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Lincoln Center's *American Songbook* Series Travels to Mesa Arts Center

Performers to include Ben Sollee, Lea DeLaria, Norm Lewis and Patina Miller

March 3-5, 2016



Mesa, AZ — Lincoln Center's *American Songbook* series, a perennial highlight of New York City's arts season, is coming to Mesa. For the first time ever, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts has curated an additional *American Songbook* event, March 3–5, 2016, for Mesa Arts Center's intimate 550-seat Piper Repertory Theater. Performers for the Mesa series include cellist and songwriter **Ben Sollee** on March 3; vocalist and *Orange is the New Black* star **Lea DeLaria** on March 4; and actor/actress and Broadway greats **Norm Lewis** and **Patina Miller** in a shared evening on March 5.

Tickets go on sale to Mesa Arts Center members Wednesday, Jan. 20, at 10 a.m. Tickets go on sale to the general public on Friday, Jan. 22, at 10 a.m. Tickets will be available at Mesa Arts Center's Box Office, at mesaartscenter.com or by calling 480-644-6500. Prices range from \$35-\$55 for single tickets. Special packages that include all shows and/or an add-on Songbook Café experience are also available for additional cost.

Ben Sollee's unique blend of smoky-smooth vocals, intricate arrangements, honest storytelling, and thrilling cello playing have invited comparisons to Sufjan Stevens and Paul Simon. The young musician's concerts have become legendary for their emotional resonance and fiery mix of folk, bluegrass, jazz, and R&B.

Comedian, SAG Award Winning Actress, and *Orange Is the New Black* star **Lea DeLaria** is recognized for her gutsy vocals and scatting technique. Long admired for her innovative jazz covers of rock staples and a favorite of New York City's nightclub scene, Ms. DeLaria has been making waves since stepping onstage at *The Arsenio Hall Show* in 1993 as the first openly gay comic on television in America.

History making Broadway actor and singer **Norm Lewis** was *The Phantom of the Opera's* first African-American Phantom on Broadway. He's been nominated for every major stage award and currently stars on the hit television show *Scandal* on ABC.

Tony Award®-winning singer and actress **Patina Miller** can be seen in *The Hunger Games* series, and the hit CBS television show *Madam Secretary*. She starred in award-winning Broadway shows *Pippin* and *Sister Act*.

From musical theater and jazz to rock and folk, Lincoln Center's acclaimed series **American Songbook** is in its 17th season in New York City and celebrates the best in American singing and songwriting as interpreted by top performers and rising stars.

Mesa Arts Center is located at One East Main Street in downtown Mesa.

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About Mesa Arts Center

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 multidisciplinary arts center is home to four theaters, five art galleries in the MCA Museum, and 14 art studios. Guests, patrons, and students come to Mesa Arts Center to enjoy the finest live entertainment, performances and festivals, 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.

Ticketing and Package Descriptions:

***The Songbook Café:** Enjoy a private Happy Hour (starting before the show at 6:15 through intermission) in the casual atmosphere of an outdoor café that includes open bar (beer, wine, champagne and soft drinks), hors d'oeuvres and music. Additionally each couple will receive a parking pass for Mesa Arts Center. Available as part of the series or individually.

Package Pricing:

Songbook Café Series: \$255

Purchase all three performances and the Songbook Café and get an additional \$15.00 savings on the series, a parking pass (\$15.00 savings), best and same seats first five rows in the theater and a post-performance reception with Norm Lewis and Patina Miller. Available when tickets go on sale through February 15.

American Songbook Series: \$135

Purchase all three performances in the series and get a parking pass (\$15.00 savings), same seats for all performances and a post-performance reception with Norm Lewis and Patina Miller. Contact Box Office purchase individual Songbook Café experiences.

An Evening with Ben Sollee

Thursday, March 3, 7:30 p.m.

Virginia G. Piper Theater

Tickets: \$35, *Songbook Café \$80

An Evening with Lea DeLaria

Friday, March 4, 7:30 p.m.

Virginia G. Piper Theater

Tickets: \$45, *Songbook Café \$90

An Evening with Norm Lewis and Patina Miller

Saturday, March 5, 7:30 p.m.

Virginia G. Piper Theater

Tickets: \$55, *Songbook Café \$100