

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE

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McCALLUM THEATRE ANNOUNCES STAR-STUDED 30TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

**Subscriptions available at McCallum Box Office beginning Tuesday, April 4, 2017
at 8am or online at www.mccallumtheatre.com**

McCALLUM DEBUTS BY BILL MURRAY, THE CAPITOL STEPS, BARITONE NATHAN GUNN, INTERNATIONAL CABARET ARTIST MEOW MEOW, NEW YORK DANCE SENSATION KEIGWIN + COMPANY, DAVINA & THE VAGABONDS AND SQUIRREL NUT ZIPPERS, MozART GROUP, LEZGINKA DANCE COMPANY OF DAGESTAN, AND MORE

LEONARD BERNSTEIN CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION FEATURING AN EXCLUSIVE McCALLUM PRODUCTION OF *WEST SIDE STORY IN CONCERT* AND HERSHEY FELDER IN *MAESTRO: THE ART OF LEONARD BERNSTEIN*

LEGENDARY ARTISTS INCLUDING CHITA RIVERA & TOMMY TUNE, PAUL ANKA, BOB NEWHART, JUDY COLLINS, THE BEACH BOYS, CHRIS BOTTI, VICKI CARR, MICHAEL FEINSTEIN AND THE KINGSTON TRIO,

CLASSICAL, CROSSOVER AND POPS TAKE CENTERSTAGE WITH YO-YO MA, CAMERON CARPENTER AND THE BOSTON POPS ALL RETURNING TO THE McCALLUM. THE PIANO GUYS BACK FOR TWO PERFORMANCES

PINK MARTINI, A LONGTIME McCALLUM THEATRE FAVORITE, RETURNS FOR AN EIGHT PERFORMANCE RESIDENCY

BELOVED VALLEY SUPERSTAR JACK JONES IN AN 80TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

BROADWAY BLOCKBUSTERS SERIES INCLUDES *RODGERS+HAMMERSTEIN'S CINDERELLA*, *MOTOWN THE MUSICAL*, *KINKY BOOTS* AND *CIRCUS 1903*, ALL McCALLUM DEBUTS

A CHORUS LINE RETURNS AND *DIRTY DANCING* MAKES ITS McCALLUM DEBUT AS PART OF BROADWAY AND BEYOND SERIES

MITCH'S PICKS RETURN FOR A FOURTH SUCCESSFUL SEASON WITH A CHRISTMAS MIRACLE, "KAMIKAZE CABARET," TWO HOT BANDS, NEXT GENERATION A *CAPPELLA* AND SOME STRING QUARTET HILARITY!

FITZ'S JAZZ CAFÉ RETURNS FOR 19TH SEASON WITH FAVORITES DAV KOZ, LISA FISCHER, STEVE TYRELL, JOHN PIZZARELLI AND CANADIAN SINGER/TRUMPETER BRIA SKONBERG, DUBBED ONE OF "THE MOST VERSATILE AND IMPOSING MUSICIANS OF HER GENERATION"

6TH ANNUAL FAMILY FUN DAY BRINGS *ERTH'S DINOSAUR ZOO* TO THE VALLEY – "THE ULTIMATE PLAYDATE 65 MILLION YEARS IN THE MAKING." CHOREOGRAPHY FESTIVAL CELEBRATES ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

RING IN THE HOLIDAYS WITH THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF *THE COLORS OF CHRISTMAS*, A MARIACHI CHRISTMAS WITH VIKKI CARR AND MANHEIM STEAMROLLER RETURNS TO THE McCALLUM FOR THE FIRST TIME IN NEARLY A QUARTER CENTURY

PALM DESERT, CA (April 2, 2017) – The McCallum Theatre announced today its new lineup of world-class entertainment scheduled for its 30th anniversary season with McCallum debuts, iconic superstars, family-friendly entertainment, holiday sensations, plus some doo wop, *a cappella*, topical humor, a Sherlock Holmes mystery and an operetta, all part of a very full and exciting roster that includes one of the Theatre’s finest Broadway series in years. Subscriptions go on sale **Tuesday, April 4th at 8am** for the Broadway Blockbuster Series, Broadway and Beyond Series, Fitz’s Jazz Café at the McCallum Series, Keyboard Conversations® with Jeffrey Siegel Series, as well as a Create-Your-Own opportunity which allows patrons to mix, match, and program just one performance or a full season of entertainment tailored to their own individual tastes. Subscriptions will be available at the McCallum Theatre Box Office, 73000 Fred Waring Drive in Palm Desert or online at www.mccallumtheatre.com.

“For 30 years, the McCallum stage has played host to an exciting combination of legendary favorites as well as artists not seen before in the desert,” said McCallum President and CEO **Mitch Gershenfeld**. “Our 30th Anniversary season is filled with the world’s finest performers, along with some innovative programming and yet-to-be-discovered artists who are sure to excite the collective imagination of our very discerning patrons. It’s our way to say thank you to everyone who has supported the McCallum over these past three decades, whether by purchasing tickets, making donations, volunteering or all of those things and more. Our audience deserves only the best and each day, through the generosity of our wonderful community, we continue to strive to live up to our founding mission and our own very high set of standards. As a nonprofit 501(c) (3) organization, we are deeply grateful for the continuing loyalty of the McCallum audiences.”

“As in past seasons, we expect many of the shows to sell out quickly,” Gershenfeld added. “We hope people will place their orders as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.”

Among the new season’s highlights are several first time visitors to the McCallum including comedy icon **Bill Murray** as you’ve never seen him before in a “kaleidoscope of words and notes,” accompanied by cellist **Jan Vogler**, violinist **Mira Wang** and pianist **Vanessa Perez** (October 7).

Also new to the McCallum this season are a very timely visit from Washington, DC’s outrageously funny comedy troupe, **The Capitol Steps** (January 14, 2018); one of the country’s most in-demand baritones, **Nathan Gunn**, accompanied by his wife **Julie Gunn** on piano (January 22, 2018); the colorfully-costumed and wildly acrobatic **Lezginka Dance Company of Dagestan** (March 22,

2018); plus all four of the Broadway Blockbuster presentations and all five of this season's ***Mitch's Picks***.

This year, the Broadway Blockbuster Series runs the gamut from the elegantly nostalgic presentation of **Rodgers+Hammerstein's *Cinderella*** (Nov. 24-28) with a beloved score that includes "In My Own Little Corner," "Impossible/It's Possible," and "Ten Minutes Ago" to the direct-from-Broadway smash hit ***Motown the Musical***, the story of Motown founder Berry Gordy who launched the careers of Smokey Robinson, Diana Ross, Michael Jackson and so many others, all while providing the soundtracks to our lives (January 16-21, 2018).

The huge-hearted, high-heeled Tony Award-winning Best Musical ***Kinky Boots*** takes to the McCallum stage (Feb. 2-4, 2018) with a score by pop icon Cyndi Lauper and book by Broadway treasure Harvey Fierstein. The show joyfully celebrates friendship and the things we discover when we believe we can change the world by changing minds. The final show in the series is ***Circus 1903 – The Golden Age of Circus!*** Brought to the stage by the producers of the world's biggest magic show, *The Illusionists*, which was a big McCallum hit last season, in partnership with the mastermind puppeteers from Broadway and London sensation, *War Horse*, this thrilling turn-of-the-century circus spectacular has delighted audiences the world over and left critics searching for new accolades during its recent Los Angeles run (March 27 – April 1). Four show series packages are available from \$198 - \$478.

Two legends of the theatre and a classic film reimagined for the stage are the highlights of the 2017-2018 McCallum Theatre Broadway and Beyond Series.

Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning Best Musical, ***A Chorus Line*** returns to the McCallum with the show that was famously dedicated to "anyone who has danced in a chorus or marched in step anywhere." Featuring the classics "One (Singular Sensation)" and "What I Did for Love," the musical held the record for many years as the longest running show on Broadway and still today ranks at number six, having played 6,137 performances in its original run (Jan. 26-28, 2018). Nobody's going to put Baby in the corner when the new stage musical version of ***Dirty Dancing*** comes to the McCallum (February 16-18). Based on the wildly successful 1987 Oscar-winning film, the musical version started its life in Sydney, Australia before going on to shatter box office records the world over. With heart-stopping songs including "Hungry Eyes," "Hey Baby," "Do You Love Me," and the classic "(I've Had) The Time of My Life," the unforgettable story of Baby and Johnny has been called "the biggest theatre sensation of all time" by London's *Daily Mail*.

Born in 1918, Leonard Bernstein is the latest legend to be memorialized with a centennial celebration at the McCallum and across the world. The McCallum's tribute will include two selections in the Broadway and Beyond Series. First, an exclusive McCallum concert presentation of the immortal **West Side Story** featuring a 40-piece orchestra comprised of Los Angeles' finest musicians and an all-star cast direct from Broadway and National Tours of the iconic musical (March 9-11, 2018). And McCallum favorite **Hershey Felder** returns to the Theatre as Bernstein in **Maestro: The Art of Leonard Bernstein**, a one-man show about the artist for whom boundaries simply did not exist (March 20-21, 2018). Four show series packages are available from \$188 - \$408.

Returning for a fourth season, **Mitch's Picks**, showcases artists with whom Valley audiences may not yet be familiar, but come with the personal recommendation of McCallum President and CEO Mitch Gershenfeld. All five shows are first-time presentations at the McCallum. **All Is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914** kicks off the *Mitch's Picks* series on December 3, a moving and unique theatrical event depicting a time in which Allied and German soldiers laid down their arms to celebrate the holidays together; international cabaret sensation **Meow Meow** who wowed audiences at last season's McCallum Theatre Annual Gala brings her full show to the desert in an evening of superb vocal talent and uproarious comic absurdity (January 31, 2018); two bands with reputations as being hot, hot, hot join forces when **Davina & The Vagabonds** and **The Squirrel Nut Zippers** bring their high-energy exuberance to the McCallum on March 2, 2018; a next generation *a cappella* extravaganza named **Gobsmacked!** brings together seven incredible singers and beatboxers for a thrilling aural adventure (March 6, 2018); and the series concludes with **MozART Group**, a string quartet that makes you laugh with an ingenious fountain of noble craziness (March 12, 2018).

Celebrating its 19th Anniversary and co-sponsored by the McCallum Theatre, CV 104.3's morning personality **Jim "Fitz" Fitzgerald** brings another exciting roster of exceptional performers to the Desert in 2017-18 for his wildly popular **Fitz's Jazz Café at the McCallum** series. The lineup includes the welcome return of a holiday tradition when the **Dave Koz 20th Anniversary Christmas Tour** comes to the McCallum with special guests, **David Benoit, Rick Braun** and **Peter White** (December 19). The magnetic **Lisa Fischer**, a McCallum standout two seasons ago who was "re-discovered" in the Academy Award-winning Best Documentary **20 Feet From Stardom**, brings her soaring vocals back to the desert (February 24, 2018); McCallum perennial **Steve Tyrell** returns with his soulful take on classic pop standards (March 13, 2018), Canadian singer, trumpeter and songwriter **Bria Skonberg** makes her McCallum debut with a sophisticated pop sound closely resembling that of Michael Bublé, Diana Krall and Harry Connick, Jr. (March 17,

2018); and another McCallum favorite, **John Pizzarelli**, brings his show celebrating the music of Brazilian composer, pianist, songwriter, arranger and singer Antonio Carlos Jobim to the Valley on April 8, 2018. Tickets for the five show series range from \$209 - \$409.

The indomitable **Jeffrey Siegel** brings his acclaimed **Keyboard Conversations® with Jeffrey Siegel** back to the McCallum for its 16th Season of making classical music accessible, enjoyable and fun. His popular and intimate evenings of piano and commentary return to the McCallum in the 2017-2018 season with four programs: **Keys to the Classics** (December 4) with works by Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven; **Virtuoso Variations** (January 29, 2018) featuring stunning elaborations on popular melodies; **The Golden Age of Piano** (February 26, 2018) with melodic masterpieces from the 1880's through the 1920's that remain great concert favorites; and **Bach and Chopin – A Musical Kinship** (April 2, 2018) featuring their dramatic Preludes, ultra-romantic Fantasies and zesty Dances. These performances are presented through the generosity of Donna MacMillan. Tickets for all four concerts range from \$88 - \$168.

The McCallum's **Annual Family Fun Day** returns for its sixth successful season (October 22). Proceeds from this great family-friendly afternoon at the Theatre support the education and outreach programs of the McCallum Theatre. This season's Family Fun Day will feature **Erth's Dinosaur Zoo Live** dubbed "the playdate 65 million years in the making." Beginning in prehistoric Australia, audiences will observe, meet and interact with an eye-popping collection of amazingly life-like dinosaurs and other creatures presented in a theatrical performance that will thrill and entertain kids while stimulating their imaginations in ways that will forever connect them to the world.

A longtime initiative of the McCallum Theatre Education Division, **The Choreography Festival** marks its 20th anniversary of bringing some of the finest original dance from across the nation to desert audiences (November 11 & 12). The two-day celebration awards prize money to established and emerging choreographers and highlights participants from two signature education division programs, *East Valley Dance Project* and *The Studio Project*. A lifetime achievement award will be presented to a major influencer from the dance world, to be announced.

Representing the cavalcade of extraordinary artists who have performed at the McCallum during its first three decades, this year's lineup has a marvelous mix of the world's most beloved entertainers including comedy legend **Bob Newhart** (November 18); folk music pioneers **The Kingston Trio** (November 19), stage and screen star **Vikki Carr**, who will celebrate the holidays with a Latin flair along with **Mariachi Campagna** (December 1); hitmaker **Paul Anka**, who blew the roof off at the

2015 McCallum Theatre Annual Gala (January 12-13); the dynamic duo of **Chita (Rivera)** and **(Tommy) Tune**, the former being the most nominated performer in the history of the Tony Awards with ten nominations and two wins and the latter one of only three artists to win Tony Awards in four different competitive categories (January 25, 2018); folk and pop giant **Judy Collins**, who recently celebrated her first Grammy Award nomination in more than 40 years; she won just once before in 1969 for *Both Sides Now* (March 1, 2018) and those surfin' sensations of the sixties, **The Beach Boys** who return for two shows on March 4, 2018. Two McCallum mainstays, trumpeter extraordinaire **Chris Botti** (March 16, 2018) and **Michael Feinstein** (April 5 & 6, 2018) round out the season. Feinstein pays tribute to some of the legendary male singers who made popular song so memorable in two distinct concerts on two nights, **The Crooners, Part 1 and Part 2**. Among those he salutes include Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Bing Crosby, Fred Astaire, Sammy Davis, Jr. and more.

Following Carr's Latin take on the holidays, December brings the long-awaited return of **Manheim Steamroller Christmas** (two shows on December 2), marking the first time the spectacular has played at the McCallum Theatre in nearly a quarter-century. A family holiday tradition for over 30 years, the show features beloved Christmas music, along with dazzling multimedia effects. Following the aforementioned **All Is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914**, **Peabo Bryson** and friends bring the popular holiday celebration, **Colors of Christmas 25th Anniversary Tour** back for another special evening of classics, backed by a hot 12-piece band and a spectacular choir (December 8).

The world of classical, classical crossover and pops are represented with an appearance by the internationally-renowned cellist **Yo-Yo Ma**, accompanied by **Kathryn Stott** on the piano (November 9); a *Mitch's Picks* sensation from two seasons ago, **Cameron Carpenter and the International Touring Organ** make their second appearance at the McCallum. Dubbed "the bad boy of the organ," Carpenter dazzles audiences with his energetic dance-like performances of technical perfection and musical virtuosity (February 19, 2018). **The Piano Guys** quickly sold out their McCallum performance last season, so they've been invited back for a matinee and an evening performance (March 24, 2018). Their highly original blend of classical music with pop has caused an internet sensation, with over 1.2 billion YouTube views of their strikingly original self-made music videos. The venerable **Boston Pops** will close out the 2017-2018 season with a tribute to their former musical director (and current Laureate Conductor) **John Williams**. Under the direction of longtime conductor **Keith Lockhart**, the beloved orchestra now in its 136th season, will take audiences through a journey of Williams' magical music from the movies and a few surprises (April 14, 2018).

Always a sell-out when they come to the desert, **Pink Martini** follows their triumphant appearance at last season's McCallum Theatre Annual Gala with an eight performance residency featuring both of the group's much-loved lead singers, **China Forbes** and **Storm Large** (February 9-15, 2018). Bandleader/pianist **Thomas Lauderdale** has often said, "If the United Nations had a house band in 1962, Pink Martini would be that band." With a diverse repertoire influenced by everyone from Cole Porter to Tito Puente and Xavier Cugat, with old Hollywood musicals, Argentine tango, Brazilian samba and Italian folk mixed in, Pink Martini has earned their place as a McCallum favorite.

Valley resident and legendary crooner **Jack Jones** has chosen to celebrate his milestone birthday at his local theatre! Last seen as part of the McCallum's Sinatra Centennial Celebration two seasons ago, Jones will reflect on his long and illustrious career in **Jack @80: Jack Jones 80th Birthday** (March 3, 2018). The two-time Grammy Award-winner has been called "arguably the most technically accomplished male pop singer" by *The New York Times*. Come join the party!

And Mexican-American music, nostalgia, tributes, dance, country, magic, an operetta and local artists make up the balance of the 2017-2018 season with performances including: **Dia de los Muertos LIVE** (October 28) featuring three exciting Mexican-American artists, **La Santa Cecilia**, **Mexrissey** and **Mariachi Flor de Toloache**; **jimi FITZ and Friends** brings CV 104.3's popular personality **Jim "Fitz" Fitzgerald** back to the McCallum stage with the cream of the rock crop of working local musicians from the Coachella Valley (November 17); the fourth edition of **Palm Springs Legends** is back by popular demand, spotlighting the best tribute artists honoring many of the stars who made Palm Springs the place to be during its golden age (January 30, 2018); The third performance in the Leonard Bernstein Centennial Celebration is by New York-based dance company, **KEIGWIN + COMPANY** (February 5, 2018) who will perform a program including the composer's iconic scores plus a brand new work developed exclusively for the McCallum engagement.

Also, two of country music's most glamorous ladies, **Lorrie Morgan** and homegrown talent **Pam Tillis** join forces for an evening of **Grits and Glamour** (February 20, 2018), followed in the same week by the return of a past *Mitch's Pick*, **Pasadena Roof Orchestra** (February 21, 2018), **One Night of Queen**, a spectacular live concert recreating the sound and showmanship of one of the greatest rock bands of all time (February 22, 2018); and the **62nd Annual Edition of It's Magic**, featuring the finest practitioners of the illusion arts (February 25, 2018).

Philadelphia's Walnut Street Theatre brings their hilarious production of ***Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery*** to the McCallum (February 27, 2018). With five actors playing 40 quirky characters, you will have a blast trying to figure out whodunit. Some of the greatest names in Doo Wop come together in one big show (March 5, 2018) playing the hits that made the world dance along with their transistor radios. The show features **The Diamonds, The Tokens, Bobby Hendricks Drifters, Original Coaster Leon Hughes & his Group** and more. One of New York's most cherished performing companies, **New York Gilbert & Sullivan Players** perform ***The Pirates of Penzance***, a classic comedy that boasts one of the most famous patter songs in musical theatre history (March 7, 2018).

Finally, four stars from the Original Cast of Broadway's *Jersey Boys* comprise **Midtown Men** who create a one-of-a-kind concert experience celebrating the music that defined the '60s (March 14, 2018); the immortal Glenn Miller and Tex Beneke are honored in an all-new **Tribute to Glenn Miller & Tex Beneke featuring the Tex Beneke Orchestra** (March 18, 2018). With special guests **The Four Freshmen, The Modernaires, Gina Eckstine** and comedy host **Dick Hardwick**, the greatest big band music of all time takes center stage; and McCallum Theatre President & CEO **Mitch Gershenfeld** steps up to the bandstand once more in all new show by the **McCallum Theatre Concert Band** (March 25, 2018) with 45 of Hollywood's finest musicians playing favorite Sousa marches, band classics and popular tunes in a real, old-fashioned concert-in-the park, with free ice cream for everyone after the show!

Performances are subject to change. Subscriptions are available beginning Tuesday, April 4th at 8:00am at the Theatre's box office or web site at www.mccallumtheatre.com. The McCallum Theatre is located at 73000 Fred Waring Drive, Palm Desert CA 92260, accepts payment by cash, personal check, VISA, MasterCard, Discover and American Express.

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