



NEWS RELEASE

ARIZONA MUSICFEST ANNOUNCES THE CANCELLATION OF ITS 2020/21 CONCERT SEASON. DUE TO MULTIPLE CONSIDERATIONS AND CHALLENGES RELATED TO COVID-19, MUSICFEST INTENDS TO POSTPONE THIS SEASON'S ARTISTS INTO NEXT SEASON, AND TO PIVOT TO ALTERNATIVE PERFORMANCE PROGRAMMING IN THE COMING MONTHS.



November 23, 2020

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PR Assets: To obtain hi-res press photos or other promotional assets of the organization, please click [Musicfest PR Assets](#)

Special Note to the Media: Arizona Musicfest is deeply grateful to the many media outlets who have already featured Musicfest's 2020/21 season announcement and related concert listings in their publications. Further, we recognize that there are additional outlets who are currently under deadline for editorial and/or calendar posts related to Arizona Musicfest's season news. We are truly sorry for any inconvenience or complications today's cancellation news may cause for you, but we trust that you understand the difficult (and ever-changing) dynamics currently in play.

The following is Musicfest's official notice to its patrons, which was issued today, November 23, 2020:



It is with great disappointment that Arizona Musicfest announces the cancellation of the organization's advertised 2020/21 concert season.

In the face of unprecedented challenges, the organization worked hard to responsibly produce a special season that would both honor Musicfest's 30th Anniversary and provide our audiences with a safe and enjoyable way to experience live, indoor concerts.

Sadly, based on the current rise of COVID-19 cases, the likelihood of a prolonged public health crisis, as well as the anticipated timeline for vaccination dissemination to the general public, the management and Board of Directors of Arizona Musicfest have determined that it is not reasonable or responsible to go forward with our season plans. With primary concern for the health and safety of our patrons, combined with additional factors—all related to COVID-19—that continue to compromise and challenge our efforts, Arizona Musicfest is confident that this important decision has been made in the best interest of our community, our patrons and our organization.

While we are saddened not to be able to present the wonderful artists we intended for this season, we look forward to presenting all of these same artists either next season or as soon as their schedules will allow. Additionally, Musicfest looks forward to pivoting to alternative performance programming in the coming months. Stay tuned for further announcements about these special plans.

Finally, Arizona Musicfest is deeply grateful for our patrons' understanding and support as, together, we continue to navigate these troubled times.

For patrons who have already purchased tickets to Arizona Musicfest's 2020/21 concert season, refund requests may be made by completing the Patron Ticket Action Form on the Musicfest website (azmusicfest.org). This same form has been mailed to all ticket-holders. Patrons may also choose to contribute their ticket value as a tax-deductible contribution. Due to the volume of patrons receiving this message and Musicfest's efforts to effect an orderly and efficient process, Musicfest is not able to receive patron responses over the phone.



Bringing the Joy of Music to All!

ABOUT ARIZONA MUSICFEST:

Arizona Musicfest celebrates its 30th anniversary with the 2020-21 season. Based in North Scottsdale, Arizona Musicfest produces an annual concert season, as well as education, youth performance and lifelong learning programs.

Total season attendance for the recently completed 2019/20 season was 31,285. Recent guest artists have included Michael Bolton, Neil Sedaka, Vanessa Williams, Chris Botti, Michael Feinstein, Herb Alpert, Tony Danza, Pink Martini, violinists Joshua Bell, Gil Shaham, and Midori, Broadway legends Chita Rivera, Brian Stokes Mitchell and Tommy Tune, Country stars Wynonna Judd, Sara Evans, and Rosanne Cash, jazz greats Al Jarreau, The Manhattan Transfer, The Count Basie Orchestra, folk luminaries Judy Collins and Peter Yarrow, and blues legend Mavis Staples.

Each concert season also features the Musicfest Festival Orchestra, comprised of musicians from the New York Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, Boston Symphony, National Symphony, the Metropolitan Opera, and other leading orchestras of America.

Musicfest's education programs provided—at no charge—to area schools include Musicfest Strings, Musicfest Mariachi, Musicfest Winds, Musicfest Strummers, Music & Sound/Found & Around, Musicfest Jazz, and The Music of Arizona—the organization's signature multicultural program. Musicfest's Young Musicians Competitions, Young Musicians Performance Series, and the Musicfest College Scholarship Program serve the finest young musicians of the Valley, while Music Alive!, a unique lifelong learning and creative aging series, features dynamic programs for our community's older adults.

In the summer of 2020, Arizona Musicfest received national recognition when it was named a "High Performing Arts Organization" by DataArts/National Center for Arts Research.

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