

arts news release
scottsdale news release
scottsdale center for the performing arts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Dec. 8, 2017

BOX OFFICE & TICKETS: 480-499-TKTS (8587)

WHAT MAKES A PIECE OF MUSIC GREAT? ASK ROB KAPILOW



Rob Kapilow

Scottsdale Arts Presents
Rob Kapilow: What Makes It Great®
Musical Instrument Museum, Phoenix
Jan. 16 and Feb. 20, 2018
7:30 p.m.

Rob Kapilow: What Makes It Great®
Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts
Jan. 18, Feb. 22 and March 15, 2018
7:30 p.m.

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — In a world where music can sometimes rush past us like a race car, composer Rob Kapilow's mission is to slow down the music for us to savor and understand its message or meaning. Kapilow's *What Makes It Great?*® programs offer commentary on famous musical works designed to illuminate why a composer or a particular piece is great, and how that greatness is achieved.

Kapilow will present five *What Makes It Great?* programs in the Valley during January, February and March. Two will be at the Musical Instrument Museum (MIM) as part of the new Scottsdale Arts Presents, which showcases artists and programs at venues beyond the downtown Scottsdale campus. The venue for the other three *What Makes It Great?* programs will be the Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts.

Regarding his series, Kapilow has written that it's about "noticing all the fantastic things that otherwise go by. When you begin to hear the things that make a piece great, it can spring to life as if you have never heard it before."

He explains how it works:

"During each *What Makes It Great?* program we take a piece of great music, tear it apart and put it back together again. We rewrite it, sing it, tap it, clap it: in short, we do everything in our power to get inside to see what makes it tick and what makes it great. Then on the second half of the program we hear the piece performed in its entirety — hopefully with a new pair of ears ... *What Makes It Great?* is about the difference between hearing and listening."

The Kansas City Star said of Kapilow's work: "Not since the late Leonard Bernstein has classical music had a combination salesman-teacher as irresistible as Kapilow ... He's as lively as a top-flight sports announcer and as entertaining as a stand-up comedian. But he's also got substance in spades."

Kapilow's January programs are Jan. 16 at the MIM and Jan. 18 at the Virginia G. Piper Theater in the Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts. The subject of his Jan. 16 appearance at the MIM will be Antonin Dvořák's "American" String Quartet, one of several works composed by the 19th-century Czech master while he was living in the United States. For the Jan. 18 event at Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, Kapilow will present "You're the Top," a celebration of the songs of Cole Porter, who helped define pop standards of the 1920s, '30s and '40s.

Kapilow will return to the MIM on Feb. 20 to explore Beethoven's masterful "Waldstein" piano sonata, one of the most "heroic" of Beethoven's middle-period works.

He then will take the stage at Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts on Feb. 22 and March 15. On the February date at the performing arts center, Kapilow will present "From *On the Town* to *West Side Story*: The Theater Music of Leonard Bernstein." The year 2018 marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of Bernstein, who augmented his stellar conducting career composing music of all sorts, including several hit Broadway shows.

Kapilow concludes his season with "Finishing the Hat: The Songs of Stephen Sondheim," March 15 at the Center. Sondheim, composer of *Into the Woods*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* and other musicals, is regarded as one of the best living songwriters in the country. The title of Kapilow's program comes

from a Sondheim song in *Sunday in the Park with George*, and concerns an artist's commitment to craftsmanship.

Tickets:

For the MIM: \$53.50 / \$48.50 / \$38.50

For Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts: \$49 (M \$41) / \$39 / \$29

Free for eligible veterans, students and teachers. Patrons 29 and under, 50 percent off.

Signature Sponsor for all of Kapilow's performances: Linda and Alan Englander

SCOTTSDALE ARTS

Through its partnership with the City of Scottsdale, the nonprofit Scottsdale Arts (formerly known as Scottsdale Cultural Council) creates diverse, inspired arts experiences and educational opportunities that foster active, lifelong community engagement 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 divisions – Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art (SMoCA) and Scottsdale Public Art – serving more than 400,000 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 artists and genres, 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 music, dance, 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 Member and 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 Scottsdale Arts members at the Friends 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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