**A CAPITOL FOURTH 2024**

**BIOGRAPHIES**

**Alfonso Ribeiro**

Alfonso Ribeiro’s iconic television personality danced its way into our hearts with his talents as an actor, TV director, award-winning dancer, and Broadway star. Ribeiro has spent over 30 years leaving his unique mark on television, theater, and pop culture worldwide. Ribeiro currently hosts *America’s Funniest Home Videos* on ABC. The beloved iconic show is currently in its 34thSeason! Showing its timeless appeal, it’s the longest running series on the network. Ribeiro returned last season to the dance floor of *Dancing with the Stars* ballroom as host of the franchise in its 32nd season! Julianne Hough also joined as his co-host and assumed Ribeiro’s previous role on *DWTS*, which is to interview the dancers after their performances in the Celebraquarium, or Sky Box. DWTS currently airs live on both ABC and Disney+. Audiences can next see Ribeiro host new wildlife series *Jack Hanna’s Passport* from Hearst Media Production Group. The show will focus on exploring Hanna’s incredible career/adventures around the world and will air weekend mornings starting April 6 also on ABC. Ribeiro also hosted *A Capitol Fourth*, the 43rd annual edition of America's national Independence Day celebration last year and will host again this year. It is broadcast live from the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol on PBS. Ribeiro also hosts a cable spinoff of the longtime ABC hit, *America’s Funniest Home Videos: Animal Edition* that airs on Nat Geo WILD and brought lots of laughs into homes across America with hilarious clips of cats, dogs, and other animals. In addition, he hosted Game Show Network’s six seasons of the hit *Catch 21*, for which his work garnered two Emmy Nominations. Ribeiro began his career as a child actor encouraged by his mother and father throughout. Most notably, he landed on Broadway playing the lead role in the Tony-winning musical *The Tap Dance Kid*. As news of Ribeiro’s tap dancing and singing skills spread, he was offered a recording contract with Island Records, for whom he released several dance/pop singles, as well as his role in Michael Jackson’s 1984 “Billie Jean” Pepsi commercial. Ribeiro moved next to series television in the long-running NBC sitcom *Silver Spoons*, making him an instant teen idol. After earning a theater arts education from Cal State University, Los Angeles, he was given the opportunity to choose a role on the established sitcom *A Different World* or a new pilot called *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*. Showing an adventurous streak, he chose the latter and created the lovable iconic character of “Carlton Banks” for which he is known for throughout the world. Having grown up in front of the camera, he knew that opportunities existed behind the camera as well and became a sitcom director. His diverse resume includes popular series like *In the House, Shake It Up, Are We There Yet?, The Wannabes, Meet the Browns, Cuts, Eve, One on One* and *All of Us*. Ribeiro continued to make good use of his dancing skills and his competitive nature in 2014 when he won the 19th season of *Dancing with the Stars*. After finishing in first place, he hosted the nationwide *Dancing with the Stars* live tour. Golf is also one of Ribeiro’s many passions, and he is currently a PGA TOUR Champions Ambassador. He resides in California with his wife and four children.

**Smokey Robinson**

Acclaimed singer-songwriter Smokey Robinson's career spans over four decades of hits. He has received numerous awards, including the Grammy Living Legend Award, NARAS Lifetime Achievement Award, Honorary Doctorate (Howard University), Kennedy Center Honors, and the National Medal of Arts Award from the President of the United States. He has also been inducted into the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame and the Songwriters' Hall of Fame. Born and raised in Detroit, Michigan, Robinson founded The Miracles while still in high school. The group was Berry Gordy's first vocal group, and it was at Robinson's suggestion that Gordy started the Motown Record dynasty. Their

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single of Robinson's *Shop Around* became Motown's first #1 hit on the R&B singles chart. In the years following, Robinson continued to pen hits for the group, including *You've Really Got a Hold on Me, Ooo Baby Baby, The Tracks of My Tears, Going to a Go-Go, More Love, Tears of a Clown*" (co-written with Stevie Wonder), and *I Second That Emotion*. The Miracles dominated the R&B scene throughout the 1960s and early 70s, and Robinson became Vice President of Motown Records, serving as in-house producer, talent scout, and songwriter. In addition to writing hits for the Miracles, Robinson wrote and produced hits for other Motown greats, including The Temptations, Mary Wells, Brenda Holloway, Marvin Gaye, and others. *The Way You Do the Things You Do, My Girl, Get Ready, You Beat Me to the Punch, Don't Mess with Bill, Ain't That Peculiar*, and *My Guy* are just a few of his songwriting triumphs during those years. He later turned to a solo career where he continued his tradition of chart-topping hits with *Just to See Her, Quiet Storm, Cruisin'*, and *Being with You*, among others. He remained Vice President of Motown records until the sale of the company, shaping the label's success with friend and mentor Berry Gordy. Following his tenure at Motown, he continued his impressive touring career and released several successful solo albums. Recently, Robinson was singer/co-writer on the certified gold track *Make It Better* from Anderson Paak's album Ventura and in 2023 released his newest album of original music entitled Gasms via TLR Music Group/ ADA. Currently Smokey is curating his own channel on SiriusXM called *Smokey’s SoulTown* and touring this year with his *Soulfully Yours Tour* singing his greatest hits as well as newer music from his Gasms Album. Throughout his 60-year music career, Robinson has accumulated more than 4,000 songs to his credit and continues to thrill sold-out audiences worldwide with his high tenor voice, impeccable timing, and profound sense of lyric and style.

**Sheila E.**

One of life’s constants for Sheila E. comes down to a simple phrase: follow the beat. And her impeccable inner rhythm is the pulse behind a trailblazing career that still knows no bounds. Family, faith and music were guiding forces for Sheila E. growing up in the Bay Area. In addition to percussionist dad Pete, the Oakland, CA native counts former Santana member/Azteca founder Coke Escovedo and The Dragons front man Mario Escovedo as uncles. Fellow Latin star Tito Puente was her godfather. In addition to being weaned on Latin jazz and Motown, Sheila E. was exposed to a diverse array of Bay Area acts. Those influences ranged from the rock of Jefferson Airplane and the Grateful Dead to the R&B/pop of the Pointer Sisters and the funk of Sly & the Family Stone. “I used to sit on the corner outside of the local community center with Twinkies and 7-Up listening to Sly and Larry Graham rehearse,” remembers Sheila E. “The sounds of the Bay Area molded me.” So, it’s no surprise that after such a music-immersive childhood, the gifted, world-class drummer and percussionist began amassing an impressive string of credits playing not only with her dad but also with pioneering talents like George Duke, Herbie Hancock, Marvin Gaye, Diana Ross, Lionel Richie, Prince, Ringo Starr, Gloria Estefan, Beyonce, and Jennifer Lopez. Grammy Award-nominated singer/songwriter behind the seminal hits *The Glamorous Life* and *A Love Bizarre*. A fearless multi-instrumentalist, equally proficient on guitar and bass, actress, mentor and philanthropist. Following a Bay Area gig in the late ‘70s, Sheila E. met Prince backstage. Their *Purple Rain* recording sessions - including her vocals on the 1984 classic *Erotic City*- morphed into launching her solo career that same year. Debut album *The Glamorous Life* spun off the Grammy Award-nominated top 10 hit of the same name plus a second top 40 single *The Belle of St. Mark*. Between her ‘80s tenure as drummer, songwriter and musical director for Prince’s backup band, Sheila E. released two more solo albums (*Romance 1600* and *Shelia E.)* and scored another classic hit with *A Love Bizarre*. Sheila E.’s fierce, dynamic verve onstage has made her a major concert draw since the ‘90s. Along the way, she has acted in the films *Krush Groove*, *The Adventures of Ford Fairlane*, *Chasing Papi* and launched various music projects (E-Train, C.O.E.D., E Family Band). She added to her arsenal of credits performing on the 2012 Academy Awards with pop hitmaker Pharrell Williams and composer Hans Zimmer. Sheila E. was also among the roster of stars chosen to perform at the 2013 Kennedy Center Honors whose honorees included artists Herbie Hancock, Billy Joel and Carlos Santana. Sheila E.'s producing,

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arranging, and performance talents have been showcased throughout the music and film industry with appearances on, *The Academy Awards, The Latin Grammy Awards, BET Awards, The American Music Awards, The Kennedy Center Honors, The Summer Olympics, WOW Awards, ALMA's*, and *The Image Awards* just to name a few. In 2010 Sheila was nominated for an Emmy Award for “Outstanding Music Direction” in recognition for her leadership as musical director for President Obama’s *Performance at The White House: Fiesta Latina* and again more recently in 2020 for *Let’s Go Crazy* Grammy Salute to Prince. Other projects include *The E Family Now and Forever*, *Pete Escovedo Live at Stern Grove Festival* with her father Pete Escovedo, and brothers Juan and Peter Michael Escovedo, *Sheila E. Live from Lugano Switzerland* DVD, *Silk Road* from the group Heavenese hailing from Japan, a literary biography released by Simon & Schuster Publishing titled The Beat of My Own Drum, *ICON* Sheila's 2014 solo album and the single release *Girl Meets Boy* in memory of the late, great, Prince. Her 2017 studio project and tour, *ICONIC*, was Sheila's effort to bring awareness to social issues and humanitarianism. Her 2020 single releases, *No Line* with the legendary Snoop Dogg, *Lemon Cake* and *Bailar* are Sheila's continued contribution to the music industry. Away from the spotlight, music doubles as a source of healing and giving back for Sheila E. In tandem with the city of Oakland, she and her Elevate Hope organization staged the first annual “Elevate Oakland” benefit concert on Feb. 1, 2014. A host of Bay Area artists and other acclaimed musicians performed at the city-donated Fox Theatre. The goal: to raise funds to improve student academic achievement and attendance through music and arts programming. But this wasn’t Sheila E.’s first time giving back. Between gigs, she has also criss-crossed the country, speaking at schools and colleges, shelters, church organizations, music classes and clinics about music’s effect on her life and career. “Sharing music in any way I can is my ministry,” she says. And that was part of the inspiration for penning the autobiography *The Beat of My Own Drum*. Playing a perceived male instrument and working in a male dominated industry exacted a personal price - several years ago Sheila E. publicly acknowledged she was an abuse survivor. “The book was the beginning of the healing,” says Sheila E. “I’d talked about working in a male-dominated industry in my ministry and addressed it in some of the song lyrics I’d written. But it was challenging to sit down and write about it in detail for the book. No one in my household told me I couldn’t play drums because I was a girl. It wasn’t until I was outside of the house and playing sessions. But through pain comes realization, understanding and the opportunity to help others overcome those challenges.” Sheila E. continues to produce and perform music throughout the world. As music fans across the globe recommit to live music again, the timing could not have been better for Sheila E. and the ETrain to drop the new album *Hella FonkE* and reignite stages everywhere. Sheila E., the “Queen of Percussion” adds another exciting notch to her prolific career as a recording artist, producer and musician extraordinaire. E-Train was founded in the early 90s and reflected the more jazz nuanced side of Sheila’s compositions and artistry. Though renowned for her amazing R&B and pop career, before she was Sheila E., she was Sheila Escovedo, cutting her teeth as a child with her father, the Latin jazz legend Pete Escovedo. This eventually led to gigs with George Duke and Herbie Hancock, among many other musical giants. The Queen of Percussion plans to release more new music in 2023, in the process of completing her first ever Salsa project. Sheila E. is CEO of the entertainment company StilettoFlats Inc. located in Los Angeles California. With no Google or YouTube artist script to follow back then, she says her career drive was propelled by one thing: “I just did it because I loved it. I started all this as Sheila Escovedo then became this persona named Sheila E. Now Sheila E. and Sheila Escovedo are the same person, still making music that comes from the heart.”

**Fantasia Barrino**

Grammy award-winning R&B singer, songwriter, award-winning actor and author, Fantasia Barrino first broke onto the scene in 2004 as Season 3 winner of *American Idol*. In addition to her two Grammy Award wins, Fantasia has been nominated numerous times by the Recording Academy, NAACP Image Awards, American Music Awards, Billboard Music Awards, and Soul Train Awards, with two Billboard Music Award wins and four NAACP Image Award wins. Most recently, for her starring role

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in Warner Bros’ *The Color Purple*, Barrino was honored with the prestigious Outstanding Actress in a Motion Picture award at the 55th NAACP Image Awards ceremony and received nominations from BAFTA for Best Leading Actress and The Golden Globes for Best Performance by a Female Actor in a Motion Picture, Musical or Comedy as well as Drama Movie Star of the year from the People’s Choice Awards. Fantasia was also recently recognized as one of Time100’s Most Influential People of 2024 and in 2023 was selected as one of the entertainment industry’s brightest stars by VARIETY for their “Power of Women” honor and featured as one of ELLE Magazine’s 2023 “Women in Hollywood.” Fantasia followed her 2004 *American Idol* win with the release of her platinum selling debut album, *Free Yourself* and became the first artist in the history of the Billboard Hot 100 chart to debut at #1 with her first single *I Believe*. *While Truth*, the second single from the album, also claimed the #1 spot and remained for 14 weeks. Since the release of *Free Yourself*, Fantasia has gone on to release six additional studio albums, including her self-title sophomore effort *Back to Me* (2011), which featured the Grammy award-winning single *Bittersweet*. Fantasia’s fifth studio album *The Definition of…* (2016) debuted at #1 on Billboard’s R&B chart and #6 on Billboard’s Top 200 chart, with her first holiday album *Christmas After Midnight* (2017) accompanied by a sold-out holiday tour. Fantasia has enjoyed chart topping triple platinum and multi-platform success since her 2004 win. Fantasia’s success also crosses over into her work as an author, releasing her New York Times best- selling memoir *Life is Not a Fairytale* in 2006, which was made into a Lifetime movie of the same name, where she was seen starring as herself. Alongside her husband Kendall Taylor, she recently co-authored *No Crowns in the Castle*. Released in Spring 2022 by Worthy Books, a division of Hachette Book Group, Fantasia & Kendall share what a Godly marriage looks like, discussing their challenges and triumphs, while encouraging readers with faith-forward relationship advice.

**Darren Criss**

Multi-hyphenate actor and musician, Darren Criss burst on to the scene as one of the most memorable TV characters of all time, Blaine Anderson in Fox’s hit show *Glee*. His portrayal of Andrew Cunanan in Ryan Murphy’s critically acclaimed limited-series, *The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story*, earned him a Primetime Emmy, Golden Globe, Screen Actors Guild, and Critics’ Choice Award. In addition to his work on television, Criss is a veteran of the stage whose Broadway credits include *American Buffalo*(2022), *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (2015), *How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying* (2012), and the off-Broadway revival of *Little Shop of Horrors*(2024). It was recently announced that Criss will return to Broadway in the new musical *Maybe Happy Ending*, which will begin previews on Wednesday, September 18, 2024 and open on Thursday, October 17, 2024 at the Belasco Theatre. He released a solo EP in 2021 titled *Masquerade* (BMG), and in the same year, released a full-length holiday album titled- aptly- *A Very Darren Crissmas* (Decca).

**Sister Sledge ft. Sledgendary**

With dance floors all over the world set alight with the contagious joy and expression in their music, the Sledge sisters became a household name and symbol of unity with their 1979 world-wide smash hit and iconic album *We are Family*. The multi-lead vocal group are responsible for some of the biggest dance anthems of all time. *Lost in Music, He’s the Greatest Dancer* and *Thinking of You* are universally cherished songs that bring people together in love, life and soulful groove. The group have amassed a string of Gold and Platinum hits and Grammy nominations. They have performed on prestigious stages such as London’s Royal Albert Hall, New York’s Carnegie Hall, the White House in Washington DC and the famed Pyramid Stage at Glastonbury Festival in the UK. They’ve even performed before Pope Francis at the World Meeting of Families in their hometown Philadelphia, PA. Sister Sledge Sledgendary includes even more of the Sledge family and continues the group’s sensational legacy. Under the vocal direction of founding member Debbie Sledge and the genius of Musical Director Dominic Amato, along with an ensemble of insanely talented musicians, the group has achieved a ‘*Sledgendary’* place in the entertainment industry. Specializing in BRINGING THE PARTY with the family’s classic hits, Debbie Sledge, Camille Sledge, Tanya Ti-et, Thaddeus Sledge and

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David Sledge make one funky family affair. In 2022, the family released *Free* - their first single as a collective in almost 20 years. In 2024 they continue to deliver the ‘*Sledgendary*’ message that “Nothing is Greater Than Love”, spreading joy with music that uplifts and celebrates life, love and togetherness!

**Loren Allred**

Best known for her jaw-dropping vocal performance in the multi-platinum song[*Never Enough*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=enrCBI7O_6I) from the Oscar nominated and Grammy award winning *The Greatest Showman*soundtrack and film, as well as her duet with Michael Bublé on his 2019 [*Help Me Make it Through the Night*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0gXqvwaR4OU)*,* Loren is now starting to garner significant recognition, stepping out from behind the curtain and drawing comparisons for her incredible vocal talent with all-time greats Barbra Streisand, Whitney Houston and Celine Dion. During Loren’s high school years, the family moved from Pittsburgh to Salt Lake City, Utah. Aged 12, Loren discovered her own “belt” listening to the singing styles of her early inspirations, Mariah Carey, Celine Dion, and Toni Braxton. Her first break in music began as a teenager, after YouTube covers resulted in a major record deal with Island/Def Jam that would ultimately be shelved. It provided Loren with lessons on the good and bad of the music business, and the singer-songwriter subsequently decided to take a break. In 2014, now based in New York, things drastically changed and Loren was asked to record demos for the soundtrack of the film *The Greatest Showman*. Her demo of *Never Enough* was so beloved by the film’s production team, it was used as the final version for the soundtrack. She had earned her way back into the industry as well as establishing herself as a voice to be reckoned with. In 2021 and 2022, Loren began to release original music via her EP *Late Bloomer*. Singles *Til I Found You* and *This Summer* received overwhelmingly positive reviews. Loren also toured with Andrea Bocelli and David Foster through 2022. Loren’s recording career includes hundreds of songs, in collaboration with some of the industry’s most decorated songwriters and producers. Some of these songs will sound familiar. Now, with the chance to go out on her own, step out from behind the curtain and be her own artist, the future is extremely exciting.

**Chloe Flower**

Visionary artist Chloe Flower became the most talked about pianist in the world after a show-stopping performance with rap queen Cardi B at the 2019 Grammy Awards, launching her into viral fame nearly overnight and prompting her major label debut with Sony Music Masterworks. The Pennsylvania native began playing the piano at the age of two, studying at Manhattan School of Music and London’s Royal Academy of Music before meeting her mentor, the 12-time Grammy Award-winning R&B singer-songwriter and producer, Kenny ‘Babyface’ Edmonds. In the years since, Chloe has collaborated with some of the biggest names in music, including artists like Meek Mill, Lil Baby, Celine Dion, 2Chainz and Nas as well as producers like Mike WiLL Made-It (Miley Cyrus / Beyonce) and Tommy Brown (Ariana Grande / Justin Bieber). Releasing her self-titled debut in 2021, Chloe has coined the term “popsical” to describe her imitable style, which infuses classical music with a contemporary pop sensibility. Chloe is not only a gifted musician and fashion icon but also an outspoken activist as well. She serves on the advisory board of the UNODC’s Blue Heart campaign. She has been honored by the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Activism (CAST) and received The Last Girl Award from Gloria Steinem and Apne Aap for her efforts in the fight against human trafficking. As a champion of music education, she is the youngest board member of the Liberace Foundation. An official Steinway Artist, Chloe proudly celebrates her Asian heritage and culture and is a fierce advocate for women's representation — particularly women of color — in the music industry. She most recently performed and spoke for the Forbes Power Women’s Summit as well as the HeForShe Summit for UNWomen.

**About Fitz And The Tantrums**

Multi-platinum artists Fitz and The Tantrums have energized popular music and culture with a series of unshakable, undeniable, and ubiquitous anthems and albums. Since 2008, the Los Angeles

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collective have magnified the scope of pop with a dash of indie, a dose of soul, and a whole lot of dancefloor-ready bounce. Their catalog spans fan favorite records such as *Pickin’ up the Pieces*[2010], *More Than Just A Dream* [2013], the gold-certified *Fitz and The Tantrums* [2016], and *All the Feels* [2019]. Along the way, they’ve impressively tallied just shy of 4 billion streams and counting powered by enduring hits such as the 4x-platinum *HandClap*, 3x-platinum *Out of My League*, platinum *The Walker*, and gold *Moneygrabber*. As an inescapable presence, their music has notably coursed through the mainstream conversation, soundtracking films on Netflix and campaigns for CVS Wellness, Sunchips, Sofi, Xfinity, Walmart, Norwegian Cruise Line, Lays, and Wells Fargo, to name a few. Beyond standout performances everywhere from *Coachella* and *Bonaroo*to numerous late-night television shows, they’ve consistently sold out some of the most iconic venues in the world, including The Forum and Red Rocks Amphitheatre. Not to mention, they’ve incited the applause from *Rolling Stone,* *Billboard*, *People*, and more. Fitz and The Tantrums’ most recent album *Let Yourself Free* arrived in 2022 with bold, bright, and buoyant singles *Sway* and *Moneymaker*.  The band closed 2023 with their *Perfect Holiday* EP, featuring original songs to ring in the holiday season.  Fitz and The Tantrums are:  Michael “Fitz” Fitzpatrick (vocals), Noelle Scaggs (vocals), James King (saxophone, flute), Jeremy Ruzumna (keyboards), and Joseph Karnes (bass).

**Shawn Johnson East**

At 30 years old, American gymnast Shawn Johnson East has accomplished a lifetime of achievements that include Olympic Medals, a New York Times best-selling book, several businesses, a career in broadcast, and a mirror ball trophy after winning *Dancing With The Stars*. Born and raised in Des Moines, Iowa, Shawn’s girl next door charm led her to be named “America's Sweetheart.” After retiring from gymnastics in 2012, Shawn made appearances on several TV shows including *The Apprentice* and *Adventure Capitalists*. Shawn married Andrew East, with whom she has documented her life with on their shared Youtube channel which has over 405 million views and a podcast which has climbed to #2 on the overall charts.

**Britt Stewart**

Britt Stewart is an artist, TV personality, choreographer, dance arts supporter and advocate. Before joining the cast of *Dancing With The Stars*, Britt got her start in the entertainment industry as a principal dancer in all three of Disney’s original *High School Musical* movies. She went on to be in film, TV and live performances including worldwide tours. Some of her biggest moments include performing in films like Disney Channel’s *Teen Beach Movie*, prime time television shows, dancing for artists like Janet Jackson and Demi Lovato. She was Katy Perry’s back up dancer for three years on her Prismatic World Tour and Super Bowl halftime performance. After her time with Perry, she joined the *Dancing With The Stars* family. Britt was promoted to a Pro Dancer on DWTS as the First Black Female Pro on Season 29. She continues to bring her unique flare as a pro dancer with her celeb partners. Britt’s passion on the dance floor is evident in her outreach efforts. She gives back to her community as President of non-profit Share The Movement focused on making dance accessible to BIPOC youth!

**Jack Everly**

Jack Everly is the Principal Pops Conductor of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Naples Philharmonic (Artis-Naples), and the National Arts Centre Orchestra (Ottawa). He previously served as Principal Pops Conductor of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra for seventeen seasons. He has conducted the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl, The New York Pops at Carnegie Hall, the San Francisco Symphony, and numerous appearances with The Cleveland Orchestra at Blossom Music Center. Celebrating his 14th year as Music Director of the *National Memorial Day Concert* and *A Capitol Fourth* on PBS, Maestro Everly proudly leads the National Symphony Orchestra in these patriotic celebrations on the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol attracting hundreds of thousands of Page attendees and reaching millions of viewers annually. Originally appointed by Mikhail Baryshnikov,

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Maestro Everly was conductor of the American Ballet Theatre for 14 years, where he served as Music Director. In addition to his ABT tenure, he teamed with Marvin Hamlisch on Broadway shows that Mr. Hamlisch scored. He conducted Carol Channing hundreds of times in *Hello, Dolly!* in two separate Broadway productions. Maestro Everly, a graduate of the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University, was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Music in 2021 from his alma mater. In addition, he is a recipient of the 2023 Sagamore of the Wabash Award - the State of Indiana's highest honor, a 2015 Indiana Historical Society Living Legends Award, and holds an Honorary Doctorate of Arts from Franklin College in his home state of Indiana. He is a proud resident of the Indianapolis community and when not on the podium you can find Maestro Everly at home with his family.

**The National Symphony Orchestra**

The 2023–2024 season is the National Symphony Orchestra’s 93rd season, and Music Director Gianandrea Noseda’s seventh season. Noseda serves as the Orchestra’s seventh Music Director, joining the NSO’s legacy of distinguished leaders: Christoph Eschenbach, Leonard Slatkin, Mstislav Rostropovich, Antal Doráti, Howard Mitchell, and Hans Kindler. Its artistic leadership also includes Principal Pops Conductor Steven Reineke and Artistic Advisor Ben Folds. Since its founding in 1931, the NSO has been committed to performances that enrich the lives of its audience and community members. In 1986, the National Symphony became an artistic affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, where it has performed since the Center opened in 1971. The 96-member NSO participates in events of national and international importance, including the annual nationally

televised concerts on the lawn of the U.S. Capitol*,* live-streamed performances from the Kennedy Center Concert Hall on medici.tv, and local radio broadcasts on Classical WETA 90.9 FM. The NSO builds on its recording legacy with its eponymous label that launched in 2020. Since launching, the National Symphony Orchestra has garnered praise for its ambitious recording projects including the orchestra’s first complete Beethoven Symphony cycle and the release of the first-ever cycle of George Walker’s Sinfonias, both led by Music Director Gianandrea Noseda. Additionally, the NSO’s community engagement and education projects are nationally recognized, including *NSO In Your Neighborhood*, an annual week of performances in schools, churches, community centers, and other unexpected venues; *Notes of Honor*, which offers free performances for active, veteran, prior service, and retired members of the military and their families; and *Sound Health*, a collaboration with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and its affiliated organizations. Career development opportunities for young musicians include the NSO Youth Fellowship Program and its acclaimed, tuition-free Summer Music Institute

**Michael Colbert**

Michael Colbert is the Executive Producer of two of television’s longest-running and multi-award-winning programs that commemorate America’s freedom and independence, live from the U.S. Capitol. *A Capitol Fourth*, America’s national Independence Day celebration, will commemorate its 44th anniversary in 2024. The *National Memorial Day Concert*, which marks its 35th anniversary this year, has become the nation’s premier tribute to our men and women in uniform, their families at home, and all those who have given their lives for our country. As head of Capital Concerts, Inc., Colbert manages the business year-round, and serves as the primary liaison with over twenty government and non-governmental Washington agencies and organizations involved with the live televised events. Colbert supervises all aspects of both concert productions, including creative content, publicity and promotion, and oversees the hundreds of television professionals who participate annually. In addition to his annual work on these patriotic events, Colbert’s credits include major national television specials on CBS, Fox, PBS and Comedy Central in locations ranging from Washington, DC, New York and Los Angeles to Nashville, and a wide range of major corporate events.

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**Paul Miller**

Four-time Emmy Award winning producer-director Paul Miller returns for his 24th year as director of the *National Memorial Day Concert* and *A Capitol Fourth* television specials on PBS. Miller’s additional credits include *The Carol Burnett 50th Anniversary Special* on CBS, *The Country Music Awards, The Tony Awards,* *Saturday Night Live*, *Star Spangled Spectacular: A Celebration of the 200th Anniversary of our National Anthem*, *In Living Color, Media Access Awards* for PBS, *A CMA Country Christmas*, which he directed for the eleventh year in 2021, plus many specials and series for all the major broadcast and cable television networks. He executive produced and directed a two-hour special for NBC, *Carol Burnett 90 Years of Laughter and Love*, that aired April 26, 2023, winning his fourth Emmy and a second Director’s Guild of America Award. He won a 2016 Emmy Award as Executive Producer of *It’s Your 50th Christmas, Charlie Brown* and won for directing the *Tony Awards* and the ABC News coverage of the Inauguration of President Barrack Obama. He won his first Directors Guild of America Award in the Musical/Variety category for directing the Tony Awards. He is a partner in RickMill Productions, a Hollywood based entertainment company that has produced numerous series for Comedy Central as well as specials for HBO and Showtime.

**Jon Macks**

Jon Macks has written for Hollywood’s top television programs, including the most prestigious award shows, late night programs and television specials. From 1992 through February 2014 he was a staff writer for the *Tonight Show* with Jay Leno. Macks has written for the *Academy Awards* a record twenty-six times, writing the presenter copy for the show and for hosts Billy Crystal, Steve Martin, Hugh Jackman, Whoopi Goldberg and Chris Rock. He was also head writer for the 76th, 80th, 81st and 82nd and 90th through 94th Annual *Academy Awards*. Macks has written on twenty-six *Emmy Awards*, seven *American Latino Media Awards*, two *Country Music Association Awards*, two *Kennedy Center Honors*, fifteen *Academy of Country Music Awards* and twelve *Golden Globe Awards*. He’s been nominated for nine Emmy Awards for writing the *Academy Awards*, the *Carol Burnett 90th Birthday Special*, the *Golden Globes* and for writing and producing the *Betty White 90th Birthday Special*. In 2006, he received a Writers Guild Award nomination for his work on the 59th Annual *Tony Awards* and in 2014 he won the Writers Guild award for his work on the *Golden Globes*. He was also a creator and consulting producer for the HBO series *K Street* and is executive producer and writer of the Universal movie *Little Leaguers*. His television credits include ABC’s *50th Anniversary Special*, *Hollywood Squares*, and CBS’s *75th Anniversary Special*. He also serves as co-producer of the *National Memorial Day Concert*.  This is Macks’ twentieth time writing for *A Capitol Fourth*.

**Barr Weissman**

Barr Weissman has produced and edited the documentary segments for the *National Memorial Day Concert* since 1998. Mr. Weissman edited and helped produce several independent documentaries; including the Academy Award winning film, *The Stonecarvers* and *Mr. Justice Brennan*. He has directed

and edited biographical films for the Kennedy Center Honors (including films on The Who, Mel Brooks, Bruce Springsteen and Tom Hanks). In addition, he has produced and edited documentaries for the Discovery Channel, National Geographic, NBC, PBS, and others. His work has been recognized by the Emmy’s, received awards at film festivals worldwide, and screened at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Weissman’s most recent feature film, *The Secret To A Happy Ending* has screened at film festivals and theaters world-wide and received 4 stars from *Rolling Stone*. In 2016, Mr. Weissman produced and edited 10 films for the Musical Crossroads gallery at the new Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. A native Washingtonian, Mr. Weissman produced and independently distributed two critically acclaimed documentaries about the city - *Home: The Langston Terrace Dwellings* and *A View From The Street: The Art Of Lily Spandorf*. In 2020 he premiered *Go Grassfed*for Future Harvest about the virtues of sustainable agricultural practices, and *A Meaningful Life* celebrating 25 years of the Interfaith Family Project. His newest film *OUTSIDER: William H. Whyte’s Street Life Project & The Future of Human Places* is in development.