

MUSIC

Jazz Kings to highlight Hollywood's heyday

MGM's renowned 1952 musical comedy "Singin' in the Rain" remains one of the greatest musical films of all time for three reasons: a crack cast led by Gene Kelly, Debbie Reynolds and Donald O'Connor; a wonderful screenplay by Betty Comden and Adolph Green; and a simply marvelous set of songs written by the film's producer, Arthur Freed, and composer Nacio Herb Brown during the 1930s — the heyday of the pair's career as a Hollywood song-writing team.

Jesse Cloninger and the Jazz Kings will conclude their 2016-17 season May 20, at 2 p.m., with a celebration of Arthur Freed and Nacio Herb Brown's substantial, catchy and downright fun opus.

Prominent, of course, will be the gems interpolated into "Singin' in the Rain" — including the title song, "Good Morning," as well as "You



Emerald Jazz Kings will perform their "My Lucky Star" concert in celebration of Hollywood musical greats Nacio Herb Brown and Arthur Freed.

Were Meant For Me," "Broadway Meldoy," "Fit As A Fiddle," "All I Do Is Dream Of You" and "You Are My Lucky Star."

The musical evening will include other classics as well, such as "I've Got A Feelin' You're Foolin'," "Eadie Was A Lady," "You Stepped Out Of A Dream," and "Pagan Love Call."

This concert is eligible for The Shedd's "Free Shedd Jazz Student Ticket" program, which makes a limited number of free tickets to 2016-17 Shedd jazz concerts available to students, elementary through college.

The program is made possible by a grant from Chamber Music America and Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, and Friends of Jazz at The Shedd. For tickets, visit the FEC box office at 715 Quince St., call the box office at 541-997-1994 or visit www.eventcenter.org.

THEATER

LRP announces cast of 'Master Class' production

Last Resort Players (LRP) has announced the cast for its upcoming production of "Master Class." The show opens June 9 with additional performances on June 10, 11, 16, 17 and 18 on the Florence Event Center's flat floor.

Cast members include: Annie Schmidt (Maria Callas); Sheena Moore (Sharon Graham); Joanie Schmidt (Sophie De Palma); Patrick Rawley (Tony Candolino); Mary Conley (Stage Manager) and Jennifer Weier (Accompanist).

In the play, opera diva Maria Callas is holding a voice master class at the Juilliard School. Alternately dismayed and impressed by the students who parade before her, she retreats into recollections about the glories of her own life and career.

Included in her musings are her younger years as an ugly duckling, her



KATHLEEN WENZEL PHOTO

Annie Schmidt as "Maria Callas" in "Master Class"

fierce hatred of her rivals, the unforgiv-

ing press that savaged her early performances, her triumphs at La Scala, and her affair with Aristotle Onassis.

It culminates in a monologue about sacrifice taken in the name of art.

Master Class is a 1995 play by American playwright Terrence McNally, presented as a fictional master class by opera singer Maria Callas near the end of her life in the 1970s.

As such, the play features vocal music by Giuseppe Verdi, Giacomo Puccini and Vincenzo Bellini.

The play opened on

Broadway in 1995, with stars Zoe Caldwell and Audra McDonald winning Tony Awards.

The LRP production of Master Class will be directed by Leah Goodwin ("Les Miserables" and "Pirates of Penzance") with musical direction by Jennifer Weier ("Pirates of Penzance").

The play reunites Goodwin and Weier with assistant director and stage manager from Pirates of Penzance, Mary Conley, who is also playing the role of the "stage manager" Master Class.

The producing team also includes Kathleen Wenzel and Paula Ziegelsch, with hair and make-up designed by Carole Blalock.

This play contains strong, adult language and situations.

For ticket information, contact the Florence Event Center at 541-997-1994 or visit www.eventcenter.org.

AUDITIONS

'Annie the Musical' to host open auditions this month

Last Resort Players has announced auditions for "Annie the Musical" to be held at the Florence Events Center on Saturday, May 6, and Sunday, May 7, at 1 p.m.

There are roles for ages 6 to 100 and everyone is welcome to audition. Anyone interested in assisting with the show is also encouraged to come to the auditions and sign up.

Child actors should be prepared to sing the songs "Hard

Knock Life" and "Tomorrow," learn simple choreography and read from the script.

Adult actors will be asked to sing a song from the show for the role they are interested in, perform simple dance movements and read from the script.

All auditioners may prepare their own song for the audition that showcases their voice.

More information about the



audition requirements can be found on the Last Resort Players Facebook page or by calling director Jennifer Connor at 541-961-5562.

Martin Charmin.

The original Broadway production opened in 1977 and ran for nearly six years, setting a record for the Alvin Theatre

Annie is a Broadway musical based on the popular Harold Gray comic strip "Little Orphan Annie," with music by Charles Strouse, lyrics by

(now the Neil Simon Theatre.)

It spawned numerous productions in many countries, as well as national tours, and won the Tony Award for Best Musical.

The musical's songs "Tomorrow" and "It's the Hard Knock Life" are among its most popular musical numbers.

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