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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **THE LONE TREE ARTS CENTER ANNOUNCES 2018-19 SEASON**

***Music Legend Jim Messina, Broadway Star Lea Salonga, Sons of the Pioneers, National Geographic Live Speakers Series, Theatrical Productions All Featured***

LONE TREE, CO – Approaching its eighth season, the Lone Tree Arts Center (LTAC) has established a reputation for presenting outstanding and engaging professional performances for audiences reaching far beyond its south metro Denver location. 60,000 people attend performances at the Arts Center each year, with ticket sales topping \$1 million annually, and its theatrical productions have been recognized with numerous Colorado Theater Guild awards and nominations. On May 10, at a private event, Executive Director Lisa Rigsby Peterson announced LTAC’s offerings for the 2018-19 season, and thanked returning season sponsor Park Meadows Retail Resort.

“As we enter our eighth season of producing and presenting remarkable programs at the Lone Tree Arts Center, I’m excited to announce such a wide range of artists, from music legend Jim Messina to the runaway hit of the 2017 Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Choir of Man,” says Rigsby Peterson. “We are welcoming international, regional, and local artists to our intimate theater for unforgettable audience experiences. Our patrons love our welcoming environment, professional performances, free parking, and, most of all, the opportunity to explore a host of cultural offerings available nowhere else in Colorado. I think this is our best season yet!”

The LTAC season is anchored by three self-produced musicals. In October, the Main Stage becomes a blues club with an after-hours jam session for **Low Down Dirty Blues**. From the creative team behind LTAC’s popular *Muscle Shoals: I’ll Take You There*, this sizzling musical revue features veteran blues

musicians – including powerhouse Tony Award® nominee Felicia P. Fields and NAACP Theatre Arts Winner Chic Street Man – sharing their favorite blues tunes from the likes of Muddy Waters, Mae West, Ma Rainey, Sophie Tucker, Howlin’ Wolf, Pearl Bailey, and more. Directed by Randal Myler with musical direction by Dan Wheetman, *Low Down Dirty Blues* features two-dozen smokin’ songs filled with passion, soul, humor, and a zest for life!

In December, audience favorite **Home for the Holidays** is back by popular demand! There’s something for everyone in this family-friendly holiday spectacular: dancers, singers, drummers, holiday songs, and of course, a celebrity appearance by you know who! With new elements for 2018, *Home for the Holidays* is sure to delight and put you into the holiday spirit.

Get out your bellbottoms and Aqua Net! LTAC is thrilled to present **Beehive: The ‘60s Musical** in April. Directed and choreographed by Denver’s own Candy Brown, *Beehive* is a wild toe-tapping, head shakin’ musical tribute to the rockin’ women who broke musical barriers in the ‘60s – everyone from Lesley Gore to Janis Joplin, from the Shirelles to the Supremes, Aretha Franklin to Tina Turner, and everyone in between! Go back in time with classics such as “My Boyfriend’s Back,” “Proud Mary,” and “Me and Bobby McGee.”

The 2018-19 season sees the continuation of the popular **National Geographic Live** speaker series. Sponsored by the Andrews Winslow Foundation and Thrive Home Builders, the series combines breathtaking photography and videography with first-person accounts of exploration and discovery. Photographer Florian Schulz kicks off the series with *Into the Arctic Kingdom*, an exploration of polar bears, caribou herds, and stunning photos of the Northern Lights. Professor of Egyptology Dr. Kara Cooney focuses on a time in ancient history *When Women Ruled the World*. Photographer Brian Skerry shows us the wonders of the underwater world from the tropics to the Arctic with *Ocean Soul*. We finish the 2018-19 series with *My Wild Life*, showcasing photographer Bertie Gregory’s mastery of the art of capturing intimate shots of animals in their natural environment. Oh, and he’s only 23.

Building on the success of 2017-18 season’s **Classic Albums Live** series, we bring three new albums to enjoy. Classic Albums Live is a noted Canadian music series by talented session musicians. Note for note, cut for cut, Classic Albums Live pays staggering attention to detail by recreating every sound on the chosen album, followed by a second set of favorites by the band. This year’s offerings are **Hotel California**; **Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band**; and **Chronicle, Vol. 1**.

The season officially opens on September 15 with **Lannie Counts: The Greatest R&B Songs Ever Written**. Counts is a longtime performer in Las Vegas, having performed with the Las Vegas Tenors, the Lon Bronson All Star Band, and Santa Fe and the Fat City Horns. Counts wowed audiences with his rendition of “When A Man Loves A Woman” in LTAC’s *Muscle Shoals: I’ll Take You There* last year, and this performance (with his six-piece band) is packed with the very best of Stevie Wonder, Michael Jackson, James Brown, Al Green, and more. Other notable performers in the 2018-19 season include **Sons of the Pioneers** featuring Roy Rogers, Jr., just in time for the National Western Stock Show; **International Guitar Night**, bringing the very best guitar virtuosos from all around the world; living rock legend **Jim Messina**; Canadian crooner **Matt Dusk** singing the music of Frank Sinatra; traditional Russian song and dance with **Barynya**; a capella favorites **Rockapella**; **The Choir of Man**, the runaway hit of the 2017 Edinburgh Fringe Festival; and Broadway star **Lea Salonga**, who made her West End and Broadway debuts in *Miss Saigon*, has portrayed both Eponine and Fantine in *Les Misérables*, and is currently starring on Broadway in *Once on this Island*.

LTAC also has a fantastic holiday season lined up. Along with *Home for the Holidays 2018*, we start the season off right with **A Classic Country Christmas with Gail Bliss**. Perhaps best known for portraying Patsy Cline all over the world, Bliss and her six-piece Nashville band take a stroll down memory lane with carols from yesteryear’s yuletide and many hits from country’s biggest stars of the past decades. Arts Center favorite **The Doo Wop Project** performs doo wop versions of contemporary pop hits by stars like Jason Mraz, Amy Winehouse, Adele, and Maroon 5, sprinkling in some “doowopified” Christmas classics along the way. Award-winning folk/Americana performers and songwriters **Bettman & Halpin** combine classic Christmas songs with unforgettable originals for an evening of terrific musicality, playful banter, beautiful vocal harmonies, and captivating storytelling about the ups, downs, and sideways of the season. In what has become an Arts Center tradition, Denver choir **Kantorei** returns for the third year with their holiday concert.

In addition to the Main Stage season, LTAC will soon announce afternoon programming for seniors, performances for children, and programs for those with cognitive, intellectual, or developmental disabilities. LTAC’s innovative *Arts in the Afternoon* program, featuring monthly professional concerts for seniors mid-week at 1:30 pm, followed by refreshments, Q&A, and meet and greets with the artists consistently plays to capacity houses. Similarly, *Passport to Culture*, for children from 4 – 10; *Seedlings*,

for children from 1 – 4; and a robust student matinee program also attract sold-out audiences. LTAC's award-winning program, *SF Family Tree*, features sensory friendly programming for individuals on the autism spectrum, with sensory sensitivities, or intellectual or developmental disabilities. *SPARK!* programming, offered in conjunction with the Alzheimer's Association, provides free monthly lively discussions, social engagement, and other hands-on multi-sensory activities using the genres of art, music, and poetry for people experiencing mild memory loss, early stage Alzheimer's, or a related dementia, and their family, friends, and guests.

LTAC's full 2018-19 Main Stage season can be found below. Subscriptions and design-your-own packages are available now to current subscribers and package holders. New subscriptions go on sale Monday, June 4, and new packages can be purchased Monday, July 2. Tickets for individual performances go on sale Monday, July 16. In addition to Park Meadows, 2018-19 season sponsors include SCFD and the National Endowment for the Arts. Presenting Partners are Scott Leonhart and Maggie Eichenlaub, Janet and Joel Kaufman, and Betty A. and Don E. Winslow. For more information, visit [www.LoneTreeArtsCenter.org](http://www.LoneTreeArtsCenter.org) or call 720-509-1000.

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**LONE TREE ARTS CENTER**  
**2018-19 MAIN STAGE SEASON**

**THEATRICAL SERIES**

**Low Down Dirty Blues**

Thursday, October 18 through Saturday, October 27

Spend a night with Big Mama! From the creative team behind *Muscle Shoals: I'll Take You There*, this sizzling musical revue finds a group of veteran blues musicians—including powerhouse Felicia P. Fields as Big Mama—assembled for an after-hours jam session to swap stories and share their favorite blues tunes from the likes of Muddy Waters, Mae West, Ma Rainey, Sophie Tucker, Howlin' Wolf, Pearl Bailey, and many more. Featuring nearly two-dozen smokin' songs filled with passion, soul, humor, and a zest for life, these hot rhythms are guaranteed to heat up the theater from the very first note.

**Home for the Holidays 2018**

Wednesday, December 19 through Sunday, December 23

Back by popular demand! Holidays are about traditions, so continue your tradition with hometown favorite *Home for the Holidays*. There's something for everyone in this family friendly holiday spectacular: dancers, singers, drummers, holiday songs, and of course, a celebrity appearance by you know who! With a revised storyline for 2018, *Home for the Holidays* is sure to delight and put you into the holiday spirit.

**Beehive The '60s Musical**

Wednesday, April 3 through Saturday, April 13

Join the party! *Beehive* is a wild toe-tapping, head shakin' musical tribute to the rockin' women who made the music of the '60s so special—everyone from Lesley Gore to Janis Joplin, from the Shirelles to the Supremes, Aretha Franklin to Tina Turner, and every woman in between! Featuring such timeless classics as "My Boyfriend's Back," "Be My Baby," "You Can't Hurry Love," "Proud Mary," and "Me and Bobby McGee," *Beehive* recalls the days of miniskirts, transistor radios, and flower power. This concert revue will have you dancing in your seat!

**FEATURED ATTRACTIONS**

**Lannie Counts: The Greatest R&B Songs Ever Written**

Saturday, September 15 at 8pm

"A sensational soulful vocalist." —Vivascene

Lannie Counts, who starred in *Muscle Shoals: I'll Take You There*, returns with his stellar vocals in a performance packed full of the very best of Stevie Wonder, Michael Jackson, John Legend, Gene Chandler, the Cadillacs, James Brown, Brook Benton, Jerry Butler, Marvin Gaye, Al Green, The Delfonics, and the Righteous Brothers. Counts has called the stages of Las Vegas his home for over 20 years, appearing as a featured performer with Las Vegas Tenors, the Lon Bronson All Star Band, and Santa Fe

and The Fat City Horns. Spend an evening with Lannie Counts and his six-piece band, who will thrill and delight you, with fun and surprises that will lift your soul!

### **Sing-a-long Grease: '50s Movie Night**

Saturday, September 29 at 7pm

We go together! Beloved by audiences of all ages, this high-energy musical follows the romance of innocent Sandy and bad-boy greaser Danny Zuko. Sing along with the songs that everyone knows and loves. Fast cars and great dance moves in this musical homage to the age of rock 'n' roll makes it an all-time audience favorite. Join us in the Event Hall after the movie for a '50s sock hop, complete with appetizers, great music, and a costume contest. Grease is the word!

### **Classic Albums Live: *Hotel California***

Saturday, November 10 at 8pm

*"No detail is overlooked."* —Toronto Star

Arguably one of the greatest American albums ever made, Classic Albums Live performs *Hotel California* with skilled vocalists and musicians who honor the work with no gimmicks, no makeup, and no other illusions employed by tribute bands. Note for note, cut for cut, the attention to detail is staggering; every sound from the album is masterfully duplicated live on stage. With hit tracks like the GRAMMY® winning "New Kid in Town," as well as deep cuts like "Wasted Time," it's the classic album exactly as you remember, followed by a second set of other Eagles favorites.

### **Jim Messina**

Thursday, November 15 at 7:30pm

*"Messina's voice is still strong and he hits every note perfectly. His playing is just as precise and snappy as ever."* —New England Rock Review

The living rock legend live in concert! Messina's legacy of musical prowess spans five decades, three acclaimed rock super groups, a vibrant solo career, and a dizzying array of game-changing production credits. As one half of Loggins & Messina; co-founder of the country-rock band Poco; and band member and key contributor to Buffalo Springfield, he has left an indelible footprint on rock music.

### **A Classic Country Christmas with Gail Bliss**

Wednesday, November 28 at 7:30pm

Take a stroll down memory lane with LTAC favorite Gail Bliss (*John Denver Holiday Concert*) and her six-piece Nashville Band for *A Classic Country Christmas*. Hear your favorite country carols from yesteryear's yuletide and many hits from country's biggest stars of the past decades. Invite Patsy, Loretta, the Possum, and Johnny into your Christmas season with this good ol' country music.

### **The Doo Wop Project Christmas**

Sunday, December 2 at 7pm

*"Remarkable talent."* —MD Theatre Guide

Three parts *Jersey Boys*, two parts *Motown: The Musical* and “not your grandma’s doo wop,” these five charismatic, handsome, triple threat Broadway stars—with their hot five-piece band—tear it up, with musicality, dancing, and showmanship not found with any other group in the world! They “re-doo” classic Doo Wop songs from the ’50s and ’60s and make them sound fresh and new. They “doo” doo wop versions of contemporary pop hits by stars like Jason Mraz, Amy Winehouse, Adele, and Maroon 5, and in between they sprinkle in some “doowopified” Christmas classics. A perfect way to ring in the holidays!

### **Bettman & Halpin: Christmas is a Funny Thing**

Sunday, December 9 at 7pm

*“Bettman and Halpin’s own blend of bluegrass, Americana, pop, ballads, blues, and jazz defy labeling as anything other than extremely talented, utterly engaging, and enjoyable music.”* —  
SouthPasadenaToday.com

Award-winning folk/Americana performers and songwriters Bettman & Halpin bring together classic Christmas songs such as “Silver Bells,” “Little Drummer Boy,” and “Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas,” some surprising, less-common choices such as “Blue Christmas” and Joni Mitchell’s “River,” and several unforgettable originals you’ll want to take home with you and make a part of your annual tradition. Join us for an evening of terrific musicality, playful banter, beautiful vocal harmonies, and captivating storytelling about the ups, downs, and sideways of the holiday season.

### **A Kantorei Christmas**

Thursday, December 13 at 7:30pm

*“One of Denver’s foremost choirs...the full-bodied sound of the choir was stunning.”* —The Scen3

Now an Arts Center tradition, Kantorei returns for their annual holiday concert. Kantorei, or singers, formed in 1997 under the leadership of six friends who decided to form a choir capable of singing a broad range of a cappella choral music. Now in its 22nd full season of performing, the group has expanded into an auditioned ensemble of more than 50 volunteer singers under the direction of Artistic Director Joel M. Rinsema. From a mesmerizing rendition of “Silent Night” to the jubilant “Sleigh Ride,” Kantorei celebrates the season with a special performance of holiday favorites.

### **Sons of the Pioneers Featuring Roy Rogers, Jr.**

Friday, January 11 at 8pm

*“The world’s premier cowboy singing group.”* —*American Cowboy Magazine*

Celebrate the National Western Stock Show with Sons of the Pioneers! Founded by Roy Rogers, the premier western singing group has musically painted unforgettable images and stories of horses, cattle, cowboys, “night herds,” tall timber, cool water, canyons and prairies. Their original songs like “Tumbling Tumbleweeds,” “Cool Water,” and “Ghost Riders in the Sky” are classics forever entwined into the lore and mystique of the American West. During their continuous and uninterrupted 80 year existence, they have accumulated more coveted honors and awards than anyone in Western music. The group has been inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame, the Western Music Association Hall of Fame, and the National Cowboy Hall of Fame, and the Smithsonian Institute named them National Treasures.

**Classic Albums Live: Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band**

Saturday, January 19 at 8pm

*"The concert is just as much a recital as any performance of Bach or Beethoven, with no banter, costumes, impersonations, or distracting theatrics between songs. It makes for a fun night of music."*

—DC Metro Theater Arts

Named number one on *Rolling Stone's* 500 Greatest Albums of All Time, Classic Albums Live performs the iconic *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* with skilled vocalists and musicians who honor the work with no gimmicks, no makeup, and no other illusions employed by tribute bands. Note for note, cut for cut, the attention to detail is staggering; every sound from the album is masterfully duplicated live on stage. Experience a cover to cover live performance of many of the most recognized Beatles songs, including "A Day in the Life," "With A Little Help From My Friends," "Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds," "When I'm Sixty Four," and of course, the title track.

**Shaun Boothe Presents The Unauthorized Biography Series**

Wednesday, January 23 at 7:30pm

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

Honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with *Shaun Boothe's Unauthorized Biography*. Recording artist and TEDx and motivational speaker Shaun Boothe tells the inspiring life stories of cultural icons through hip hop, rhyme, and spoken word. With hundreds of thousands of YouTube views, as well as praise from industry heavyweights like Kanye West and Sean 'Diddy' Combs, Boothe's Biography Series is a celebration of greatness made not just to inform and entertain, but to inspire and awaken the greatness within us all. In this performance, Boothe will look at the lives of King, Barack Obama, Oprah Winfrey, Muhammed Ali, Malala, and more.

**Matt Dusk Sings Sinatra**

Saturday, January 26 at 8pm

*"Charming and charismatic vocals."*—Canadian Beats

Back by popular demand! Following his incredible performance at LTAC last season, jazz crooner Matt Dusk returns with a show dedicated to the man himself, Frank Sinatra. Backed by an amazing seven piece band with live horns, Dusk showcases his classy cool style with modern pop and classics, all with a contemporary big band sound. This world class band will have you dancing, clapping, and tapping your toes with a mix of Sinatra era classics and his own repertoire of hits.

**Respect: A Tribute to Aretha Franklin with the Mary Louise Lee Orchestra**

Saturday, February 2 at 8pm

*"Lee's vocal talent is second to none."* —Aurora Sentinel

A night dedicated to Aretha Franklin, the one and only Queen of Soul! With her amazing range, emotional fire and sheer charisma onstage, Mary Louise Lee and her full orchestra will take you on a tour through some of Aretha's most popular songs and some lesser-known gems.

### **Mamma Mia! '70s Movie Night**

Friday, February 8 at 7pm

Based on the Broadway smash and filled with all the ABBA songs you know and love, the movie *Mamma Mia!* is an irresistibly charming musical extravaganza guaranteed to have you singing and grooving like a Dancing Queen! Oscar-winner Meryl Streep leads an all-star cast, including Pierce Brosnan and Colin Firth, in this musical celebration of mothers, daughters and fathers, and true loves lost and new ones found. A bride-to-be in Greece tries to solve the mystery of her paternity by reading the diary of her mother. She invites three possible men to her wedding—and craziness ensues! Join us after the movie in the Event Hall for light bites, a '70s disco dance party, and of course, a costume contest. Get ready to get down and boogie!

### **One Hand, One Heart: 100 Years of Bernstein**

Sunday, February 10 at 7pm

*"[Bernstein's] fast-burning energies, his bewildering versatility and his profuse gifts for both music and theater coalesced to make him a high-profile figure in a dozen fields, among them symphonic music, Broadway musicals, the ballet, films and television."* —New York Times

Leonard Bernstein was one of the most talented and successful musicians in American history. From conducting to teaching to composing, Bernstein's music—including the scores for his groundbreaking Broadway musicals *West Side Story*, *On the Town*, and *Candide*—continues to be celebrated a century after his birth. This sparkling musical tribute features a roster of incredibly talented Broadway singers, joined by host and director Scott Coulter. Celebrate Bernstein's 100th birthday by enjoying his greatest hits from *West Side Story*, *On the Town*, *Candide*, *Wonderful Town* and more!

### **International Guitar Night**

Friday, February 15 at 8pm

*"The evening was exhilarating, with each player's unique performance style contributing to a whole that was refreshing and well rounded."* —Guitar World

International Guitar Night (IGN) brings together a new global troupe of acoustic guitar virtuosos each year for tours of North America. This year, founder Brian Gore has put together another incredible quartet: French Swing sensation Antoine Boyer; Flamenco master Samuelito; Turkish fretless guitarist Cenk Erdoğan, and the return of Italy's Luca Stricagnoli, whose showmanship and arrangements of heavy metal songs have made him a huge fan favorite. Sophisticated and spontaneous, IGN is the longest-running "mobile guitar festival" in North America.

### **The Choir of Man**

Thursday, February 21 at 7:30pm

*"A feast for the senses, Choir of Man will have you dancing down the aisles."* —BroadwayBaby.com

The runaway hit of numerous international music festivals is hitting the road for its first U.S. tour! Known across the globe as "the ultimate-feel good show," The Choir of Man offers up 90 minutes of indisputable joy! It's a party. It's a concert. It's a pint-filled good time set in a working pub (*free beer anyone?!?*) that combines hair-raising harmonies, high-energy dance, and live percussion with foot-

stomping choreography. The multi-talented cast of nine handsome blokes sings everything—pub tunes, folk, opera, classic rock—all to roof-raising heights. It's the best singing, dancing, stomping, pub crawl of a concert you'll ever attend! CHEERS!

### **Bella Gaia: Beautiful Earth**

Wednesday, February 27 at 7:30pm

*"An explosion of color, sound, and light that will restore your faith in the almighty and remind you that the beauty of our planet is enough to take your breath away."* —BroadwayWorld.com

Bella Gaia (Beautiful Earth) is an award-winning, immersive, live multimedia performance of projected NASA visualizations of Earth from space, with live world music and dance on stage. Inspired by astronauts who spoke of the life changing power of seeing the Earth from space, award-winning director, composer, and violinist Kenji Williams created this multimedia journey of our world in partnership with NASA. Combining stunning NASA imagery of the Earth from space, data visualizations, and stirring live music and dance from around the world, this performance is threaded by an orbiting flight path from the International Space Station.

### **Tartan Terrors**

Saturday, March 2 at 8pm

*"Influenced by great traditional musicians and rock and roll favorites, top precision dancers from all over the world, and vaudeville style comedy they aren't just another band."* —Celtic Radio

Tartan Terrors return to the Arts Center with their own Celtic Invasion, mixing rock's energy with traditional folklore, dance, and humor. Featuring classic pipes and fiddle, along with driving drum tones, electric bass and signature guitar styles, the band blends time-honored Celtic music and dance with a high energy rock sound, and brings a modern feel to traditional Celtic fare. Celebrate St. Patrick's Day a little early!

### **Barynya**

Saturday, March 9 at 8pm

*"Those fortunate enough to see Barynya can understand why the troupe is in such high demand. They blend humor and history along with singing and dancing."* —The Telegram

The world-renowned Russian music and dance group, Barynya, is the premier Russian folk ensemble touring the U.S. today. They have performed at Carnegie Hall, The National Constitution Center, The Smithsonian, and the United Nations, to name a few. They present traditional Russian, Cossack, Ukrainian, and Gypsy Roma dancing, songs, and virtuoso performances on traditional Russian instruments including the balalaika, garmoshka (Russian folk button accordion), balalaika contrabass, bayan accordion, Gypsy guitar, violin, and the domra. With beautiful handmade costumes from the region and era of each piece, Barynya is a feast for the eyes and ears.

### **Rockapella**

Friday, March 15 at 8pm

*“The concert was so rhythmically animated that in places you could almost swear they were singing along to tracks.”* —New York Times

Rockapella is one of the world’s most sophisticated, lasting, and imitated vocal groups around today. You’d be hard-pressed to find a more influential group out there in this new era of movies like *Pitch Perfect*, network television a cappella shows such as *The Sing-Off*, and innumerable college vocal groups that own the corner of cool on campuses everywhere. Since the early ’90s when they first achieved national television fame on PBS’s *Where In The World Is Carmen Sandiego?*, they’ve toured the globe and provided a funky powerful soundtrack to several generations of vocal music fans, while keeping it all fresh along the way. With buckets of catchy original pop songs, and complete contemporary revisions of sparkling Motown, pop, and soul classics, this group has always been the one to watch.

### **An Evening of Classical Music with Ivy Street Ensemble**

Wednesday, April 17 at 7:30pm

Featuring musicians from the Colorado Symphony and friends, Denver’s Ivy Street Ensemble specializes in music small in scale, but generous in musical delights. Beethoven composed a Serenade for flute, violin, and viola, providing inspiration for later composers, such as Ferde Grofé of *Grand Canyon Suite* fame. Even before their flute-and-strings works, Mozart had done it, though he added a cello, too, and was so satisfied that he wrote a total of four such flute quartets. This elegant and enjoyable program includes chamber music by those three beloved masters, as well as Argentine star Alberto Ginastera’s *Impresiones de la Puna* and a recent work by American composer Maria Newman. Betsy Schwarm narrates the evening with stories and further background of the music.

### **Ranky Tanky**

Friday, April 26 at 8pm

*“Ranky Tanky brings freshness and uplift to overlooked Americana. In a pop music milieu ever hungry for newness, this group proves that the right musicians can make the past new all over again.”* —NPR

Loosely translated as “Get Funky!” or “Work It,” Ranky Tanky is a band of South Carolina natives who keep the Gullah musical tradition alive and fresh with a repertoire of playful game songs, heartbreaking spirituals, and delicate lullabies. “Gullah” is a West African word meaning “a people blessed by God,” and is a storied culture prevailing on the Sea Islands of South Carolina’s Lowcountry. In 1998, four musicians (Clay Ross, Kevin Hamilton, Charlton Singleton, and Quentin Baxter) came together to form a seminal Charleston jazz quartet. Now, united by their years apart and a deeper understanding of home, these accomplished artists are joined by one of the most sought-after voices in the Lowcountry, Quiana Parler, to celebrate a “Heartland of American Music” born in their backyards. Their first full-length release hit number one on the Billboard charts for jazz album and contemporary jazz album.

### **SNAP**

Sunday, May 5 at 1:30pm and 7pm

*“Here is a smile-inducing wonder you won’t forget.”* —The Scotsman

“The best magic show in 2016 Edinburgh Fringe” (BroadwayWorld.com) and Best Production at Asian Arts Award 2016. The world’s greatest illusion artists from Korea bring you an astounding, enchanting experience of a lifetime. SNAP is a multi-faceted performance based on magic with ingenious stage

language, mime, comedy, and more. When the three tricksters find a sealed door which transcends all of space and time, they encounter various characters such as the Alchemist, the Time Traveler, the Dreamer, and more. Together, they take you through a dreamlike fantasy experience of mystery and illusion that will touch your heart.

**Classic Albums Live: *Chronicle, Vol. 1***

Saturday, May 11 at 8pm

Classic Albums Live recreates Creedence Clearwater Revival's *Chronicle, Vol. 1* with skilled vocalists and musicians who honor the work with no gimmicks, no makeup and no other illusions employed by tribute bands. Note for note, cut for cut, the attention to detail is staggering; every sound from the album is masterfully duplicated live on stage. Experience a cover to cover live performance of some of the most popular songs by popular songs by CCR, including "Bad Moon Rising," "Proud Mary," "Have You Ever Seen the Rain?," "Down On The Corner" and "Travellin' Band."

**Lea Salonga**

Saturday, May 18 at 8pm

*"Lea Salonga's emotional resonance and power and purity of voice left the audience breathless with wonder at many moments throughout the evening."* —BroadwayWorld.com

Recognized the world over for her powerful voice and perfect pitch, Lea Salonga is a singer and actress known for her Tony Award-winning portrayal of Kim in *Miss Saigon* on Broadway, as well as London's West End. Her other accolades include the Olivier, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle, and Theatre World Awards. She was the first Asian to play Eponine in the musical *Les Misérables* on Broadway before returning as Fantine in the 2006 revival. She was recently featured in *Allegiance*, a production at San Diego's Old Globe Theatre and then Broadway, developed by legendary actor George Takei about a Japanese-American family forced into an internment camp during World War II. Fans of all ages may also recognize Salonga as the singing voice of Princess Jasmine from *Aladdin* and Fa Mulan in *Mulan* and *Mulan II*. For her portrayal of these beloved characters, the Walt Disney Company bestowed her with the honor of "Disney Legend."

**National Geographic Live**

**Into the Arctic Kingdom: FLORIAN SCHULZ**

Friday, September 21 at 10am and 8pm

His multi-year quest to document the Arctic took photographer Florian Schulz to the ends of the Earth. He camped for weeks in jarring winter conditions, accompanied traditional Inuit hunters and sailed the arctic waters, all to get an intimate look at life in the Arctic. There, he tracked families of polar bears, followed the vast caribou herds, and captured the Northern Lights in stunning detail. Through breathtaking imagery, the National Geographic photographer takes audiences on a legendary journey into the Arctic kingdom—with a special focus on the Arctic Refuge, one of the world's last great wilderness.

**When Women Ruled the World: KARA COONEY**

Friday, November 9 at 10am and 8pm

When it comes to women in power, we've come a long way...right? Join Dr. Kara Cooney, professor of Egyptology, for a look at a time in ancient history when women ruled the world. Often neglected in the history books, these women were considered exceptions to the rule, political pawns in a patriarchal society. But their power and influence is undeniable. Cleopatra used her sexuality—and her money—to build alliances with warlords of the Roman empire. Neferusobek was the first woman to definitively take the title of King. Nefertiti is known more for her beauty than for bringing a fractured Egypt together. What can we learn from how these women ruled? Dr. Cooney shares some illuminating answers.

**Ocean Soul: BRIAN SKERRY**

Thursday, December 27 at 7:30pm

Growing up in a small, working-class town, Brian Skerry dreamed of exploring the oceans and becoming a National Geographic photographer. Today, Skerry is one of the leading underwater photographers in the world. Since 1998, he has covered a wide range of stories for *National Geographic*, documenting the harp seal's struggle to survive in frozen waters, the alarming decrease in the world's fisheries, the planet's last remaining pristine coral reefs, the plight of the right whale, and threatened sharks in the Bahamas, to name a few. Spending eight months each year in the field, Skerry travels between extreme environments—from the tropics to the Arctic. He has emerged as a leading voice for marine conservation. Skerry's powerful presentations blend award-winning imagery, thrilling wildlife encounters and a powerful call for action.

**My Wild Life: BERTIE GREGORY**

Friday, January 18 at 10am and 8pm

Photographer Bertie Gregory specializes in intimate shots of animals in their natural environment, whether that's a frigid Vancouver beach or the streets of London. In fact, it's in those spaces where nature and humanity coexist that he thrives—a result, no doubt of his teenage years chasing urban swans and pike with his camera. From up-close footage of a leopard stalking through Mumbai to evocative portraits of Vancouver's elusive coastal wolf, he has mastered the art of capturing what binds animal and human together. Oh, and he's only 23.

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