



**DATE:** Tuesday, April 23, 2019

**CONTACT:** Holly Olson, Iowa State Center, (515) 294-3566, hrolson@iastate.edu

 Brianna Hall, Iowa State Center, (515) 294-3569, bschwind@iastate.edu

**SUBJECT: Announcing the 2019-2020 Performing Arts Series at Stephens Auditorium!**

**Ames, Iowa – April 23, 2019** – Stephens Auditorium, managed by VenuWorks, plays a leading role in the performing arts. Our 2019-2020 Performing Arts Series will bring beautiful, soul-raising, emotional, and thought-provoking performances, leaving an immeasurable impact on our community. This year’s five-show Broadway series includes *Beautiful*, *Jersey Boys,* *The Color Purple, Finding Neverland,* and *Waitress.* Performing Arts Series subscriptions are on sale now!

**Subscription orders may be placed online at** [**www.center.iastate.edu/orderonline**](http://www.center.iastate.edu/orderonline)**.**

**Individual tickets go on sale in Fall 2019.**

**Cirque Mei – Wednesday, October 2, 2019 | 7pm**

From People's Republic of China, Hebei Province, Cirque Mei will feature traditional and contemporary Chinese circus acts in a colorful and lively celebration of the internationally renowned Chinese circus arts. The performance, featuring a company of 40 elite circus artists and acrobats, will include many of the most popular Chinese circus routines including Hoops Diving, Lion Dance, Collective Bicycle Skills, Flying Meteors, Foot Juggling with Umbrellas, Female Contortion, and Ladder Balancing Act. The troupe was founded in 1976 and supports a community of over 130 circus performers who tour throughout China and the world.

**The Kingdom Choir – Monday, October 7, 2019 | 7pm**

Following their show-stopping performance of *Stand By Me* at the Royal Wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, London’s The Kingdom Choir will bring their infections joy and inspiration across the Atlantic for a major North American tour. Founded in 1994 by award-winning conductor Karen Gibson, the choir draws from various Christian traditions and is dedicated to creating a sound that reflects the community they share through their warm energy and enthusiastic performances.

***Beautiful* – Saturday, October 19, 2019 | 8pm | (Broadway)**

Tony® and Grammy® Award-winning Broadway hit *Beautiful – The Carole King Musical* tells the story of the early life and career of the legendary and groundbreaking singer/songwriter. With a book by Tony® and Academy® Award nominee Douglas McGrath, direction by Marc Bruni, and choreography by Josh Prince, *Beautiful* features a stunning array of beloved songs written by Gerry Goffin/Carole King and Barry Mann/Cynthia Weil. A pre-show dinner will also be available for this performance.

***Jersey Boys* – Sunday, November 3, 2019 | 7:30pm | (Broadway)**

Tony®, Grammy®, and Olivier® Award-winning hit musical *Jersey Boys* is the behind-the-music story of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons. They were just four guys from Jersey, until they sang their first note. They had a sound nobody had ever heard… and the radio just couldn’t get enough of. But while their harmonies were perfect on stage, off stage it was a very different story – a story that has made them an international sensation all over again. A pre-show dinner will also be available for this performance.

*Jersey Boys* is NOT recommended for all ages. The show contains smoke, gun shots, strobe lights, drug references, sexual situations, and profane “authentic Jersey language.”

**Ailey II – Wednesday, November 13, 2019 | 7:30pm**

Ailey II is universally renowned for merging the spirit and energy of the country’s best young dance talent with the passion and creative vision of today’s most outstanding emerging choreographers. Founded in 1974 as the Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble, the company embodies his pioneering mission to establish an extended cultural community that provides dance performances, training, and community programs for all people.

**The Very Hungry Caterpillar – Sunday, November 17, 2019 | 3pm**

Eric Carle’s books create a lasting impression on children all over the world. Whether writing about a brown bear, a quiet cricket, or even a hungry caterpillar, his stories instill happiness in people of all ages. In this production, audiences will be enthralled as Little Cloud floats across the stage, the Mixed-Up Chameleon goes on an adventure to the zoo, and The Very Hungry Caterpillar nibbles through the scenes. Audience members will feel like the pages of the books have come to life on stage.

**Canadian Brass – Tuesday, December 3, 2019 | 7:30pm**

With an international reputation as one of the most popular brass ensembles today, Canadian Brass has truly earned the distinction of the world’s most famous brass group. Masters of concert presentations, Canadian Brass has developed a uniquely engaging stage presence and rapport with audiences. Each of their concerts will show the full range from trademark Baroque and Dixieland tunes to new compositions and arrangements created especially for them – from formal classical presentation to music served up with lively dialogue and theatrical effects.

**A Magical Cirque Christmas – Sunday, December 22, 2019 | 6pm**

The producers of Broadway’s smash hit “The Illusionists” have brought together the world’s greatest entertainers for a spell-binding and incredible new holiday production – A Magical Cirque Christmas! Experience the magic of Christmas with dazzling performers and breathtaking cirque artists from all corners of the world, accompanied by your favorite holiday music performed live. Get into the spirit of the season with this merry treat that’s perfect for the entire family.

***The Color Purple* – Friday, January 17, 2020 | 7:30pm | (Broadway)**

Based on the Alice Walker’s Pulitzer Prize-winning novel and the Warner Bros./Amblin Entertainment motion picture, the Tony® Award-winning Broadway revival of *The Color Purple* is adapted for the stage by Tony® and Pulitzer Prize-winning Marsha Norman with music and lyrics by Brenda Russell, Allee Willis, and Stephens Bray. A pre-show dinner will also be available for this performance.

**Russian National Ballet: Swan Lake – Thursday, February 13, 2020 | 7pm**

Direct from Russia, the Russian National Ballet brings the world’s most beloved ballet, *Swan Lake*, to the Stephens Auditorium stage with choreography by Petipa and Tchaikovsky’s unforgettable score. This full-length fantasy ballet tells the story of a princess turned into a swan by an evil sorcerer’s curse. Spectacular sets and costumes bring this magical love story to life right before your eyes – a ballet evening for the whole family to enjoy! A pre-show dinner will also be available for this performance.

***Finding Neverland* – Friday, February 14, 2020 | 7:30pm | (Broadway)**

*Finding Neverland* tells the incredible story behind one of the world’s most beloved characters: Peter Pan. Playwright J. M. Barrie struggles to find inspiration until he meets four young brothers and their beautiful widowed mother. Spellbound by the boys’ enchanting make-believe adventures, he sets out to write a play that will astound London theatregoers. With a little bit of pixie dust and a lot of faith, Barrie takes this monumental leap, leaving his old world behind for Neverland, where nothing is impossible and the wonder of childhood lasts forever. A pre-show dinner will also be available for this performance.

**Siberian State Symphony Orchestra – Monday, March 2, 2020 | 7:30pm**

Direct from Krasnoyarsk, Russia, the Siberian State Symphony Orchestra will embark on an 8-week United States tour. Founded in 1977, the orchestra quickly won a reputation as one of the best orchestras from Russia. The orchestra plays with the finest Russian soloists and plays the great Russian classics throughout Russia and the world. All concerts will be led by Music Director and Conductor Vladimir Lande. A pre-show dinner will also be available for this performance.

***Waitress* – Thursday, March 12, 2020 | 7pm | (Broadway)**

Inspired by the beloved film, *Waitress* tells the story of Jenna, an expert pie maker who dreams of a way out of her small town. A baking contest and the town’s new doctor may offer her a fresh start, but Jenna must summon the strength to rebuild her own life. Don’t miss this uplifting celebration of friendship, motherhood, and the magic of a well-made pie. A pre-show dinner will also be available for this performance.

**Iowa State Center Ticket Office**

Located at the north entrance of Stephens Auditorium at the corner of Lincoln Way and Beach Avenue.

Regular Hours: Monday-Friday, 12pm (noon)-6pm

Summer Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 12pm (noon)-6pm

Subscription orders may be placed online at [www.center.iastate.edu/orderonline](http://www.center.iastate.edu/orderonline).

Individual tickets go on sale in Fall 2019 at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com), by phone at 1-800-745-3000, and in person at the ticket office.

**About the Iowa State Center**

The Iowa State Center, managed by VenuWorks, is a multi-building conference and performing arts complex.  The Center's Stephens Auditorium, a 2,600-seat hall, hosts a dazzling array of international performances of music, theater and dance, as well as world-class orchestras, popular Broadway musicals, and explosive country and rock concerts. Fisher Theater seats 450 in an intimate setting, perfect for drama, dance and ISU theater productions. The Scheman Building, with 25 meeting rooms, two large lobbies and the 456-seat Benton Auditorium is a great meeting space for conferences, seminars and social events.

**About VenuWorks**

VenuWorks is a leader in venue management, providing customized solutions for multi-purpose sports, entertainment and recreation facilities, theatres and conference and convention centers throughout the country, offering full service management services including operations, event booking and marketing.  VenuWorks is headquartered in Ames, IA and was founded in 1996.  For more information, please visit [www.venuworks.com](http://www.venuworks.com).

###