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SOUTH MILWAUKEE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER ANNOUNCES  
*SOIRÉE: A PARTY FOR A PURPOSE*  
8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

(South Milwaukee, WI) – The South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center (SMPAC) announces Soirée: A Party for a Purpose, on Saturday, February 28, at 6 p.m. at the Polish Community Center. The Soirée will feature live musical entertainment from the Jeannine Rivers Band and Skai Academy Band, live and silent auctions featuring trip packages, Milwaukee-area arts and entertainment destinations, artwork, wine pull, hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. All proceeds support South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center.

"The word Soirée literally means a party for a purpose," says Dal Drummer, president of the South Milwaukee Performing Arts Council, the sponsor of the event. "Our purpose is to bring people together in celebration of the arts and raise the funds necessary to provide programming that makes a positive impact in education, recreation and the vibrancy of our community," he adds.

"Performing arts have the power to educate, inspire, lift spirits and even change lives. We see these things happening for people of all ages at SMPAC, and it's why the performing arts play a vital role in the community," says Rachel Sorce, SMPAC's Executive Director. Most not-for-profit arts organizations like South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center rely on charitable contributions for a substantial portion of their programming. For SMPAC, that includes the annual Performing Arts Series, Student Matinees, Arts Education & Workshops and Community Outreach. South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center manages and hosts more than 500 events serving more than 30,000 people annually.

**About the Entertainment**

The Milwaukee-based Jeannine Rivers Band has been entertaining thousands of people throughout the greater Milwaukee area for years, giving new birth to jazz by sprinkling it with funk, pop, soul, rock and R&B. It's been said that Jeannine has a voice that can bring a "cold soul to life!" The Skai Academy Band is a fusion cover band comprised of youth vocalists and instrumentalists from various cultural backgrounds. Playing Top 40 music from the 1940's to the present, the group is well known for its diverse musical style.



### **About the Auctions and Wine Pull**

The live auction will feature some outstanding vacation packages that include a Chicago Cubs weekend getaway, a Door County weekend getaway, plus trips to Telluride, Colorado and Cabo San Lucas. The silent auction will include framed art from students and other artists, themed and packaged baskets of specialty items, and tickets or certificates for a wide variety of entertainment, restaurants and outings.

### **About the Food, Beverages and Location**

Guests will enjoy delicious and hearty hors d'oeuvres including mini sandwiches, meatballs, polish sausage, stuffed mushrooms, bruschetta, crabmeat, veggies, fruit and a cash bar. The Soirée will be held at the Polish Community Center located at 6941 S. 68<sup>th</sup> Street in Franklin. Tickets are \$49 each and may be purchased through the South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center box office M-F from 10-4 at 414-766-5049 or online 24/7 at [www.southmilwaukeekeepac.org](http://www.southmilwaukeekeepac.org). Please reserve your tickets by Wednesday, February 25.

The event is sponsored by the South Milwaukee Performing Arts Council, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization serving the South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center. All proceeds support the South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center, whose mission is to enrich lives by providing creative, innovative and diverse performing arts and life-long learning experiences.

**“Education in theatre, dance and the visual arts is one of the most creative ways we have to find the gold that is buried just beneath the surface. They (children) have an enthusiasm for life, a spark of creativity and vivid imagination that need training...training that prepares them to become confident young men and women.” —Richard Riley, Former Secretary of Education**

### **About SMPAC**

South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center (SMPAC) provides the greater Milwaukee and southeastern Wisconsin communities with creative, innovative and diverse performing arts. Located on the South Milwaukee 6-12 campus, it serves the students of the city of South Milwaukee and provides professional services for more than 500 performances, rehearsals and other events annually.

Our annual Performing Arts Series features nationally touring and award-winning artists in various genres such as music, dance and theatre. Past performers such as the Vienna Boys Choir, Flamenco Vivo Carlota



Santana, John McGivern, Robert Glasper and the Milwaukee Ballet II. 2014-15 artists include Davell Crawford, the Pedrito Martinez Group, Jerome Kitzke and more.

Each season, student matinees, workshops and talk-backs are provided by selected series artists, including Robert Glasper, the Milwaukee Ballet II, Avner Eisenberg, Sybarite5, American Contemporary Music Ensemble, WindSync and more. Other artists and organizations that provide performing arts experiences for students include the Florentine Opera, Danceworks, Still Waters Collective and the Missoula Children's Theatre.

SMPAC also serves as a professionally-managed rental facility for other presenters and performing arts groups. Artists such as Lindsey Buckingham, Arlo Guthrie, Jesse Cook, Ruthie Foster, Tommy Emmanuel, John Hiatt, Ian Hunter, Joe Lovano, Cantare Chorale and Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra have performed at SMPAC.

SMPAC provides a home to the School District of South Milwaukee for student and staff events ranging from high school musicals and plays to teacher in-service workshops and athletic award ceremonies.

South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center is located at 901 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue in South Milwaukee between College and Rawson Avenues. For tickets or directions, call 414-766-5049. For more information about the South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center, visit [southmilwaukeekeepac.org](http://southmilwaukeekeepac.org). Performances are also supported in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts.