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South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center Announces 15th Anniversary Performing Arts Season

(South Milwaukee, WI) – South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center (SMPAC) will celebrate its 15th Anniversary Performing Arts Season next year and recently announced the 2019-2020 Performing Arts Series at a Preview & Tasting Party hosted by the South Milwaukee Performing Arts Council, Skyline Catering & Express Deli, Azteca Restaurant, and the Milwaukee Gourmet House.

“Our 15th anniversary season will feature eight performances chosen for their high-energy, opportunities for community collaboration, and broad appeal,” said Rachel Sorce, Executive Director. “The annual Performing Arts Series is designed for people of all ages and aesthetics, and we encourage experience-seekers to join us for these exciting performances.”

The 15th Anniversary Season will open September 21 with **ARTRAGEOUS: The Interactive Art & Music Experience**, an energetic and visually stunning production where large-scale paintings are created live on stage while musicians, singers and dancers entertain and engage our audience. On October 19, sing along to the music of one of the most prolific and beloved songwriters of our time when **Matt Vee Family & Friends celebrate the music of Neil Diamond in I Am... He Said**. Local choir members will join the band on stage for part of the show. To start the holiday season, we'll present **The Mark O'Connor Band**, a multiple Grammy-winning artist with one of the most distinguished careers in the business, on November 16. *Coming Home* will feature the band's impeccable style of progressive bluegrass, country and Americana. We're proud to present America's trailblazing first ladies of mariachi, **Mariachi Reyna de Los Angeles®, in Navidad Mexicana** on December 13. Mariachi Reyna de Los Angeles® brings sensitivity, beauty, warmth and vivacious spirit to the historic art of mariachi.

For the second half of our season starting on January 30, we will feature **Shaun Boothe's Unauthorized Biography Series**, a critically acclaimed musical project that celebrates the world's greatest cultural icons to educate and challenge us to “live our legacies”. Half TED Talk, half live music concert, Boothe uses multimedia and motivation to deliver powerful and transformative messaging. For a fun romantic date or group night out, get tickets for the Australian performers, **The Tap Pack**, in Las Vegas style level up old-school cool as the new “Kings of Swing.” In our first-ever *Canine Cabaret*, the adorable **Mutts Gone Nuts** rescue dogs will steal your heart and then your socks! For our season finale, we'll curate a special **15th Anniversary Variety Show** that will be like no other. Auditions start soon. Visit southmilwaukeepac.org for details. Sponsored by Molthen-Bell.



2019-2020 PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

Saturday, September 21, 7:30 pm (Season Premiere Kick-off & Arts Social at 6 pm)

ARTRAGEOUS

The Interactive art and music experience

ARTRAGEOUS features an interactive approach designed to appeal to people of all ages. Imagine an artist creating a masterpiece before your eyes in mere moments. With a palette that also mixes captivating vocals, intricate choreography and exciting audience interaction, ARTRAGEOUS takes you on a unique visual journey packed with wild inspiration, creativity and fun! The ARTRAGEOUS troupe of artists, musicians, singers and dancers pay tribute to a variety of art forms, pop icons and musical genres culminating in a gallery of fabulous finished paintings. The result? A one-of-a-kind crossover experience! The signature of ARTRAGEOUS is interaction and engagement. Part art studio. Part rock concert. Part creation lab. Come be part of the show!

Attend the arts social prior to this performance at 6 pm for a celebration of the arts in the commons. Bring a few bucks for a bite to eat and join in the splatter! Bring a plain t-shirt, pillow case, or other item you'd like to have splattered on stage after the show.

"You have to see it to believe it!" *Washington Post*, "Go see this show!" *CBS*

Links:

[Artist Website](#)

[South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center Event Page](#)

[Promotional Video](#)

Saturday, October 19, 7:30 pm

MATT VEE FAMILY & FRIENDS CELEBRATE THE MUSIC OF NEIL DIAMOND: I AM... HE SAID

Celebrating the sounds and energy of an amazing musical icon

I Am... He Said is a celebration of the music of Neil Diamond, a prolific singer/songwriter who has sold more than 135 million records worldwide and who has produced musical hits spanning five decades. *I Am... He Said* stars Matt Vee, nephew of the late 1960s pop star and teen idol Bobby Vee, plus their killer band of talented musicians. They will perform Neil Diamond's hits such as *Cracklin' Rosie*, *Song Sung Blue*, *Sweet Caroline* and *I'm A Believer*. Bring your friends and family and join Matt, Jeff, and Tommy Vee for a celebration of this amazing music icon. Sing along to your favorite songs, especially when a choir of local singers joins the band on stage for a portion of the concert.

"Matt is the perfect Neil Diamond, and the band was killer... so good, so good, so good!" *Terry Matier, Big Top Chautauqua*



Links:

<https://www.mattvee.com>

<http://southmilwaukeekeepac.org/event/mattvee>

https://youtu.be/cTlid7Rx_Xk

Saturday, November 16, 7:30 pm

[MARK O'CONNOR BAND: COMING HOME](#)

Progressive bluegrass, country and Americana featuring GRAMMY-winning musicians

The Grammy-winning Mark O'Connor Band, featuring iconic fiddler Mark O'Connor, puts on an engaging, dynamic show. This performance features compelling arrangements, virtuosic solos and tight vocal harmonies from their debut album *Coming Home*, nominated for a GRAMMY for best bluegrass. Musician and composer Mark O'Connor is most known for his million-selling composition *Appalachia Waltz* and was also voted Musician of the Year for six years in a row by the Country Music Association.

"One of the most talented and imaginative artists working in music." *Los Angeles Times*

Links:

<https://www.markoconnor.com/>

<http://southmilwaukeekeepac.org/event/oconnor>

<http://markoconnorblog.blogspot.com/2016/08/oconnor-band-hands-us-stunning-debut.html>

<https://markoconnorblog.blogspot.com/2017/05/the-inevitable-oconnor-band-live-cd.html>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t_Siw3RlfZc&list=RDt_Siw3RlfZc&start_radio=1&t=4

Friday, December 13, 7:30 pm

[NAVIDAD MEXICANA: FEATURING MARIACHI REYNA DE LOS ANGELES®](#)

America's first ladies of mariachi

Navidad Mexicana is a holiday program featuring America's first all-female mariachi ensemble, Reyna de Los Angeles®. They are a mesmerizing, energetic and powerful group of GRAMMY-nominated musicians who bring a dynamic character and intensity to their performances. Reyna de Los Angeles® brings sensitivity, beauty, warmth and vivacious spirit to the historic art of mariachi. In a musical landscape where songs are often written by men, from male perspectives, Mariachi Reyna de Los Angeles® has blazed the trail for female mariachi musicians. Established in 1994, the group was mentored by Lola Bertran, La Reina de La Musica Ranchera. Maestro José Hernández saw the ensemble's potential and fostered the development of the group. Reyna de Los Angeles® has recorded three albums, shared the stage with world-renowned musicians like Vicki Carr, Guadalupe Pineda and Lucha Villa and performed for some of the world's highest profile celebrities including Tom Cruise, Oprah and Barack and Michelle Obama.

"To believe in mariachi means having a passion for life itself." *Jóse Hernández*



Links:

<https://blog.stetson.com/mariachi-reyna-de-los-angeles/>

<http://southmilwaukeekeepac.org/event/navidad/>

<http://reynadelosangelesmusic.com/>

<https://youtu.be/QpXwvvZT1g4>

Thursday, January 30, 7:30 pm

SHAUN BOOTHE: THE UNAUTHORIZED BIOGRAPHY SERIES

#liveyourlegacy

Creator Shaun Boothe is an award-winning hip hop artist, TEDx motivational speaker and founder of Live Your Legacy Academy. *The Unauthorized Biography Series* is a critically acclaimed musical project that celebrates the world's greatest cultural icons such as Martin Luther King Jr., Bruce Lee, Oprah Winfrey, Nelson Mandela, Malala Yousafzai and more. Each chapter captures the legacy of an influential figure in a documentary-style music video utilizing hip hop. Shaun created this series to entertain, inform and awaken the greatness within us all. Half TED Talk, half live concert, he uses music, multimedia and motivation to deliver powerful and transformative messaging. Themes include leadership, overcoming fears and challenges, diversity, equity, the power of acknowledgement, redefining masculinity, and more.

"Our stories can either build us up or break us down." *Shaun Boothe*

"The key to immortality is first living a life worth remembering." *Bruce Lee*

"As intelligent and soulful as they come." *Reviewsic.com*

Links:

<http://southmilwaukeekeepac.org/event/shaunboothe/>

<http://shaunboothe.com/>

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/michaelhumphrey/2019/02/12/meet-shaun-boothe-the-unauthorized-biographer-who-breathes-life-into-life-stories/#1f04227c4267>

<https://youtu.be/ygqoHJvC1c>

Saturday, February 29, 7:30 pm

THE TAP PACK

Old school cool from the new Kings of Swing

The Tap Pack is an elegant, high energy, tap comedy show inspired by the infamous "Rat Pack" which included the famous talents of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr. With dazzling performances on stage, dressed in slick suits and equipped with sharp wit, The Tap Pack is a modern twist on the classic "Rat Pack." They joke, they compete, they croon and they cajole. They infuse tap dance with swing music and witty banter. The Tap Pack is a taste of a new, highly entertaining act featuring some of Australia's finest tap dancing performers tapping up a storm. With credits on stage, film and television and with over 20 musical theatre productions among them, The Tap Pack is pure entertainment. They sing. They dance. They



joke. They bring a new, invigorating energy to a timeless style.

“...it’s an astonishing tap display that builds in intensity... genuinely breath catching.” *Time Out: London*

Links:

<https://www.thetappack.com/>

<http://southmilwaukeekeepac.org/event/tappack/>

Thursday, April 16, 7:00 pm

MUTTS GONE NUTS IN: CANINE CABARET

Canines and comedy collide

From shelters to showbiz, the Mutts Gone Nuts canines unleash havoc and hilarity in an action-packed spectacular featuring talented four-legged performers. The dogs are sure to steal your heart. . . and then your socks! Long-time comedy duo Scott and Joan Houghton introduced dogs into their act in 2005. Prior to involving dogs, the duo worked with Lee Greenwood in Tennessee and at Dolly Parton’s theaters in Branson, Orlando and Myrtle Beach. The Houghtons attempt to match wits with their mischievous canine partners in a family-friendly performance. All nine dogs are USDA APHIS (Animal Welfare) registered and adopted from animal shelters or rescue groups. Expect the unexpected! This show will leave you howling for more.

“I laughed until I wept.” *Former First Lady, Barbara Bush*

“A must see.” *Washington Post Weekender*

“Get those dogs out of my dressing room.” *Kenny Rogers*

Links:

<http://southmilwaukeekeepac.org/event/caninecabaret/>

<http://www.muttsgonenuts.com/index.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1CGDOPXDzw4&feature=youtu.be>

<https://youtu.be/KL9Tslbwwi4>

Friday, May 15, 7:30 pm

15TH ANNIVERSARY VARIETY SHOW

Celebrating 15 years of enriching lives

The vision for the Finale Extravaganza is a celebration, a variety show, a showcase of local talent - a unique and heartfelt performing arts extravaganza created by YOU. Don’t miss this world premiere of community-driven theatre, vaudeville, music and “who-knows-what” curated by you and other, like-minded patrons of the SMPAC community. Come along for a ride with us and provide your input, ideas and creativity. We’re looking for around 15 performers or groups to take the stage and share their special gifts. Indulge your creativity. Do you have a hidden



talent or a neighbor who does? Do you have a unique story to tell or know of a local performer whose time for the stage has come? This is your chance to create a show with us. We're collecting ideas, names and concepts. Visit southmilwaukeekeepac.org for audition details.

ADDITIONAL EVENTS

In addition to the 2019-2020 Performing Arts Series, the season includes two youth theatre musical productions, performances by area performing arts groups, shows presented by renters, and more. Following are some of the featured performances at SMPAC scheduled for the 2019-20 season.

SUMMER YOUTH THEATRE

South Milwaukee Youth Theatre (SMYT) provides educational theatre experiences for youth and produces two summer musicals. The SMYT Junior Cast will present ***Disney's The Aristocats KIDS*** on July 20 at 1:00 and 6:00 pm. The SMYT Senior Cast will present ***Disney's The Lion King Experience JR.*** on August 2 and 3 at 7:00 pm and August 4 at 2:00 pm.

SENIOR OUTREACH

SMPAC brings performing arts experiences to senior living centers and sponsors concerts and other events in the community. Here are the performances set for the 2019-2020 season:

June 4 - Siempre Flamenco at Howard Village

July 10 – A Day in the Life featuring the Milwaukee Ballet II at Willowcrest

July 24 – Dave Miller Group at Heritage Days Spaghetti Dinner, South Milwaukee Firehouse

Aug 6 – Lil' Rev at Oak Creek Place

SUMMER CONCERTS

Thursday, June 20 (5-7 pm)

[Strangelander](#) (Middle-Western, Indie)

South Milwaukee Downtown Market, 11th and Milwaukee Avenues

Strangelander is generating a buzz in Milwaukee and beyond due largely to the phenomenal talent of singer Amanda Huff. The group is the brainchild of Steve Peplin (guitarist, vocalist, primary composer) who selected a cast of veteran musicians including keyboardist David Wake (De La Buena), tenor saxman/flautist Aaron Gardner (Static Chicken), drummer Jeremy Kuzniar (Bad Habit Rabbit, Static Chicken), Bassist and technomancer Michael Ritter, and cellist Patrick Reinholz (Tontine Ensemble) who is the secret to the thick sound. Strangelander is currently completing their sophomore record which will be performed in part at this concert. Sponsored by Classic Cargo International.

Thursday, July 11 (5-7 pm)

[Professor Pinkerton & The Magnificents](#) (Rockabilly Swing)



South Milwaukee Downtown Market, 11th and Milwaukee Avenues

Professor Pinkerton & The Magnificents are Milwaukee's champions of turn of the century American roots music and the house band for Dead Man's Carnival, an incredibly eclectic circus, burlesque and variety showcase famous for their long-standing monthly productions on first Fridays at the Miramar Theater. Sponsored by Classic Cargo International.

Wednesday, July 24

[The Dave Miller Band](#) (Blues-Rock and Jazz)

South Milwaukee Heritage Days – Firehouse Spaghetti Dinner

The Dave Miller Band provides a high energy eclectic repertoire from Blues-Rock fusion to Jazz and Blues. The members of the band are David J. Miller (harmonicist, vocalist, and guitarist), Bill Martin (lead guitarist), Hal Miller (bassist), and Andrew Wilson (drummer).

Thursday, August 22

[Reverend Raven & the Chain Smokin Altar Boys feat. Westside Andy](#) (Chicago Blues)

South Milwaukee Downtown Market, 11th and Milwaukee Avenues

Born and raised in the Englewood neighborhood on south side of Chicago, the Reverend has been playing the blues since 1971 when he first saw Freddy King play at the Kinetic Theatre in Chicago. After 16 years in the Navy, Chief Raven moved to Milwaukee where he began a long friendship and collaboration with Madison Slim, harmonica player for Jimmy Rogers. Since 1990 he has opened for B.B King, Gatemouth Brown, Pinetop Perkins, Koko Taylor Band, Junior Wells, Billy Branch, Magic Slim, Elvin Bishop, Sugar Blue, Lonnie Brooks, Fabulous Thunderbirds, Jeff Healy, Tommy Castro and at Buddy Guy's Legends where he has been on rotation as a headliner for 20 years. Sponsored by Classic Cargo International.

Saturday, September 7 (11am – 1pm)

[The Blues Disciples](#)

Downtown Oak Creek, Drexel Town Square

The Blues Disciples have toured Milwaukee and other mid-west clubs since 1990 and were founded by "Barefoot" Jimmy Schwarz with the intent of remaining true to the influences of the Chicago electric blues era of the '50s and '60s. The band was influenced by Little Walter, Muddy Waters, and Wisconsin Blues greats Jim Liban and Billy Flynn. They forged a sound that rose to the top of the Milwaukee Blues scene and performed shows every week at Milwaukee Blues club The Up & Under where they turned an entire new generation on to the Blues. Their music is fresh and relevant while still remaining true to their Blues roots.

ADDITIONAL FEATURED EVENTS

Wednesday, September 25, 7:30 pm

**Celtic Angels Ireland with the Celtic Knight Dancers from Riverdance
& The Trinity Band of Dublin**

Some of the sweetest voices under heaven make up the Celtic Angels: Victoria Kenny, Emily Carroll, Tammy Browne, Amy Penston, and Ellie Mullane - Irish to the core and seasoned

entertainers all. These ladies cut their teeth in such musicals as *West Side Story*, *Grease*, and in *Jury's Irish Cabaret*. The Celtic Knight Dancers, featuring two former lead dancers of Riverdance, perform with athletic precision in routines that leave audiences breathless. Their rhythm and artistry are astonishing. The Trinity Band Ensemble of Dublin round out the show with flawless interpretations of authentic Irish Trad instrumentals, and their backing of both singers and dancers is perfection.

Friday, December 20, 8:00 pm

[An Evening with George Winston presented by ACG](#)

Celebrated pianist George Winston released his 15th solo piano album, *Restless Wind*, via Dancing Cat Records/RCA Records on May 3, 2019. George Winston has inspired fans and musicians alike with his singular solo acoustic piano songs for more than 40 years while selling 15 million albums. A tireless road warrior playing nearly 100 concerts annually, live performance for Winston is akin to breathing. Winston's music is evocative, offering us all a chance to take a step back from our perpetually busy lives. *Restless Wind* is a portrayal of Winston's place in a chaotic world – his compositions extend solace with an idiosyncratic grace.

Sundays - October 27, February 9, April 5 (Concerts are at 3:00 p.m.)

Knightwind Ensemble

Milwaukee's premier adult wind band.

Saturday, October 12 (All day plus an evening concert.)

Milwaukapella featuring Six Appeal Vocal Band

An annual fundraiser for the **Rotary Club of Mitchell Field**. It will feature a day-long workshop for high school vocal students followed by a performance onstage with the nationally-touring Six Appeal Vocal Band. Sponsored by **Landass & Company Investments** and the **Rotary Club of Mitchell Field**.

TICKETS

Season subscriptions for the Performing Arts Series are on sale now. Purchasing tickets to four or more performances qualifies as a season subscription. Subscriptions may be purchased through the Box Office at 414-766-5049 or in person at 901 15th Avenue.

Individual tickets go on sale July 9. Purchase online at southmilwaukeekeepac.org. Visit Box Office M-Th, 10-1 at 901 15th Avenue. (Park in district lot, use door #7 and bring ID.) Call M-Th from 10-4 at (414) 766-5048. Box office and will call open one hour before most performances.

ABOUT SMPAC

South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center (SMPAC) provides the greater Milwaukee and southeastern Wisconsin communities with creative, innovative and diverse performing arts. Located inside of the South Milwaukee 6-12 campus, it serves the students of South Milwaukee

and provides professional services for more than 500 shows, performances, rehearsals, classes and other events annually.

Past performances on the SMPAC stage include Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, The Vienna Boys Choir, Flamenco Vivo Carlotta Santana, The Violent Femmes, Tommy Emmanuel, Legends Roundtable to Honor Da Crusher, Ex Fabula, Cirque Alfonse, The Official Blues Brothers Revue, John McGivern, George Watsky, Donny McCaslin, Robert Glasper, The Zombies, Jean Luc Ponty, Jon Anderson and many, many more.

SMPAC was voted as a top five *Best Theatre* in City Voter's *Milwaukee A-List Best Of* contest in 2016 and 2017, receiving customer reviews such as "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." SMPAC was named the tri-city South Shore Chamber of Commerce *Outstanding Business Award* for 2017.

The SMPAC Performing Arts Series is sponsored in part by the Avalon Theatre, Classic Cargo International Inc., Courtyard Marriott Milwaukee Airport, Sheridan House & Café, 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 School District 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 available in the northwest parking lot. For events, patrons should enter door #9. For tickets or more information, visit southmilwaukeekeepac.org or call (414) 766-5049.
