

coverstory
BY JAY BOBBIN

Laura Osnes is among the performers featured on "A Capitol Fourth 2021" Sunday on PBS



Laura Osnes helps mark 'A Capitol Fourth' again on PBS

As familiar as she is with singing in "A Capitol Fourth," Laura Osnes knows that this year's event will be different.

Twice a veteran of the holiday concert, the Broadway star makes it three times by appearing again in the PBS special's 41st annual edition Sunday, July 4 (check local listings). As with last year's show, the traditional gathering on the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol is out because of the coronavirus pandemic – but other locations in and around Washington, D.C., are being used for pre-taped performances introduced by returning host Vanessa Williams.

"There's a segment honoring the Gershwin brothers, so I'll be doing a very famous song of theirs with The Rickey Minor Band," the lively and pleasant Osnes reports, "and I'll be outside on the rooftop of a famous building. This time has caused a lot of people to think outside the box and get creative with content."

Also on the scheduled talent roster for "A Capitol Fourth 2021" are music icons Jimmy Buffett and Gladys Knight, opera legend Renee Fleming, Tony Award winners Cynthia Erivo and Ali Stroker, actress-singer Auli'i Cravalho, the music groups Pentatonix and Train, and country stars Alan Jackson, Mickey Guyton, Jennifer Nettles and Jimmie Allen. Jack Everly will conduct the National Symphony Orchestra.

Osnes admits that she misses not being together with the other cast members, "that camaraderie and community, but the content gets to be really rehearsed and shot one or two times, so you can get it perfect. That's like my also doing the Kennedy Center Honors recently; we got to use the roof of the Center for it, and we've never been in that space before. I'm excited to showcase the city of Washington and not just the Capitol.

"I relish any opportunity to honor our country," adds Osnes, who also reflected patriotic themes in "A Homecoming for the Holidays" ... one of the several Hallmark Channel movies she has starred in. "This was an easy 'yes' for me," she says of accepting the request to return to "A Capitol Fourth."

Osnes notes she feels "very, very grateful" for the professional activities she's had when much of the entertainment industry has been closed or substantially scaled back – including Broadway, where venues that cater to live performances are slated to reopen in September.

"I don't have a show that I'm jumping back into, but I'm very excited for my friends," says Osnes, who has starred in such New York productions as "Grease," "South Pacific" and "Bandstand," and will tour this fall with a newly rebranded "Disney Princesses" show that she co-created. "I'm glad that theaters will again bring joy to people, as well as the much-needed artistic outlet that everybody has been craving."

It's a Really
BIG Deal
Baker City Herald | THE OBSERVER
541-523-3673 | 541-963-3161
For more information





Home & Auto go together. Like you & a good neighbor.

Some things in life just go together. Like home and auto insurance from State Farm®. And you with a good neighbor to help life go right. Save time and money. **CALL ME TODAY.**

State Farm®

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, State Farm Indemnity Company, Bloomington, IL
State Farm County Mutual Insurance Company of Texas, Dallas, TX
State Farm Fire and Casualty Company, State Farm General Insurance Company, Bloomington, IL
State Farm Florida Insurance Company, Winter Haven, FL
State Farm Lloyds, Richardson, TX
1601976

Gregg Hinrichsen Ins Agcy Inc
Gregg Hinrichsen, Agent
1722 Campbell Street
Baker City, OR 97814
541-523-7778

Online homework help, tutoring & test prep
tutor.com
A Service of **The Princeton Review**

AVAILABLE DAILY Noon to midnight

Unlimited # of sessions at NO CHARGE!
It's PRE-PAID with your taxes.

Access with your Baker County Library Card from www.bakerlib.org/kids-teens

tutor.com The Princeton Review

Explore the **ONLINE LIBRARY** at www.bakerlib.org 541.523.6419 info@bakerlib.org

Are Your Feet Ready to Camp?
We specialize in quality medical and surgical care for all types of foot and ankle problems:

GRANITE VIEW Foot & Ankle



Travis T. Hampton, D.P.M.
Foot and Ankle Surgeon

541-963-0265
888-843-9090
www.GFoot.com

La Grande 1408 N Hall Street
Enterprise 601 Medical Parkway
Baker 3175 Pocahontas Rd.