LINCOLN CENTER AND THE NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC ANNOUNCE GALA CONCERT TO RAISE FUNDS FOR NEW DAVID GEFFEN HALL

STAR STUDDED CELEBRATION OF FRANK SINATRA’S CENTENNIAL
DECEMBER 3

Alan Gilbert leads New York Philharmonic
Performers include Christina Aguilera, Chris Botti, Fantasia, Sutton Foster, Seth MacFarlane (host), Bernadette Peters, and Sting

October 8, 2015, New York, NY – Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts (LCPA) and the New York Philharmonic announce a gala fundraiser for the new David Geffen Hall by presenting a star-studded concert on Thursday, December 3, in the hall, celebrating the music of Frank Sinatra on the occasion of his 100th birthday. Earlier this year music and media executive David Geffen gave a $100 million gift to Lincoln Center to lead a complete renovation of its largest concert hall, which now bears his name.

SINATRA: Voice for a Century will feature Music Director Alan Gilbert conducting the New York Philharmonic, and artists will include the six-time Grammy Award winning singer Christina Aguilera; top-selling instrumentalist in the U.S., Chris Botti; American Idol third season winner and Grammy awardee Fantasia; Tony-Award winners Sutton Foster and Bernadette Peters; and multiple Grammy Award-winning singer and composer Sting, all of whom will perform music associated with Sinatra during his iconic career. TV series creator, filmmaker, and actor Seth MacFarlane will host the concert as well as perform, and Broadway and Tony-nominated director Lonny Price will direct. The choreographer is Emmy Award winner Joshua Bergasse. More artists to be announced.

Morgan Stanley is the Lead Sponsor for SINATRA: Voice for a Century
“We are thrilled to celebrate David Geffen’s transformative gift with a night devoted to one of America’s greatest musicians, Frank Sinatra,” said Lincoln Center Chair Katherine Farley.

Added Philharmonic Board Chairman Oscar S. Schafer, “Frank Sinatra and the New York Philharmonic are both iconic artists emblematic of the great city of New York, and we’re proud to be presenting this gala fundraiser with Lincoln Center. Frank's timeless songs will never sound better than they will as played by our great Orchestra and sung by such talented artists.”

The comprehensive renovation and re-imagination of the concert hall will be undertaken in close collaboration between Lincoln Center and the New York Philharmonic. The project is on track to begin construction in 2019. In addition to its primary purpose as the home of the New York Philharmonic, which has performed there since it opened in 1962, it will house the new Lincoln Center Hall of Fame.

TICKETS to the SINATRA: Voice for a Century gala on Thursday, December 3, which includes a cocktail reception prior to the concert and a dinner after, may be purchased by contacting Betsy Baron in the Lincoln Center Office of Special Events (bbaron@lincolncenter.org or 212.875.5444).

More about the artists:

Christina Aguilera
One of the most accomplished performers of the last decade, Christina Aguilera has sold more than 30 million albums worldwide, achieved four No. 1 singles on the Billboard Hot 100 chart and won six Grammy awards. She has also received her star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and has had the prestigious honor of being named the only artist under the age of 30 included in Rolling Stone Magazine’s list of the 100 greatest singers of all time. In 2011 she entered the world of TV as a coach on NBC’s Emmy Award winning show The Voice. Christina continues to use her voice for good. She has served as global spokesperson for Yum! Brands’ World Hunger Relief effort since 2009 where her participation has helped raised $115 million for WFP and others, providing 460 million meals and saving millions of lives.

Chris Botti
Since the release of his 2004 critically acclaimed CD, When I Fall in Love, trumpeter Chris Botti has become the largest-selling American instrumental artist. His success has crossed over to audiences usually reserved for pop music, and his close association with PBS has led to four #1 jazz albums, as well as multiple Gold and Platinum albums and Grammy Awards. Botti has performed with the best in music, including Sting, Paul Simon, Joni Mitchell, Barbra Streisand, Yo-Yo Ma, Tony Bennett, and Joshua Bell, among others. He also had the honor of performing with Frank Sinatra.

Fantasia
Fantasia (born Fantasia Barrino) is an American R&B singer-songwriter, actress, and author. She rose to fame as the winner, at the age of nineteen, of the television series American Idol in 2004. Following that she released her first of four albums, and its first single, “I Believe,” made her the first artist in Billboard history to debut at #1 on the Hot 100 chart. She performed the coveted role of Celie in The Color Purple on Broadway, winning a Theater World Award. She has had her own reality television series, and she has won a Grammy Award. She appears regularly before audiences on concert stages throughout the U.S.
Sutton Foster
Foster is an award-winning actor, singer, and dancer who has performed in eleven Broadway shows. Most recently, Foster appeared as Violet in the Roundabout Theatre Company’s Tony-nominated revival of Violet, a role which garnered her Tony, Drama Desk, Drama League and Outer Critic Circle award nominations. She originated roles in the Broadway productions of The Drowsy Chaperone, Little Women, Young Frankenstein, Shrek the Musical, and her Tony-winning performances in Anything Goes and Thoroughly Modern Millie. Her television credits include Bunheads, Flight of the Conchords, Sesame Street, and Law and Order: SVU. She currently stars in TVLand’s series Younger, created by Darren Star. She has recorded two CDs and has performed internationally as a solo artist, gracing the stages of Carnegie Hall, Joe’s Pub, Feinstein’s, and Lincoln Center’s American Songbook series.

Seth MacFarlane
Seth MacFarlane is a creator, writer, director and singer of some of today’s most popular content, garnering two Emmy Awards, two Grammy Award nominations and an Academy Award nomination for his work in television, music and motion pictures. He has traveled the world to sing with renowned orchestras, such as the BBC Proms and the National Symphony Orchestra, lending his baritone voice to the hidden gems of the ‘40s and ‘50s swing era. He has released two successful albums and his third will debut this October. MacFarlane also created the hugely successful television show Family Guy, executive produced the Emmy-winning Cosmos: A Space Time Odyssey and Starz’ original show, Blunt Talk. His directorial debut, Ted, was the highest grossing original R-rated comedy. He then wrote, directed and produced A Million Ways to Die in the West and Ted 2.

Bernadette Peters
One of Broadway’s brightest stars, Bernadette Peters has three Tony Awards: for her roles in Annie Get Your Gun and Song and Dance, and the Isabelle Stevenson Award for her substantial contributions to the theater community and her volunteer work for humanitarian organizations. Peter’s other major Broadway roles include Gypsy, A Little Night Music, Follies, Sunday in the Park with George, Mack and Mabel, and On the Town, among others. Peters has a TV and film career as well, with the movie Pennies from Heaven earning her a Golden Globe nomination. Peters is currently taping the second season of the hit TV series Mozart in the Jungle, and she is a New York Times best-selling author. Peters writes children’s books, and her third and most recent is Stella and Charlie: Friends Forever.

Sting
Composer, singer, actor, author, activist, Sting formed The Police in 1977 with Stewart Copeland and Andy Summers. The band recorded five albums, earned six Grammy Awards, two Brits, and was inducted into the Rock ‘n’ Roll Hall of Fame in 2003. Since 1989, Sting has released fourteen solo albums and received an additional ten Grammy Awards, two Brits, a Golden Globe, and an Emmy. He has sold a combined 100 million albums. Also a member of the Songwriters Hall of Fame, he was a recipient of a Kennedy Center Honor in 2014. Earlier this year, Sting received a Tony nomination for his score of The Last Ship, a Broadway musical inspired by his childhood memories growing up in a shipbuilding community in England.

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Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts (LCPA) serves three primary roles: presenter of artistic programming, national leader in arts and education and community relations, and manager of the Lincoln
Center campus. A presenter of more than 3,000 free and ticketed events, performances, tours, and educational activities annually, LCPA offers 15 series, festivals, and programs including American Songbook, Avery Fisher Career Grants, Free Thursdays at the David Rubenstein Atrium, Great Performers, Lincoln Center at the Movies: Great American Dance, Lincoln Center Festival, Lincoln Center Out of Doors, Lincoln Center Vera List Art Project, Martin E. Segal Awards, Midsummer Night Swing, Mostly Mozart Festival, White Light Festival, and the Emmy Award-winning Live From Lincoln Center, which airs nationally on PBS. As manager of the Lincoln Center campus, LCPA provides support and services for the Lincoln Center complex and the 11 resident organizations. In addition, LCPA led a $1.2 billion campus renovation, completed in October 2012.

The New York Philharmonic plays a leading cultural role in New York City, the United States, and the world. This season’s projects will connect the Philharmonic with up to 50 million music lovers through live concerts in New York City and on its worldwide tours and residencies; digital recording series; international broadcasts on television, radio, and online; and as a resource through its wide range of education programs and Digital Archives. Having commissioned and/or premiered works by leading composers from every era, the Orchestra now champions contemporary music through CONTACT! and the NY PHIL BIENNIAL. A resource for its community and the world, the Philharmonic complements its annual free citywide Concerts in the Parks, Presented by Didi and Oscar Schafer, with Philharmonic Free Fridays and wide-ranging education programs, including the famed Young People’s Concerts and the New York Philharmonic Global Academy, collaborations with partners worldwide offering training of pre-professional musicians, often alongside performance residencies. Renowned around the world, having appeared in 432 cities in 63 countries, America’s oldest symphony orchestra has long been a media pioneer, releasing almost 2,000 recordings since 1917 and today sharing live performances through downloads and online. Alan Gilbert became Music Director in 2009, succeeding 20th-century musical giants including Bernstein, Toscanini, and Mahler.

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