

arts news release

scottsdale center for the performing arts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 2016
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SCOTTSDALE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS DECEMBER EVENTS

Highlights include entertainer Michael Feinstein, comedian Tig Notaro, guitar legend Steve Vai, *A Merry-Achi Christmas* with Mariachi Sol de Mexico, jazz pianist David Benoit's musical tribute to *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, the new Live & Local Holidays series and much more!



Steve Vai (Photo: Larry DiMarzio)

EVENT DESCRIPTIONS

ARTrageous Benefit Gala

Starring Michael Feinstein

Special Guest to be Announced

Saturday, December 3, 2016

Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, Virginia G. Piper Theater

5 p.m. Gala: \$500, \$750, \$1,000 (includes pre- and post-show parties, dinner and concert)

8:30 p.m. Concert and Speakeasy After-Party: \$149 (includes concert and a Jazz Age-themed post-show party featuring a complimentary cocktail, coffees and sweets, hosted by AG2, the Scottsdale Arts young professionals group)

Michael Feinstein has built a dazzling career during the past three decades bringing the music of the Great American songbook to the world. From recordings that have earned him five Grammy Award nominations to his Emmy nominated PBS-TV specials, his acclaimed NPR series and concerts spanning the globe – in addition to his appearances at iconic venues such as The White House, Buckingham Palace, Hollywood Bowl, Carnegie Hall and Sydney Opera House – his work as an educator and archivist define Feinstein as one of the most important musical forces of our time. A captivating performer, composer and arranger of his own original music, Feinstein also has become an unparalleled interpreter of music legends such as Irving Berlin, Jerome Kern, Johnny Mercer, Duke Ellington and Harry Warren.

Proceeds support the nonprofit Scottsdale Arts and programs of Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art (SMoCA) and Scottsdale Public Art.

Premium Presenting Sponsors: BMO Harris Bank, Nationwide, Western Refining

Presenting Sponsor: Cox

Signature Sponsors: BlueCross BlueShield of Arizona, DMB, Gainey Ranch Financial Center, Hotel Valley Ho, PRO-EM Party & Rental Events, Sherman & Howard, SRP, The Donor Solution, The Contemporary Jazz Cruise, Valley Couture for WORTH NEW YORK

Supporting Sponsor: Southwest

Keyboard Conversations® with Jeffrey Siegel

The Genius of Chopin

Tuesday, December 6, 2016, 7:30 p.m.

Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, Virginia G. Piper Theater

Tickets: \$29, \$39, \$49

Returning for his 38th season in Scottsdale, acclaimed pianist Jeffrey Siegel makes the joy of music accessible to audiences of all ages. His brilliantly engaging concerts with commentary combine captivating remarks with world-class performances of masterpieces of the piano repertoire – and conclude with a fast-paced Q-and-A session.

The Genius of Chopin showcases works by the great Polish composer Frederic Chopin, one of the great virtuoso pianists of the Romantic Age.

Concert may feature Keyboard in the Sky™ video-display technology.

Presenting Sponsor: Joan and David Goldfarb

Classical music concerts at Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts are also supported in part by the Dayton Fowler Grafman Endowment for Classical Music.

Tig Notaro

Thursday, December 8, 2016, 7:30 p.m.

Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, Virginia G. Piper Theater

Tickets: \$30 (On sale Oct. 7)

Tig Notaro is a stand-up comedian, storyteller and writer originally from Mississippi. She writes, produces and stars in the semi-autobiographical comedy series *One Mississippi*, premiering this fall through Amazon Studios. Her memoir, *I'm Just a Person*, released this year through Harper Collins Publishing, is a *New York Times* best-seller. The Television Academy has acknowledged Tig with an Emmy nomination for her HBO stand-up special *Boyish Girl Interrupted*. Her Netflix Original documentary, *TIG*, premiered to critical acclaim and is available for streaming, and she can also be seen as "Barb" on Amazon's Emmy Award-winning series *Transparent*.

In 2013, Tig was nominated for a Grammy Award for her stand-up release, *LIVE*, which sold more than 100,000 units in just six weeks. *LIVE* is a stand-up set delivered just days after Tig was diagnosed with invasive bilateral breast cancer. Tig has since announced her cancer to be in remission, and remains a favorite on *Conan* and *This American Life*. In her time off, Tig enjoys bird watching with her wife Stephanie, their twin sons and cat Fluff at home in Los Angeles.

Presented in partnership with Stateside Presents

Sister's Christmas Catechism: The Mystery of the Magi's Gold

December 9–18, 2016

Friday, December 9, 8 p.m.

Saturday, December 10, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Sunday, December 11, 2 p.m.

Friday, December 16, 8 p.m.

Saturday, December 17, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Sunday, December 18, 2 p.m.

Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, Stage 2

Tickets: \$39

In an unusually jolly mood, Sister, the tart-tongued, ruler-wielding nun, teaches her students the story of the Nativity and asks for their help to solve the greatest Christmas caper ever – who swiped the gold that those three wise men gave to Baby Jesus? Using the latest forensic technology and her uncanny ability to detect guilt, Sister creates an unforgettable living Nativity with her students to expose the culprit.

Part of the *Late Nite Catechism* comedies, each performance is unique and will appeal to people of all ages and faiths.

Live & Local Holidays

Santa's Helpers

Friday, December 9, 2016, 8 p.m.

Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, Virginia G. Piper Theater

Tickets: \$19, \$29

Two of the Valley's most talented and popular entertainers – Kristen Drathman and Rusty Ferracane – accompanied by Arizona Opera Composer-in-Residence Craig Bohmler, perform an evening of holiday songs, old and new, with a mix of humor, pathos and heartwarming stories.

A relaxing escape from the flurry of the season, Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts' new Live & Local Holidays concert series showcases top Arizona-based artists performing festive concerts in the Virginia G. Piper Theater. Arrive early to enjoy happy-hour drink specials, sweet treats offered by Sugar Jam Bake Shop, a free create-your-own-holiday-magnet art project and an exclusive discount (10% off!) on creative gifts at the award-winning Store at the Center.

Presenting Sponsor: Phoenix New Times

Danú: A Christmas Gathering

Saturday, December 10, 2016, 8 p.m.

Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, Virginia G. Piper Theater

Tickets: \$29, \$39, \$59

Hailing from counties Waterford, Cork, Dublin and Donegal in Ireland, Danú is one of the leading traditional Irish ensembles of today. The popular group has toured throughout Europe and North America with stops at The Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles and Symphony Space in New York City.

A Christmas Gathering takes audiences on a winter wonderland trip to the Emerald Isle in this glorious celebration of the season featuring uilleann pipes, accordion, flute, fiddle and both Irish and English vocals.

Virginia G. Piper Concert Series

Tanya Bannister, piano

Sunday, December 11, 2016, 7:30 p.m.

Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, Virginia G. Piper Theater

Tickets: \$29, \$39, \$49

Pianist Tanya Bannister's recent victories at the Concert Artists Guild International Competition and the New Orleans International Piano Competition confirm her status among the leading pianists of her generation. *The Washington Post* has lauded her for playing "with intelligence, poetry and proportion," and she has earned further distinction as an "Artist to Watch" on the cover of *Symphony Magazine*.

Bannister's career has already brought her to many of the world's great concert halls, with solo performances at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Salle Cortot in Paris, Teatro Comunale in Bologna, Tokyo's Nikkei Hall, London's Queen Elizabeth and Wigmore halls, The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall.

Program

Bach: Sheep May Safely Graze

Schubert: Sonata in C minor, D.958

Messiaen: Premiere Communion de la Vierge

Chopin: Ballade No. 4 in F minor

Chopin: Nocturnes

Liszt: Venezia e Napoli – Gondoliera, Canzone, Tarantella

Concert may feature Keyboard in the Sky™ video-display technology.

Series Sponsor: Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust

Classical music concerts at Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts are also supported by the Dayton Fowler Grafman Endowment for Classical Music.

Steve Vai

Passion & Warfare 25th Anniversary Tour

Monday, December 12, 2016, 7:30 pm

Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts

Tickets: \$35, \$55, \$75

Steve Vai is a virtuoso guitarist, visionary composer and consummate producer who sculpts musical sound with infinite creativity and technical mastery. He began his professional musical career at age 18 transcribing for, and then playing with, the legendary Frank Zappa. More than three decades, 15 million album sales and three Grammy Awards later, Vai continues to use unbridled guitar virtuosity and soulful artistry to explore the spectrum of human emotion. He has proven himself, in his own right, to be one of music's true originals.

Vai's tour commemorates the 25th anniversary of his landmark *Passion and Warfare* album, highly regarded as one of the greatest instrumental rock guitar recordings of all time. In celebration of this groundbreaking recording, for the very first time live, Vai's set list includes the entire *Passion and Warfare* record from top to bottom, with some very special surprises.

Presented in partnership with Danny Zelisko Presents

Scottsdale Philharmonic

Holiday Concert

Thursday, December 15, 2016, 7:30 p.m.

Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, Virginia G. Piper Theater

Tickets: \$5, \$10

Conducted by Robert R. Nichols, the professional musicians of the Scottsdale Philharmonic perform a special holiday program featuring classics of the season.

Live & Local Holidays

Pete Pancrazi Quartet

Friday, December 16, 2016, 8 p.m.

Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, Virginia G. Piper Theater

Tickets: \$19, \$29

Since taking up residence in the Valley in 1990, jazz musician Pete Pancrazi has cultivated a large and loyal following. Known for his nimble guitar work and warm vocals, Pancrazi continues to delight audiences with a growing repertoire of original compositions, presented in performance alongside straight-ahead and Latin jazz sounds. A graduate of the acclaimed Berklee College of Music, he has released four CDs and was named by *Downbeat Magazine* as "one to watch" and a guitar player "deserving greater attention."

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Presenting Sponsor: Phoenix New Times

Mariachi Sol de México® de José Hernández Presents

A Merry-Achi Christmas

Saturday, December 17, 2016, 8 p.m.

Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, Virginia G. Piper Theater

Tickets: \$29, \$39, \$59

A proud fifth generation mariachi musician, Maestro Jose Hernandez and his platinum-selling Sol de Mexico have broken countless barriers in mariachi music, becoming the first mariachi ensemble to be nominated for a Grammy Award. Their original rhythms, fresh sounds and inspiring ideas have energized the world of mariachi for more than 30 years. A graceful blend of classical, pop, jazz, swing and Broadway tunes, Hernandez' organic, irreverent renditions have become instant classics. This special performance includes treasured holiday favorites and selections from the mariachi songbook.

Signature Sponsor: Bank of America

David Benoit: Christmas Tribute to Charlie Brown with Special Guest Sara Gazarek

Sunday, December 18, 2016, 2 p.m.

Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, Virginia G. Piper Theater

Tickets: \$29, \$49, \$59 (12 and under: \$19)

Since its first broadcast in 1965, *A Charlie Brown Christmas* has become a beloved tradition of the season enjoyed around the world by fans of all ages. More than a half century later, jazz musician David Benoit and guest vocalist Sara Gazarek pay tribute to this incredible piece of entertainment history.

This inspirational tribute concert features Vince Guaraldi's classic music for *A Charlie Brown Christmas* along with originals from the Grammy-nominated Benoit, who took over the helm as music composer for the new Charlie Brown Christmas TV specials more than a decade ago. Also showcasing the young voices of a local children's choir, this heart-warming show radiates Christmas spirit and brings out the "kid" in us all this holiday season.

Presenting Sponsor: Fred J. English and Sara M. English Charitable Trust

The Hot Sardines Holiday Stomp

Sunday, December 18, 2016, 7:30 p.m.

Mesa Arts Center, Ikeda Theater

Tickets: \$30, \$45

The Hot Sardines have been selling out concert venues around the world! And now New York's hot-jazz darlings get into the big, brass-filled spirit of the holiday season. For the *Holiday Stomp*, the Sardines infuse yuletide classics with their unique twist on classic New York, Paris and New Orleans jazz from the era of Prohibition and beyond, from beloved chestnuts like "White Christmas" and "Please Come Home for Christmas" to lesser-known gems such as Edith Piaf's "Le Noël de la rue," Ella Fitzgerald's "Santa Claus Got Stuck in My Chimney" and even "The Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy" – with plenty of surprises along the way.

Presented in partnership with Mesa Arts Center

Talk Cinema

Tuesday, November 15, 2016, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, December 20, 2016, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, January 17, 2017, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, February 7, 2017, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, March 7, 2017, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, March 21, 2017, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, April 25, 2017, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, May 9, 2017 @ 7 p.m.

Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, Virginia G. Piper Theater

General Admission: \$17

Mixing Hollywood flair with the element of surprise, Talk Cinema offers sneak previews of new independent and foreign films. Audiences arrive at the theater not knowing in advance what will be screened and are among the first to see a new movie and then engage in a critical discussion led by film scholars and special guests – destined to start conversations before the films ever come out!

Films are personally selected by Talk Cinema founder Harlan Jacobson, the nationally recognized film critic whose signature guarantees quality selections from Cannes, Sundance, Toronto and other internationally ranked film festivals. The selection may be an award-winning drama, an outrageous indie comedy, a provocative documentary or the next breakout hit. (Last season, four of the eight films screened as part of Talk Cinema Scottsdale were nominated for Academy Awards!)

Live & Local Holidays

David Britton Christmas: Sounds of the Season

Friday: December 23, 2016, 8 p.m.

Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, Virginia G. Piper Theater

Tickets: \$19, \$29

World-class baritone and Nashville recording artist David Britton and his musicians celebrate the season with an enchanting evening of Christmas music from around the world, featuring spirited vocals and comfy, cozy arrangements of familiar favorites blended with soaring holiday anthems. Britton's powerful baritone voice has received international acclaim, and his diverse musical background ranges from classical opera to rock, with a signature sound that can be warm and soothing as well as intensely dramatic. Now calling Phoenix home, Britton has been a featured guest artist at Carnegie Hall and performing arts centers from coast to coast.

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Presenting Sponsor: Phoenix New Times

SCOTTSDALE ARTS

Through its dynamic partnership with the City of Scottsdale, the nonprofit Scottsdale Arts (formerly known as Scottsdale Cultural Council) creates diverse, inspired arts experiences and educational and outreach opportunities for the community, while fostering the active engagement of individuals, businesses, education and government with the arts. Since its founding in 1987, Scottsdale Arts has grown into a regionally and nationally significant, multi-disciplinary arts organization offering an exceptional variety of programs through three acclaimed operating divisions – Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art (SMoCA) and Scottsdale Public Art – serving more than 375,000 participants annually.

SCOTTSDALE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Since 1975, Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts has provided a stage for a wide range of voices and perspectives, creating shared, inspiring experiences for the community that celebrate artistic excellence and cultural awareness. Today one of the premier performing-arts halls in the western United States, the Center presents a diverse season of dance, music, theater, comedy and film from around the world.

LOCATION AND PARKING

Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts is located at 7380 E. Second St. in downtown Scottsdale. Free parking is available in the public parking garage located to the west of Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts on Wells Fargo Avenue. Additional free parking is available at the Old Town Parking Corral at East Second Street and Brown Avenue and at the Civic Center Library parking garage located on Drinkwater Boulevard at East Second Street.

ACCESSIBILITY

Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts offers performance accommodations to enhance audience members' experience, including: American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation or live audio description with two weeks advance notice. Assistive-listening devices and wheelchair seating are also available. Visit www.ScottsdalePerformingArts.org/visit/accessibility/ or contact the Patron Services Box Office at 480-499-TKTS (8587) [TDD: 480-874-4694] for further details. Please inquire about services when ordering tickets.

TICKET DISCOUNTS

Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts offers a variety of ticket discounts for members at the Duet level and above, groups of 10 or more and those purchasing packages to four or more events in one order. The Center provides free tickets to selected events for eligible students, teachers and active-duty military and veterans, and 50-percent off tickets to selected events for patrons 29 and under. Visit www.ScottsdalePerformingArts.org/visit/tickets-discounts/ or call 480-499-TKTS (8587) for more information.

THE STORE

The award-winning Store at Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts supports the mission and diverse programs of the nonprofit Scottsdale Arts. The Store's unique selection of merchandise includes artist-made jewelry, stylish furnishings for home and office, unique creations by Arizona artists, fair-trade and upcycled/recycled global crafts, music, books, greeting cards and imaginative toys. Purchases are tax-free, and members receive a 10-percent discount. Gift-wrapping and shipping are also available. The Store is open seven days a week: Monday – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sunday, noon – 5 p.m.; and throughout most evening events. Phone: 480-874-4644.

HOW TO REACH US

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