



NEWS RELEASE

Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall
777 N Tamiami Trl
Sarasota, FL 34236

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THE VAN WEZEL PERFORMING ARTS HALL READIES ITSELF FOR A 45TH ANNIVERSARY

Sarasota, FL – Single tickets go ON SALE Saturday, September 13 at 10 AM at the Box Office, online, and by phone! Appointments are available for ticket buyers by calling the Box Office at 941-953-3368.

Once again crowned as the #1 Performing Arts Hall of its size in North America (*Venues Today*, 2000 seat category), the **Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall** is proud to announce a new season bustling with fresh talent and seasoned stars, with every performance delivering a dose of extraordinary! Executive Director, Mary Bensel promises a diverse blockbuster year; “We are so thrilled with our 45th anniversary line up and soon we will be announcing the Van Wezel Foundation’s Gala performance.”

The dazzling 2014-2015 lineup includes music sensations new to the hall: **Martina McBride, Boz Scaggs, Susan Boyle, and Peter Frampton!** Returning to the hall, favorites **Diana Krall, Foreigner, Vanessa Williams, and Michael Bolton** are sure to bring the house down with their remarkable performances, while **Audra McDonald** returns after winning her record breaking sixth Tony® Award, this year. Trail blazers of the Comedy world who are performing at the Van Wezel for the first time are **Bill Maher, Bill Engvall, Kathleen Madigan and Wanda Sykes.** The outrageous **Kathy Griffin** also returns for an encore performance. The Broadway Season sees a number of Sarasota Premieres with **Peter and the Starcatcher, Sister Act, Flashdance The Musical** and the Tony® and Grammy® Award winning megahit for ‘Best Musical’, **Jersey Boys!** Returning tours include fond classics such as; **Camelot, Jekyll & Hyde, Memphis, Rain: A Tribute to the Beatles, and Anything Goes!** The Classical Series features phenomenal talent from; violin virtuoso **Itzak Perlman**, orchestra expertise from the **St. Petersburg Symphony, The Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra** and a Sarasota premiere holiday program from the **Cincinnati Pops** with Broadway’s number one leading man, Tony® Award Winner, **Brian Stokes Mitchell.** Finishing off this incredible collection of performance line ups is our dance series infused with classical beauty and

fresh twists, including the outstanding **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, Les Ballets Trockadero**, and the new edition of last year's sell-out performance of **So You Think You Can Dance Season 11 Tour**, featuring finalists of this season's hit TV show.

Variety Series:

Kicking off the 2014-2015 Variety Series is the legendary rock and roll guitarist, **Peter Frampton (Oct. 1)**! With mega hits like "Baby, I Love Your Way," "Do You Feel Like We Do," and "I'm in You," **Frampton** continues to influence generations of guitarists to pick up the instrument. Additionally, he has begun working on some interesting cross-over projects like his most recent work *Hummingbird in a Box* which is an entirely instrumental album written for dance, specifically the Cincinnati Ballet. Following this legend of rock, country music mega-star **Martina McBride The Everlasting Tour (Oct. 16)** is one of the most decorated women in the genre. Holding five CMA awards and 4 ACM awards, **Martina** has racked up 19 Top-10 hits and continues to be one of the hottest acts on the road. Up next is a celebrated singer-songwriter of Americana country, bluegrass, and folk, the one and only, **Lyle Lovett and his Acoustic Group (Oct. 17)**. The Grammy® Award-winning storyteller is a significant contributor to the catalogue of American music with 14 albums under his belt. An accomplished actor, appearing on stage, film and currently on television's "The Bridge," this diverse performer knows how to convey true emotion and connect with his audience in a delightfully intimate way. Spend an **Evening with Bill Maher: Live Stand-up Tour (Oct. 26)**. The consummate political humorist and fiery social critic, has collected a whopping 32 Emmy nominations throughout his 35 years in the business. First on "Politically Incorrect," and for the last twelve years on HBO's "**Real Time with Bill Maher**," Maher's combination of unflinching honesty and big laughs have solidified him on the A-List of comedy.

Transitioning from fiery and pointed to candid and witty, **The Capitol Steps (Nov. 1)** continue the political lampooning with an all new tour based on songs from their latest album "How to Succeed In Congress Without Really Trying." Turning political comedy on its head, their show is constantly changing, strenuously bi-partisan, and includes songs about everything in the news, such as "Putin On A Blitz," "The Big Benghazi Theory," and "Everybody Must Get Droned." Witness the breathtaking voice of the Scottish sensation, **Susan Boyle (Nov. 5)**, the first and only solo act to have 2 albums at #1 in both the UK and USA in less than 1 year. Her debut album entered the Billboard 200 at #1 and spent 6 weeks at the top; a first in the chart's history. Obtaining 93 Platinum and 61 Gold certifications in her

first 4 years, **Susan Boyle** has list of firsts that could rival the biggest stars in the business. The Van Wezel is leading the tour with record sales for **Susan Boyle** and patrons are encouraged to purchase tickets while they still remain. *American Idol's* season 11 winner, **Phillip Phillips (Nov. 12)** has taken America by storm with his rugged brand of rootsy rock and roll including "Gone, Gone, Gone," "Home," and "Raging Fire." Phillips impassioned style and musical ingenuity has helped him become one of the biggest names to come out of the *American Idol* series. The Emmy Award-winning Comedy Kingpin, **Wanda Sykes (Nov. 16)** ranks among *Entertainment Weekly's* "25 Funniest People in America," with outstanding accomplishments as a writer, performer and actor, she has become one of the most recognizable faces in comedy. The New York Times says, **Evil Dead - The Musical (Nov. 18)** is The next "Rocky Horror Show!" The musical comedy sensation embodies all the elements of the cult classic horror films, "Evil Dead" and "Army of Darkness," then combines them to make one of the craziest theatrical experiences of all time. Sarasota will welcome back **Mannheim Steamroller by Chip Davis (Nov. 19)** for the 30th anniversary of their annual tour. Don't miss this ultimate holiday tradition from the #1 Christmas music artist in history! Back by popular demand, **So You Think You Can Dance Season 11 Tour (Nov. 21)** brings its eleventh-season Top 10 finalists to perform their most popular routines as well as original pieces created specifically for the tour. **Dave Koz and Friends Christmas** opens its 2014 tour at the Van Wezel for the third time. The 2014 edition features **special guests Jonathan Butler, Christopher Cross, and Maysa (Nov. 28)**. **Dave Koz** returns with the highly polished saxophone holiday tour that Sarasota has lovingly embraced as a local tradition. Mega-star **Kenny Rogers** brings his **Christmas Tour with special guest Linda Davis (Nov. 29)**. Whether he is singing his platinum selling hits or his platinum selling Christmas tunes, either way, **Kenny Rogers** puts on a great show!

Direct from Beijing, The National Acrobats of the People's Republic of China (Dec. 4) will perform "**Cirque Peking**." One of the longest running and most distinguished circus troupes in China, these precision performers will mesmerize adults and children of all ages! The **Colors of Christmas featuring Peabo Bryson, Jennifer Holliday, Taylor Dayne, and Ruben Studdard (Dec. 10)** brings together 4 of music's most

dynamic voices in an electrifying evening of holiday celebrations. An extremely talented performer, not to be missed, five-time Grammy® Award-winning jazz songstress, **Diana Krall 2014 Wallflower Tour (Dec. 13)** returns with a new album of classic tributes and a sultry catalogue of old favorites. Then, new to the hall is **Bowzer's Rock & Roll Holiday Party with Herman's Hermits featuring Peter Noone, Gary Puckett & The Union Gap, Joey Dee, Bowzer & The Stingrays, Rocky and The Rollers (Dec. 16)**. Hosted by Bowser, the former star from **Sha Na Na** and their hit TV series, the show's lineup will bring the house down with their show-stopping tunes and authentic gospel sounds of the season. Astounding audiences year after year, **The Nebraska Theatre Caravan's A Christmas Carol (Dec. 21)** is the epitome of Christmas tradition. Complete with all the beloved songs, characters, and spinning bed, this Victorian era rendition is remarkable. **A Christmas Carol is a part of Van Wezel's Family Nights**. America's most beloved animal expert, **Jack Hanna**, brings his two-time Emmy Award winning television series to the live stage with **Jack Hanna's Into the Wild Live! (Dec. 28)** In this awe-inspiring event, **Jungle Jack** will introduce the audience to some of the world's most spectacular animals. Jack will also share humorous stories and amazing exclusive footage from his worldwide adventures. **Jack Hanna's Into the Wild Live! is also a part of Van Wezel's Family Nights**.

The Grammy nominated, **Vanessa Williams (Jan. 2)** is one of the most respected and multi-faceted pop performers in entertainment today, includes Broadway, television, music and films. Mega-hits like "Colors Of The Wind," "Love Is," and "Save The Best For Last" have propelled her into the hall of greatness. Next up is **Menopause the Musical (Jan. 5)**. It's the Hilarious Celebration of Women and The Change!® This musical parody set to classic tunes from the '60s, '70s and '80s will have you cheering and dancing in the aisles! See what millions of women worldwide have been laughing about for 13 years! Always a sell-out show, **The Beach Boys (Jan. 6)** are returning to provide us with another night of "Good Vibrations" and "Fun Fun Fun!" Grammy nominated and multi-platinum selling comedian, **Bill Engvall (Jan. 9)** will make his Van Wezel premier in 2015. As part of the **Blue Collar Comedy Tour**, **Engvall** toured alongside the likes of Jeff Foxworthy, Ron White, and Larry the Cable Guy. His debut album and follow-up album both entered Billboard's Comedy Chart at #1! **Foreigner (Jan. 12)** makes a Sarasota stop this season. Their smash hits like "Urgent" "Feels Like The First Time," and the worldwide #1 hit "I Want To Know What Love Is" have made their electrifying mix of blustery blues and infectious pop a staple of the radio airwaves. **The**

Bronx Wanderers (Jan. 18) will tap into the infectious energy of the music that skyrocketed classics like “American Graffiti,” “Happy Days” and “A Bronx Tale” to immediate success! With superlative vocals and musicianship, dynamic enthusiasm and a genuine love of the music they perform, **The Bronx Wanderers** recreate the magic of the ‘50s, ‘60s and ‘70s for the first time in Sarasota. The internationally renowned maestro of love, **Michael Bolton (Jan. 21)** returns to the Van Wezel with his iconic Grammy® Award-winning voice which has helped him sell over 53 million records with songs like “When A Man Loves A Woman,” “How Am I Supposed To Live Without You,” and “Time Love And Tenderness.” Returning by popular demand, **ABBA the Concert (Jan. 22)** electrifies audiences with their spot on recreation of one of the greatest pop groups of all time. You’ll be singing ever last word to the songs that are near and dear to your heart, songs like “Dancing Queen,” “SOS,” “Winner Takes It All,” and “Mamma Mia!” Comedienne **Kathleen Madigan (Jan. 23)** making her Van Wezel debut has been referred to as the funniest woman in comedy by many of her peers. One of the stand-up comedy elite and a 25-year veteran of the industry, Kathleen has amassed a large body of work including multiple standup specials, DVD, CDs, and tours reaching all over the world. **Elvis Lives! The Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist Event (Jan. 24)** creates a multi-media and live musical journey through the life of “The King.” Featuring finalists from Elvis Presley Enterprises’ worldwide *Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist Contest*, as well as a tribute to Ann-Margret, audiences “Can’t Help Falling In Love”® with this phenomenal theatrical concert experience. Come spend **An Evening with Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons (Jan 27)**. Another sell-out show and Van Wezel favorite, Frankie Valli the original Jersey Boy, and The Four Seasons continue to have people dancing in their seats, year after year, with their signature tunes ““Big Girls Don’t Cry,” “Grease,” “Sherry,” “December 1963 (Oh What A Night)” and many more! The Grammy® Award-winning vocal duo of **Marilyn McCoo and Billy Davis Jr. (Jan. 28)** were made famous in the ‘60s and ‘70s as singers as part of **The 5th Dimension**, recording songs like “Up, Up, & Away,” “Aquarius/Let the Sunshine In,” and “Wedding Bell Blues.” The husband and wife team also went on to record another #1 hit, “You Don’t Have To Be A Star (To Be In My Show),” which earned them a seventh Grammy®, and this year they make their Van Wezel debut.

Dick Fox’s Golden Boys Starring Frankie Avalon, Fabian and Bobby Rydell (Feb. 3) have been performing in packed venues throughout the country since 1985. A throwback concert experience like you never dreamed of, these teen idols of the 1950s still know how to bring the house down! **The Piano Guys (Feb. 7)** have

discovered the perfect mix of musicianship with production quality. New to Sarasota, their incredible take on modern classical meets pop music allows The Piano Guys to create an exciting musical environment that will entertain and inspire. Bluegrass supergroup, **The Time Jumpers (Feb. 8)** features some of the greatest studio musicians from the Nashville bluegrass/country scene. The group generally composed of about 11 players, features **Dawn Sears, Vince Gill, Kenny Sears, and Ranger Doug Green**. One of the most influential figures in jazz, if not all American music, **The Duke Ellington Orchestra (Feb. 9)** produced an astoundingly rich body of music. Now led by his grandson, Paul Mercer Ellington, **The Duke Ellington Orchestra** continues to thrill audiences with its signature style of ground breaking jazz. **Irvin Mayfield and the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra (Feb. 11)** will be bringing the modern New Orleans jazz movement to Sarasota, as interpreted by one of Jazz's most insightful interpreters. Grammy® nominated, **Michael Feinstein** is the Ambassador of the American Songbook, and this year features "**The Sinatra Centennial**" (**Feb. 14**). **Michael** returns to celebrate the centennial of one of the greatest voices in American music history, **Frank Sinatra!** Join **Feinstein**, on Valentine's Day, as he pays homage to this monumental performer, his legacy and music in true class and style. America's Master Storyteller, humorist, author, musician, and host of Public Radio's *A Prairie Home Companion*, **Garrison Keillor (Feb. 19)** returns to the Van Wezel for another memorable night of heartening tales and thought provoking perspectives. With his signature wit and wisdom this Grammy Award-winner is always a sellout show. "**The Piano Men**" – **Starring Jim Witter (Feb. 24)** is a musical journey through the '70s, featuring the songs of **Billy Joel** and **Elton John**. Accompanied by musicians on keyboards, guitar, bass, flute, sax and drums, Jim Witter leads a multimedia performance featuring iconic imagery of the times. The audience will be transported through a musical time machine as **The Piano Men** recreate more than a decade of classic tunes.

Legendary singer/songwriter, **Paul Anka (Mar. 2)** was one of the biggest teen idols of the late '50s, later moving into the adult sphere as a successful performer, songwriter and recording artist. Known for hits "Diana," "Lonely Boy," and "Put Your Head On My Shoulder," Anka also penned big hits like "She's A Lady," and lyrics for Sinatra's "My Way." Grammy-nominated Rock & Roll icons, **Three Dog Night (Mar. 9)** have spent the last four decades weaving their hits into the fabric of pop culture. Between 1969 and 1970, the band sold more tickets, more albums, and had more top 10 hits than any other artist. Three Dog Night's non-stop touring offers fans classics like "Mama Told Me (Not To Come)," "Joy To The World," "Black And White," and incredible new material that's on par

with the oldies you love! Vocal Group Hall of Fame inductees, and 10-time Grammy® winners **The Manhattan Transfer (Mar. 18)** became one of the most critically acclaimed and commercially successful vocal groups of all time. Their album *Vocalese* earned a monumental 12 Grammy® nominations. **The Manhattan Transfer's** A Cappella meets Jazz Fusion approach has created a style that is surely deserving of their celebrity status. Two-time Grammy® Award-winner and recently awarded the Tony® for Best Performance by a Leading Actress in a Play for ***Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill***, Broadway legend and "Live From Lincoln Center" host, **Audra McDonald (Mar. 22)** dazzles audiences with favorite show tunes and songs from her new album *Go Back Home*—her most personal recording to date. **Audra McDonald** made Tony® history for winning 6 Tony® Awards, which includes one for every category an actress can win: Best Actress in a Musical, Best Actress in a Play, Featured Actress in a Musical, and Featured Actress in a Play. Ms. McDonald has electrified Broadway in shows including "Porgy & Bess," "Ragtime," "Carousel," and "110 In The Shade." The breakout star from *America's Got Talent* **Jackie Evancho (Mar. 24)** has had three Billboard Top 10 albums since she debuted in 2011. Her forthcoming album *Awakening* extends her stylistic reach to include contemporary material in addition to the classical styling for which she is widely hailed. Ms. **Evancho** is new to the Van Wezel, but not new to Sarasota, as she filmed her PBS special at the Ringling. See **The Dog Whisperer** himself in **Cesar Milan LIVE! (Mar. 26)** where he will reveal the secrets of happier, healthier relationships between humans and their canine companions in his exciting show. Joined by his right-hand dog, Junior, **Cesar** will share his philosophies and methods and will present live demonstrations with various dogs. **Cesar** is making his Van Wezel debut!

Take a journey back to Motown with the **The Temptations and The Four Tops (Apr. 3)**. Featuring such chart-topping hits as "I Can't Help Myself (Sugar Pie, Honey Bunch)," "It's The Same Old Song," and "Reach Out I'll Be There," and **The Temptations** "My Girl," "Ain't Too Proud to Beg," and "Papa Was A Rollin' Stone." These Motown defining groups make for one exciting show. Making his Sarasota premiere, **Boz Scaggs (Apr. 9)** brings his wide spectrum of Americana music which combines elements of rock, jazz, R&B, and blues to create a truly trademark sound. Through his extensive and distinctive career which has spanned 30 years and earned him many accolades, Scaggs continues to prove himself as one of music's most creative and original artists through hits like "Lowdown," "Lido Shuffle," and "Miss Sun." The always incredible **Johnny Mathis (Apr. 12)** returns with hits such as

“Wonderful, Wonderful,” “It’s Not For Me To Say,” “Chances Are,” and “Misty,” and many more well-loved ballads and standards. Don’t miss this legendary performer who is always a sellout at the Van Wezel! Trumpeter **Chris Botti’s (Apr. 17)** soaring musical imagination, and warm and intimate live concerts have firmly established him as the world’s largest selling Jazz instrumentalist. **Botti** recently added to his stellar parade of albums and cluster of Grammy nominations – “Impressions” expresses **Chris’s** love for romantic melodies from across the world with featured songs “What A Wonderful World,” “Summertime,” and “Over The Rainbow.” Chef **Robert Irvine LIVE! (Apr. 18)** making his Van Wezel debut, provides a multimedia and multi-sensory theatrical experience. More than just a cooking demo, **Robert Irvine LIVE!** is an interactive show that provides multiple opportunities for audience participation while witnessing the challenging nature of the TV show, *Dinner: Impossible*, comes to life right before your eyes. Internationally hailed as one of the greatest songstresses of our time, GRAMMY® Award-winning **Roberta Flack (Apr. 22)** remains unparalleled in her ability to tell a story through her music. Her songs bring insight into our lives, loves, culture and politics, while effortlessly traversing a broad musical landscape from pop to soul to folk to jazz. **Celtic Woman 10th Anniversary Celebration (Apr. 24)** returns to the Van Wezel in 2015. The spectacular musical experience features **Celtic Woman** performing traditional Irish tunes, contemporary pop songs and original music by Emmy®-nominated music producer, David Downes. Grammy and Emmy Award-winning comedienne, **Kathy Griffin (Apr. 26)** is a towering figure on television, on tour and in publishing. Becoming one of America’s most recognizable faces, **Griffin** breaks through the entertainment clutter by lending her universally recognized brand of pull-no-punches comedy to many of television’s premiere events, hosting events like CNN’s *New Year’s Eve with Anderson Cooper*, *The Billboard Music Awards*, and *the Daytime Emmy Awards*.

2014-2015 Broadway Series - Sponsored by Wilde Lexus of Sarasota and ABC 7

Recounting the time-honored legend of King Arthur, Guinevere, and the Knights of the Round Table, **Camelot (Nov. 30)** enralls audiences with an enchanting tale of chivalry, majesty, and brotherhood. A four-time Tony® Award winner, **Camelot’s** score is as legendary as the fable itself, with classic songs like “If Ever I Would Leave You,” “What Do The Simple Folk Do,” and the title song, “Camelot.” **Smokey Joe’s Café featuring The Coasters (Dec. 3)** welcomes you to the hottest joint in town! The Tony® nominated and Grammy® winning musical

revue raises the roof in celebration of some of rock 'n' roll's greatest hits: "Hound Dog," "Stand By Me," "Yakety Yak," "Jailhouse Rock," "Spanish Harlem," "Love Potion #9," "Fools Fall In Love," and many more. The New York Times states, "Leiber & Stoller are the Rodgers & Hammerstein of rock 'n' roll!" Five-time Tony® Award winner, **Guys and Dolls (Dec. 30)**, celebrates Broadway's golden era with one of the greatest scores ever written for a musical by the legendary Frank Loesser. Considered by many to be the perfect musical comedy, **Guys and Dolls** features such classic tunes as "Luck Be A Lady," "Sit Down You're Rocking The Boat," and "I've Never Been In Love Before."

Broadway's feel-amazing musical comedy smash, **Sister Act (Jan. 4)** making its Sarasota premiere, features original music by 8-time Oscar®-winner Alan Menken (*Beauty And The Beast, The Little Mermaid, Little Shop of Horrors*) tells the story of a wannabe diva whose life takes a surprising turn when she witnesses a crime and ends up in the last place anyone would think to look—a convent! *The New York Post* calls this sparkling tribute to friendship, "Ridiculously fun." Discover the Neverland you never knew, in **Peter And The Starcatcher! (Feb. 12)**. The winner of 5 Tony® Awards, this swashbuckling prequel to **Peter Pan** is based on the bestselling novel by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson, and features more than 100 unforgettable characters—all on a journey to answer the age-old question: How did Peter Pan become The Boy Who Never Grew Up? This hilarious romp through the Neverland you never knew will delight audiences of all ages. **Peter And The Starcatcher is a part of Van Wezel's Family Nights.**

With lyrics by Academy Award-winning composer Leslie Bricusse, **Jekyll & Hyde (Mar. 5)** puts a glamorously sexy and deliciously wicked Broadway spin on Robert Louis Stevenson's classic gothic novella. Following the brilliant but obsessive scientist, Dr. Jekyll, whose sadistic alter ego wreaks havoc across Victorian London; the dark tale of love, redemption, and the seductive power of evil, is alluring and captivating to the bitter end. Written by Frank Wildhorn, with book and lyrics by Academy Award®-winning composer Leslie Bricusse featuring great hit songs, including "In His Eyes" and "Someone Like You." "Too Good To Be True," raved the *New York Post* about **Jersey Boys (8 performances, Mar. 11-15)**, a Sarasota premiere. The 2006 Tony® Award-winner for Best Musical presents the story about four blue-collar kids who became one of the greatest success stories in pop music history—The Four Seasons: Frankie Valli, Bob Gaudio, Tommy DeVito and Nick Massi. With a creative team that includes writer Marshall Brickman, composer Bob Gaudio, lyricist Bob Crewe and choreographer Sergio Trujillo, **Jersey Boys** features such classic hits as "Sherry," "Big Girls Don't Cry," "Rag Doll," and "Can't Take My Eyes Off You." **Jersey**

Boys March 12 performance is also a Kids' Night on Broadway. Anything Goes (Mar. 16) shouts "All Aboard" with a saucy and splendid revival of a Broadway classic. Peppering this Cole Porter first-class comedy are some of musical theater's most memorable standards, including "I Get A Kick Out Of You," "You're The Top," and of course, "Anything Goes." Don't miss what the *AP* exclaims as, "So DELIGHTFUL, So DELICIOUS, So DE-LOVELY!" A Sarasota Premiere, **Flashdance (Apr. 1 & 2)** is the inspiring and unforgettable story of a working-class girl with a dream of becoming a professional dancer, featuring a score of smash hits, including the Academy Award®-winning title track "Flashdance-What A Feeling," "Maniac," "I Love Rock & Roll," and 16 new original songs and book by Tom Hedley (co-writer of the original screenplay with Joe Eszterhas and Robert Cary).

2014-2015 Broadway Specials

Can't get your fill of *Dancing with the Stars*, *American Idol*, and *So You Think You Can Dance*? **Ballroom with a Twist (Jan. 29)** takes your obsession to the next level with this dazzling dance extravaganza starring celebrity pros from *Dancing with the Stars* plus finalists from *So You Think You Can Dance* and *American Idol*. A Sarasota favorite, **Neil Berg's 106 Years of Broadway (Feb. 5)** brings us an all-new musical revue with five Broadway stars and a great New York band, re-creating magical moments from the best that Broadway has offered over that past one hundred and six years! Hear the classics, the standards, and your all-time favorites! Sells-out every year! Missed **Memphis (Apr. 4)**, last year's sellout? Returning for a second run, the 2010 4-time Tony® Award-winner, including Best Musical, tells the story of a white radio DJ who wants to change the world and a black club singer who is ready for her big break. Come along on their incredible journey to the ends of the airwaves -- filled with laughter, soaring emotion and roof-raising rock 'n' roll. **Rain: A Tribute to The Beatles (Apr. 23)** is a stunning, multimedia spectacular that takes you on a musical journey through the life and times of the world's most celebrated band with such classics as "I Want To Hold Your Hand," "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band," "Let It Be," "Come Together" and "Hey Jude." Don't miss the Broadway smash that's taken the world by storm.

2014-2015 Orchestra Series – Sponsored by WUSF Public Media

Celebrate the holidays with a vibrant concert by the **Cincinnati Pops Orchestra (Dec. 11)**, led by conductor **John Morris Russell**, with vocalist **Brian Stokes Mitchell**, dubbed by *The New York Times* as “Broadway’s Last Leading Man,” in a program featuring selections from the group’s 2012 recording, **Home for the Holidays**, including “Sleigh Ride,” “Little Drummer Boy,” “You’re A Mean One, Mr. Grinch,” and “We Wish You A Merry Christmas.” Tony® winner, **Brian Stokes Mitchell** has starred in such Broadway smashes as *Ragtime* with **Audra McDonald**, *Kiss Me Kate*, and *Man of La Mancha*. Experience the one and only **St. Petersburg State Symphony (Jan. 8)** in an evening of outstanding music. The symphony, which was formed in 1882, is celebrated as one of the greatest orchestras in the world. With acclaimed conductor **Vladimir Lande** and the riveting superstar **Xiayin Wang** as piano soloist. (“Even for the most gifted young pianist, it takes a lot to be noticed...Xiayin Wang is clearly doing something right”—*The New York Times*). Founded in 1885 and affectionately known as “America’s Orchestra,” the **Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra (Feb. 6)** is one of the most beloved orchestras in the country. Led by **Keith Lockhart**, it is renowned for its diverse, innovative programs that showcase established performers and rising stars from virtually every corner of the entertainment world. Performing **The Very Best of the Boston Pops**, experience the majesty of Dvorak and Copland, swing with Ellington and Gershwin, get a little crazy with Queen, and soar with the film music of John Williams.

2014-2015 Orchestra Specials

On its first-ever symphony tour, the **Celtic Thunder** troupe performs songs from its 2013 chart-topping album, *Christmas Voices* in a dynamic show accentuated by a full symphony orchestra, entitled **Celtic Thunder Symphony (Nov. 20)** This is **Celtic Thunder**’s first Holiday concert in Sarasota. Featuring seasonal favorites, traditional Irish tunes, and signature hit songs, including “Ireland’s Call,” “Turning Away,” “Dulaman” and “My Land.” Returning to the Van Wezel is **Salute to Vienna: New Year’s Concert 2015 (Jan. 3)**. Celebrate the New Year with an all-star cast of international singers, dancers and a full orchestra. This dynamic concert features uplifting melodies from beloved operettas, including “Die Fledermaus” and “The Merry Widow,” as well as polkas and Strauss waltzes. Conducted by **Matthias Fletzberger**, with soprano **Lara Ciekiewicz**, tenor **Brain Cheney**, dancers from Europa Ballet, and champion ballroom dancers from around the world. Undeniably the reigning violin virtuoso with four

Emmy® Awards and 15 Grammy® Awards, **Itzhak Perlman (Mar. 21)** enjoys superstar status rarely afforded a classical musician. Beloved for his charm, humanity and talent, he is treasured by audiences throughout the world. One of Mr. Perlman's proudest achievements is his collaboration with film composer John Williams in Steven Spielberg's Academy Award®-winning film, *Schindler's List*, in which he performed the violin solos.

2014-2015 Dance Series

Les Ballets Trockadero (Feb. 4) is a playful take on classical ballet who have garnered rave reviews in such esteemed publications as *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times* and *The Village Voice*. The troupe entrances audiences with its technical mastery, impeccable comic approach, and the astounding fact that men can, indeed, dance en pointe without falling flat on their faces. New to Sarasota, **Dancing Pros Live! (Feb. 16)** brings ballroom dance champions from around the world to dazzle audiences in this exciting live competition featuring sensational sets, glamorous costumes and unbelievable dance moves. Audience members can vote for their favorite couple using electronic voting. It stars **Karina Smirnoff** (*Dancing with the Stars*), **Edyta Sliwinska**, and is hosted by **Alan Thicke** (*Growing Pains*). **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (Feb. 17)** offers the experience of the raw power and joy of dance as this preeminent dance troupe brings the pulse-racing thrill of contemporary favorites and time-honored classics, such as Alvin Ailey's soulful masterpiece, *Revelations*. "Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater is a must-see."—*The Wall Street Journal*. The sensational **Russian National Ballet (Mar. 3)** showcases traditional Russian masterpieces while training the next generation of world-class dancers. This stunning "**Gala Program**" features Pas de Deux movements from ballet's most beloved works, including *Sleeping Beauty*, *Cinderella*, *Don Quixote*, *Dying Swan*, and *Romeo and Juliet*.

Information and New Additions

Single tickets go on sale Saturday, September 13 from 10 AM to 6 PM and Sunday, September 14 from 10 AM to 6 PM at the Van Wezel Box Office, located at 777 North Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. Want to skip the lines? The Van Wezel will again be offering the opportunity to make appointments for ticket purchasing on these two days only. Call our Box Office at 941-953-3368 and make your reservation today. Limited availability. You may also order tickets online at www.vanwezel.org or by calling 941-953-3368 or (800) 826-9309.

Variety Series Subscriptions are available by choosing 4 or more shows for up to 20% discount (on most shows and sections), while Broadway, Dance, and Orchestra series packages feature discount tickets on most sections and the best seats. Regular hours for the Box Office will begin Monday, September 7th, as follows: M-F 10-6; Sat. 10-4; open later hours on performance days, including Sundays. Discounts are available for Groups of 20 or more (some shows and sections are excluded). Join our E-mail Club at www.vanwezel.org to be the "first to know" about upcoming events and specials. Also, join the conversation on our Facebook and Twitter to get behind the scenes pictures, interviews, and more! The Van Wezel is also home to many groups including the Sarasota Orchestra, Sarasota Ballet, Ringling Town Hall and the Sarasota Concert Association, among others. The Van Wezel also offers Schoolltime shows (for school and homeschool groups) including: **Otherwise Known As Sheila The Great (Oct. 22); Schoolhouse Rock Live! (Nov. 3); Let's Go Science Show! (Nov. 13); Stella Queen of the Snow (Dec. 9); Fly Guy and Other Stories (Jan. 23); The Mayhem Poets (Feb. 9); Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (Feb. 18); The Lightning Thief (Apr. 30); and Curious George (May 5)**. For more information and to buy tickets, contact the Van Wezel Box office at (941) 953-3368 or log onto www.vanwezel.org. Performers, prices, performances, dates and times are subject to change without notice. There are no ticket refunds or exchanges unless an event is cancelled or rescheduled.

Full Season Performance Dates:

Peter Frampton

Oct. 1, 2014 @ 8pm

Martina McBride: The Everlasting Tour

Oct. 16, 2014 @ 8pm

Lyle Lovett and his Acoustic Group

Oct. 17, 2014 @ 8pm

AN EVENING WITH

BILL MAHER

LIVE STAND-UP TOUR

Oct. 26, 2014 @ 7pm

Part of the Herald-Tribune Media Group's Comedy Series

The Capitol Steps

Nov. 1, 2014 @ 8pm

Part of the Van Wezel Foundation Series & Sponsored by Bright House Networks

Susan Boyle
Nov. 5, 2014 @ 8pm
Co-sponsored by Comfort Suites Sarasota

Phillip Phillips
Nov. 12, 2014 @ 8pm

Wanda Sykes
Nov. 16, 2014 @ 7pm
Part of the Herald-Tribune Media Group's Comedy Series

Evil Dead – The Musical
Nov. 18, 2014 @ 8pm
Part of the Herald Tribune Media Group's Cultural Series

Mannheim Steamroller Christmas by Chip Davis
Nov. 19, 2014 @ 8pm
Sponsored by State College of Florida and 92.1 The Coast

Celtic Thunder Symphony Tour
Nov. 20, 2014 @7:30PM
Co-sponsored by Go Touch Down Travel & Tours and Sponsored by WUSF Public Media

So You Think You Can Dance Season 11 Tour
Nov. 21, 2014 @ 8pm
Sponsored by Bright House Networks

Dave Koz & Friends Christmas Tour 2014 with special guests Jonathan Butler, Christopher Cross, and Maysa
Nov. 28, 2014 @ 8pm
Part of the Boar's Head Family Series & sponsored by Scene Magazine

Kenny Rogers Christmas with special guest Linda Davis
Nov. 29, 2014 @ 8pm
Co-sponsored by Hann Powerboats

Camelot
Nov. 30, 2014 @ 7PM
Sponsored by Wilde Lexus of Sarasota & ABC 7

Smokey Joe's Café featuring The Coasters
Dec. 3, 2014 @ 8PM
Sponsored by Wilde Lexus of Sarasota & ABC 7

Direct from Beijing, The National Acrobats of the People's Republic of China Performing Cirque Peking

Dec. 4, 2014 @ 7pm

Part of the Van Wezel Foundation Series & sponsored by Bright House Networks

Colors of Christmas

Featuring Peabo Bryson, Jennifer Holliday, Taylor Dayne, Ruben Studdard

Dec. 10, 2014 @ 8pm

Part of the Boar's Head Family Series

Cincinnati Pops Orchestra: Holiday Pops

Holiday Pops – John Morris Russell, conductor; Brian Stokes Mitchell, vocalist

Dec. 11, 2014 @8PM

Sponsored by Dignity Memorial Providers of Manatee & Sarasota Counties and WUSF Public Media

Diana Krall 2014 Wallflower Tour

Dec. 13, 2014 @ 8pm

Sponsored by Hyatt Regency Sarasota and SRQ Magazine

Bowzer's Rock & Roll Holiday Party

Herman's Hermits starring Peter Noone, Gary Puckett & The Union Gap, Joey Dee

Bowzer & The Stingrays, Rocky and The Rollers, Hosted by: Bowzer

Dec. 16, 2014 @ 8pm

Sponsored by Piano Distributors

Nebraska Theatre Caravan presents A Christmas Carol

Dec. 21, 2014 @ 7 PM

Co-sponsored by Beneva Flowers & sponsored by Sarasota Magazine

Van Wezel Family Nights

Jungle Jack Hanna's Into The Wild Live

Dec. 28, 2014 @ 7pm

Nationally Sponsored by Nationwide Insurance. Locally Sponsored by Argosy University

Van Wezel Family Nights

Guys and Dolls

Dec. 30, 2014 @ 8PM

Sponsored by Wilde Lexus of Sarasota & ABC 7

Vanessa Williams

Jan. 2, 2015 @ 8pm

Sponsored by AT&T Star Series

Part of the AT&T Star Series

Salute to Vienna: New Year's Concert 2015

Jan. 3, 2015 @8PM

Sponsored by WUSF Public Media

Sister Act
Jan. 4, 2015 @ 7PM
Sponsored by Wilde Lexus of Sarasota & ABC 7

Menopause The Musical
Jan. 5, 2015 @ 8pm
Co-Sponsored by FIFI'S Fine Resale Lakewood Ranch and Part of the Herald- Tribune Media

The Beach Boys
Jan. 6, 2015 @ 7:30pm

St. Petersburg State Symphony
Jan. 8, 2015 @ 8pm
Sponsored by WUSF Public Media

Bill Engvall
Jan. 9, 2015 @ 8pm
Co-sponsored by Go Touch Down Travel & Tours & Part of the Herald-Tribune Media Group's
Comedy Series

Foreigner
Jan. 12, 2015 @ 8pm
Sponsored by Hotel Indigo and 107.9 WSRZ

The Bronx Wanderers
Jan. 18, 2015 @ 7pm

Michael Bolton
Jan. 21, 2015 @ 8pm
Sponsored by Comfort Suites

ABBA the CONCERT
Jan. 22, 2015 @ 8pm

Kathleen Madigan
Jan. 23, 2015 @ 8pm
Part of the Van Wezel Foundation Series & Part of the Herald-Tribune Media Group's Comedy Series

Elvis Lives!
The Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist Event
Jan. 24, 2015 @ 8pm

An Evening with Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons
Jan. 27, 2015 @ 8pm
Co-sponsored by Beneva Flowers

Marilyn McCoo and Billy Davis Jr.
Jan. 28, 2015 @ 8pm
Sponsored by Wilde Lexus of Sarasota

Ballroom with a Twist
Jan. 29, 2015 @ 8PM
Co-sponsored by Arthur Murray Dance Studio of Sarasota

Dick Fox's Golden Boys Starring Frankie Avalon, Fabian, and Bobby Rydell
Feb. 3, 2015 @ 8pm
Part of the Van Wezel Foundation Series

Les Ballets Trockadero
Feb. 4, 2015 @ 8 PM
Part of the Van Wezel Foundation Series

Neil Berg's 106 Years of Broadway
Feb. 5, 2015 @ 8PM

The Very Best of the Boston Pops
Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra
Keith Lockhart Conductor
Feb. 6, 2015 @8PM
Part of the Van Wezel Foundation Series and sponsored by WUSF Public Media

The Piano Guys
Feb. 7, 2015 @ 8pm
Sponsored by Wilde Lexus of Sarasota

The Time Jumpers
Feb. 8, 2015 @ 7pm
Part of the Boar's Head Family Series

The Duke Ellington Orchestra
Feb. 9, 2015 @ 8pm
Co-sponsored by Go Touch Down Travel & Tours

Irvin Mayfield and the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra
Feb. 11, 2015 @ 8pm
Sponsored by Wilde Lexus of Sarasota

Peter and the Starcatcher
Feb. 12, 2015 @ 8PM
Van Wezel Family Nights
Sponsored by Wilde Lexus of Sarasota & ABC 7

"The Sinatra Centennial" starring Michael Feinstein
Feb. 14, 2015 @ 8pm
Sponsored by Jewish Federation of Sarasota & Manatee & SNN Suncoast News Network

Dancing Pros Live!
Feb. 16, 2015 @ 8 PM
Part of the Van Wezel Foundation Series

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
Feb. 17, 2015 @ 7:30 PM
Sponsored by The Fine Arts Society of Sarasota and part of the Herald Tribune Media Group's Cultural Series

Garrison Keillor
Feb. 19, 2015 @ 8pm
Sponsored by Morton's Gourmet Market and Sarasota Magazine

"The Piano Men" – Starring Jim Witter... A musical journey through the '70s, featuring the songs of Billy Joel and Elton John
Feb. 24, 2015 @8PM
Sponsored by Wilde Lexus of Sarasota

Paul Anka
Mar. 2, 2015 @ 8pm
Part of the Van Wezel Foundation Series

Russian National Ballet: Gala Program
Mar. 3, 2015 @ 8 PM
Sponsored by Bright House Networks

Jekyll & Hyde
Mar. 5, 2015 @ 8PM
Sponsored by Wilde Lexus of Sarasota & ABC 7

Three Dog Night
Mar. 9, 2015 @ 8pm
Sponsored by Wilde Lexus of Sarasota

Jersey Boys
Mar. Wed 11 @ 8pm, Thurs. 12th @ 2pm & 8pm, Fri. 13th @ 8pm, Sat. 14th @ 2pm & 8pm, Sun. 15th @ 1:30pm & 7pm
Kids' Night on Broadway (March 11)
Sponsored by Wilde Lexus of Sarasota & ABC 7

Anything Goes
Mar. 16, 2015 @ 8PM
Sponsored by Wilde Lexus of Sarasota & ABC 7

The Manhattan Transfer
March 18, 2015 @ 8pm

Itzhak Perlman
Mar. 21, 2015 @8PM
Part of the Van Wezel Foundation Series and sponsored by WUSF Public Media

Audra McDonald
Mar. 22, 2015 @ 7pm
Sponsored by Sarasota Bay Rotary Club and Sarasota Magazine

Jackie Evancho
Mar. 24, 2015 @ 7:30pm
Sponsored by The Pittsburgh Pirates/ The Bradenton Marauders

Cesar Millan LIVE!
Mar. 26, 2015 @ 8pm
Part of the Van Wezel Foundation Series and sponsored by SRQ Media Group

Flashdance
Apr. 1 & 2, 2015 @ 8PM
Sponsored by Wilde Lexus of Sarasota & ABC 7

The Temptations and The Four Tops
Apr. 3, 2015 @ 8pm
Sponsored by Wilde Lexus of Sarasota SNN Suncoast News Network

Memphis
Apr. 4, 2015 @ 8PM

Boz Scaggs
Apr. 9, 2015 @ 8pm
Sponsored by Wilde Lexus of Sarasota

Johnny Mathis
Apr. 12, 2015 @ 7pm

Chris Botti
Apr. 17, 2015 @ 8pm
Part of the Boar's Head Family Series & sponsored by SNN Suncoast News Network

Robert Irvine LIVE!
Apr. 18, 2015 @ 8pm
Part of the Herald-Tribune Media Group's Cultural Series and sponsored by Bright House Networks

Roberta Flack
Apr. 22, 2015 @ 7pm
Sponsored by Grant's Gardens and Bradenton Herald

Rain: A Tribute to the Beatles
Apr. 23, 2015 @ 8PM

Celtic Woman – 10th Anniversary Celebration
Apr. 24, 2015 @ 7:30pm
Sponsored by Wilde Lexus of Sarasota

Kathy Griffin
Apr. 26, 2015 @ 7pm
Part of the Van Wezel Foundation Series & Part of the Herald-Tribune Media Group's Comedy Series

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