



Arizona Musicfest

NEWS RELEASE

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ARIZONA MUSICFEST'S 29TH SEASON BRINGS SHOW-STOPPING LINEUP TO THE NORTH VALLEY The Stars Shine Brighter in North Scottsdale

The 29th annual Arizona Musicfest festival season brings a diverse lineup of exceptional artists to Valley audiences. Arizona Musicfest's 2019-20 Festival Season includes 27 performances from November 8 through March 13.

Festival highlights include Grammy award winner **Michael Bolton**; chart-topping, multi-talented entertainer **Vanessa Williams**; acclaimed country star **Sara Evans**; iconic TV, stage and screen celebrity **Tony Danza**; Musicfest favorites **Chris Botti** and **Michael Feinstein**; plus holiday concerts featuring **The 5 Browns** and **New York Voices**. Stellar ensembles coming to the Musicfest stage include the legendary **John Pizzarelli Trio**, **The Hot Sardines**, **Back to Bacharach**, as well as **Under the Streetlamp** performing classic hits with tight harmonies.

A **Salute to John Williams**, Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*, as well as works by Beethoven, Ravel and Rachmaninoff highlight this year's **Festival Orchestra Week** in February. Under the direction of Maestro Robert Moody, **The Festival Orchestra** is comprised of musicians from the nation's finest orchestras. Additional symphonic works include Elgar's *Enigma Variations*, featuring the stirring "Nimrod" movement, as well as Peter Boyer's *Ellis Island: The Dream of America*, which tells the dramatic stories of immigrants to our nation.

"We are thrilled to offer Musicfest audiences another exciting season filled with exceptional artists from across the music spectrum," said Arizona Musicfest Executive and Producing Director Allan Naplan. "While some artists are returning to the Musicfest stage, others are making their much-anticipated festival debuts. Combined, our line-up of diverse artists and musical genres offers something for everyone."

Tickets for all Arizona Musicfest performances go on sale July 15, 2019 at azmusicfest.org or by calling (480) 422-8449.

FALL FEST: NOV 8 – 22, 2019

VANESSA WILLIAMS

Fri. Nov. 8, 2019 7:30pm

Highlands Church, 9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale

\$86/\$66/\$49/\$39

Musicfest is thrilled to kick-off the new season with one of the most respected performers in entertainment today—**Vanessa Williams**, a multi-platinum recording artist, and star of television, film and Broadway. Acclaimed for her chart-topping signature hits, *Save the Best for Last* and the Academy Award-winning single *Colors of the Wind*, Williams is also well-loved for her popular roles on TV's *Ugly Betty* and *Desperate Housewives*.

PEDRO GIRAUDO TANGO QUARTET

Thurs. Nov. 14, 2019 7:30pm

Gathering Place at La Casa de Cristo Lutheran Church, 6300 E. Bell Road, Phoenix

\$59/\$39

Latin Grammy Award winner Pedro Giraudo is regarded as one of the most compelling tango artists today. His compositions represent the evolution of tango, from its traditional roots to a contemporary sound blended with jazz and classical, that respects the past and looks to the future. His quartet of virtuoso instrumentalists has played the main stages of the US, including Carnegie Hall, The Kennedy Center and Lincoln Center.

SARA EVANS

Sat. Nov. 16, 2019 7:30pm

Highlands Church, 9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale

\$79/\$61/\$47/\$34

Country star Sara Evans has been called one of the most compelling vocalists of her generation. Her "stunning, country voice" (*Rolling Stone*) has earned her the Academy of Country Music Top Female Vocalist accolade as well as numerous American Music Awards, Billboard Music Awards, Country Music Association, and Grammy Awards nominations. Her hits include *A Little Bit Stronger*, *Born to Fly*, *Suds in the Bucket* and *No Place That Far*.

YOUNG MUSICIANS FALL CONCERT

Sun. Nov. 17, 2019 2pm

Musical Instrument Museum, 4725 E. Mayo Blvd., Phoenix

\$20

Arizona's brightest young classical musicians showcase their astounding virtuosity, technique and prodigious musicianship. Committed to promoting these rising stars, Arizona Musicfest is proud to showcase these extraordinary young artists in a concert that is sure to delight and entertain you. *Presented in collaboration with the Musical Instrument Museum.*

NEIL BERG'S 50 YEARS OF ROCK & ROLL

Fri. Nov. 22, 2019 7:30pm

Highlands Church, 9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale

\$69/\$55/\$38/\$26

Featuring a cast of stars from Broadway's greatest rock musicals, as well as incredible Rock & Roll singers, Neil Berg shares the often unknown stories from the fifty-year history of the music that changed the world forever. Journey from the 40s through the 80s with fascinating stories, groundbreaking music, and tributes to some of the most famous artists of all time. It's a night you'll never forget!

HOLIDAY FEST – DEC 5-14, 2019

NEW YORK VOICES: LET IT SNOW

Thurs. Dec. 5, 2019 7:30pm

Highlands Church, 9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale

\$69/\$55/\$38/\$26

Known for their close-knit voicings, inspired arrangements and unparalleled vocal blend, New York Voices are the leading vocal jazz ensemble of their generation. Based on their acclaimed 2013 release, *Let it Snow* features holiday favorites and a few lesser known gems. Swing into the holidays with the group the Boston Herald called "the most exciting vocal ensemble in current jazz."

THE 5 BROWNS: A FAMILY CHRISTMAS

Sat. Dec. 14, 2019 7:30pm

Highlands Church, 9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale

\$69/\$55/\$38/\$26

Celebrate the holidays with The 5 Browns, the acclaimed Juilliard-trained sibling piano quintet that's been featured on *Oprah*, *60 Minutes*, *The Tonight Show*, and in their own PBS concert special. The *New York Post*

proclaimed "One family, five pianos and 50 fingers add up to the biggest classical music sensation in years." An extraordinary holiday experience featuring beloved holiday music.

WINTER FEST: JAN 18 – MAR 13, 2020

UNDER THE STREETLAMP

Sat. Jan. 18, 2020 7:30pm

Highlands Church, 9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale

\$79/\$61/\$47/\$34

Under the Streetlamp performs an electrifying evening of classic hits from the American Radio Songbook, featuring a unique blend of tight harmonies and slick dance moves from Doo-Wop, Motown, and old time rock & roll. Comprised of former cast members from Broadway's *Jersey Boys*, Under the Streetlamp is acclaimed for their live performances, as well as their three popular PBS specials.

GLEN BURTNIK'S SUMMER OF LOVE CONCERT

Mon. Jan 20, 2020 7:30pm

Highlands Church, 9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale

\$69/\$55/\$38/\$26

Celebrate the songs of the Woodstock generation! The Summer of Love Concert features iconic rock music from between 1967's release of The Beatles Sgt. Pepper's album and the Woodstock Music Festival of 1969. Created by Glen Burtnik, alumnus of Styx and Beatlemania, the concert features hits from The Rolling Stones, The Beatles, The Doors, Jefferson Airplane, Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix, Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young and much more!

TONY DANZA: STANDARDS & STORIES

Fri. Jan. 24, 2020 7:30pm

Highlands Church, 9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale

\$79/\$61/\$47/\$34

The iconic star of TV, stage, and screen, Tony Danza and his four-piece band bring their hit show to Arizona Musicfest. Combining timeless music with wit, charm, storytelling, and a dash of soft shoe and ukulele performances, Danza performs his favorite standards from the Great American Songbook while interweaving stories about his life and personal connection to the music. Danza "radiates irresistible charm" raves *The New York Times*.

JOHN PIZZARELLI TRIO: FOR CENTENNIAL REASONS: 100 YEAR SALUTE TO NAT KING COLE

Mon. Jan. 27, 2020 7:30pm

Highlands Church, 9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale

\$79/\$61/\$47/\$34

World-renowned guitarist and singer John Pizzarelli has established himself as a leading contemporary interpreter of the Great American Songbook. With this show, Pizzarelli returns to his roots to honor his hero, Nat King Cole, the legendary jazz/pop vocalist and pianist. The trio performs Cole favorites, including *Route 66*, *Straighten Up and Fly Right*, *The Very Thought of You*, *When I Fall in Love* and more

CHRIS BOTTI

Fri. Jan. 31, 2020 7:30pm

Highlands Church, 9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale

\$86/\$66/\$49/\$39

Musicfest favorite Chris Botti returns for another enchanting evening featuring his uniquely expressive sound and soaring musical imagination. The largest-selling American instrumental artist, Botti's crossover success has led to four #1 jazz albums, multiple Gold and Platinum albums, as well as a Grammy award. With acclaimed performances around the globe, Chris Botti has thoroughly established himself as one of the important, innovative figures of the contemporary music world.

BACK TO BACHARACH

Sat. Feb. 8, 2020 7:30pm

Highlands Church, 9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale

\$69/\$55/\$38/\$26

Making their US debut, internationally acclaimed Back to Bacharach features stars of the West End with the Magic Moments Orchestra. Celebrate Burt Bacharach ("The Hitmaker"), with this non-stop parade of hits, including *Alfie*, *What The World Needs Now*, *Do You Know The Way To San Jose*, *The Look of Love*, *That's What Friends Are For*, *Raindrops Keep Falling On My Head* and more. You're never more than one song away from another classic!

MozART GROUP

Sun. Feb. 9, 2020 3pm

Pinnacle Presbyterian Church, 25150 N. Pima Road, Scottsdale

\$59/\$49

A string quartet that makes you laugh? It's no joke! Known throughout the world for their brilliant blending of classical music and sublime comedy, the MozART Group is an ingenious fountain of noble craziness. Comprised of exceptional classical musicians, their uproarious vignettes will fill the hall with laughter and great music.

THE HOT SARDINES

Tues. Feb 11, 2020 7:30pm

Highlands Church, 9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale

\$69/\$55/\$38/\$26

Glamorous and gritty, brassy and cool, The Hot Sardines are hailed as "Simply phenomenal" (*Forbes*). Whether effortlessly channeling New York speakeasies, Parisian cabarets, or New Orleans jazz halls, this snappy group brings people together with a joyful sound. Fronted by the sweet and sassy vocals of Elizabeth Bougerol, and bandleader Evan Palazzo, The Hot Sardines are redefining vintage swing for the new age.

MICHAEL FEINSTEIN: A SPECIAL VALENTINE IN SONG

Fri. Feb. 14, 2020 7:30pm

Highlands Church, 9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale

\$86/\$66/\$49/\$39

One of the most important musical figures of our time, Michael Feinstein, backed by a 17-piece big band, returns to Musicfest for a romantic evening of classic love songs. From his early days as assistant to Ira Gershwin, to multiple Grammy nominations, PBS specials, and concerts around the world, Feinstein has built a dazzling career as an all-star force in American music.

FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA WEEK, Feb. 16-23

FESTIVAL SINFONIA: BEETHOVEN'S 7th & A MASS FOR PEACE

Sun. Feb. 16, 2020 3pm

Pinnacle Presbyterian Church, 25150 N. Pima Road, Scottsdale

\$79/\$52

As Beethoven's 250th birthday year begins, Musicfest honors the Master by performing his exuberant Symphony #7, music that celebrated the soldiers who triumphed over Napoleon's army. War is also central to Karl Jenkins' riveting choral work, *The Armed Man, A Mass for Peace*. With songs, religious texts, and poetry, the work conveys the harsh reality of war, ending with a poignant hope for peace. This concert also features the Festival Chorus.

MUSIC OF LA MANCHA

Tues. Feb. 18, 2020 7:30pm

La Casa de Cristo Church

\$86/\$69/\$54/\$37/\$25

Maestro Robert Moody leads the Festival Orchestra in music inspired by Cervantes' masterpiece *Don Quixote*. Maurice Ravel's setting for a vocal soloist (baritone Gordon Hawkins) embraces Spanish dance themes, while Richard Strauss's tone poem with cellist Zuill Bailey vividly narrates the epic story. Finally, music from Broadway features the knight errant, joined by Sancho Panza and Aldonza, as he pursues *The Impossible Dream*.

PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION & RACHMANINOFF

Thurs. Feb. 20, 2020 7:30pm

La Casa de Cristo Church, 6300 E. Bell Road, Phoenix

\$86/\$69/\$54/\$37/\$25

An all-Russian program begins with Borodin's exhilarating Polovetsian Dances, followed by Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 4, featuring the prodigiously-talented Samuel Xu, an alumnus of Musicfest's acclaimed young musicians program. Maestro Moody and the Orchestra complete the tour with one of the greatest works of the symphonic canon, Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition, which paints vibrant scenes through powerful and evocative music.

SALUTE TO JOHN WILLIAMS

Fri. Feb. 21, 2020 7:30pm

La Casa de Cristo Church, 6300 E. Bell Road, Phoenix

\$86/\$69/\$54/\$37/\$25

Movie fans rejoice when they see "music by John Williams" in the opening credits. For decades, Williams' iconic compositions have transported audiences to wondrous cinematic worlds. Musicfest celebrates the work of one of America's most accomplished and successful film composers with favorite selections from *Jurassic Park*, the *Harry Potter* movies, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *Star Wars* and more.

ENIGMA VARIATIONS & ELLIS ISLAND: THE DREAM OF AMERICA

Sun. Feb. 23, 2020 3pm

La Casa de Cristo Church, 6300 E. Bell Road, Phoenix

\$86/\$69/\$54/\$37/\$25

Throughout history, composers have told the stories of people—their lives and dreams, their journeys. Edward Elgar brilliantly depicted his friends in the *Enigma* Variations, which has at its heart the stirring movement, "Nimrod". Peter Boyer's *Ellis Island: Dream of America* tells the dramatic stories of immigrants through first-person portrayals by actors, a gripping musical score, and powerful imagery.

MICHAEL BOLTON

Thurs. Feb. 27, 2020 7:30pm

Highlands Church, 9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale

\$89/\$75/\$55/\$45

Arizona Musicfest is honored to present multiple Grammy winning artist Michael Bolton. With more than 65 million records sold worldwide, Bolton's Musicfest concert will feature arrangements of the artist's greatest hits from his new album, *A Symphony of Hits*, including *When A Man Loves a Woman*, *How Am I Supposed To Live Without You*, *Soul Provider* and many more.

YOUNG MUSICIANS WINTER CONCERT

Sun. Feb. 29, 2020 2pm

Musical Instrument Museum, 4725 E. Mayo Blvd., Phoenix

\$20

Don't miss your chance to hear the stars of tomorrow...today! Featuring some of the best young classical talent in Arizona, this concert will delight you as these superb musicians showcase their astounding musical talent, maturity and artistry. *Presented in collaboration with the Musical Instrument Museum.*

ANN HAMPTON CALLAWAY: THE LINDA RONSTADT SONGBOOK

Mon. Mar. 2, 2020 7:30pm

Highlands Church, 9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale

\$79/\$61/\$47/\$34

Celebrate the music of Linda Ronstadt, when beloved cabaret singer-songwriter Ann Hampton Callaway returns to Musicfest to perform classics from Ronstadt's multi-faceted career. From *Desperado*, *Long, Long Time*, *Somewhere Out There* and other favorites, Callaway offers insight into the music and the artist, based on her personal relationship with Ronstadt. As with last year's acclaimed Streisand tribute, Callaway will again craft a loving and familiar portrait of another legendary performer.

ONE NIGHT IN MEMPHIS

Thurs., Mar. 5, 2020 7:30pm

Highlands Church, 9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale

\$69/\$55/\$38/\$26

There's a whole lot of shakin' going on! when One Night in Memphis takes you back to December 4, 1956, the night when four of the biggest names in rock & roll—Elvis Presley, Carl Perkins, Jerry Lee Lewis and Johnny Cash – gathered for an impromptu jam session at Sun Studios in Memphis. This tribute to the iconic artists features classic favorites, including *Blue Suede Shoes*, *Great Balls of Fire*, *I Walk the Line*, and more!

STEEP CANYON RANGERS

Mon., Mar. 9, 2020 7:30pm

Highlands Church, 9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale

\$59/\$45/\$38/\$26

Steep Canyon Rangers has spent nearly two decades bending and shaping the bluegrass aesthetic, wedding it to elements of pop, country, and folk rock to create something original. Frequent collaborators with comedian/banjoist Steve Martin, the Grammy® Award-winning sextet's newest album, *Out in the Open*, affirms their place as one of the most versatile bands in contemporary American music.

BLUES BROTHERS REVUE

Fri. Mar. 13, 2020 7:30pm

Highlands Church, 9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale

\$69/\$55/\$38/\$26

There have been many imitators, but only one duo is sanctioned by Dan Aykroyd and Judith Belushi to don the official hat and sunglasses and walk in the legendary footsteps of Jake and Elwood Blues. Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the original Blues Brothers movie, Wayne Catania and Kieron Lafferty, backed by a powerhouse band, capture the infectious humor and unbridled spirit of the Blues Brothers. Enjoy a night of laughter, dancing, and foot-stompin' fun at our Festival Finale!

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High resolution photos: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/s84pccu5bfjnbmk/AABMrTCWkoiUAOhExqCGTfYsa?dl=0>

About Arizona Musicfest: Founded in 1991, **Arizona Musicfest**, a secular non-profit arts organization based in North Scottsdale, produces an annual concert festival as well as important music education programs, youth performance opportunities and a community lifelong learning series for the Greater Phoenix area. With a commitment to presenting world-class artists in accessible and convenient locations, each season the Festival showcases a diverse line-up of celebrity and distinguished guest musicians, as well as the acclaimed Arizona Musicfest Festival Orchestra under the direction of Maestro Robert Moody. This exceptional ensemble features players from the New York Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, Boston Symphony, the National Symphony, the Metropolitan Opera, and other top US orchestras. The Festival Orchestra is in residency for one week during the annual Festival.

Arizona Musicfest's extensive music education and youth performance programs touch approximately 6,000 children each year. Along with the organization's many in-school programs presented free of charge to five local school districts, over the last three years, Arizona Musicfest has also provided over \$30,000 in free instruments to area schools and has contributed over \$90,000 in college scholarships to local Valley teens pursuing collegiate degrees in music performance.

Arizona Musicfest's six Young Musician Competitions (piano, voice, strings, chamber ensembles, brass and woodwinds) and the related Young Musician Performance Series annually attract some of the brightest young stars from throughout the Valley. For more information, visit azmusicfest.org.