



Website: www.azmusicfest.org • Box Office: (480) 422-8449

NEWS RELEASE / CALENDAR LISTING

ARIZONA MUSICFEST ANNOUNCES ITS 2020-21 CONCERT SEASON. CELEBRATING ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY, MUSICFEST PRODUCES AN EXCITING LINE-UP OF CONCERTS. PINK MARTINI, CLASSICAL MUSIC ICON EMANUEL AX, THE TEXAS TENORS, AND BROADWAY'S JOHN LLOYD YOUNG HEADLINE THE SPECIAL SEASON.

July 2020

Media Contact:

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Press Note:

A calendar directory follows the release's narrative overview

2020-21 CONCERT SEASON

NOTE: Arizona Musicfest annually produces concerts between November and March. Due to COVID-19, Arizona Musicfest will not perform concerts in the fall of 2020, nor during the 2020 holiday season. Musicfest will instead produce a reduced season between January and April 2021.

RAY ON MY MIND

January 12, 2021 • 8pm

Highlands Church (9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale)

-A special theatrical concert honoring the American music legend.

The music and life story of the great Ray Charles comes alive in this special theatrical concert. Portraying Ray, master pianist/vocalist Kenny Brawner leads his 11-piece orchestra and three sultry vocalists (a la the Raelettes) in a musical journey through the American legend's most popular hits. From *What'd I Say?* and *I Got a Woman*, to *Mess Around* and the classic *Georgia On My Mind*, the iconic music is interwoven with monologues depicting how gospel, blues, country and jazz influenced Ray's singular style.

STEVE TYRELL

January 22, 2021 • 8pm

Highlands Church (9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale)

- One of the leading contemporary purveyors of classic American standards.

Grammy Award-winning vocalist **Steve Tyrell** has reinvented and re-popularized classic pop standards for a modern audience. His breakthrough performances in *Father of the Bride* and *Father of the Bride II*, coupled with his popular interpretations of *The Way You Look Tonight*, *The Simple Life*, *I've Got a Crush on You*, and *On the Sunny Side of the Street*, have made Tyrell well-known for his signature flair, rich voice and unique musical phrasings.

"Tyrell is one of the main contemporary purveyors of standards on the pop landscape." – *Los Angeles Times*

THE McCARTNEY YEARS

January 25, 2021 • 4:30pm & 8pm

Highlands Church (9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale)

-Celebrating the music of Paul McCartney, from The Beatles to Wings.

Hailed by the original Beatles promoter as "the best on the scene", **The McCartney Years** is a period-true, technically stunning and explosive live concert showcasing Paul McCartney's beloved music, from **The Beatles to Wings**.

Featuring *Hey Jude*, *Jet*, *Let It Be*, *Band On the Run*, *The Long and Winding Road*, *Live and Let Die*, *Lady Madonna*, and many other hits, all McCartney tunes are performed in their original arrangements by an extraordinary band that has entertained audiences around the world.

PINK MARTINI

February 1, 2021 • 4:30 pm & 8pm

Highlands Church (9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale)

- The Biggest Little Orchestra Around!

Musicfest is thrilled to welcome back **Pink Martini**, the "Biggest Little Orchestra Around"! Drawing inspiration from music from all over the world, Pink Martini mesmerizes audiences with their elegant arrangements combining Latin, jazz, and cabaret styles into stimulating retro-pop ensembles. The band draws inspiration from the romantic Hollywood musicals of the 1940s and '50s, as well as from Argentine tango, Brazilian samba, and Italian folk, all combining together to create an eclectic, modern sound. According to bandleader/pianist Thomas Lauderdale, "If the United Nations had a house band in 1962, Pink Martini would be that band."

CALLAWAY SISTERS IN “SIBLING REVELRY”

February 9, 2021 • 8pm

Highlands Church (9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale)

- The Tony-nominated Callaway sisters are one singular sensation!

When Tony-nominated sisters **Ann Hampton Callaway** and **Liz Callaway** combine musical forces, they put the revelry into rivalry in this award winning show of great songs and witty banter. **Sibling Revelry** was first presented at New York’s Rainbow and Stars, garnered raves at The Donmar Warehouse in London, and is now regularly heard in concert around the country, as well as on their best-selling CD. From performing Broadway showstoppers to jazz and pop standards, the Callaway sisters are one singular sensation!

"When their strikingly different but equally splendid voices harmonize, Sibling Revelry becomes a thrilling display of vocal prowess." – *The New York Times*

A STAR IS BORN: The Concert

February 16, 2021 • 4:30pm & 8pm

Highlands Church (9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale)

-Three legendary icons. Three beloved movies. One epic concert celebration.

Three legendary icons. Three beloved movies. Three best-selling soundtrack albums. One epic concert celebration. Judy Garland, Barbra Streisand and Lady Gaga each stole our hearts with “**A Star is Born.**” Now a trio of Broadway/cabaret’s best voices join forces to celebrate the music from all three iconic film versions. In addition to signature tunes from *A Star is Born*, the concert also pays tribute to other classic films about stars being born, with songs from *The Rose*, *Funny Girl*, *New York, New York* and more.

IGUDESMAN & JOO – “Play It Again”

February 22, 2021 • 4:30pm & 8pm

La Casa de Cristo Church (6300 E Bell Rd, Scottsdale)

- World-renowned Classical music comedians.

World-renowned Classical music comedians **Igudesman & Joo** perform a topsy-turvy, upside-down, inside-out show. Equally acclaimed for performing in concert halls as well as in stadiums, their infectious zaniness and virtuosity has made them audience favorites the world over. Following in the footsteps of luminaries such as Victor Borge and Dudley Moore, in “Play It Again”, Igudesman & Joo bring their special brand of inspired lunacy to the stage in this hilarious comedy program that somehow begins and ends with audience-chosen encores.

TONY DeSARE

February 26, 2021 • 4:30pm & 8pm

Highlands Church (9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale)

-Swingin’ on the Vegas Strip.

Tony DeSare returns to Musicfest for a night on the Vegas Strip. Inspired by the spirit and energy of the peak era of live musical entertainment in Las Vegas, Tony will perform swinging classic jazz and pop

standards ranging from Frank Sinatra and Count Basie to Prince, Elton John, the Beatles and more. A favorite guest artist with Pops orchestras around the country, Tony has four top ten Billboard jazz albums under his belt and has performed in Vegas many times with the late, great legendary comedian, Don Rickles.

EMANUEL AX

March 11 & 12, 2021 • 8pm

La Casa de Cristo Church (6300 E Bell Rd, Scottsdale)

- One of the world's finest pianists!

Arizona Musicfest is honored to present one of the world's finest pianists. Since he first came to public attention in 1974, **Emanuel Ax** has been a prominent figure on the classical music scene—as a performer and as a recording artist. Ax has garnered seven Grammy Awards and has been featured in concert with all of the world's leading orchestras. Recent engagements have included his performances with the Vienna Philharmonic, London Symphony, New York Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra and more.

“His greatness, his overwhelming authority as musician, technician and probing intellect emerges quickly as he plays.” *Los Angeles Times*

NEIL BERG'S 50 YEARS OF ROCK & ROLL – PART 2

March 15, 2021 • 4:30pm & 8pm

Highlands Church (9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale)

- A celebration of the music that changed the world forever!

Back by popular demand, **Neil Berg** returns to Musicfest for Part 2 of his outstanding rock and roll retrospective. In a performance that “makes you feel 18 again”, this rock and roll party traces the progenitors of the 1940s, through the glory years of the '50s, '60s, '70s and early '80s. Along with an all-star band and some of Broadway's greatest rock and roll singers, Neil Berg shares the often unknown stories from the fifty-year history of the music that changed the world forever!

THE TEXAS TENORS

March 22, 2021 • 4:30pm & 8pm

Highlands Church (9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale)

- America's favorite tenors!

The Texas Tenors are the most successful music group and the third highest selling artist in the history of America's Got Talent! With repertoire ranging from country to pop and Broadway to classical, The Texas Tenors have garnered awards, acclaim, and an international network of fans with their chart-topping albums and their Emmy-winning PBS specials. Their most recent album *A Collection of Broadway and American Classics* debuted at #1, making this all-American trio 2019 Billboard Magazine's #10 *Classical Artist in the World*.

JOHN LLOYD YOUNG

April 6, 2021 • 8pm

Highlands Church (9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale)

- Broadway's original Jersey Boy.

John Lloyd Young is the Tony and Grammy award-winning Frankie Valli from Broadway's *Jersey Boys*, as well as the star of the Clint Eastwood directed Warner Bros film. Young's concert is a celebration of classic hits from the '50s and '60s presented in the authentic style of original rock 'n' roll, Doo-Wop and R&B standards. Along with tracks from Young's debut album *My Turn*, the show features *Sherry*, *Can't Take My Eyes Off of You*, and *In the Still of the Night*, along with treasures from Roy Orbison, the Righteous Brothers, Elvis, Tom Jones and more.

THE OFFICIAL BLUES BROTHERS REVUE

April 12, 2021 • 4:30pm & 8pm

Highlands Church (9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale)

- A night of laughter, dancing, and foot-stompin' fun!

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. 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! *This concert replaces the ensemble's March 2019 Musicfest concert, which was cancelled due to COVID-19.*

MUSICFEST YOUNG MUSICIANS CONCERT

Date TBD • Time TBD

Musical Instrument Museum (4725 E Mayo Blvd, Phoenix)

- Virtuosity from the start!

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 present these extraordinary young artists in a concert that is sure to delight and entertain you.

FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA WEEK

April 19-23 • Specific Dates and Times TBA

La Casa de Cristo Church (6300 E Bell Rd, Scottsdale)

- Where music's finest come to play!

Each year, Arizona Musicfest assembles some of the nation's finest orchestral musicians to perform as the **Festival Orchestra**—the jewel in Musicfest's crown. Under the direction of **Music Director Robert Moody**, this exceptional ensemble typically performs five concerts in one week. Because of these unprecedented times, the orchestra will perform a reduced number of concerts this season. *Specific*

concert details TBA. While some changes are necessary, rest assured, it will remain one of the highest level Festival Orchestras in the world, offering creative and exciting concert programs.

Patron/Press Alert: Due to uncertainties related to COVID-19, all artists, performance dates and other issues related to Arizona Musicfest’s concert season are subject to change. Please consult www.azmusicfest.org for the most current concert season information.

CALENDAR DIRECTORY

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ADDRESS	9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale

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VENUE	Arizona Musicfest at Highlands Church
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DATE	TBA, 2021
TIME/S	TBA
CONCERT NAME	MUSICFEST YOUNG MUSICIANS CONCERT
VENUE	Musical Instrument Museum
ADDRESS	4725 E Mayo Blvd, Phoenix

DATE	April 19-23, 2021 (<i>multiple concerts</i>)
TIME/S	TBA
CONCERT NAME	ARIZONA MUSICFEST FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA
VENUE	Arizona Musicfest at La Casa de Cristo Church
ADDRESS	6300 E Bell Rd, Scottsdale

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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 for 28 concerts. 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, Philadelphia Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, Boston Symphony, National Symphony, the Metropolitan Opera, and other top 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.

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