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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TICKETS NOW ON SALE TO THE LONE TREE ARTS CENTER'S 2021-2022 SEASON
Featuring Popular Artists Keb' Mo', Michael Martin Murphey, Pink Martini, Taj Mahal, and Jonathan Butler; Broadway Legends Andrea McArdle and Donna McKechnie; Bluegrass Artists Michael Cleveland and Flamekeeper, We Banjo 3, and The HillBenders; National Geographic Live Speaker Series; International Artists; and More

LONE TREE, CO – After a year of livestreaming and limited capacity in-person performances, the Lone Tree Arts Center (LTAC) announces its most ambitious presenting season to date. LTAC's 2021-22 season is filled with opportunities to see renowned artists in an intimate setting. **Season ticket packages have been available to previous subscribers for the past month; tickets for individual performances go on sale Tuesday, July 13 at 10am.**

While the pandemic stopped us in our tracks last March, we were able to quickly pivot to find ways of delivering high quality performing arts programming that our patrons expect. Thankfully we were able to return to limited capacity in-person performances at various times throughout the year, but we were always hard at work planning for our return to full capacity in-person performances beginning this August. Our 2021-22 season continues our commitment to remarkable programming; you'll see jazz and blues legends; Broadway stars; guitar virtuosos; bluegrass award-winners; thrilling tales of adventure and exploration; holiday traditions and celebrations; and so much more. 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.

Before our season truly kicks off, we welcome back **Bob Kendrick, President of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum**, for a truly special event: **The History of the Negro Baseball Leagues** (July 15). Kendrick wowed with his previous multimedia talks about the Negro Baseball Leagues, and he'll be back

with stories about how players got their start, how they were treated in the league, how they integrated into Major League Baseball, and how the Negro Leagues changed the game of baseball. He'll also give an inside look at how MLB came to the decision to recognize the Negro Leagues as Major League, and how they will go about integrating stats and records.

The Lone Tree Arts Center opened its doors in 2011, and **Pink Martini featuring China Forbes** kicks off our 10th anniversary season celebration, presented by Park Meadows Retail Resort (September 10). Pink Martini calls themselves a little orchestra, but they are definitely a big band that crosses genres between classical, jazz, and pop that is just plain fun.

New this year is a collaboration with Grammy-nominated and international saxophone superstar (and Colorado resident!) Gerald Albright, generously sponsored by Andrews Winslow Foundation and Charles Schwab. Albright takes the helm as artistic director for Lone Tree Sessions, curating legendary and emerging artists in jazz, R&B, and blues for intimate performances at LTAC. Albright kicked off the series in May, and we continue with four-time Grammy winner and roots storyteller **Keb' Mo' Band**, the modern standard bearer of the Delta Blues tradition (August 27). Known for his crossover blend of R&B, pop-jazz fusion, and worship music, acclaimed vocalist and guitarist **Jonathan Butler** pours his heart into selections from his immense catalogue – he's thought of as the Michael Jackson of South Africa (September 24). A fourth artist in the series to perform in the spring will be announced at a later date.

The season kicks off with LTAC favorite **Michael Martin Murphey**, the original Cosmic Cowboy and Americana pioneer whom *Rolling Stone* called "one of the best songwriters in the country" (August 22). A month later, another LTAC favorite, **Gail Bliss**, presents her 2020 postponed performance of **The Music of Patsy Cline**. Endorsed by the Cline Estate, Bliss has performed the role of Patsy Cline in countless productions across North America since 1994 (September 17). Bliss returns in the spring along with **Jason Petty** for **Classic Nashville Live**; a journey down memory lane with your favorite classic hits honoring the world's most beloved country greats (April 9).

Our Popular Music offerings abound in the 2021-22 season, starting with a new production in the format of the beloved *Motones vs. Jerseys*. This time it's boy bands versus girl groups, and it's called **Saved by the Band**. After hearing music from the '60s, '70s, '80s, and '90s, from artists like The Bangles and New Kids on the Block, the audience will vote on who's top of the charts (October 20-24). We have a delayed celebration (from 2020) of the 75th anniversary of the music that ended WWII with **The Finest Hour**, a collaboration between **Davina and the Vagabonds** and **Hot Club Of Cowntown** (November 12). From the

creative team behind *One Night in Memphis*, **John Mueller's Winter Dance Party** is a re-creating of Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens, and the Big Bopper's final tour (January 21). LTAC favorite **Mary Louise Lee** returns with her band for **A Tribute to the Empress Of Soul, Gladys Knight and the Pips** (March 12). Blues legend **Taj Mahal** is a towering music figure – he transcended the blues not by leaving them behind, but by revealing their magnificent scope to the world, and here's your chance to see him in an intimate venue (March 24). And finally, celebrate the life, music, and career of acclaimed singer-songwriter Smokey Robinson with the man who played him on Broadway, Tony nominee Charl Brown, in **Smokey & Me** (May 7).

Bluegrass artists old and new visit LTAC this year, beginning with **Michael Cleveland and Flamekeeper**. Cleveland is considered one of the premier bluegrass fiddlers of his generation, winning a Grammy for Best Bluegrass Album just last year (October 30). Converging the shared and varied traditions of Americana, Bluegrass, and Celtic music with pop-sensible songcraft, **We Banjo 3: A Winter Wonderful** is a special holiday performance celebrating the season (December 1). LTAC favorites **The HillBenders** takes the audience on a chronological journey of The Who's legendary catalog through the wood and wire of bluegrass instrumentation with **WhoGrass** (January 14).

The 2021-2022 season brings an embarrassment of riches for guitar lovers. Boston music scene guitar legend **Johnny A.: Just Me...And My Guitars** is an intimate solo performance celebrating some of the greatest, and most influential, guitar music work in history: the British songbook of the '60s (October 2). Back by popular demand after sellout performances over the past few years, **International Guitar Night** (February 19) celebrates 21 years of touring with Australian contemporary classical guitarist Stephanie Jones, traditional jazz guitarist and vocalist Eleonora Strino from Italy, two-hand "tapper" Alexandr Misko from Russia, and Germany's Latin Swing master Lulo Reinhardt. **The Great Guitars featuring Martin Taylor, Frank Vignola, and John Jorgenson** is an opportunity to hear three virtuoso guitarists in solo, duet, and trio performances for an evening of musical fireworks (May 14).

Classical and jazz music fuse together in two performances this season. The Boulder Philharmonic joins forces with the **Marcus Roberts Trio for An Afternoon of Gershwin** (January 23). Eminent jazz pianist Roberts and his trio (bassist Rodney Jordan and drummer Jason Marsalis) add a stunning new dimension to Gershwin's famous *Concerto in F*, and the program opens with the ever-popular *An American in Paris*. Looking for virtuosic musicianship, multi-instrumental mayhem, and comedy? **The Queen's Cartoonists**

play music from classic cartoons and contemporary animations; the performances are synchronized to video projections of the original films (February 11).

The Lone Tree Arts Center has developed a reputation for bringing renowned Broadway vocalists to our intimate theater, and the 2021-2022 season continues this tradition. Legendary Broadway superstars **Andrea McArdle** (the original *Annie*) and **Donna McKechnie** (the original Cassie in *A Chorus Line*) team up for an evening devoted to the best of Broadway through the years (October 16). Lastly, the Lone Tree Arts Center was chosen as one of only four theaters in the country to present **Jerry Herman: The Broadway Legacy Concert** (November 13). From *Hello Dolly!* and *Mame* to *La Cage aux Folles*, songsmith Herman has lit up Broadway with toe-tapping, soul-stirring musical moments. Starring a cast of New York's top Broadway vocalists, this concert celebrates the songs and stories of one of the giants of musical theater. **Chris Mann**, star of *Phantom of the Opera* and *The Voice*, celebrates the Tony Bennett songbook with **From Gershwin To Gaga** (March 27), sponsored by Andrews Winslow Foundation.

Our 2021-22 season showcases artists from around the world, in a multitude of disciplines. **Masters of Hawaiian Music** features **George Kahumoku Jr., Led Kaapana, and Herb Ohta, Jr.** for an evening of songs, stories, and Hawaiian aloha (January 29). Celebrate the 2022 Lunar New Year of the Water Tiger with **Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company** (February 12). Nai-Ni Chen has been making dances that bridge the richness of Asian artistic heritage and the dynamism of American dance for the past 30 years.

Discovering Antarctica: Heroic Tales of Shackleton, Crean, and Scott (March 8) was a surprise hit at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and broke box office records in Dublin. Solo actor Aidan Dooley brings to life the incredible story of Antarctic explorer Tom Crean who was party to three of the most incredible polar explorations of the late Victorian era, including the infamous Shackleton voyage. Choreographed by Jose Maldonado, with an original score by Gaspar Rodriguez, **Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana's De La Frontera** (formerly *Latido*) is an investigation of life and connectedness (April 24).

As always, LTAC has a fantastic holiday season lined up. In addition to *We Banjo 3*, we start the season off right with Colorado's beloved vocal rock band, **A FACE Christmas** (November 28). Using only their voices, the band melds popular holiday tunes with complex harmonies and beat-box rhythms. In what has become an Arts Center tradition, Denver choir **Kantorei** (December 9) returns for the fifth year with their holiday concert. Under the direction of Artistic Director Joel M. Rinsema, Kantorei celebrates the season with a special performance of holiday favorites. Everyone's favorite holiday theatrical production returns in 2021! Sponsored by Andrews Winslow Foundation, family-friendly **Home for the Holidays**

(December 16-23) is revised for 2021 but still features dancers, singers, drummers, holiday songs, and of course, a celebrity appearance by you know who! To close out the holiday season, **The Doo Wop Project Christmas** (December 28) is back by popular demand, bringing doo wop versions of your favorite holiday music and pop classics.

The 2021-2022 season sees the continuation of the popular **National Geographic Live** series. Sponsored by the Andrews Winslow Foundation, CSU System, and Thrive Home Builders, the series combines breathtaking photography and videography with first-person accounts of exploration and discovery. Paleo-anthropologist **Isaiah Nengo** kicks off the series with *Before the Dawn of Humanity* (October 29). Nengo conducts fieldwork in Kenya to search for the ancestors of apes and humans in Africa, and among his groundbreaking discoveries is Alesi, a 13-million-old infant ape skull that gives us an incomparable window into our past. Next, scientist **Rae Wynn-Grant** gives us a glimpse into *The Secret Life of Bears* (January 28), and how North American black and grizzly bears and humans can peacefully coexist. Paraclimber **Maureen Beck** learned to rock climb one-handed through trial and error, eventually securing two world championships. In *Improbable Ascent* (March 18), she chronicles her journey as one of the foremost leaders in the sport of paraclimbing. For photographer **Thomas Peschak**, sharks aren't a reason to get out of the water—they're a reason to get in. *Wild Seas, Wild Shores* (May 6) is a world tour of marine biology through Peschak's award-winning images and an engaging take on the ocean's charismatic creatures.

Finally, the 2021-22 season features two special Main Stage evening performances for families. **Jackie Robinson: A Game Apart** (September 21) provides a glimpse of Jackie Robinson's life: a star player who was showered with adulation on the field and became a second-hand citizen when he walked off the diamond. It's a powerful lesson of courage through dedication, perseverance, and leadership. **Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom** (March 1) tells the moving and inspiring true story of Lynda Blackmon, the youngest person to walk all the way from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama on the Voting Rights March in 1965. Jailed nine times before her 15th birthday, she and her friends and neighbors fought alongside Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to secure the right to vote for African Americans.

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 sensory friendly programs are geared towards 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.

Full descriptions of performances in LTAC's 2021-2022 Main Stage season can be found online at www.LoneTreeArtsCenter.org. Performer photos are available by request to katie.konishi@cityoflonetree.com. Discounted ticket packages are available to previous and new subscribers. Tickets for individual performances go on sale Tuesday, July 13 at 10am. 2021-2022 season sponsors include WESTAF, RidgeGate, and The Andrews Winslow Foundation. Presenting sponsors are SCFD, Colorado Creative Industries, 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. Arts in the Afternoon is sponsored by Bellco and Patron Sponsor Linda Bjelland. Student matinee sponsors include Bellco, Merrick, Sky Ridge Medical Center, The Andrews Winslow Foundation, the Lone Tree Arts Center Guild, US Bank Foundation, Xcel Energy Foundation, and The Tappan Easton Foundation. *Passport to Culture* and *Seedlings* are sponsored by Sky Ridge Medical Center, Bellco, and The Tappan Easton Foundation. Sensory friendly programming is sponsored by Charles Schwab, Bellco, Developmental Pathways, Chorske Family Foundation, Douglas County Developmental Disabilities Mill Levy Grant, and presenting partners Janet and Joel Kaufman. *SPARK!* programming is sponsored by Bellco and Charles Schwab.

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