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The Springer Opera House unveils new musical heavy 2019-20 season line up

The Springer's 2019 - 20 Season Announcement Party was held on February 21 in Foley Hall and McClure Theatre. Besides the unveiling the shows that will be produced in the upcoming year, the event a way to thank the community for supporting the Springer during a challenging period.

The evening began with a video presentation of the flood damage that occurred on the evening of Tuesday, February 12 and was discovered by staff the following morning. Approximately 45,000 square feet of the basement at the Springer was under water. Valuable theatrical lighting equipment, HVAC, musical instruments, and props, among other electrical components, were damaged. Since the flood, staff and contractors have worked tirelessly repair damage and replace equipment in order to keep the current season on schedule.

Atlanta based actors, Sims Lamason and Andy Harvey, performed "Don't Cry for Me Argentina," from the rock opera, *Evita*. Lamason will star as Eva Peron and Harvey as Juan Peron in the Springer's upcoming production of *Evita*, opening March 8 - 24.

Director of Education, Sally Baker, welcomed guests and spoke on behalf of the Springer's successful season, thus far. Baker highlighted accomplishments in the new Theatre for the Very Young series, Springer Film Institute, and the PAIR Program.

Springer Producing Artistic Director, Paul Pierce, then took the stage with the presentation of the Barbara Kennon star in the Walk of Fame acknowledging Burt Reynold's 1991 appearance on the Springer's main stage in his one-person show. Kennon has served on the Springer's Board of Directors for over a decade and is the former chair. She has played an important leadership role in some of the most transformational periods in the Springer's history, including our \$11.5 million dollar capital campaign and the Georgia Repertory Theatre partnership with Columbus State University.

"Besides her devoted guidance and leadership, Barbara has been a passionate advocate and cheerleader who always encourages us to reach out beyond our current grasp and to make the

Springer more essential to the community with each passing year,” says Springer Artistic Director, Paul Pierce.

The evening concluded with the presentation of the upcoming shows in the 2019-20 season. The Mainstage Series consists of Chicago (Sept. 20 - Oct.6), Fences (Jan. 23 - Feb. 2), Singin’ in the Rain, (Mar. 7 - 29), and Matilda (May 1 - 17). The Mainstage Series holiday show will take place Dec. 5 - 22. Due to restrictions from the show’s publisher, the Springer will not be able to announce the December-slated show until after April 16. Pierce promised that the show is a “beloved Tony-award winning family musical.”

The Studio II Series is presented in McClure Theatre and consists of Yesterday and Today - An Interactive Beatles Experience (Nov. 7 - 17), A Tuna Christmas (Dec. 12 - 22), and Morningside (Apr. 16 - 26).

The Children’s Series is presented in McClure Theatre and includes Robin Hood (Jul. 5 - 21), The Rainbow Fish (Oct. 4 - 13), and Akeelah and the Bee (Feb. 21 - Mar. 1).

The Theatre for the Very Young Series includes Going on a Bear Hunt (Nov. 16 - 24), Twinkle Twinkle Little-est Star (Jan. 18 - 25), Chicka Chicka Boom Boom (Apr. 18- 25). The Theatre for the Very Young Series takes place in Foley Hall, except for the production, Twinkle Twinkle Little-est Star. It will be a partnership with Columbus State University’s Coca Cola Space Science Center and will take place in their planetarium with an original coordinated show on the planetarium’s dome-projection screen. The Theater for Very Young Series focuses on interactive and creative opportunities for kids 0 to 5 years old and their caregivers to connect through the Arts.

Season tickets are now on sale through the Springer’s Box Office. Single tickets will go on sale in July. For more information visit springeroperahouse.org or call the box office at 706-327-3688.