



MESA ARTS CENTER
INTERNATIONAL AWARD WINNING VENUE



the phoenix symphony

2014/15 Season

Tito Muñoz Inaugural Season

Media contacts:

Casey Blake, (480) 644-6620, casey.blake@mesaartscenter.com

Todd Vigil, (602) 495-0450, tvigil@phoenixsymphony.org

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**George Benson with The Phoenix Symphony
Performing Live at Mesa Arts Center on January 21**

MESA, AZ – The Phoenix Symphony announces a dynamic series of events at Mesa Arts Center in 2015.

Mesa Arts Center and The Phoenix Symphony present legendary vocalist and ten time GRAMMY® award winner **George Benson** accompanied by The Phoenix Symphony on January 21 at 7:30 p.m. at Mesa Arts Center. This is the third year of collaboration between The Phoenix Symphony and Mesa Arts Center.

With a career spanning four decades, Benson has been heralded as a jazz guitarist of unparalleled chops and a vocalist with great emotional range and sophistication – and a spectacular combination of both. Back by popular demand from his 2012 sold-out performance, George Benson teams up once more with The Phoenix Symphony for a show of Benson's original hits including "Breezin'", "This Masquerade" and more. He's earned himself an impeccable reputation as one of music's most enterprising and engaging stars and respected guitarists. Benson, whose new memoir, *Benson: The Autobiography*, has just been published delivers a performance full of instrumental and vocal prowess with The Phoenix Symphony conducted by Randall Craig.

The Phoenix Symphony will present two additional concerts at Mesa Arts Center in 2015. The world-famous **Cirque de la Symphonie** will give two performances; January 31 at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. The Cirque troop will include jugglers, strong men, contortionists and gravity defying aerialists as they once again join The Phoenix Symphony on stage – and 40 feet above it at the Mesa Arts Center. Cirque de la Symphonie is the only cirque company in the world that performs exclusively with symphony orchestras. Audiences will experience an action-packed display of talented acrobats, high-flying aerialists, strong-men and more performing alongside The Phoenix Symphony.

Best known for originating the role of Jean Valjean in *Les Misérables*, Irish Tenor, **Colm Wilkinson** makes his Arizona debut performing live with The Phoenix Symphony February 27 and 28 at 7:30 p.m. Wilkinson brings his acclaimed and heart felt voice to the Mesa Arts Center

singing Broadway favorites from *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Les Misérables* and more. Wilkinson's versions of both "The Music of the Night" from Phantom and "Bring Him Home" are acclaimed throughout the world and leave audiences breathless.

Media Availability: Please contact The Phoenix Symphony to arrange interviews with the above artists.

Press Photos are Available at: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/b98l11rgg1s6km5/AACTW-HnnDvfszSIs3iwUt4fa?dl=0>

Tickets to these performances are on sale now. Mesa Arts Center is located at 1 E. Main Street in downtown Mesa. Tickets are \$45-79, and are available through the Mesa Arts Center Box Office at MesaArtsCenter.com or by calling 480-644-6500. Additional seating may be available from The Phoenix Symphony by calling 602-495-1999 or visiting phoenixsymphony.org.

For more information about **The Phoenix Symphony** visit www.phoenixsymphony.org.

About The Phoenix Symphony

The Phoenix Symphony has been proudly serving the citizens of the Phoenix metropolitan area and Arizona since 1947. The Phoenix Symphony presents an annual season from September through the beginning of June, featuring full-length classical and pops concerts at Symphony Hall in downtown Phoenix, as well as concerts in Scottsdale, Mesa, Prescott and throughout central Arizona. The Symphony performs for more than 120,000 students and children, helping to introduce music to new generations through a variety of education and youth-engagement programs.

About Mesa Arts Center

The Mesa Arts Center, owned and operated by the City of Mesa, is a unique, architecturally stunning facility located in the heart of downtown Mesa. Arizona's largest arts center is home to four theaters, five art galleries, 14 art studios, and an artist cooperative gallery. Guests, patrons, and students come to Mesa Arts Center to enjoy the finest live entertainment and performances, world-class visual art exhibitions, and outstanding arts education classes. The Mesa Arts Center mission is to inspire people through engaging arts experiences that are diverse, accessible, and relevant. For more information, visit mesaartscenter.com.