Arizona Musicfest

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NEWS RELEASE / CALENDAR LISTINGS

ARIZONA MUSICFEST ANNOUNCES ITS 2021-22 CONCERT SEASON. CELEBRATING THE RETURN OF LIVE INDOOR PERFORMANCES, MUSICFEST PRODUCES AN EXCITING LINE-UP OF CONCERTS NOVEMBER THROUGH APRIL.

LEGENDARY SINGER/SONGWRITER PAUL ANKA; BROADWAY ICON BERNADETTE PETERS; SUPERSTAR INSTRUMENTALIST KENNY G; COUNTRY MUSIC FAVORITE LEANN RIMES; BRAZILIAN LEGEND SERGIO MENDES; CLASSICAL VIRTUOSOS SARAH CHANG AND EMANUEL AX; PINK MARTINI AND THE TEXAS TENORS HEADLINE THE SPECIAL SEASON.

June 2021

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Photo Requests:

PR Assets can also be obtained at the following link: https://azmusicfest.org/pr-assets/
To obtain further press materials, please email requests to pr@azmusicfest.org.

ARIZONA MUSICFEST 2021-22 CONCERT SEASON

Tickets are now on sale for Arizona Musicfest's 31st anniversary season—***The Stars Return to Musicfest!***

With great excitement and anticipation, Arizona Musicfest announces a starry lineup of exceptional artists to celebrate the return of live indoor concerts in North Scottsdale. Following the challenges and disappointments of last season, Musicfest is thrilled to regroup and renew its commitment to *bringing the joy of music to all*. In its largest season ever, Musicfest will produce 30 concerts between November and April. "As our community emerges from the difficulties of the last year, we are honored to engage and entertain audiences with exceptional performances that will uplift and reunite friends, neighbors, and artists around our shared love of music." Allan Naplan, Arizona Musicfest's executive and producing director, said. This special season's lineup includes many great artists, some making their Musicfest debuts, while others returning due to popular demand.

Featured artists include Paul Anka, Bernadette Peters, Kenny G, LeAnn Rimes, Sergio Mendes, Sarah Chang, and Emanuel Ax, as well as Pink Martini, Broadway's John Lloyd Young, and The Texas Tenors. The season also features the Festival Orchestra, comprised of musicians from some of the nation's finest orchestras. **For Tickets: (480) 422-8449 / azmusicfest.org.**

Click images to link to showpages

ABBA, The Concert
Nov 1, 2021 – 7:30pm
Highlands Church (9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale)
Tickets: $111/87/59/49

The World's Top ABBA Tribute Show

Sweden's **ABBA The Concert** continues its reign as the top ABBA tribute group in the world, dazzling audiences with fantastic performances of iconic hits like *Mamma Mia; S.O.S; Money, Money, Money; The Winner Takes It All; Waterloo; Gimme, Gimme, Gimme;* and *Dancing Queen*. All those fans at sold-out concerts at the Hollywood Bowl, Wolf Trap, and Ravinia can't be wrong: this is the closest to ABBA you'll ever get! You can dance, you can sing, having the time of your life at the opening night of Arizona Musicfest's 2021-22 concert season.

LEANN RIMES
Nov 13, 2021 – 7:30pm
Highlands Church (9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale)
Tickets: $84/64/49

International multi-platinum-selling artist **LeAnn Rimes** is an acclaimed singer and songwriter. At age 14, Rimes won the Grammy® Award for "Best New Artist," making her the youngest recipient to take home that prize. With her hit rendition of Blue, Rimes was launched in the global spotlight. Her singles *How Do I Live, Can't Fight The Moonlight*, and *I Need You* established her as one of the leading country artists of her generation. Today, with a more experienced and soulful outlook, Rimes has emerged as a mature artist whose songwriting ability shines as brightly as her vocal prowess.

BRIA SKONBERG
Nov 15, 2021 – 7:30pm
Gathering Place, La Casa de Cristo Church (6300 E. Bell Rd, Scottsdale)
Tickets: $59/39

Described as "one of the most versatile and imposing musicians of her generation" (*Wall Street Journal*), jazz trumpeter and vocalist **Bria Skonberg** is in high demand. From the premier jazz festivals of New Orleans and Monterey to Newport and Montreal, Skonberg stands at the forefront of the America's jazz revival. Named a "Rising Star" by Downbeat, she's earned additional recognition with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Swing Award and Canada's Juno Award for Best Vocal Jazz Album.

"Ms. Skonberg has become the shining hope of hot jazz" – *New York Times*

RAY ON MY MIND
Nov 19, 2021 – 7:30pm
Highlands Church (9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale)
Tickets: $72/53/35

The music and life story of the great Ray Charles come alive in this special theatrical concert. Master pianist and vocalist Kenny Brawner, portraying Ray, leads his 11-piece orchestra and three sultry vocalists (à la the Raelettes) on 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 revealing how gospel, blues, country and jazz influenced Ray's singular style.

YOUNG MUSICIANS FALL CONCERT
Nov 21 – 2pm
Musical Instrument Museum
Tickets: $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.

THE CHRISTMAS SERENAD3
Dec 3, 2021 – 7:30pm
Highlands Church (9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale)
Tickets: $84/64/49

The Serenad3 is a powerhouse vocal trio of dynamic world-renowned singers Fernando Varela (*America's Got Talent*), Craig Irvin, and Devin Eatmon. Known for their acclaimed collaborations with David Foster, Gloria Estefan, Voctave, and Pia Toscano, The Serenad3 became a viral sensation through their popular video performances of *Mary Did You Know?, Carol of the Bells, O Holy Night,* and *Silent Night.* Joined by piano sensation **William Joseph** and a chamber orchestra, The Serenad3 will sing in the holidays with a special concert featuring beloved Christmas favorites.

A BRASSY CHRISTMAS
The Rodney Marsalis Philadelphia Big Brass
Dec 10, 2021 – 7:30pm
Gathering Place, La Casa de Cristo Church

Tickets: $66/49/36/29

The Trumpets Shall Sound...as well as trombones, French horns and a tuba, when America's premier large brass ensemble performs beloved Christmas music and other favorites. Born into the first family of American jazz, Rodney Marsalis began trumpet lessons at age six and continued under the tutelage of his cousin, Wynton. Identified early on as a trumpet prodigy, Rodney has performed as soloist with orchestras around the world. Now, joined by ten premier musicians, **The Rodney Marsalis Philadelphia Big Brass** will celebrate the glorious sounds of holiday brass.

CHRIS MANN
Celebrates the Tony Bennett Songbook
Jan 7, 2022 – 7:30pm
Highlands Church (9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale)
Tickets: $84/64/49

One of the most sought-after talents in the entertainment industry, **Chris Mann** is a top selling recording artist, singer, songwriter, and actor. Hailed as "a bona fide breakout star!" (*Huffington Post*), Mann has received popular acclaim from his portrayal as the title character in *The Phantom of the Opera*, his popular PBS specials, appearances on NBC's *The Voice*, and his entertaining musical parody videos. Joined by the Arizona Musicfest Big Band, Mann will celebrate the legendary music of Tony Bennett with songs from the Great American Songbook, Broadway, and the biggest pop hits of Bennett's most famous collaborators.

JOHN LLOYD YOUNG
Broadway's Jersey Boy
Jan 10, 2022 – 7:30pm
Highlands Church (9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale)
Tickets: $84/64/49

John Lloyd Young is the Tony and Grammy Award-winning "Frankie Valli" from Broadway's *Jersey Boys* and starred in the Warner Brothers film of the same name directed by Clint Eastwood. Young's concert celebrates classic hits from the '50s and '60s rock 'n' roll, Doo-Wop, and R&B. Along with songs 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 gems from Roy Orbison, the Righteous Brothers, Elvis, Tom Jones, and more.

BERNADETTE PETERS
Jan 28, 2022 – 7:30pm
Highlands Church (9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale)
Tickets: $111/87/59/49

Celebrated Star of Stage and Screen

Legendary Broadway star **Bernadette Peters** performs an evening of song from the Broadway shows she's received accolades for, as well as from her Grammy Award-winning and nominated albums including standards, Rodgers & Hammerstein, Stephen Sondheim, Jerry Herman, among others. A glamorous evening as only Bernadette Peters can do.

SERGIO MENDES
Jan 31, 2022 – 7:30pm
Highlands Church (9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale)
Tickets: $84/64/49

Legendary Brazilian Bandleader

Producer, composer, keyboardist, and vocalist, **Sergio Mendes** is one of the most internationally successful Brazilian artists of all time. His hit single, *Mas Que Nada*, was the first Portuguese language song to hit *Billboard*'s U.S. Pop chart and his signature sound mix of bossa nova and samba came to define Brazilian music. With a career spanning five decades, his enduring influence on the music industry continues to evolve. A three-time Grammy Award winner, Mendes has recorded more than 35 albums, with numerous gold and platinum discs among them.

STEVE TYRELL
Feb 4, 2022 – 7:30pm
Highlands Church (9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale)
Tickets: $84/64/49

Grammy Award-winning vocalist **Steve Tyrell** has reinvented and re-popularized classic 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*

A STAR IS BORN: The Concert
February 7, 2022 • 7:30pm
Highlands Church (9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale)
Tickets: $72/53/35

Three musical legends. Three iconic 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 the best voices from Broadway and cabaret celebrate the music from all three film versions. In addition to signature tunes from *A Star is Born*, the concert pays tribute to other classic films about emerging stars with songs from *New York, New York; The Rose; Funny Girl*; and more.

MUSIC CITY HIT-MAKERS
Feb 14, 2022 – 7:30pm
Highlands Church (9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale)
Tickets: $72/53/35

The Stars Behind the Stars of Country Music

Nothing epitomizes Nashville better than a songwriter and a musical vision. The members of **Music City Hit-Makers** are Grammy and ACM award-winning songwriters who have composed hit tunes for Nashville's biggest stars. In this unique concert, you'll hear classic and contemporary country favorites performed by their composers, accompanied by a chamber orchestra. Often referred to as "the most famous people you've never heard of," the Hit Makers will also take you behind the scenes with entertaining, personal stories of the music-making and personalities of Nashville's famed Music Row.

KENNY G
Feb 19, 2022 – 7:30pm
Highlands Church (9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale)
Tickets: $102/72/49

One of the Best-Selling Artists of All Time

Superstar saxophonist **Kenny G** has been a staple in pop and contemporary jazz since the 1980s, with crossover hits such as *Songbird* that have made him a worldwide fan favorite. Known for his expressive melodies, entrancing ballads, and emotional solos, Kenny G's global sales have topped 75 million records, making him one of music's best-selling artists. His *Breathless* still stands as the best-selling instrumental album of all time. Enjoy this special concert featuring the reigning king of smooth jazz.

FESTIVAL SINFONIA
Feb 20, 2022 – 2pm
Pinnacle Presbyterian Church (25150 N. Pima Rd. Scottsdale)
Tickets: $81/55

Bach, Vivaldi, and Mozart—three of the greatest composers of classical music. Join **Maestro Robert Moody** and the Festival Sinfonia for an intimate concert featuring the works of these masters. Bach's Orchestral Suite No. 3, which includes the intoxicating "Air on a G String," begins the program. Festival Orchestra member Jennifer Gunn (Chicago Symphony) joins the ensemble for Vivaldi's exquisite Piccolo Concert in C-Major. The concert concludes with Mozart's final symphony, his exuberant No. 41, nicknamed "Jupiter."

SARAH CHANG and the Festival Orchestra
Feb 22, 2022 – 7:30pm
La Casa de Cristo Church (6300 E. Bell Rd, Scottsdale)
Tickets: $94/74/58/41/25

Maestro Robert Moody leads the Festival Orchestra—comprised of players from the nation's finest orchestras—in a concert featuring acclaimed violin virtuoso **Sarah Chang**. A frequent soloist with the world's premiere ensembles, Chang will perform Bach's Concerto for Two Violins (partnering with the Orchestra's Concertmaster) and the beloved *West Side Story Suite*. The concert begins with two works by classical music's Nordic masters: Sibelius's *Finlandia* and Neilsen's Symphony No. 4, "The Inextinguishable," showcase the Festival Orchestra in works of great drama and power.

INON BARNATAN and the Festival Orchestra
Feb 24, 2022 – 7:30pm
La Casa de Cristo Church (6300 E. Bell Rd, Scottsdale)
Tickets: $89/70/59/39/25

Celebrated pianist **Inon Barnatan** is featured in Rachmaninoff's Concerto No. 2, a work that established him as a major composer and remains one of his most enduringly popular pieces. To close the program, the Orchestra performs a beloved work of the symphonic repertoire, Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade*. This exhilarating musical journey of love, intrigue and adventure prominently showcases nearly all of the Orchestra's principal players.

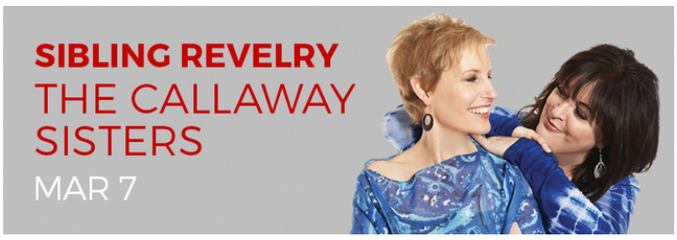
FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA POPS:
A Salute to Arizona and The Wild West
Feb 25, 2022 – 7:30pm
La Casa de Cristo Church (6300 E. Bell Rd, Scottsdale)
Tickets: $89/70/59/39/25

This season's Festival Orchestra POPS concert honors the proud Western and indigenous heritage of our state and region. From classical works plus film and TV scores that celebrate cowboys and the Wild West to music that evokes the majesty of the Grand Canyon, you'll want to be there when Maestro Moody saddles up the symphony for this entertaining evening.

BEETHOVEN'S 9TH – ODE TO JOY!
Feb 27, 2022 – 2pm
La Casa de Cristo Church (6300 E. Bell Rd, Scottsdale)

Tickets: $94/74/58/41/25

One of history's most powerful and inspiring artistic works, Symphony No. 9, the "Choral," is a monumental work of genius and joy. Beethoven's final symphonic composition, a masterpiece for orchestra, chorus and soloists, has had staggering and lasting influence across classical music. With its grand emotional melodies and uplifting "Ode to Joy" finale, the work resounds as loudly today as in centuries ago with its call for understanding, peace, and universal goodwill. The concert opens with Maestro Moody leading two engaging contemporary works inspired by Beethoven's magnum opus.



CALLAWAY SISTERS IN "SIBLING REVELRY"
Mar 7, 2022 • 7:30pm
Highlands Church (9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale)
Tickets: $72/53/35

The Callaway sisters are one singular sensation!

When Tony-nominated sisters **Ann Hampton Callaway** and **Liz Callaway** combine musical forces, they transform artistic rivalry into entertaining revelry in this award-winning show of great songs and witty banter. After debuting in 1995 at New York's Rainbow & Stars Club, *Sibling Revelry* garnered raves at The Donmar Warehouse in London and is now heard regularly in concert around the country, as well as on their best-selling CD. From Broadway showstoppers to jazz and pop standards, the Callaway sisters create 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*

PAUL ANKA: Anka Sings Sinatra
Mar 14, 2022 • 7:30pm
Highlands Church (9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale)
Tickets: $111/87/59/49

Arizona Musicfest is thrilled to present legendary singer/songwriter **Paul Anka**. About his Musicfest performance, Paul Anka notes "*my performance will honor a great artist who has influenced me more than anyone else throughout my career, Frank Sinatra. It will also feature the hits that have spanned my career on this 62nd anniversary year. It will be a night filled with his songs, my songs, my way!*"

PINK MARTINI
Featuring CHINA FORBES
Mar 22, 2022 • 7:30pm
La Casa de Cristo Church (6300 E. Bell Rd, Scottsdale)
Tickets: $102/74/58/41

The Biggest Little Orchestra Around!

Musicfest welcomes back Pink Martini, the "Biggest Little Orchestra Around"! Inspired by the romantic Hollywood musicals of the 1940s and '50s, as well as Argentine tango, Brazilian samba, and Italian folk, the band mesmerizes audiences with elegant arrangements to create an eclectic, modern sound. Recalling their origin and musical sourcing, bandleader and pianist Thomas Lauderdale says, "If the United Nations had a house band in 1962, Pink Martini would be that band."

NEIL BERG'S 50 YEARS OF ROCK & ROLL – PART 2
Mar 28, 2022 • 7:30pm
Highlands Church (9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale)
Tickets: $76/58/39

A celebration of the music that changed the world

Back by popular demand, **Neil Berg** returns to Musicfest for Part 2 of his spectacular rock and roll retrospective. Guaranteed to make you feel as if you're 18 again, this rock and roll party traces the musical progenitors of the 1940s through the glory years of the '50s, '60s, '70s, and early '80s. Performing with an all-star band and some of Broadway's greatest rock and roll singers, Neil Berg also shares the often unknown stories from the fifty-year history of the music that did indeed change the world!

THE TEXAS TENORS
Apr 1, 2022 • 7:30pm
Highlands Church (9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale)
Tickets: $84/64/49

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 Emmy-winning PBS specials. Their 2018 album *A Collection of Broadway and American Classics* debuted at #1 and vaulted this all-American trio to the 10th spot on *Billboard Magazine's* 2019 *Classical Artist in the World* listing.

THE McCARTNEY YEARS
Apr 4, 2022 • 7:30pm
Highlands Church (9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale)
Tickets: $72/53/35

The McCartney Years is a technically stunning, authentic explosive concert showcasing two decades of Paul McCartney's music from The Beatles to Wings. You'll hear *Hey Jude; Jet; Let It Be; Band On the Run; The Long and Winding Road; Live and Let Die*; and *Lady Madonna*—plus other McCartney favorites of the 60's and 70's—performed in their original arrangements by a band that has entertained audiences worldwide. Enjoy this musical celebration of one of the most prolific creative artists of all time.

EMANUEL AX
April 21, 2022 • 7:30pm
La Casa de Cristo Church (6300 E Bell Rd, Scottsdale)
Tickets: $102/74/58/41

One of the world's foremost pianists!

Arizona Musicfest is honored to present one of the world's pre-eminent pianists. Since he first came to public attention, **Emanuel Ax** has been a prominent figure in classical music. In the words of the *Los Angeles Times*, "His greatness, his overwhelming authority as musician, technician and probing intellect emerges quickly as he plays." Ax has garnered seven Grammy Awards and has been featured in concert with all of the world's leading orchestras. Recent engagements have included performances with the orchestras of Philadelphia, Dallas, New York and Cleveland, to name a few.

THE OFFICIAL BLUES BROTHERS REVUE
Apr 29, 2022 • 7:30pm
Highlands Church (9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale)
Tickets: $72/53/35

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. Backed by a powerhouse band, Wayne Catania and Kieron Lafferty capture the infectious humor and unbridled spirit of **The Blues Brothers**. You'll enjoy a night of laughter, dancing, and foot-stompin' fun!

ABOUT ARIZONA MUSICFEST:

Arizona Musicfest celebrates its 31st anniversary with the 2021-22 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 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 Ochestra, 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 everyone from toddlers to our community's older adults.

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