



SOUTH MILWAUKEE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

901 15th Avenue • South Milwaukee, WI 53172
414.766.5049 • www.southmilwaukeepac.org

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SOUTH MILWAUKEE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER ANNOUNCES 2017-2018 PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

(South Milwaukee, WI) – South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center (SMPAC) announced its 2017-2018 Performing Arts Series during a Preview & Tasting Party featuring SMPAC sponsors Skyline Catering & Express Deli, Azteca Restaurant, Barbieri's Italian Restaurant and Scrappy's BBQ at the theatre on Wednesday, May 24. Approximately 200 people attended the preview that featured hearty food samples and a sneak peak of the professional touring artist series line-up.

"We strive to present a mix of artists and performers not featured elsewhere in our area, along with providing educational opportunities for our students. We've become a cultural destination for Milwaukee's south shore communities, presenting performances that entertain and inspire people of all ages and aesthetics. This season, we're excited to present performances that appeal to our sense of nostalgia and the familiar, as well as performances whose impeccable musicians or intriguing artists enchant or surprise us," says Rachel Sorce, Executive Director.

In addition to the Performing Arts Series, a summer concert series at the South Milwaukee Downtown Market, a Senior Outreach Program and two youth theatre productions including Disney's 101 Dalmations and Dreamworks Shrek Jr. the Musical, were also announced.

"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 such a vital role in our community," added Sorce.

Read on for a summary of each of the performances featured in South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center's 2017-2018 Performing Arts Series:



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2017-2018 PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

Fri., Sept. 15, 7:30 pm - The Official Blues Brothers™ Revue

There have been many imitators, but there is only one duo in North America 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. Discovered in Las Vegas, performers Wayne Catania and Kieron Lafferty capture the infectious humor and unbridled spirit of the Blues Brothers like no one since John Belushi and Dan Aykroyd walked the stage. Backed by a powerhouse band, they'll give you a show to remember, packed with classic hits from the Blues Brothers catalog, including *Soul Man*, *Rubber Biscuit*, *Sweet Home Chicago*, and more. Join us pre-show in the lobby for our season premiere kick-off party and bring a few bucks for a pork sandwich before the show!

Thurs., Oct. 12, 7:30 pm - A.J. Croce in *Croce: Two Generations of American Music*

Adrian James Croce is a bluesman who performs primarily from the keyboard. His father was the artist responsible for *Time in a Bottle* (written for A.J.), *Operator* and *Bad, Bad Leroy Brown*. *Two Generations of American Music* presents a selection of A.J.'s own tunes alongside his father's, plus vintage folk, blues, R&B and early rock 'n' roll that inspired them both. A.J. honed his piano skills as a boy, while recovering from a brain tumor that left him partially blind. His career began at age 18 opening for B.B. King. Today, he strikes a fine balance between paying heartfelt homage to his father's artistic legacy and injecting the songs with his own spin and personality. The performance will feature guitarist Michael Bizar, bassist David Barard and Tony Morra or Gary Mallaber on drums.

Fri., Nov. 17, 7:30 pm - Ex Fabula: *Risking It*

Ex Fabula is committed to strengthening community bonds through the art of storytelling. The organization was founded in 2009 when Adam Weise, Amy Schleicher, Leah Delaney, Matt Sabljak, and Megan McGee launched the storytelling series in Milwaukee. They agreed that true, personal stories have a unique power to create connections between individuals, and hoped to magnify that power through live events to provide meaningful local experiences. The fledgling organization was christened "Ex Fabula" – Latin for "from stories." *Risking It* will feature Ex Fabula curated tellers, plus selected members of the community sharing their own true, personal stories. Community and student storytelling workshops will precede the event. While you may have attended an Ex Fabula StorySlam or workshop, or heard their radio



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show on WUWM, *Risking It* will feature stories never told before that you won't want to miss!

Thurs., Dec. 7, 7:30 pm - Big Bad Voodoo Daddy: *Wild & Swingin' Holiday Party*

Big Bad Voodoo Daddy jazzes up the season with their patented *Wild & Swingin' Holiday Party*, boasting both original tunes and their own smokin' hot versions of Yuletide favorites from their album *It Feels Like Christmas Time*. Fans in search of toe-tapping, brass-honking, high-energy holiday swing revival need look no further. Dressed to the nines in their trademark zoot suits and brandishing upbeat favorites like *Go Daddy-O* and *Mr. Pinstripe Suit*, as well as holiday classics such as *Santa Claus Is Coming to Town*, *Merry Christmas Baby*, and *All I Want for Christmas (Is My Two Front Teeth)*, be ready to celebrate this holiday in swingin' style! They've sold out concerts from the Hollywood Bowl to Lincoln Center and appeared on TV shows from *Leno* to *Conan*, and *Dancing with The Stars* to *Superbowl XXIII*.

Fri., Jan. 26, 7:30 pm - Vitaly: *An Evening of Wonders*

Master illusionist Vitaly Beckman has mystified fans from all over the world, including Las Vegas superstars Penn & Teller whom he successfully fooled in their TV show, *Fool Us*. From bringing pictures and drawings to life, to erasing people from their own driver's licenses, Vitaly's signature illusions leaves even the most jaded audience awestruck. Vitaly breathes innovation and artistry into the field of magic. He invented and designed every single illusion in his stage show, *An Evening of Wonders*, treating spectators to a theatrical entertainment not seen anywhere else in the world. You will witness the elegant rendering of the impossible, while being charmed by Vitaly's engaging personality. *An Evening of Wonders* is ideal for audiences ages 8 and up.

Fri., Feb. 16, 7:30 pm - Turtle Island Quartet: *Bird's Eye View, The Legend of Charlie Parker*

Turtle Island Quartet has been a singular force in the creation of bold, new trends in chamber music for strings since 1985. They fuse the classical quartet esthetic with contemporary American musical styles in a way that honors both. In *Bird's Eye View*, the two-time GRAMMY® winning Turtle Island Quartet pays homage to the visionary brilliance of jazz saxophonist Charlie Parker. The genius of his improvisations almost single handedly catapulted jazz from pop style into art music, indelibly altering the musical landscape of America. Iconic Charlie Parker classics such as *Ornithology*, *KoKo* and *Dewey Square* are juxtaposed with original responses by quartet members, and intertwined with other thematic pieces from the bebop era and beyond such as Sonny Rollins' *Airegin*, *Bird Calls* by Charlie Mingus and *Too High* by



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Stevie Wonder.



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Fri., March 16, 7:30 pm - Federspiel

Federspiel is a seven-piece ensemble comprised of all students of the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna. They have utterly incredible technical skills combined with a youthful and charming freshness to their musical arrangements. Creativity, spontaneity and joy is high on the members of Federspiel's list of priorities. Their particular style is defined by the origins and backgrounds of each individual musician and creates the unique sound of the band. Federspiel's self-penned compositions contain pop-elements as well as arrangements of traditional Mexican music or the zither as a solo instrument. Some of their arrangements include percussive elements or even yodeling, which originated in the Alpine region of Austria, Federspiel's home. Their genre of music doesn't exist within the parameters of folk, world or traditional music, so the style of the ensemble is described best by the name: Federspiel or "feather game."

Fri., April 13, 7:30 pm - Four Guyz in Dinner Jackets: *Now in Technicolor*

Wisconsin's premiere four-part harmony group includes the sharp-suited foursome of Reginald T. Kurschner (high tenor), Don Lobacz (first tenor), Tommy Lueck (baritone), and Aaron Schmidt (bass) along with their live band. In *Now in Technicolor*, the Four Guyz revive musical memories from the 50s, 60s and 70s radio and TV. This high-octane show is delivered in the style expected from the Four Guyz, including charming choreography and comic banter. They've performed at numerous regional theatres throughout the midwest and appeared on Fox6's *WakeUp*, WTMJ's *The Morning Blend*, WISN's *Season To Celebrate* Special, and WUWM's Public Radio *The Lake Effect*.

Ticketing Information

Season ticket holders may retain their current seats for the 2017-2018 season by renewing their subscription between May 25 - July 10, 2017. Individual tickets go on sale July 24, 2017. **For tickets, visit www.southmilwaukeekeepac.org or call (414) 766-5049.**



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About SMPAC

South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center (SMPAC) provides the greater Milwaukee and southeastern Wisconsin communities with creative, innovative and diverse performing arts. In addition to hosting an annual Performing Arts Series, SMPAC also serves the students of South Milwaukee and is a professionally-managed rental facility for other presenters, organizations and groups. More than 500 performances, rehearsals, classes and other events take place at SMPAC annually. SMPAC was voted 3rd Best Theatre in the 2016 Milwaukee A-List contest, with customer reviews such as “A great venue with fabulous events for all ages!” “Excellent and diverse touring artist performances showcased in a comfortable, friendly theatre away from the downtown crowds.” “There is not a bad seat in the house.” “Great place that does a wonderful job.”

The annual SMPAC Performing Arts Series is sponsored in part by Courtyard Marriott Milwaukee Airport, Classic Cargo International Inc., Skyline Catering & Express Deli, TASC Services LLC., and Ken Cook Co. Performances are supported in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of WI and the National Endowment for the Arts.

SMPAC is located inside of the South Milwaukee 6-12 campus, at 901 15th Avenue in South Milwaukee between College and Rawson Avenues. It is easily accessible from I-94 and 794. Free parking is located in the northwest parking lot. Patrons should enter door #9. For tickets or directions, call 414-766-5049. For more information, visit southmilwaukeekeepac.org.

