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REILLY ARTS CENTER ANNOUNCES EXPANSION PROJECT

OCALA, Fla. (June 30, 2020) – The Reilly Arts Center announced that construction will begin in the next 60 days on their much-anticipated expansion project. This announcement was made on June 30th at the Reilly Annual Meeting held via zoom. In addition to the Reilly expansion, they gave exciting updates on the 2020-2021 concert season, welcomed new officers and directors to the Reilly Arts Center board, and reflected on the Reilly’s 2019-2020 season.

Reilly Arts Center Expansion

The Reilly Arts Center board of directors voted to move ahead with a \$4 million, 15,590 sq. ft. expansion of the current facility. Project highlights include:

- **A Second Theatre:** The Reilly’s new Black Box Theatre is a flexible, flat floor space, that can be transformed day-to-day to accommodate the creation of an intimate jazz or stand-up comedy club, theatre in the round, special dance and multi-media events, and standing-room pop and rock concerts. The Reilly’s new Black Box will also be capable of hosting banquets, receptions, special speakers and presenters, and community events in seated or standing capacities and the facility includes an expanded catering kitchen to accommodate such events.
- **Expanded Lobby:** A new lobby expansion that will accommodate more guests and provide more than twice the additional restrooms and concession areas - a common request from patrons over the past 5 years.
- **Teaching Facilities:** A large rehearsal room and multiple studio and lesson rooms are included to accommodate new music and performing arts teaching from Ocala Symphony Orchestra musicians and other arts professionals from Central Florida.
- **Expanded Box Office Facilities:** A dedicated box office area that can accommodate guests from both inside and outside the facility.

KP Studio Architects created the design and architecture of the new space and after a competitive bid process Dinkins Construction has been selected by the Reilly Arts Center board of directors to complete the construction of the project.

In the context of our current climate, the Reilly Arts Center is excited to announce this project during a time when the entertainment industry is transitioning. “Thanks to our patrons and the careful planning and groundwork that began more than two years ago by our Board and staff, there is no time like the present to get this project underway and out of the ground,” said Matthew Wardell, CEO of the Reilly Arts Center. “We’re going to take advantage of the COVID-19 mandated downtime we currently have and build something so phenomenal that it will be hard to imagine our facility as it was. We’ll be able to do more diverse programming, bring enhancements in arts education that our community has never seen before, and come out of this pandemic squarely looking forward to a very bright future for the arts in Ocala.”

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To date the Reilly has raised nearly \$1.9 million for the project and will balance the remaining funding needs with future fundraising and financing. There are several significant naming opportunities available. To learn more about these opportunities and how to contribute contact Pamela Calero Wardell, Executive Director, at pamela@reillyartscenter.com

2020-2021 Reilly Arts Center Season

The Ocala Symphony Orchestra made the difficult decision to shift their current 2020-2021 subscription series to the 2021-2022 concert season. With the impacts of reduced audiences and the large volumes of performers needed for the scheduled programming, the OSO made this decision to move the subscription season rather than sacrificing any repertoire. In lieu, the OSO will continue the year with a calendar of flexible and unique performances . Planned programming includes the revival of the **Hunchback of Notre Dame: Silent Film with Live Orchestra**, The **OSO on the GO** series which will feature trios and quartets performing out in our community, Chamber music performances designed for limited audiences, and the continuation of our Youth Outreach programming. The OSO holiday tradition, **Symphony Under the Lights**, is also currently scheduled to take place outside in Tusawilla Park on the Jenkins Auto Group Open Air Theatre. And of course we look forward to joining our colleagues at FAFO for Symphony Under the Stars on May 9, 2021. This flexible will allow the OSO to maintain our core mission of bringing cultural opportunities to our community through music, while retaining the ability to quickly supplement programming as COVID-related impacts become more known. Event announcements and ticket sales will be released in late summer/early fall.

A star-studded roster of National Artists are slated to take the Reilly stage in 2021.

- Grammy-award winning trumpeter and composer Chris Botti
- Stand-up comedian, film and TV actor Kevin Nealon
- American Jazz Saxophonist, Kenny G, who performed in March 2020 to a sold-out audience
- 10,000 Maniacs
- Bela Fleck and Abigail Washburn*
- Marilyn McCoo and Billy Davis Jr.*
- LeeAnn Womack*
- Art Garfunkel*

* Re-scheduled from 2020 to 2021 due to COVID-19

In addition to this award-winning, internationally touring lineup of performers, the Reilly will welcome back Classic Albums LIVE, WIND FM's Rock the Reilly series, and other community rental events. Stay tuned to ReillyArtsCenter.com for more announcements and on-sale dates.

Reilly Arts Center - 2020-2021 Board of Directors

The Reilly Arts Center has inducted new officers and directors.

The Reilly Board of Directors:

Officers: R.J. Jenkins, *President*; Tom Dobbins, *Vice President*; Sonya Nasser, *Secretary*; Randy Coates, *Treasurer*. Directors: Anne Koch, Rick Kravetz, Angie Lewis, Michael Mangan, David Midgett, William Nassal, Rebecca Rogers, Jim Schneider. *Emeritus* members include Robert Reilly, Morris Dittman and Paulette Millhorn.

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Reilly Arts Center Associate Board:

Adam Volpe, *Chair*, Leighton Okus, *Vice Chair*, Margaret Dixon, Hilary Hoover, Caly Bryan, Jessica Kummerle, Kaycie Hartley, Katie Hunnicut, Megan Whittaker, Olivia Ortiz, Tony Ortiz, David Reutter, Teddy Sykes, EJ Nieves, Greg Snider, Dianna Woodall.

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