**2024 *NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY CONCERT***

**BIOGRAPHIES**

**Joe Mantegna**

Joe was awarded the Tony and Joseph Jefferson Award for his acclaimed performance as Richard Roma in David Mamet's Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Glengarry Glen Ross*. Some of Joe’s film and television highlights are *House of Games*, *Searching for Bobby* *Fisher, Godfather III*, his Emmy, and Golden Globe nominated role of Dean Martin in *The Ratpack*, his Emmy nominated role of Pipi Delana in *The Last Don.* For two seasons Joe stared with Mary Steenburgen and Amber Tamblyn in the critically acclaimed CBS drama *Joan of Arcadia*, winner of the 2004 People Choice Award for best new drama as well as picking up three Emmy nominations. In 2008 Joe reprised his Emmy nominated role of Lou Manahan opposite Debra Messing in USA Network series *The Starter Wife*. Joe has also lent his voice to the Disney/Pixar film, *CARS2* and continues his 31-year run as Fat Tony on *The Simpsons*. Joe lends much of his free time to several philanthropic endeavors. Joe was the National Spokesperson for the fundraising campaign to build The U.S. Army Museum, which opened in 2021. He’s also an ambassador for the Gary Sinise Foundation, a charity that focuses on the needs of our most severely wounded veterans. He’s also hosted the *National Memorial Day Concert* live from Washington, D.C. since 2006. His other passions include various autism related organizations including ETTA, New Horizons, the Miracle Project, Ed Asner Family Center, The Help Group, and Easter Seals Chicago. Joe also conceived and co-wrote the play “Bleacher Bums,” a satirical look at fandom in the bleachers of Wrigley Field during the 70’s. The play ran for years in Chicago and Los Angeles, ultimately winning an Emmy in Chicago for its broadcast on PBS. The play was so popular it was eventually produced as a feature film for Showtime. The play is still produced around the world today. In April of 2011 Joe received a Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and in 2014 he received a Lifetime Achievement award from the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce for his dedication to the community and craft of acting. Joe returned as FBI Special Agent David Rossi for a 2021 reboot of the Hit CBS Drama *Criminal Minds,* now streaming on Paramount Plus*.* Joe resides in Los Angeles with his wife of over 45 years Arlene, and their two daughters Mia and Gia.

**Gary Sinise**

Gary Sinise’s stage, film and television career has spanned more than four decades. In 1974, at 18 years old, he co-founded Chicago’s Steppenwolf Theatre Company where he served as Artistic Director for seven years. Now in its fifth decade as a professional theatre company, Steppenwolf has received national and international recognition from the media, theatre critics, and audiences alike. He has starred in or directed over a dozen productions at the renowned theatre, some of which played on or off Broadway, earning multiple Tony award nominations, and winning a Drama Desk Award, Obie Award, Joseph Jefferson Award, and Regional Theatre Tony Award for his work with the theatre. 20 years into his career, for his performance as Lt Dan Taylor in *Forrest Gump*, he received nominations for Golden Globe, Screen Actors Guild and Academy Awards, and earned the Best Supporting Actor Award from the National Board of Review and the Commander's Award from the Disabled American Veterans. His other film credits include *Apollo 13, Ransom, Snake Eyes, Impostor, The Green Mile, Mission to Mars, The Human Stain, I Still Believe,*and*Good Joe Bell*. Gary starred as Jack Garrett on the series *Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders,* and for nine seasons as Detective “Mac” Taylor on the hit series *CSI: NY*, both of which aired on CBS. His most recent television work was on the

Page Two

Netflix series *13 Reasons Why*. He is an Emmy, Golden Globe, and two-time SAG Award winner for his roles in *Truman* and *George Wallace*, and a SAG Award nominee for his role in *The Stand*. Gary also directed two feature films: *Of Mice and Men,* which he co-produced and co-starred in with John Malkovich, and *Miles from Home* starring Richard Gere, Kevin Anderson, Helen Hunt and John Malkovich. For 40 years, Gary has stood as an advocate on behalf of America’s service members. It began in the early ‘80s, supporting local Vietnam veterans’ groups in the Chicago area, and into the ‘90s, when his portrayal of Lt. Dan formed an enduring connection with service members throughout the military community, and as he worked on behalf of the Disabled American Veterans organization, which he continues to actively support today. Following the attacks of September 11, 2001, Sinise’s dedication to our nation’s active-duty defenders, veterans, first responders and their families has become a tireless crusade of support, service, and gratitude for all those who protect our freedom and serve our country. In 2011, Sinise established the Gary Sinise Foundation with a mission to serve our country by honoring our defenders, veterans, first responders, their families, and those in need. The Foundation's four programmatic pillars are their way of "doing a little more" for those who sacrifice so much for the country. Sinise serves as spokesperson for both the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial Foundation and Disabled American Veterans. He serves on executive councils for The Medal of Honor Foundation and the USO, and is an advisory board member for Hope for the Warriors. In recognition of his humanitarian work on behalf of our troops and veterans, Sinise has earned many distinguished awards including The Bob Hope Award for Excellence in Entertainment from the Medal of Honor Society, the Spirit of the USO Award, The Ellis Island Medal of Honor, the Spirit of Hope Award by the Department of Defense, the Dwight D. Eisenhower Award from the National Defense Industrial Association and West Point’s Thayer Award. In 2008 he was given the Presidential Citizens Medal, the second-highest civilian honor awarded to citizens for exemplary deeds performed in service of the nation, only the third actor ever to receive this honor. He was recently named an honorary Chief Petty Officer by the Navy and an Honorary Marine by the United States Marine Corp. In 2019, his autobiography, Grateful American: A Journey from Self to Service, was released and immediately became a New York Times Bestseller. It is the inspiring, entertaining, and profound story of how a young “rough around the edges” kid from Chicago eventually, through his very personal and unique journey, found his calling: to ensure that our nation’s defenders, who serve this country and its freedoms, are never forgotten. Giving back to those who sacrifice for our nation and encouraging others to do the same has become Gary Sinise’s personal quest and what he hopes will endure as a legacy of service to others.

**Bryan Cranston**

Bryan Cranston is an Academy Award nominee, and an Emmy, Screen Actors Guild, Tony, and Olivier Award winner. Cranston is best known for his portrayal of two very different characters - Hal on the sit-com, *Malcolm in the Middle*, and Walter White on the drama series, *Breaking Bad*. He previously starred in the second season of Showtime’s hit drama series, *Your Honor*, which he executive produced. The show was nominated for a 2023 Hollywood Critics Association Award for “Best Cable Drama Series.” On the big screen, Cranston reteamed with Wes Anderson and starred in his ensemble feature, *Asteroid City* - which was released by Focus Features and Universal Pictures globally; starred in Matthew Vaughn’s *Argylle* for Apple TV+; and revived his character for *Kung Fu Panda 4* alongside Jack Black, Dustin Hoffman, and Viola Davis. Next, Cranston will be seen in Jon S. Bairds, *Everything’s Going to Be Great*, opposite Allison Janney, and will executive produce Roku’s *Tightrope*, based on the 1950s series, starring Ty Burrell. He is currently in production on Seth Rogan and Evan Goldberg’s *The Studio* for Apple TV+ alongside Catherine O’Hare, Kathryn Han, Ike Barinholtz and Chase Sui Wonders. Cranston made his Broadway debut as President Lyndon B. Johnson in *All the Way* and produced the HBO film adaption through his production company, Moonshot Entertainment. In 2018, Cranston starred as the iconic Howard Beale in Ivo van Hove’s *Network* on London’s West End and on Broadway. Cranston is a New York Times bestselling author of *A Life in Parts*, where he revisits

Page Three

the many parts he’s played on and off camera. In 2019, Cranston and his Breaking Bad co-star, Aaron Paul, released an artisanal Mezcal, “Dos Hombres,” which has grown to become the 5th bestselling mezcal in the United States.

**Mary McCormack**

Mary McCormack is one of today’s boldest and most versatile actresses, continually challenging herself with roles that defy Hollywood standards and bring to light the complex lives of ordinary women. The LA Times says, “McCormack has a kind of 20th century sass, a lively impertinence you find in classic Hollywood comedians like Barbara Stanwyck, Irene Dunne, and Rosalind Russell.” She has shown her immense talent working in film, television and on stage, and has tackled roles ranging from slapstick comedy to intense drama. Tony-nominated for her role in Broadway’s *Boeing Boeing* opposite Mark Rylance, she is also widely known for her four seasons as a regular cast member of *The West Wing* (two SAG Award nominations), and as the lead of USA’s critically acclaimed *In Plain Sight*, and for her role opposite Howard Stern in *Private Parts*. Most recently, Mary stars in both seasons of the hit Starz series *HEELS I*n which she garnered a Critics Choice award nomination for Best Lead Actress in an Action Series. Next up, she will appear in the Paramount horror feature, *Vicious*. Mary’s recent television work includes starring roles in the ABC’s series, *The Kids Are Alright*, the AMC series *Loaded*, the NBC comedy series *Welcome To The Family*. As well as arcs on such shows as HBO’s *The Newsroom, Scandal* (ABC), Gus van Sant’s award-winning miniseries *When We Rise* (ABC), *House Of Lies* (Showtime), and the *Will & Grace* reboot (NBC). Mary will also appear in the new Hulu Blumhouse anthology series, *Treehouse* and *The L Word: Generation Q* for Showtime. Mary can also be seen in the HBO Max feature *Unpregnant*. In non-scripted, Mary produces the hit game show *25 Words Or Less* alongside Lisa Kudrow and Dan Bucatinsky which just aired its fifth season. Additional stage credits include a highly successful run opposite Alan Cumming as Sally Bowles in the Sam Mendes and Rob Marshall-directed Broadway production of *Cabaret* for the Roundabout Theatre Company, as well as the acclaimed London stage production of Neil LaBute’s play *Bash*; the David Warren-directed productions of *My Marriage To Earnest Borgnine*; and Jon Robin Baitz’s A *Fair Country*. Some of McCormack’s additional television and feature credits include: a recurring role on *Er; Right At Your Door*; the Stephen King thriller, 1408; Christopher Guests’ *For Your Consideration*; the Steven Soderbergh and George Clooney HBO political series, *K-STREET*; as Justine Appleton in Steve Bochco’s *Murder One*, as well as the USA Network miniseries *Traffic*, directed by Stephen Hopkins (24). In addition, McCormack has appeared in varied roles in such films as *Dickie Roberts: Former Child Star* opposite David Spade, *K-PAX* opposite Jeff Bridges and Kevin Spacey; *Full Frontal,* directed by Steven Soderbergh and opposite David Duchovny and Catherine Keener, *High Heels & Low Lifes* , with Minnie Driver; *Mystery, Alaska*, written by David E. Kelley and starring Russell Crowe; *Other Voices*, with Stockard Channing and Campbell Scott, *The Broken Hearts Club*, opposite John Mahoney and Timothy Olyphant; *The Big Tease* opposite Craig Ferguson; *Gun Shy* with Sandra Bullock and Liam Neeson; the Clint Eastwood film, *True Crime*; Mimi Leder’s *Deep Impact; The Alarmist*, opposite Stanley Tucci; *Father’s Day* and *MIRACLE ON 34th STREET*.  She also appeared in Michael G. Cooney's *The Men* and the feature film *Drone* with Sean Bean as well as Amazon’s period drama *American Girl: Mary Ellen*. Born in Plainfield, New Jersey, McCormack is a graduate of Trinity College and resides with her family in Los Angeles.

**Cynthia Erivo**

Cynthia Erivo is a Grammy, Emmy and Tony Award-winning actress, singer and producer, as well as an Academy Award, Golden Globe, and SAG nominee. Erivo burst onto West End and Broadway stages in *The Color Purple* and has since taken the world by storm. Erivo is set to star as Elphaba opposite Ariana Grande’s Glinda in Universal’s highly anticipated film adaptation of the hit musical *Wicked* from director Jon M. Chu. Part 1 of *Wicked* will be released on November 27, 2024 with Part 2 released on November 26th, 2025. Erivo can currently be seen starring in *Drift*, which Erivo produces with

Page Four

her production company Edith’s Daughter. *Drift* follows a young Liberian refugee named Jacqueline (Erivo) who has barely escaped her war-torn country to a Greek island. The film had its World Premiere at the Sundance Film Festival on January 22nd, 2023 and opened to rave reviews. Erivo also wrote and recorded an original song for the film entitled *It Would Be*. Erivo was nominated for an Emmy for her critically acclaimed portrayal of Aretha Franklin in National Geographic’s Emmy-winning global anthology series *Genius: Aretha*. This season is the first-ever, definitive, and only authorized scripted limited series on the life of the universally acclaimed Queen of Soul. The series premiered on National Geographic on March 21. In addition to her illustrious acting career, Erivo is a Grammy-nominated songwriter and performer, often headlining sold-out shows, symphonies, and music spaces including the Kennedy Center Honors, the 2020 Academy Awards, the 2017 Governor’s Ball and the 2017 Grammy Awards. Erivo released her debut album, Ch. 1 Vs. 1, with Verve/Universal Music Group on September 17. Erivo released her first children’s book titled, *Remember to Dream*, Ebere on September 28. The book follows a young girl named Ebere whose mother encourages her to dream as big as possible. Erivo wrote the book as an ode to a child’s imagination, a parent’s love and the big dreams shared by both. Erivo recently starred opposite Idris Elba in the Netflix feature film installment of *Luther: The Fallen Sun*, continuing the story of the acclaimed crime series. Erivo plays a detective who is also Luther’s nemesis while Serkis is the story’s criminal villain. *Luther: The Fallen Sun* premiered on Netflix on March 10, 2023. In 2022, Cynthia Disney’s live-action retelling of *Pinocchio*. Directed by Robert Zemeckis, Erivo will take on the iconic role of the Blue Fairy. She is also slated to star in Apple’s *Roa*r, an anthology series of darkly comic feminist fables. It was also announced that Erivo will produce and star in a biopic about Sara Forbes Bonnetta, a 19th-century Nigerian princess who was "gifted" to Queen Victoria after being liberated from slavery. In August 2020, Erivo launched her production company, Edith’s Daughter, and announced her first-look deal with MRC Television & Civic Center Media. Edith’s Daughter focuses on projects that express the beauty in the stories and people who are often overlooked and underrepresented. Erivo named Solome Williams as Vice President of the company. Erivo recently starred in the HBO series *The Outsider*, which premiered on January 12, 2020. The series is based on the Stephen King novel of the same name. The series follows an unorthodox investigator and a seasoned cop investigating a gruesome murder of a local boy. In 2019, Erivo starred in Kasi Lemmons’ *Harriet*, where she brought the legacy of Harriet Tubman to the big screen. Focus Features released the film in theaters on November 1, 2019, and Erivo's performance was met with critical acclaim. Additionally, Erivo lent her voice to the movie’s title song, *Stand Up*, for which she co-wrote. *Stand Up* won “Best Original Song” at the Hollywood Music in Media Awards. Both Cynthia and *Stand Up* were nominated for two Academy Awards as well as two Golden Globe Awards in the categories of “Best Actress in a Motion Picture – Drama” and “Best Original Song” respectively. Additionally, *Stand Up* received a nomination for a Grammy Award in the category of “Best Song Written for Visual Media.” The film also garnered ten NAACP nominations as well as AAFCA and Society of Composers & Lyricists Award wins.

**B.D. Wong**

BD Wong has won all five New York theater awards, including the Drama Desk Award, Outer Critics Circle Award, Theater World Award, Clarence Derwent Award, and Tony Award, for his Broadway debut in *M. Butterfly* – an achievement not yet duplicated by another actor for the same role. He has since appeared in numerous Broadway, off-Broadway, and regional theater productions. Wong has appeared in more than 20 feature films, most notably including *Heart of Stone, Bird Box*, three *Jurassic World* films, *Focus, Mulan 1 & 2, Seven Years In Tibet, Father of The Bride 1 & 2,* and *Jurassic Park*, among others. On television, he has appeared in *The Girls On The Bus, Awkwafina Is Nora From Queens, Mr. Robot* (for which he received both Emmy and Critics’ Choice Award nominations), *American Horror Story: Apocalypse, Gotham, Madam Secretary, Csi: New Orleans,* 11 seasons of *Law & Order: SVU, Oz,* and *All-American Girl*, and more. He has been recognized by the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, Asian American Journalist's Association, Asian AIDS Project, GLAAD,

Page Five

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, The Anti-Violence Project, Lambda Legal, Museum of Chinese in America, and Marriage Equality New York for his presence and participation in the community. He sits on the Board of Trustees of The Entertainment Community Fund (formerly The Actors’ Fund), American Conservatory Theatre, and Rosie’s Theater Kids. Wong was born and raised in San Francisco, CA and currently resides in New York City. @wongbd

**Jena Malone**

Jena Malone is a versatile actor who will next be seen opposite Kristen Stewart and Ed Harris in Rose Glass’s film *Love Lies Bleeding* for A24 as well as the independent feature *Little Death*, produced by Darren Aronofsky. Both will premiere at Sundance 2024. She also has a great cameo in Zack Snyder’s *Rebel Moon*, which released last month on Netflix. Reviews have praised her performance as an alien spider-woman, with New York Times calling it the “movie’s most fun and flawless performance.” Jena also recently reunited with former co-star Kevin Costner in his Civil War epic, *Horizon*, for Warner Bros, which will hit theaters next summer. Jena can be also seen opposite Billy Bob Thornton and JK Simmons in the final season of the Amazon series *Goliath*. She recently starred in the independent film *Lorelei* opposite Pablo Schreiber, which premiered at Tribeca in 2020, earning her rave reviews. (“Malone is a live wire of an actress, capable of conjuring a dazzling range of moods without hitting a false note” – THR). Malone previously appeared in a leading role in *The Neon Demon* for director Nicolas Winding Refn, starring opposite Elle Fanning. The film premiered at the 2016 Cannes Film Festival. She also appeared in Refn’s Amazon series *Too Old To Die Young* for Amazon, starring opposite Miles Teller and John Hawkes. She also had a role in Tom Ford’s *Nocturnal Animals*, opposite Amy Adams and Jake Gyllenhaal, and *Lovesong* for So Yong Kim, opposite Riley Keough, which premiered at Sundance in 2016. She is perhaps best known for her role in three installments of *The Hunger Games* franchise, *Catching Fire, Mockingjay Part I* and *Mockingjay Part Ii,* where she starred as ‘Johanna Mason,’ a tribute from District 7 who is proficient with an axe. Malone was also seen in Paul Thomas Anderson’s and Warner Bros *Inherent Vice*, which premiered at the New York Film Festival and was nominated for Best Adapted Screenplay at the Academy Awards in 2015. It is an adaptation of Thomas Pynchon’s acclaimed crime novel set in 1970’s Los Angeles. She stars alongside Joaquin Phoenix, Josh Brolin, Owen Wilson and Reese Witherspoon. She also starred opposite Kevin Costner and Bill Paxton in History Channel’s acclaimed mini-series *Hatfields & Mccoys*, which broke cable records at the time. Additional credits include Zack Snyder’s *Sucker Punch* and *Batman V Superman*, Ami Mann's *Dakota*, Oren Moverman's *The Messenger*, Sean Penn's *Into The Wild*, Anthony Minghella's *Cold Mountain*, Brian Dannelly's *Saved!* and Joe Wright's *Pride And Prejudice*, to name a few. She was nominated for a Golden Globe in 1998 for her role in *Hope*.

**Patina Miller**

Patina Miller stars as ‘Raquel Thomas’ in the STARZ Original series *Power Book III: Raising Kanan* which just completed its third season, is in production on its fourth, and recently received early renewal for its fifth. She is part of the guest cast voicing the character Sera in Prime Video’s adult animated musical comedy *Hazbin Hotel* which premiered in January 2024. In 2022, Patina made her highly anticipated Broadway return in the critically acclaimed revival of Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine’s 1987 musical, *Into The Woods*. Patina received rave reviews starring as the Witch, a role she played during a Hollywood Bowl production of the musical in 2019. This marked the first time in 8 years that she graced the Broadway stage since winning a Tony Award for “Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role in a Musical” in 2013. Miller also won a Grammy Award in the “Best Musical Theater Album” category for her work on the cast recording of *Into the Woods,* and was nominated for the “Distinguished Performance Award” for the 89th Annual Drama League Awards*.* She previously starred as press coordinator Daisy Grant in the CBS hit drama *Madam Secretary*, starring Tea Leoni, Bebe Neuwirth and Tim Daly. She also starred as Charlotte Jenkins on the PBS Civil War-era drama *Mercy Street*, alongside Mary Elizabeth Winstead and Josh Radnor.

Page Six

Additionally, Miller served as the narrator in Jim Henson’s animated children’s series *Word Party*. In 2021, Miller starred in *The Many Saints of Newark,* the feature film prequel to David Chase’s award-winning series *The Sopranos*. She made her feature film debut in 2014 as Commander Paylor in Lionsgate’s *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1*, starring Jennifer Lawrence, Liam Hemsworth, Josh Hutcherson, Julianne Moore and Philip Seymour Hoffman. Miller then reprised her role in the final installment of the series, *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2*, released in November 2015. Miller starred as the Leading Player in the Broadway revival of Stephen Schwartz’s famous 1972 musical *Pippin*, directed by Tony Award-winning director Diane Paulus and co-starring Matthew James Thomas, Andrea Martin and Terrance Mann. *Pippin* received the Tony Award for Best Revival of a Musical at the 67th Annual Tony Awards. Miller successfully put a contemporary twist on a role originated by award-winning actor Ben Vereen, and mastered the show’s signature Fosse movements. Miller earned a Tony Award for Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role in a Musical, an Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Actress in a Musical, as well as a Broadway.com Audience Choice Award. She was also a Drama League Award honoree and Fred and Adele Astaire Award nominee. Miller made her Broadway debut in the 2011 Broadway season as the gutsy nightclub-singer-turned-nun Deloris Van Cartier in the stage adaptation of *Sister Act*, which earned her first Tony nomination as well as a Drama Desk, Drama League and Outer Critics Circle Award nominations for her performance. She was also a Theatre World Award winner.

**Ruthie Ann Miles**

Ruthie Ann Miles most recently closed *Sweeney Todd* on Broadway playing the Beggar Woman (Tony nomination.) Favorite credits, in no particular order, include Margaret Johnson in *The Light In The Piazza* (Encores! NY City Center); Lady Thiang in *The King And I* (Tony Award, Grammy and Olivier Award nominations, Lincoln Center Theater and The London Palladium); *Sunday In The Park With George* (both Encores! NYCity Center and the Broadway transfer); Sondheim On Sondheim (the Boston Pops); *Sondheim On Sondheim* (the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl); concerts with the San Francisco Symphony and the Incheon Philharmonic Orchestra (Seoul, Korea.) She originated the role of Imelda Marcos in Alex Timber's *Here Lies Love*, written by David Byrne w/DJ Fat Boy Slim (Lucille Lortel and Theatre World Awards, The Public Theater.) She also played Adolfo Pirelli in *Sweeney Todd* on tour (playing onstage accordion, flute and piano.) On television Ruthieann is best known as Sherri Kansky on WB’s *All Rise* (CBS and OWN), and as Young Hee in *The Americans* (Emmy nomination, FX.) You can hear her voice in *Over The Moon* (Golden Globe and Academy Award nomination, Netflix); *The Tea Girl Of Hummingbird Lane* (Audie Award finalist, Simon Schuster); *If I Had Your Face* (Penguin Audio.) Ruthieann also has a Lilly Award ([the-lillys.org](http://the-lillys.org)) for “Representing in a Big Way,” for which she is very proud and very humbled. Please support live theatre.

**Gary LeVox**

Gary LeVox, along with bandmates Jay DeMarcus and Joe Don Rooney, founded Rascal Flatts in 2000, and they went on to enjoy one of the most successful careers in modern country music. Infusing the genre’s traditional sound with massive pop hooks, rock showmanship and faithful positivity, they scored 18 No. 1 singles and sold over 25 million albums, while also selling more than 11 million concert tickets and earning 40+ awards-show trophies – making them the most awarded country group of the last decade. The group celebrated its farewell with *Twenty Years Of Rascal Flatts: The Greatest Hits* in 2020 as well as a sentimental radio hit together with the reflective *How They Remember You*. And now, Gary LeVox is embarking on a solo chapter. With brand new music and non-stop touring that will include all the Rascal Flatts hit songs and his legendary voice.

Page Seven

**Jamey Johnson**

Truth and tradition. These non-negotiable principles serve as the bedrock of the music of eleven-time Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter Jamey Johnson, who is “one of the greatest country singers of our time,” according to *The Washington Post*. Johnson, who became a member of the Grand Ole Opry in 2022, has received tremendous praise from *The New York Times, Rolling Stone, The Wall Street Journal*and other publications, many of which have hailed his albums as masterpieces. His influential 2008 album, *That Lonesome Song*, was certified platinum for 1 million in sales, and his innovative 2010 double album, *The Guitar Song*, which debuted at No. 1 on the country album charts, received a gold certification. In 2012, he released a Grammy-nominated project honoring one of his heroes, *Living for a Song: A Tribute to Hank Cochran,* that paired him with Willie Nelson, Alison Krauss, Emmylou Harris, Ray Price, Elvis Costello, George Strait, Vince Gill and Merle Haggard. Like many of his idols, Johnson is also recognized as one of the most powerful and prolific songwriters of his generation. He is one of only a few people in the history of country music to win two Song of the Year Awards – for *Give It Away* and *In Color* - from the Academy of Country Music and the Country Music Association. He has written singles for George Strait, Trace Adkins, Willie Nelson, James Otto, Joe Nichols and others. In 2014, he took a significant step in independence and creative freedom by launching his own label, Big Gassed Records, which allows him to release music in any format and time frame that suits him. On Dec. 15, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from his alma mater, Jacksonville State University on the day that Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey proclaimed Jamey Johnson Day.

**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 attendees and reaching millions of viewers annually. Originally appointed by Mikhail Baryshnikov, 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

Page Eight

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.

**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.

**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

Page Nine

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.

**Kirk Ellis**

Kirk Ellis won two Emmys, a WGA Award, a Peabody and the Humanitas Prize for his work as writer and co-executive producer on the HBO miniseries *John Adams*. The miniseries won 13 Emmys in total, as well as four Golden Globe awards. Previously, Ellis received an Emmy nomination and won the WGA Award and Humanitas Prize for the ABC miniseries *Anne Frank*, which he wrote and co-produced. Series on which he has served as writer and producer have garnered more than 50 Emmy nominations. Most recently, Ellis wrote and executive produced the Apple TV+ limited series event, *Franklin*, starring Michael Douglas, which chronicles Benjamin Franklin’s efforts to negotiate a treaty with France at the height of the American Revolution. Based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning book *A Great Improvisation* by Stacy Schiff, the series also features Noah Jupe, Ludivine Sagnier, Daniel Mays, Thibault de Montalembert, Jeanne Balibar, Assaad Bouab and Eddie Marsan. Since 2019, Ellis has written or co-written annual *National Memorial Day Concert* for PBS. He received a Writers Guild nomination for his work on the 2022 show. The special broadcast regularly garners some of PBS’ top ratings. Ellis is also co-author of *The Order: 1886*, a history-based videogame for Sony, which debuted to record sales in February 2015. His first nonfiction book, *Ride Lonesome,* was published in Spring 2023 by the University of New Mexico Press. A former co-governor of the writers' branch of the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, Ellis served four years as chairman of the Santa Fe, New Mexico Arts Commission and is currently a trustee for the Museum of New Mexico Foundation. The former president of Western Writers of America, he received both the WWA Spur Award and the Wrangler Award from the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum for his episode of the TNT/Dreamworks miniseries, *Into the West*. Ellis lives in Santa Fe and Palm Springs with his wife, Sheila, and their two rescue cats. He is currently at work on his second book, due out in Spring 2025.

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