsdale

A fixture on the Phoenix music scene for 30 years, the versatile **Alice Tatum** is an award-winning and critically-acclaimed

singer who has played alongside such greats as Michael McDonald, The Righteous Brothers, Bonnie Raitt, Alice Cooper, Nancy Wilson, and Paul Anka. Joining Ms. Tatum on keyboards is Musicfest favorite **Nicole Pesce**.

Papa Doo Run Run, March 9

Highlands Church, 9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale

Performing and recording continuously since 1965, **Papa Doo Run Run's** high-energy, highly interactive show features Classic Rock favorites plus the band's award-winning re-creation of the hits of The Beach Boys. Former musical partners with Jan & Dean and the original Beach Boys, Papa Doo Run Run were pioneers of the California Sound and surf music.

Seamus Egan Project, March 11

Highlands Church, 9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale

Founding member of the seminal Celtic band Solas and composer of Sarah McLachlan's Grammy-winning song, *I Will Remember You*, **Seamus Egan** explores the breadth and depth of the Irish musical tradition mixed with bluegrass...and much more. Playing a range of instruments from Irish flute to banjo, and joined by friends and musical guests, Egan will perform from his immense and influential music catalog.

Decades Rewind, March 16

Highlands Church, 9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale

Decades Rewind—a concert, dance party and theatrical performance featuring more than 60 songs, 100 costume changes, and videos—turns back time and blends unique medleys from the '60s, '70s, and '80s. From Woodstock and disco to Motown and pop, **Decades Rewind** captures your music, your memories and your life. Celebrate the finale of Musicfest '18 with this dazzling performance!

For more information, visit www.azmusicfest.org.0-

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About Arizona Musicfest: Founded in 1991, **Arizona Musicfest**, a secular non-profit arts organization based in North Scottsdale, produces an annual concert festival as well as important music education programs, youth performance opportunities and a life-long community learning series for the Greater Phoenix area. With a commitment to presenting world-class artists in accessible and convenient locations, each season the Festival showcases the acclaimed Arizona Musicfest Festival Orchestra under the direction of Maestro Robert Moody featuring players from the New York Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, Boston Symphony, the National Symphony, the Metropolitan Opera, and other top US orchestras. The Festival Orchestra is in residency for one week during the annual Festival.

Arizona Musicfest's extensive music education and youth performance programs touch approximately 6,000 children each year. Along with the organization's many in-school programs presented free of charge to five local school districts, over the last three years, Arizona Musicfest has also provided over \$30,000 in free instruments to area schools and has contributed over \$50,000 in college scholarships to local Valley teens pursuing collegiate degrees in music performance.

Arizona Musicfest's six Young Musician Competitions (piano, voice, strings, chamber ensembles, brass and woodwinds) and the related Young Musician Performance Series annually attract some of the brightest young stars from throughout the Valley. For more information, visit www.azmusicfest.org.