

MICHAEL FEINSTEIN IN BECAUSE OF YOU: MY TRIBUTE TO TONY BENNET FEATURING THE CARNEGIE HALL BIG BAND

Saturday, November 9, 2024, at 7:30pm Foellinger Great Hall

PROGRAM

MICHAEL FEINSTEIN IN BECAUSE OF YOU: MY TRIBUTE TO TONY BENNETT featuring the Carnegie Hall Big Band

When at last the night was done, a rousing standing ovation and vibrant applause reverberated within the iconic venue for the acclaimed musical Tour de Force that is Michael Feinstein and the marvelous Carnegie Hall Big Band.

-Broadway World

Michael's Magical, Musical Tribute . . . I imagine Tony Bennett smiling down with pride . . .

-Out Word Magazine

THE CARNEGIE HALL BIG BAND

SAXOPHONE

Kurt Bacher Michael Stricklin Sam Dillon Chip McNeill Glenn Wilson

TRUMPET

Brian Pareschi Kellin Hanas Ansyn Banks Charlie Daval TROMBONE

Jim Pugh Jeremiah St. John Jon Whitaker Rich Dole

> **GUITAR** Larry Gray

PIANO Caelan Cardello BASS

David Finck

DRUMS Mark McLean

The program for tonight's performance will be announced from the stage.

This performance will be presented with no intermission.

THANK YOU FOR SPONSORING THIS PERFORMANCE

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This event is supported by:



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PROFILES



In addition to his recognition as one of the leading musical entertainers and piano virtuosi of recent decades, **Michael Feinstein**'s work as an educator, archivist, interpreter, and Ambassador of the Great American Songbook have

established the popular and honored musician as a pre-eminent force in contemporary music. His dazzling career as a top-selling and critically acclaimed recording artist and a star performer on Broadway and the world's great concert stages has earned him five Grammy Award nominations, a special Tony Award for Excellence in Theatre for his Feinstein's New York venue, two Emmy nominations for his television specials, and acclaim for his NPR series. His live concerts have spanned the globe and have been performed in iconic venues such as The White House, Buckingham Palace, Hollywood Bowl, Carnegie Hall, and the Sydney Opera House.

In 2022, Feinstein released, to rave reviews, *Gershwin Country*, an album of standards in duet with some of the biggest names in country music, from Dolly Parton and Alison Krauss to Brad Paisley and Amy Grant. That same year, he made his debut at the legendary Café Carlyle in New York to rave reviews and sell-out performances.

In 2007, as an extension of his work as a legendary performer and passionate guardian of his nation's greatest musical traditions, Mr. Feinstein founded the Great American Songbook Foundation. The Foundation works to preserve and elevate America's rich musical legacy by curating physical artifacts of its creators and performers; offering programs for the public and research opportunities for scholars, historians, and performers; and providing educational opportunities for student musicians, including the annual high school Songbook Academy. For over a decade, Michael served as a founding member on the Library of Congress' National Recording Preservation Board, an organization dedicated to ensuring the survival, conservation, and increased public availability of America's sound recording heritage.

Feinstein earned his fifth Grammy Award nomination in 2009 for The Sinatra Project, his CD celebrating the music of "Ol' Blue Eyes." The Sinatra Project, Volume II: The Good Life was released in 2011. He released the CDs The Power Of Two—collaborating with Glee and 30 Rock star Cheyenne Jackson—and Cheek to Cheek, recorded with Broadway legend Barbara Cook. For Feinstein's CD, We Dreamed These Days, he co-wrote the title song with Dr. Maya Angelou. His Emmy Award-nominated TV special, Michael Feinstein—The Sinatra Legacy, which was taped live at the Palladium in Carmel, Indiana, aired across the country in 2011. The PBS series Michael Feinstein's American Songbook, was the recipient of the ASCAP Deems-Taylor Television Broadcast Award, was broadcast for three seasons, and is available on DVD. His most recent primetime PBS-TV special, New Year's Eve at The Rainbow Room—written and directed by Desperate Housewives creator Marc Cherry-aired in 2014. For his nationally syndicated public radio program, Song Travels, Michael interviewed and performed alongside music luminaries such as Bette Midler, Neil Sedaka, Liza Minnelli, Rickie Lee Jones, David Hyde Pierce, and more.

Feinstein was named Principal Pops Conductor for the Pasadena Symphony in 2012 and made his conducting debut in June 2013 to celebrated critical acclaim. Under Feinstein's leadership, the Pasadena Pops has quickly become a premier orchestral presenter of the Great American Songbook with definitive performances of rare orchestrations and classic arrangements. He launched an additional Pops series at the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts in Palm Beach, Florida in 2014. Michael's book *The Gershwins and Me*—the *Los Angeles Times* bestseller from Simon & Schuster—features a new CD of Gershwin standards performed with Cyrus Chestnut at the piano.

Feinstein serves as Artistic Director of the Center for the Performing Arts, a \$170 million, three-theatre venue in Carmel, Indiana, which opened in January 2011. The theatre is home to diverse live programming and a museum for his rare memorabilia and manuscripts. Since 1999, he has served as Artistic Director for Carnegie Hall's "Standard Time with Michael Feinstein" in conjunction with ASCAP. In 2010 he became the director of the Jazz and Popular Song Series at New York's Jazz at Lincoln Center.

Feinstein's at the Nikko, Michael's nightclub at San Francisco's Nikko Hotel, has presented the top talents of pop and jazz since 2013. His first venue in New York, Feinstein's at the Regency, featured major entertainers such as Rosemary Clooney, Glen Campbell, Barbara Cook, Diahann Carroll, Jane Krakowski, Lea Michele, Cyndi Lauper, Jason Mraz, and Alan Cumming from 1999 to 2012. Feinstein opened his Los Angeles location, Feinstein's at Vitello's in June 2019 and most recently launched Feinstein's at the Hotel Carmichael in Carmel, Indiana. He has designed a new piano for Steinway called "The First Ladies," inspired by the White House piano and signed by several former First Ladies. It was first played to commemorate the Ronald Reagan centennial on February 6th, 2011.

In 2013, Michael released *Change of Heart: The Songs of Andre Previn* in collaboration with four-time Oscar and eleven-time Grammy Award-winning composer-conductor-pianist Andre Previn. The album celebrates Previn's pop songs and motion picture classics. Earlier album highlights include *Hopeless Romantics*, a songbook of classics by Michael's late friend Harry Warren, recording with legendary jazz pianist George Shearing. His album with songwriting icon *Jimmy Webb*, *Only One Life— The Songs of Jimmy Webb*, was named one of the "10 Best CDs of the Year" by USA Today.

Feinstein received his fourth Grammy nomination for Michael Feinstein with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, his first recording with a symphony orchestra. The year before, Rhino/Elektra Music released The Michael Feinstein Anthology, a two-disc compilation spanning 1987 to 1996 and featuring old favorites and previously unreleased tracks.

Michael was born and raised in Columbus, Ohio, where he started playing piano by ear as a fiveyear-old. After graduating from high school, he moved to Los Angeles when he was 20. The widow of legendary concert pianist-actor Oscar Levant introduced him to Ira Gershwin in July 1977. Feinstein became Gershwin's assistant for six years, which earned him access to numerous unpublished Gershwin songs, many of which he has since performed and recorded. Gershwin's influence provided a solid base upon which Feinstein evolved into a captivating performer, composer, and arranger of his own original music. He also has become an unparalleled interpreter of music legends such as Irving Berlin, Jerome Kern, Johnny Mercer, Duke Ellington, and Harry Warren. Feinstein has received three honorary doctorates. Through his live performances, recordings, film and television appearances, and his songwriting (in collaboration with Alan and Marilyn Bergman, Lindy Robbins, Bob Merrill, and Marshall Barer), Feinstein is an all-star force in American music. For more information, please visit MichaelFeinstein.com.

ABOUT CARNEGIE HALL

Since 1891, New York's Carnegie Hall has set the international standard for excellence in performance as the aspirational destination for artists of all musical genres. From Tchaikovsky, Dvořák, Mahler, and Bartók to George Gershwin, Duke Ellington, Billie Holiday, Benny Goodman, Judy Garland, and The Beatles, every form of music has filled Carnegie Hall—the only prerequisite: that it be the finest. Today, the venue remains one of the world's greatest concert halls and an active cultural destination for artists and audiences. Complementing hundreds of performances on its stages each season, Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute creates extensive music education and social impact programs that serve more than 800,000 people annually worldwide—plus many more online—playing a central role in Carnegie Hall's commitment to making great music accessible to as many people as possible. For more information, please visit carnegiehall.org.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The University of Illinois System carries out its mission in its namesake state, which includes the traditional territory of the Peoria, Kaskaskia, Piankashaw, Wea, Miami, Mascoutin, Odawa, Sauk, Mesquaki, Kickapoo, Potawatomi, Ojibwe, Menominee, Ho-Chunk, and Chickasaw Nations. These lands continue to carry the stories of these Nations and their struggles for survival and identity.

As a land-grant institution, the University of Illinois has a particular responsibility to acknowledge the peoples of these lands, as well as the histories of dispossession that have allowed for the growth of this institution. We are also obligated to reflect on and actively address these histories and the role that this university has played in shaping them. This acknowledgment and the centering of Native peoples is a start as we move forward.

Krannert Center affirms the commitment by the university to move beyond these statements, toward building deeper relationships and taking actions that uphold and preserve Indigenous rights and cultural equity.

As we gather to experience this performance, we have an opportunity to reflect on the ways that systems of oppression have shaped our society. We can work together to create systems that support human dignity, establish equity, strengthen cross-cultural relationships, and draw upon the creative capacity of all people that make up this community, state, nation, and world.



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Krannert Center is committed to providing an inclusive space where students, community members, visiting artists, and friends can gather for enriching performances and cultural experiences. The support of our donors and friends enables the Center to produce creative programming that ignites a passion for the arts that is invaluable.

Together, we can ensure that students and the greater community continue to have access to transformative performing arts experiences.

Please consider making a gift to Krannert Center today. With your help, we can sustain the high level of excellence you have come to expect, while strengthening the lasting impact of the Center's work.

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Krannert Center's dedication to the celebration, exploration, and cross-pollination of the arts is advanced through these special programs. Donors who champion such work make it possible for more people in our community to participate in life-affirming experiences.

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This passionate group of arts advocates assists Krannert Center staff in expanding the Center's leadership and financial resources.

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The Youth Series features daytime performances, online media created by performing artists, and educational activities designed especially for pre-K through highschool-aged students. Children who participate learn to appreciate the performing arts, gain knowledge, build social skills, and integrate live performance experiences into classroom work. Thank you to our Youth Series sponsors.

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A. Mark Neuman 80 years ago, in 1945, members of the United States Armed Forces liberated my father, Rabbi Isaac Neuman, from Ebensee, Austria.

If US soldiers had not been there, I would not be here.

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The University of Illinois, the College of Fine and Applied Arts, and Krannert Center are profoundly grateful for the commitment of Krannert Society members. Through donations, pledges, and residual gifts of \$1 million or more, these open-hearted visionaries help build a thriving community and encourage cross-cultural understanding. Their support sustains the extraordinary vision of Herman and Ellnora Krannert to create a vibrant gathering place like no other.



VALENTINE JOBST III (1904-1993) March 1994



CLAIR MAE ARENDS (1912-2000) G. WILLIAM ARENDS (1914-1997) March 2000



MARILYN PFLEDERER ZIMMERMAN (1929-1995) VERNON K. ZIMMERMAN (1928-1996) November 2003



HELEN FARMER JAMES FARMER (1931-2020) April 2014

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Demonstrating their steadfast dedication to the arts, members of the Foellinger Society have donated or pledged \$500,000 to \$999,999. Because of their generosity, everyone in this community can unite in joyful and engaging experiences. These magnanimous arts lovers celebrate the spirit of Helene Foellinger, whose memorial gift honored her sister, Loretta Foellinger Teeple, and established the Marquee Performance Endowment.



AVIS HILFINGER (1915-2004) DEAN HILFINGER (1912-2006) April 2000



KENNETH ANDERSEN (1933-2020) MARY ANDERSEN August 2009



CAROLYN G. BURRELL April 2012



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University of Illinois President Emeritus and First Lady Stan and Judy Ikenberry have long demonstrated their love for the arts and their deep commitment to enhancing learning experiences for all University of Illinois students. Krannert Center gratefully acknowledges their steadfast support by introducing the Ikenberry Society to recognize donated gifts or pledges of \$250,000 to \$499,999.



JUDITH & STANLEY IKENBERRY September 2014



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Dr. John B. Colwell, Pauline Groves Colwell, and R. Forrest Colwell provided critical funding for the Marquee Performance Endowment, and the Colwell Society gratefully acknowledges their invaluable assistance. Members have donated or pledged \$100,000 to \$249,999 for celebrating, preserving, and exploring the arts right here and around the globe.



DOLORIS DWYER (1918-1997) April 1996



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