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Mesa Arts Center announces Performing Live Season for 2016-17

Tuesday, June 14 (Mesa, AZ) – Single tickets for Mesa Arts Center's 2016-17 Performing Live season are now on sale to Mesa Arts Center members, and will go on sale to the general public on Tuesday June 21 at 10:00 a.m. Tickets, memberships and show details are available through Mesa Arts Center's Box Office, at 480-644-6500, and at mesaartscenter.com. The Box Office is located at One East Main Street, Mesa, and is open Monday – Friday 10 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Sunday noon to 4:00 p.m.

Season highlights include soul singer and songwriter Leon Bridges in September, John Cleese & Eric Idle in Together Again At Last...For the Very First Time in November, violinist Itzhak Perlman in January, and The Acting Company and Birdman: Film + Live Drum Score in February. The speaker series expands this year to include Ina Garten: The Barefoot Contessa in November, an evening with celebrated author Neil Gaiman in April, and the National Geographic Live series will continue to deliver stories of life-changing explorations from behind the camera.

Sponsors of the Performing Live Season include Arizona Commission on the Arts, Bill Passey and Maria Silva, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, Boeing, SRP and the National Endowment of the Arts. Events included below are listed by genre and followed by a chronological list.

CONCERTS

An Evening with Lyle Lovett & His Large Band

July 12, 2016 • 7:30 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | \$48-\$78

A singer, composer and actor, Lyle Lovett has broadened the definition of American music in a career that spans 14 albums. Since his self-titled debut in 1986, Lyle Lovett has evolved into one of music's most vibrant and iconic performers. Among his many accolades, besides four Grammy Awards®, are the Americana Music Association's inaugural Trailblazer Award, and being named the Texas State Musician. His works, rich and eclectic, are some of the most beloved of any artist working today.

PRESENTED BY MESA ARTS CENTER IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LIVE NATION

-MORE-

Boz Scaggs

July 26, 2016 • 7:30 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | \$39.50-\$72.50

VIP PACKAGES (LIMITED AVAILABILITY). PACKAGE SALES END JULY 10 AT 10 p.m.

Fans who have followed Scaggs' remarkable career dating back to the late sixties with the Steve Miller Band, his solo triumphs with such classic albums as *Silk Degrees* and *Middle Man*, and the splendid assurance of late-period high points like *Some Change and Dig*, will instantly recognize Scaggs' characteristically deft touch as a singer on his new album, *A Fool to Care*.

PRESENTED BY MESA ARTS CENTER IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LIVE NATION

Jackson Browne

August 19, 2016 • 8:00 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | \$55-\$135

Jackson Browne has written and performed some of the most literate and moving songs in popular music and has defined a genre of songwriting charged with honesty, emotion and personal politics. He was honored with induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2004, and the Songwriter's Hall of Fame in 2007.

PRESENTED BY MESA ARTS CENTER IN PARTNERSHIP WITH DANNY ZELISKO PRESENTS

The Monkees

Good Times: The 50th Anniversary Tour

September 15, 2016 • 7:30 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | \$37-\$100

When four young men were cast in the television roles of a struggling rock band, few could have predicted the impact The Monkees would make on music and pop culture at large, an impact that still reverberates 50 years later. Micky Dolenz and Peter Tork carry on that tradition with a full evening of magical music and multi-media splendor, including clips from their Emmy Award® winning series. Their new show features all of the Monkees' hits, plus an intimate acoustic set and solo spots for each of the singers.

PRESENTED BY MESA ARTS CENTER IN PARTNERSHIP WITH DANNY ZELISKO PRESENTS

Leon Bridges

With Special Guest Lianne La Havas

September 20, 2016 • 7:30 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | \$37-\$45

The river of soul music flows on deep and strong, and 25-year-old Leon Bridges is immersed in its life-giving current. Following the Oct 2014 release of two tunes that set the online world flame, and a series of intimate solo shows from London to Los Angeles, the singer and songwriter has proved himself a rare talent who can do smoldering ballads and elemental rock'n'roll with equal aplomb.

-MORE-

Bernadette Peters

With The Phoenix Symphony

October 15, 2016 • 7:30 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | \$60-\$90

Three-time Tony Award® winner Bernadette Peters, who can be seen in the second season of the Golden Globe Award®-winning series *Mozart in the Jungle*, comes to Mesa to perform live with The Phoenix Symphony. The actress will perform signature songs from the multitude of iconic shows in which she has starred, including *Gypsy*, *Into the Woods* and *Sunday in the Park with George*. The evening will feature musical direction by Marvin Laird and music from The Phoenix Symphony.

PRESENTED BY MESA ARTS CENTER IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE PHOENIX SYMPHONY

Celtic Thunder Legacy

November 2, 2016 • 7:30 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | \$37-\$67

Since its inception, Celtic Thunder has thrilled audiences the world over with their signature vocal harmonies and ensemble productions. Legacy offers music lovers a wide variety of solo selections and fan favorites, newly recorded to reflect the current cast. The Celtic Thunder vocalists are backed by the eight-piece Celtic Thunder Band on strings, guitars, percussion, whistles, pipes and more. Soloists Colm Keegan, Keith Harkin, Ryan Kelly, Emmett O'Hanlon and Neil Byrne are reunited with guest artist Damian McGinty, an original member of Celtic Thunder, who went on to win Fox's *The Glee Project* before landing a recurring role as "Rory Flanagan" in the hit series *Glee*!

The Paul Thorn Band

November 17, 2016 • 7:30 p.m.

Piper Theater | \$30

Mississippi-bred singer Paul Thorn crafts an original set of rock anthems for his latest album *Too Blessed To Be Stressed*. The heralded songwriter follows up his most successful release to date (plus his AAA radio airplay-winning contribution to the Jackson Browne tribute disc) with 11 feel-good numbers that already have audiences singing along.

Vocalosity

The Aca-Perfect Concert Experience

November 18, 2016 • 8:00 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | \$25-\$45

VOCALOSITY is the all-new live concert event from the creative mind of artistic producer Deke Sharon (*Pitch Perfect*, *The Sing-Off*) that takes a cappella to a whole new level! This fast-paced production features an all-star ensemble of diverse young vocalists singing some of today's chart-topping hits in brand-new arrangements that set a new standard for 12-part harmony. It's the aca-perfect concert experience!

-MORE-

Riders in The Sky

Salute to Roy Rogers

November 26, 2016 • 8:00 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | \$27-\$37

Join Riders in the Sky in a thrilling ride to yesteryear as they salute iconic western movie, music and TV star Roy Rogers, undisputed “King of the Cowboys.” In a 90-minute multi-media romp, the show features audience- friendly favorites from Roy’s long career that include “Don’t Fence Me In,” “Pecos Bill,” “Happy Trails” and more. These hits appear on the Riders’ latest album saluting Roy Rogers, and are wrapped up in the Riders’ two-time Grammy® winning high yodeling style. Film clips of Roy’s greatest moments on screen with Trigger, Dale Evans and the Sons of the Pioneers are featured, as well as a film montage tribute to “The Greatest Sidekick of ‘Em All: Gabby Hayes!”

Scott Bradlee’s Postmodern Jukebox

November 27, 2016 • 7:00 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | \$41.50-\$107

VIP AND MEET & GREET PACKAGES (LIMITED AVAILABILITY)

Created by Bradlee, the rotating collective of Postmodern Jukebox has spent the past few years amassing more than 450 million YouTube views and 1.9 million subscribers, performed on *Good Morning America*, topped iTunes and Billboard charts and played hundreds of shows to packed houses around the world. The group releases a new video every week, each one shot in the casual environment of Bradlee’s living room. “Our goal is to give our audiences their favorite show again and again and still has it feel like the very first time.”

Christmas with The Ukulele Orchestra Of Great Britain

December 4, 2016 • 7:30 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | \$36-\$40

The world renowned all-singing, all-plucking ukulele superstars return to the USA with their toe-tapping music, hilarious banter, and sheer superlative entertainment. But now with added holiday cheer! Join the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain this Christmas. This holiday season The Ukulele Orchestra will ask the audience to add to the music by inviting you to participate in a ukulele play-and-sing along from your seats! Everyone will be able to join in, if not playing the ukulele, then singing. This Holiday Season come and enjoy The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain (with bells on!)

-MORE-

Dave Koz & Friends Christmas Tour 2016

December 14, 2016 • 7:30 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | \$56-\$84

Santa Koz returns to Mesa. Nine-time Grammy® nominee and saxophonist extraordinaire Dave Koz and Jonathan Butler, Kenny Lattimore and Ashford & Simpson's Valerie Simpson –will capture the magic of Christmas in the 19th anniversary edition of Koz's holiday tour. The irrepressible Jonathan Butler, an "alumnus" of the tour, has earned accolades in the R&B, contemporary jazz and gospel fields and recently released a new studio album entitled *Free*. Grammy-nominated singer/songwriter Kenny Lattimore has been hailed by The New York Times as a "modern soul man." Acclaimed vocalist Valerie Simpson co-wrote such classic hits such as, "Ain't No Mountain High Enough," "You're All I Need to Get By," and "Ain't Nothing Like the Real Thing" as half of the songwriting/performing/producing entity Ashford and Simpson. Together, these four remarkable artists will put fresh spins on holiday classics, as well as other selections that beautifully capture the spirit of the season.

Band of Merrymakers Christmas Party

December 17, 2016 • 8:00 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | \$40-\$45

Band of Merrymakers is a rotating group of travelling troubadours led by hit songwriters/producers Sam Hollander (Train, One Direction, The Fray, Pentatonix) and Kevin Griffin (Taylor Swift, Sugarland, James Blunt, Howie Day... also of Better Than Ezra) and featuring special guests: Mark McGrath (Sugar Ray) and Tyler Glenn (Neon Trees). This holiday season, the Band of Merrymakers will bring their festive cheer to perform a mix of holiday songs, including classics "Joy to the World" and "Jingle Bells", and hit originals including "Snow Snow Snow" and "Holiday in LA". Band of Merrymakers will be a must-see show to get you and your family in the holiday spirit! The Band of Merrymakers made their mark on the national stage in 2015 by performing at the Rockefeller Tree Lighting Ceremony, the *Today Show*, Jimmy Kimmel Live and through their viral music video of a Santa-Flash mob for their single "Must Be Christmas".

Straight No Chaser

I'll Have Another... 20th Anniversary Tour

NEW YEAR'S EVE - December 31, 2016 • 8:00 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | \$49-\$79

VIP DINNER PACKAGE \$160 (LIMITED SEATING).

Originally formed over a dozen years ago while students together at Indiana University, the group has reassembled and reemerged as a phenomenon -with a massive fanbase, more than 20 million views on YouTube, numerous national TV appearances, and proven success with two holiday releases. In an era when so much pop music is the product of digital processing and vocal pro-tooling, Straight No Chaser is the real deal -the captivating sound of ten unadulterated human voices coming together to make extraordinary music that is moving people in a fundamental sense... and with a sense of humor.

PRESENTED BY MESA ARTS CENTER IN PARTNERSHIP WITH EMPORIUM PRESENTS

-MORE-

The Fab Four: The Ultimate Beatles Tribute

January 20, 2017 • 8:00 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | \$29.50-\$54.50

The Fab Four is the ultimate Beatles show. This group has amazed audiences around the world with their uncanny, note-for-note, live renditions of the Beatles' catalogue. Hosted by "Ed Sullivan," this incredible multimedia stage production, complete with three costume changes, will make you think you are experiencing the real thing.

PRESENTED BY MESA ARTS CENTER IN PARTNERSHIP WITH EMPORIUM PRESENTS

Neil Sedaka with The Phoenix Symphony

February 3, 2017 • 7:30 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | \$64-\$96

Singer. Songwriter. Composer. Pianist. Author. These are just a few of the words that can be used to describe Neil Sedaka. His impressive fifty-year career began when he was one of the first teen pop sensations of the 50s. He was a relevant songwriter in the 60s, a superstar in the 70s, and has remained a force in writing and performing. He owes much of his success to the countless songs he has written, performed, and produced that continue to inspire around the world. PRESENTED BY MESA ARTS CENTER IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE PHOENIX SYMPHONY

The R. Carlos Nakai Quartet

February 11, 2017 • 7:30 p.m.

Piper Theater | \$30

The R. Carlos Nakai Quartet features R. Carlos Nakai on Native American flutes, concert flute, trumpet and voice; Will Clipman on drums, pan-global percussion and voice; AmoChip Dabney on saxophones, keyboards, acoustic guitar and voice; and Johnny Walker on bass and voice. Mixing original compositions with inspired improvisations, the music of RCNQ spans the sonic spectrum from quietly contemplative to highly combustible and from soothingly meditative to irresistibly danceable. Their performances are always delivered with an impeccable blend of rhythm, melody and harmony and a positive vibration: global native fusion for body, mind and soul.

Shaolin Warriors

The Legend Continues

February 21, 2017 • 7:30 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | \$20-\$40

Representing over a thousand years of Chinese martial arts culture, legendary Shaolin Warriors is a wildly popular theatrical experience performed by masters of Kung Fu. In this fully choreographed stage production, Shaolin Warriors brings audiences the remarkable skill, stunning artistry and defying martial-arts prowess of more than 20 Kung Fu masters. Beginning at a very young age, the Kung Fu masters are trained in mental and physical disciplines, perfecting the art of hand-to-hand and weapons combat, which allows them to perform unbelievable feats of athleticism that only seem possible in the movies.

-MORE-

Taj Express

The Bollywood Music Revue

April 15, 2017 • 8:00 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | \$30-\$50

Taj Express explodes with the sounds of India and Bollywood, capturing the vibrant, expressive spirit of Bollywood movies that have been entertaining billions of people in India for generations. Through a fusion of film, dance, and music, this dazzling international sensation will take audiences on a live cinematic journey through modern Indian culture and society. The production is a high energy celebration of new India's pop music, Bollywood culture, and deep traditions featuring colorful costumes, joyful dance, and thrilling live music.

THEATER/COMEDY

Whose Live Anyway?

September 11, 2016 • 7:30 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | \$32-\$52

The current cast members of the Emmy-nominated TV show *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* are proud to present their new improv tour: WHOSE LIVE ANYWAY? 90 minutes of hilarious improvised comedy and song all based on audience suggestions. Cast members Ryan Stiles, Greg Proops, Jeff B. Davis, and Joel Murray will leave you gasping with the very witty scenes they invent before your eyes. Audience participation is key to the show so bring your suggestions and you might be asked to join the cast onstage! WHOSE LIVE ANYWAY? showcases some of the improv games made famous on the long-running TV show as well as some exciting new ones. All ages welcomed!

Paula Poundstone

October 1, 2016 • 8:00 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | \$30.50-\$40.50

32 years ago Paula Poundstone climbed on a Greyhound bus and traveled across the country—stopping in at open mic nights at comedy clubs as she went. She's gone on to become one of our country's foremost humorists. You can hear her through your laughter as a regular panelist on NPR's #1 show, *Wait Wait...Don't Tell Me*. She was part of the talented cast in Pixar's critically acclaimed movie, *Inside Out*, and she performs stand-up comedy across the country.

Erth's Dinosaur Zoo Live

October 6-8, 2016 • VARIOUS TIMES

Piper Theater | \$27 VIP Packages Available

Get ready for the ultimate playdate as Erth's Dinosaur Zoo Live guides you on a breathtaking tour that begins in pre-historic Australia. Observe, meet and interact with an eye-popping collection of amazingly life-like dinosaurs and presented in a theatrical performance that will thrill and entertain. Brought to life by a team of skilled performers and puppeteers, and designed with the help of professional paleontologists, Erth's Dinosaur Zoo Live's puppets are so extraordinarily realistic you may feel the urge to run and hide -but don't!

-MORE-

Slate presents Unelectable You
Created by Slate and The Second City
November 3, 2016 • 7:30 p.m.
Ikeda Theater | \$35

In this new era of viral gaffes and social-media campaigning, of rebels preaching to the disenchanted on both sides of the aisle, who even knows what makes a presidential candidate electable anymore? Join Slate and The Second City as we try to figure it out, in an evening of comedy, insight and topical musings that we're calling Unelectable You. Through sketch comedy, improvisation and a whole lot of audience interaction, the satirical muscle of Second City will harness the often contrarian and cutting edge voice of Slate to take aim at the election, the candidates, the spin, and even Slate itself. The result is a thoughtful, funny and completely self-aware evening that's purely Second City, and purely Slate.

Annie
The Tony Award® Winning Production
January 13, 2017 • 7:30 p.m.
January 14, 2017 • 3:00 p.m.
Ikeda Theater | \$35-\$75

Leapin' Lizards! The world's best-loved musical returns in time-honored form. Directed by original lyricist and director Martin Charnin and choreographed by Liza Gennaro, this production of ANNIE is a brand new incarnation of the iconic original. Featuring book and score by Tony Award®-winners Thomas Meehan, Charles Strouse and Martin Charnin, ANNIE includes such unforgettable songs as "It's A Hard Knock Life," "Easy Street," and the eternal anthem of optimism, "Tomorrow." PRESENTED BY MESA ARTS CENTER IN PARTNERSHIP WITH WEST COAST ENTERTAINMENT AND MIKE PETITE PRESENTATIONS

The Acting Company

These two performances (see next two listed descriptions) are presented by Mesa Arts Center in a unique collaboration with Arizona State University's School of Film, Dance and Theatre, and The Acting Company. Founded in 1972 by legendary producer/director/actor John Houseman and previous Producing Director Margot Harley with members of the first graduating class of Juilliard's Drama Division, The Acting Company has performed 143 productions for over 3 million people in 48 states and 10 foreign countries.

The Acting Company: World Premier X
February 2-3, 2017 • 7:30 p.m.
Piper Theater | \$30, \$60 Includes post-show reception

A new play by Marcus Gardley, directed by Ian Belknap about the assassination of Malcolm X—both the story we think we know and illuminating details that have seldom been shared—is brought to vivid, lyrical life in award-winning writer Marcus Gardley's new play. Shakespeare's Julius Caesar provides a framework for Gardley to deepen our understanding of one of America's most complex, compelling historical figures and explore the tumultuous landscape of ideology and activism in the 1960s.

-MORE-

The Acting Company: Shakespeare's Julius Caesar

February 4, 2017 • 2 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.

Piper Theater | \$30

Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare, directed by Devin Brain, tackles essential questions about the balance of ambition, personal loyalty, and love of country, Shakespeare's timeless political masterpiece has never been more relevant. Through the story of Julius Caesar, a rising political star torn down by his most trusted allies, audiences witness the art of persuasion, the ugliness of back-room politics, and the historical patterns we can't stop repeating.

Hal Holbrook in Mark Twain Tonight

February 24, 2017 • 8:00 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | \$30-\$60

A living, breathing, American masterpiece! It is, quite simply, one of the most acclaimed and enduring performances in the history of theater. Fifty years ago, a young actor took the stage in a tiny off-Broadway theater and introduced the world to the portrait of a man they would never forget. The actor was Hal Holbrook and the man was Mark Twain.

To Sleep To Dream

Earfilms (Special Engagement)

March 15-19, 2017 • VARIOUS TIMES

Piper Theater | \$40

"Filmmakers are only ever projecting their own imaginations. EarFilms allows the viewer to use their own. Yes, the attendees are actually blindfolded as they experience cinematic storytelling with 3D sound to create a minds-eye movie of their own." *Source Magazine*. Set in a society where the act of dreaming is outlawed, Jack Richards –a man lost in the system -has a glimpse of a dream. When he sees a symbol from his dream in waking life he follows it and finds himself in an underground group of resistance dreamers living beneath the city. They reveal their discovery; buried deep beneath the layers of dreams, is a lost realm of existence. To find it, Jack must journey through his own subconscious and beyond. And so begins an incredible adventure in Jack's bid to discover this magical realm and reclaim it for all. Haunting and magical, To Sleep To Dream is a story of hope in darkness, the power within a dreamer and the boundless freedom found in imagination.

Disenchanted! The Hilarious Hit Musical

March 26, 2017 • 3:00 & 7:30 p.m.

Piper Theater | \$45

Poisoned apples. Glass slippers. Who needs 'em?! Not Snow White and her posse of disenchanted princesses in the hilarious hit musical that's anything but Grimm. Forget the princesses you think you know – the original storybook heroines have come back to life to set the record straight. After multiple sold-out runs nationwide, these royal renegades tossed off their tiaras to bring their hilariously subversive, not-for-the-kiddies musical to you – and what you thought about princesses will never be the same! THIS PRESENTATION CONTAINS ADULT LANGUAGE NOT NECESSARILY SUITABLE FOR ALL AGES

-MORE-

JAZZ FROM A TO Z

Jason Marsalis Vibes Quartet
September 24, 2016 • 7:30 p.m.
Piper Theater | \$35

Jason Marsalis is the youngest member of the illustrious Marsalis clan. A drummer who established his career on the red-hot New Orleans jazz scene, he spent more than a decade in the Marcus Roberts Trio and co-founded the Afro-Caribbean jazz combo Los Hombres Calientes. The Vibes Quartet focuses on Marsalis's finely wrought originals and material contributed by the band. While the quartet plays with the dynamic control and precision of a chamber ensemble, the band's bluesy authority and improvisational firepower leave no doubt why Marsalis was named an NEA Jazz Master along with his father Ellis and his brothers Branford, Wynton, and Delfeayo.

The Hot Sardines Holiday Stomp
December 18, 2016 • 7:30 p.m.
Ikeda Theater | \$30-\$45

Capping off a year that's seen the Sardines play to sold-out venues throughout the U.S., New York's hot-jazz darlings get into the big, brass-filled spirit of the holiday season. For the Holiday Stomp, the Sardines infuse yuletide classics with their unique twist on New York, Paris, and New Orleans jazz from the era of Prohibition and beyond, from beloved chestnuts like "White Christmas" and "Please Come Home for Christmas" to lesser-known gems such as Edith Piaf's "Le Noël de La Rue", Ella Fitzgerald's "Santa Claus Got Stuck in My Chimney" and even "The Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy" -- with plenty of surprises along the way.

PRESENTED BY MESA ARTS CENTER IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SCOTTSDALE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Birdman: Film + Live Drum Score
Performance by Antonio Sánchez
February 25, 2017 • 7:30 p.m.
Piper Theater | \$30-\$45

The visually stunning 2015 Oscar® winner for Best Picture by maverick director Alejandro Iñárritu stars Michael Keaton as a washed-up action star trying to reinvent his career as a credible actor and director on the Broadway stage. For this special screening and performance, the film will be accompanied live by renowned jazz drummer Antonio Sanchez, recreating his explosive, Grammy® winning score that provides the heartbeat of the film. With a supporting cast that includes Edward Norton, Naomi Watts, Zach Galifianakis and Emma Stone, *Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)* is a kinetic film experience that plays like a single, continuous sequence of events. Sanchez's drums supply the energy and drive that underlines the emotional weight of the story and perfectly expresses the restless, desperate intensity of the characters.

-MORE-

Jazz Under the Stars with Carlos Henriquez

April 19, 2017 • 7:30 p.m.

Alliance Pavillion | \$30

Celebrate Jazz Appreciation Month with MAC. Carlos Henriquez's *The Bronx Pyramid* marked the Bronx-born, Nuyorican bassist's first album as a leader—and the emergence of a fully-fledged Latin jazz master. Henriquez expertly blends modern jazz with Latin rhythms, demonstrating why he's been performing with greats like Tito Puente, Eddie Palmieri, and Celia Cruz since he was 14. When Henriquez's high school band won the inaugural Essentially Ellington competition in 1996, he came to the attention of Wynton Marsalis, who took the bassist on the road shortly after he graduated high school. Since then, Henriquez has toured the world with the Wynton Marsalis Septet, Chris Botti, and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra.

PRESENTED BY MESA ARTS CENTER IN COLLABORATION WITH JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER

CLASSICAL MUSIC INSIDE OUT

Ying Quartet

With Zuill Bailey

September 29, 2016 • 7:30 p.m.

Piper Theater | \$30-\$70

SPECIAL CD RELEASE PERFORMANCE.

6:45-7:15 p.m. PRE-SHOW MAC TALK WITH CMIO ARTISTIC DIRECTOR ZUILL BAILEY
Robert Schumann intended to arrange an alternative version of his Cello Concerto, re-scoring it for cello and string quartet, but never got around to it. Following triumphant performances in Washington, D.C. and Alaska, the Ying Quartet and cellist Zuill Bailey have just recorded Beethoven's Kreutzer Sonata, in a rarely heard 1832 arrangement by N. Simrock. This joins the debut recording of Philip Lasser's arrangement of the Schumann Cello Concerto for solo cello and string quartet.

HAYDN: QUARTET IN F MAJOR, OP. 77, NO. 2 OR. BILLY CHILDS: AWAKENING

SCHUMANN: CELLO CONCERTO IN A MINOR, OP. 129 (ARR. PHILIP LASSER)

BEETHOVEN: SONATA FOR STRING QUINTET, OP. 29, "KREUTZER" (ARR. N. SIMROCK)

The Romeros

October 27, 2016 • 7:30 p.m.

Piper Theater | \$30-\$70

6:45-7:15 p.m. PRE-SHOW MAC TALK WITH ARTISTIC DIRECTOR ZUILL BAILEY
Known to millions as "The Royal Family of the Guitar," the Romeros were founded by the legendary Celedonio Romero with his sons Celin, Pepe and Angel in 1958. The Quartet went through natural transformations, and today consists of the second (Celin & Pepe) and third generations (Lito & Celino). To have so many virtuosi of the same instrument in one family is unique in the world of musical performance, and in the realm of the classical guitar it is absolutely without precedent.

-MORE-

Itzhak Perlman

With Pianist Rohan De Silva

January 12, 2017 • 7:30 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | \$50-\$90

Undeniably the reigning virtuoso of the violin, Itzhak Perlman enjoys superstar status rarely afforded a classical musician. Beloved for his charm and humanity as well as his talent, he is treasured by audiences throughout the world who respond not only to his remarkable artistry, but also to his irrepressible joy for making music.

Navah Perlman: A Musical Memoir

February 15, 2017 • 7:30 p.m.

Piper Theater | \$30-\$70

PRE-SHOW MAC TALK WITH ARTISTIC DIRECTOR ZUILL BAILEY 6:45-7:15 p.m.

Pianist Navah Perlman performs and recounts her journey growing up the daughter of famed violinist Itzhak Perlman. Having started her career as a teenager, Navah's views on music, performing, and family life have been uniquely informed by her experiences on the stage, whether solo performances with major orchestras around the world or playing chamber music with colleagues or performing at the White House with her Dad.

St. Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra

March 11, 2017 • 8:00 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | \$35-\$75

This is a rare opportunity to experience Sayaka Shoji, the first Japanese (and youngest) winner at the Paganini Competition, alongside Russia's oldest orchestra. Sayaka seldom performs in the US, and when she does, she typically plays only the major classical markets, New York, DC, Cleveland, Philadelphia, and LA. PROKOFIEV: ROMEO AND JULIET (YURI TEMIRKANOV'S OWN SUITE - MAINLY NO. 2 AND A FEW FROM NO. 1)

PROKOFIEV: VIOLIN CONCERTO, TBD RAVEL: DAPHNIS AND CHLOÉ

YURI TEMIRKANOV: ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & CHIEF CONDUCTOR.

NIKOLAI ALEXEEV: DEPUTY ARTISTIC DIRECTOR. SAYAKA SHOJI: VIOLIN

Young Artist Development Series

April 13, 2017 • 7:30 p.m.

Piper Theater | \$30-\$45

PRE-SHOW MAC TALK WITH ARTISTIC DIRECTOR ZUILL BAILEY 6:45-7:15 p.m.

The Johns Hopkins University/Peabody Institute of Music is designed to mold outstanding young artists into dynamic Doctoral Music Performance Artists and inspire them in a career in Musical Performance in the 21st century. Artistic Director Zuill Bailey mentors and guides the students to achieve their best in performance and in Community Engagement practices with schools and other facilities. Zuill will be working side by side with the students as they present education programs and master classes. "I am here to facilitate and guide the students as well as to provide training in media and public appearances, as well as creating a curriculum for them."

-MORE-

SPEAKERS

Snap Judgment

Hosted by Glynn Washington

September 18, 2016 • 7:30 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | \$32-\$47

Snap Judgment is the smoking hot show produced by WNYC Studios electrifying audiences nationwide. Raw. Sexy. Intimate. Dramatic. "Storytelling with a BEAT." Created by Glynn Washington, Snap delivers a raw, intimate, musical brand of narrative -- daring audiences to see the world through the eyes of another.

40th Anniversary of The Rocky Horror Picture Show

Film Screening Party with Barry Bostwick

October 22, 2016 • 7:30 p.m. Ikeda Theater | \$42

VIP PACKAGES INCLUDE POST SHOW MEET & GREET WITH BARRY!

Costume contest! Audience participation! Plus live talkback and Q+A with Barry! It's the event that will have you shivering with antici...pation. Celebrate the 40th Anniversary of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* with the one-and-only "Brad Majors" himself, Barry Bostwick. Be a part of this party celebrating 4 decades of the phenomenon that has sparked fans to dress up and shout lines in movie theatres across the world. Get ready for the "Time Warp" and sing your loudest "Hot Patootie" as you enjoy a screening of the film with all your favorite creatures of the night. Following the film, Barry Bostwick will dish on all his best behind-the-scenes stories, working with Tim Curry and Susan Sarandon and so much more. Brad! Janet! Dr. Scott! Rocky!

Malcolm-Jamal Warner's: Miles Long

October 28, 2016 • 7:30 p.m.

Piper Theater | \$30

When not acting and directing, Warner is a poet and a bass player. In 2015, Warner nabbed his first Grammy Award® for "Best Traditional R&B Performance as a Featured Performer" on Robert Glasper's version of the Stevie Wonder classic "Jesus Children of America." Warner's jazz-funk band Miles Long has performed in several major jazz festivals, including the Playboy Jazz Festival. Both of Warner's independently distributed CD's, *The Miles Long Mix Tape* and *Love and Other Social Issues*, have become popular on the underground music scene.

Ina Garten the Barefoot Contessa

November 15, 2016 • 7:30 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | \$41-\$77

Ina Garten shares her natural approach to food. The Emmy Award® winning host of the Barefoot Contessa on Food Network, and a *New York Times* best-selling author, shares the pleasures of good food, cooked with love and passion, engaging the audience with an interactive Q&A. Ina's new book *Cooking for Jeffrey: A Barefoot Contessa Cookbook* will be released October 25, 2016 and autographed copies will be available for purchase through Williams-Sonoma at the show. PRESENTED BY MESA ARTS CENTER IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MILLS ENTERTAINMENT

-MORE-

John Cleese & Eric Idle: Together Again at Last...For The Very First Time
November 21, 2016 • 7:30 p.m.
Ikeda Theater | \$63.50-\$103.50

PRESALE BEGINS JUNE 15; TICKETS ON SALE TO GENERAL PUBLIC JUNE 17

Living legends John Cleese and Eric Idle make their must-see return to the US in John Cleese & Eric Idle: Together Again At Last... For The Very First Time. The tour will see the British icons perform unforgettable sit-down comedy. Cleese and Idle will blend scripted and improvised bits with storytelling, musical numbers, exclusive footage, aquatic juggling and an extended audience Q&A to craft a unique comedic experience with every performance. As founding members of *Monty Python*, Cleese and Idle are unarguably among the godfathers of modern comedy, helping to pioneer an irreverent, absurdist sensibility that is emulated by comics around the world to this very day. PRESENTED BY MESA ARTS CENTER IN PARTNERSHIP WITH JUST FOR LAUGHS AND MILLS ENTERTAINMENT

The Moth Mainstage: True Stories Told Live
January 27, 2017 • 8:00 p.m.
Ikeda Theater | \$35-\$45

The Moth –hailed as “New York’s hottest and hippest literary ticket” by *The Wall Street Journal* –is an acclaimed not-for-profit organization dedicated to the art and craft of storytelling. The Moth has presented more than three thousand stories, told live and without notes, by people from all walks of life to standing-room-only crowds worldwide. Each Moth Mainstage features simple, old-fashioned storytelling, by five wildly divergent raconteurs who develop and shape their stories with The Moth’s directors. THIS PRESENTATION MAY CONTAIN ADULT LANGUAGE NOT NECESSARILY SUITABLE FOR ALL AGES

Annabelle Gurwitch: I See You Made an Effort
February 10, 2017 • 7:30 p.m.
Piper Theater | \$38

New York Times bestselling author and actress Annabelle Gurwitch performs, *I See You Made an Effort*, a new one-woman stage show, based on her book of the same name. It’s a hilarious 80-minute, one-act romp, set on the eve of a 50th birthday. Hounded by the AARP, Gurwitch is flummoxed by internet passwords, tempted by Hope in a Jar anti-aging face cream and wondering if her 401K balance will see her spending her Eileen Fisher years in an elder hostel in Uzbekistan. Annabelle finds herself in an ill-fated Mrs. Robinson sexual fantasy and discovers the restorative powers of motherhood after taking her son to a punk rock concert. If you’re a woman of a certain age, or you love a woman of a certain age, you need to see this show.

-MORE-

An Evening with Neil Gaiman

April 1, 2017 • 8:00 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | \$35-\$65

VIP TICKETS WILL INCLUDE PRIME SEATS AND A PRE-SHOW RECEPTION WITH NEIL GAIMAN (LIMITED AVAILABILITY). PACKAGE SALES END July 10 AT 10 p.m.

"I make things up and write them down" is the way Neil Gaiman describes his varied art. Today, as one of the most celebrated, bestselling writers of our time, his popular and critically acclaimed works bend genres while reaching audiences of all ages. In his live event, "An Evening with Neil Gaiman", he will tell stories and read stories, answer questions, and in his own words, "amaze, befuddle and generally delight. It will be fun and odd and not like any other evening with Neil Gaiman." "He's heaped with sci-fi and horror prizes – the Hugo, the Nebula, the Bram Stoker – but also with children's prizes, the Newbery and more. He's a literary rock star who also takes the stage – and mines our deep, dark veins." NPR's *On Point* with Tom Ashbrook

NAT GEO LIVE

A Photographer's Life of Love and War

Lynsey Addario: Photojournalist

October 19, 2016 • 7:30 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | \$24-\$38 | SEASON TICKETS AVAILABLE

Go on assignment to the world's most dangerous conflict zones with a Pulitzer Prize winning photojournalist. Lynsey Addario has survived death threats and two kidnappings to bring back powerful images from hot spots such as Libya, Iraq, and Afghanistan for National Geographic and the *New York Times*. She'll share the heart-pounding reality of working in war zones and foreign cultures and explain what keeps her going back to places most of us would never venture.

THIS PRESENTATION CONTAINS GRAPHIC IMAGES SUITABLE ONLY FOR MATURE AUDIENCES.

Mankind to Mars

Andrew Fazekas: National Geographic Space Correspondent

November 16, 2016 • 7:30 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | \$24-\$38 | SEASON TICKETS AVAILABLE

National Geographic Channel (NGC); Academy Award® and Emmy® winning producers Brian Grazer, Ron Howard, and Michael Rosenberg of Imagine Entertainment; and Justin Wilkes and Dave O'Connor of Radical Media have joined forces to launch us into outer space with the global event series, *Red Planet*. Nat Geo Channel embarks on a quest to Mars in a groundbreaking, global miniseries — and Nat Geo Live Tour. The Night Sky Guy, Andrew Fazekas moderates a discussion with two experts from the forthcoming book and TV series on the subject of populating Mars.

-MORE-

The Risky Science of Exploration

Kenny Broad: Diver and Environmental Anthropologist

February 1, 2017 • 7:30 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | \$24-\$38 | SEASON TICKETS AVAILABLE

In an evening filled with Broad's hilariously recounted adventures and misadventures to far-flung destinations such as Jamaica, Mexico, Micronesia, Vietnam, and Cuba, he explains the allure and dangers inherent in modern day exploration.

The Mystery of Our Human Story

Lee Berger: Paleoanthropologist

March 29, 2017 • 7:30 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | \$24-\$38 | SEASON TICKETS AVAILABLE

A trove of bones hidden deep within a South African cave represents a new species of human ancestor—and one of the greatest fossil discoveries of the past half century. *Homo naledi* appears very primitive in some respects, with a tiny brain and ape like shoulders for climbing. But in other ways it looks remarkably like modern humans. By bringing *Homo naledi* to light, paleoanthropologist and Nat Geo explorer-in residence Lee Berger and his team have made a world-class impact on our understanding of human evolution.

DANCE

Twyla Tharp 50th Anniversary Tour

October 7, 2016 • 8:00 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | \$30-\$60

Celebrate Twyla Tharp's 50th Anniversary. Tharp turns her decades of experience -dances for Hollywood films, television, and the Broadway stage, ballets, modern dances—into living proof that time is her partner. She continues to deepen and expand the singular imagination which makes her one of the century's most treasured artists.

Paul Taylor's American Modern Dance Company

April 20, 2017 • 7:30 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | \$20-\$50

The Paul Taylor Dance Company, established in 1954, is one of the world's most highly respected and sought-after ensembles. A modest Manhattan performance marked the beginning of nearly 60 years of unrivaled creativity. Taylor became a cultural icon and one of history's most celebrated artists, hailed as part of the pantheon that created American modern dance. Having traveled the globe many times over, Taylor brings his ever-burgeoning repertoire to theaters and venues of every size and description in cultural capitals, on college campuses and in rural communities — and often to places modern dance had never been before.

-MORE-

CHRONOLOGICAL LIST of Mesa Arts Center Events for 2016-17

2016

JUL 12 AN EVENING WITH LYLE LOVETT AND HIS LARGE BAND
JUL 22 FALL ENROLLMENT: CLASSES
JUL 26 BOZ SCAGGS
AUG 18 EDUCATOR PREVIEW NIGHT
AUG 19 JACKSON BROWNE
SEP 9 SEASON KICKOFF FESTIVAL
SEP 11 WHOSE LIVE ANYWAY?
SEP 15 THE MONKEES GOOD TIMES: THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
SEP 18 SNAP JUDGEMENT - HOSTED BY GLYNN WASHINGTON
SEP 20 LEON BRIDGES WITH SPECIAL GUEST LIANNE LA HAVAS
SEP 24 JASON MARSALIS VIBES QUARTET
SEP 29 YING QUARTET WITH ZUILL BAILEY
OCT 1 PAULA POUNDSTONE
OCT 6-8 EARTH'S DINOSAUR ZOO LIVE
OCT 7 TWYLA THARP 50TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR
OCT 15 BERNADETTE PETERS WITH THE PHOENIX SYMPHONY
OCT 19 A PHOTOGRAPHERS LIFE OF LOVE AND WAR LYNSEY ADDARIO
OCT 22 ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW W/ BARRY BOSTWICK
OCT 22 & 23 DIA DE LOS MUERTOS
OCT 27 THE ROMEROS
OCT 28 MALCOLM JAMAL WARNER'S - MILES LONG
NOV 2 CELTIC THUNDER LEGACY
NOV 3 UNELECTABLE YOU
NOV 15 INA GARTEN
NOV 16 MANKIND TO MARS: ANDREW FAZEKAS
NOV 17 PAUL THORN
NOV 18 VOCALOSITY: THE ACA-PERFECT CONCERT EXPERIENCE
NOV 21 JOHN CLEESE & ERIC IDLE
NOV 26 RIDERS IN THE SKY SALUTE TO ROY ROGERS
NOV 27 SCOTT BRADLEE'S POSTMODERN JUKEBOX
DEC 4 CHRISTMAS WITH THE UKULELE ORCHESTRA OF GREAT BRITAIN
DEC 9 WINTER/SPRING ENROLLMENT - CLASSES
DEC 10 & 11 MESA ARTS FESTIVAL
DEC 14 DAVE KOZ & FRIENDS CHRISTMAS TOUR 2016
DEC 17 BAND OF MERRY MAKERS CHRISTMAS PARTY
DEC 18 THE HOT SARDINES HOLIDAY STOMP
DEC 31 STRAIGHT NO CHASER

-MORE-

2017

JAN 12 ITZHAK PERLMAN, VIOLIN WITH ROHAN DESILVA, PIANO
JAN 13 & 14 ANNIE: THE TONY AWARD® WINNING PRODUCTION
JAN 20 THE FAB FOUR-THE ULTIMATE BEATLES TRIBUTE
JAN 27 THE MOTH: TRUE STORIES TOLD LIVE
FEB 1 THE RISKY SCIENCE OF EXPLORATION KENNY BROAD
FEB 2-3 THE ACTING COMPANY: WORLD PREMIER X
FEB 3 NEIL SEDAKA WITH THE PHOENIX SYMPHONY
FEB 4 THE ACTING COMPANY: SHAKESPEARE'S JULIUS CAESAR
FEB 10 ANNABELLE GURWITCH: I SEE YOU MADE AN EFFORT
FEB 11 R. CARLOS NAKAI QUARTET
FEB 15 NAVAH PERLMAN: A MUSICAL MEMOIR
FEB 21 SHAOLIN WARRIORS: THE LEGEND CONTINUES
FEB 24 HAL HOLBROOK IN MARK TWAIN TONIGHT
FEB 25 BIRDMAN: FILM + LIVE DRUM SCORE
MAR 11 ST. PETERSBURG PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
15-19 TO SLEEP TO DREAM EAR FILM MAR
MAR 17 & 18 spark! MESA'S FESTIVAL OF CREATIVITY
MAR 26 DISENCHANTED! THE HILARIOUS HIT MUSICAL NATIONAL TOUR
MAR 29 THE MYSTERY OF OUR HUMAN STORY: LEE BERGER
APR 1 AN EVENING WITH NEIL GAIMAN
APR 13 YOUNG ARTIST DEVELOPMENT SERIES
APR 14 SUMMER ENROLLMENT - CLASSES
APR 15 TAJ EXPRESS - THE BOLLYWOOD MUSICAL REVUE
APR 19 JAZZ UNDER THE STARS WITH CARLOS HENRIQUEZ
APR 20 PAUL TAYLOR DANCE COMPANY

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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, and 14 art studios. 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.