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2013-2014 Season Announced Featuring 39 Performances and Special Events in Santa Rosa

*Renovated Ruth Finley Person Theater re-opens with
weeklong line-up of diverse artists.*

Tickets on sale May 31.

Santa Rosa, CA (May 15, 2013) – Today, **Wells Fargo Center for the Arts** announced its 32nd season of world-class performances in music, dance, comedy, speakers, and family programming. The 2013-14 season begins in mid-August with a week of eclectic entertainment celebrating the re-opening of the 1600-seat Ruth Finley Person Theater (which is currently closed for renovations). Opening Week kicks-off on Friday, August 16 with Grammy Award-Winning soul diva **Patti LaBelle**, making her debut at the Center, and continues with the folk-rock singer-songwriter **Brandi Carlile** (Sunday, August 18), country music superstar **Randy Travis** (Wednesday, August 21), and concludes with the cigar-smoking, scotch-drinking comedian **Ron White: A Little Unprofessional** (Saturday, August 24).

“Over the past 32 years, we have gained a reputation as an arts center with broad appeal and this opening week exemplifies that,” says Rick Nowlin, Executive Director. He continues, “From country to folk to R&B to comedy, there’s going to be something for everyone, and we’re excited to welcome our neighbors and great audience back into the Person Theater, where they will enjoy an enhanced experience including better sightlines and sound, greater comfort and improved access.”

In September, families can enjoy a special performance by **The Wiggles** on Thursday, September 5. Embarking on their “Taking Off!” tour, the Australia-based, internationally renowned family entertainment group The Wiggles will bring their new cast and new music to North America for the first time. On Friday, September 13, Live Nation presents **Lewis Black: The Rant is Due**. This will be Black’s first appearance at the Center since 2008. The Center will again present a free **Fiesta de Independencia** on Saturday, September 14, and on Saturday, September 28, the **38th Annual San Francisco Comedy Competition Semi-Finals** will return to the Center. “The Fiesta has become an important annual event for us,” says Anita Wiglesworth, Director of Programming. “It is hugely popular, welcoming over 2000 people to our campus, and is a great opportunity for everyone to experience traditional Mexican cuisine, culture, and community. We are also proud to continue our relationship with the San Francisco Comedy Competition, which we’ve hosted each year since 1988 making it one of our longest lasting partnerships.”

In October, the Center welcomes “fabulous bodies doing fabulous things” (*New York Times*) in the form of **Complexions Contemporary Ballet**, part of the Rodney Strong Vineyards Dance Series, on Tuesday, October 22, and launches the first of three food-themed shows with **Alton Brown Live! Edible Inevitable Tour** on Friday, October 25. The star of Food Network’s “Good Eats” brings his quirky humor and culinary-science antics to the stage in a two-hour, family-friendly show. On Tuesday, October 30, the Center welcomes back audience favorite, and multi-award winning country music artist **Vince Gill**, making his sixth appearance since 2003.

The November calendar launches on Tuesday, November 5 with **The Official Blues Brothers™ Revue**, produced by Dan Aykroyd, Judith Belushi (wife of the late Jim Belushi), and music director Paul Shaffer (“The David Letterman Show”). **Buddy Guy**, a living legend of the blues who was recently awarded the Kennedy Center Award for lifetime achievement in the arts, plays the Center on Friday, November 8. On Saturday, November 9, comedians Ryan Stiles, Greg Proops, Chip Esten, and Jeff B. Davis star in **Whose Live Anyway?**, a ninety-minute improvised comedy show based on audience suggestions in the style of the Emmy-nominated TV show “Whose Line Is It Anyway?”

As usual, the holiday season brings a diverse mixture of performances to the Center. The #1 Christmas music artist in history makes its Santa Rosa debut – **Mannheim Steamroller Christmas by Chip Davis** performs a concert of beloved Christmas music combined with dazzling multimedia effects on Tuesday, December 3. The Rodney Strong Vineyards Dance Series presents **Compañía Mazatlán Bellas Artes’ Posada Navideña**, on Friday, December 6, a traditional Mexican ballet folklorico, combined with the Posada, a Mexican holiday presentation portraying the “Pastorela” (pilgrimage) made by Joseph and Mary before the birth of Christ. A Sonoma County holiday tradition—the **Dave Koz & Friends Christmas Tour**—returns on Tuesday, December 17 for a sixth straight year, this time with special guests Oleta Adams, Jonathan Butler, and Keiko Matsui joining multi-Grammy nominee and **saxophonist Dave Koz** for an especially dynamic show. Returning to the Center for the fourth year, **Moscow Ballet presents Great Russian Nutcracker** for two performances of this holiday classic on Wednesday, December 18, and Thursday, December 19.

In the New Year, on Thursday, January 16, **JE Media presents Psychic Medium & Author John Edward**, returning for the fourth straight year on the heels of sold-out appearances in 2010, 2011, and 2012. Next, the Center continues the food-themed shows with **Robert Irvine Live!** on Friday, January 17. The star of “Restaurant: Impossible” and “Dinner: Impossible” stars in a multi-media and multi-sensory theatrical experience that provides a close-up view of a master at his craft, seamlessly combining music, video and culinary art. On Thursday, January 30, the leading ambassadors of Irish music, **The Irish Rovers**, stop in Santa Rosa on their final tour, after more than four decades of charming and entertaining audiences. Next, “the funniest woman in America” (*Comedian Lewis Black*) comes to the Center with her acclaimed show **Kathleen Madigan: Gone Madigan** on Saturday, February 15.

March brings four internationally renowned ensembles that cross boundaries of genre, time, and styles to the Center. On Tuesday, March 4, **Ladysmith Black Mambazo** – led by founder Joseph Shabalala – performs a concert of songs spanning their 50-year career as well as selections from their newest recordings. Under the direction of Artistic Director Troy Powell, the internationally acclaimed modern dance company **Ailey II** presents a program of classic and new works, showcasing the country’s best young dance talent, on Wednesday, March 5 as part of the Rodney Strong

Vineyards Dance Series. On Sunday, March 9, the **Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis** returns to the Center after a three-year absence. The World Famous **Glenn Miller Orchestra**, along with the Moonlight Serenaders vocal group, performs the greatest big band hits of their storied founder on Saturday, March 15.

Rounding out the “foodie” series on Wednesday, April 2 is speaker **Ina Garten**, author and host of the highly-rated TV show “Barefoot Contessa,” who will deliver an insider’s view of her world and the pleasures of good food, cooked with love and passion. The performance series concludes on Wednesday, May 9 when comedian and actor **Mario Cantone**, best known for his role as Charlotte’s flamboyant wedding planner on the “Sex and the City” series, brings his one-man musical comedy cabaret to the Center.

Two other performance series that are an important component of The Center’s programming for the North Bay community have already been announced: These are the 2013-14 Symphony Pops Series, a four-concert collaboration with the Santa Rosa Symphony, as well as the 2013-14 Clover Stornetta Family Fun Series, eight shows for children and families. Calendar information for both of these series can be found below.

Tickets

Single tickets and season ticket packages are available by calling 707.546.3600, online at wellsfargocenterarts.org (packages not currently available online), and in person at 50 Mark West Springs Road in Santa Rosa.

Main Season Tickets

- May 17 available to members of Wells Fargo Center for the Arts
- May 31 on sale to general public

Symphony Pops and Clover Stornetta Family Fun Series Tickets

- Now: Symphony Pops Season Package (\$109 - \$255 for four concerts)
- Now: Clover Stornetta Family Fun Series Packages (\$50 - \$68 for 4-show packages; \$80 - \$112 for 8-show packages)
- August 5 single tickets to both series available to members of Wells Fargo Center for the Arts
- August 23 single tickets to both series on sale to general public

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<http://wellsfargocenterarts.org/media/>

About Wells Fargo Center for the Arts

A 501(c)(3) non-profit arts and events center, Wells Fargo Center for the Arts is home to world-class performances, nationally recognized education programs, contemporary visual art, and many popular civic events. The Arts Center is located in the heart of the Sonoma wine country and ranked among California's top performing arts presenters. Together with its resident companies, the Center presents more than 100 performances in music, dance, theater, renowned speakers, and comedy; provides education programs serving 30,000 children and adults; and hosts more than 1,000 community events a year. Owned and operated by the Luther Burbank Memorial Foundation, the Center relies on charitable community donations to achieve its mission – to enrich, educate, and entertain. www.wellsfargocenterarts.org

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Wells Fargo Center for the Arts
2013-2014 Calendar & Price Listing

2013

August

- 16 Patti LaBelle (8pm, \$119/\$99/\$79)
- 18 Brandi Carlile (8pm, \$49/\$39)
- 21 Randy Travis (8pm, \$59/\$45)
- 24 Ron White: A Little Unprofessional (8pm, \$172-VIP/\$62)

September

- 5 The Wiggles (6:30pm, \$70-VIP/\$35.50/\$20)
- 13 Live Nation presents Lewis Black: The Rant is Due (8pm, \$57.50/\$47.50)
- 14 Fiesta de Independencia (1 – 6pm, FREE)
- 28 38th Annual San Francisco Comedy Competition Semi-Finals (8pm, \$44.75)

October

- 22 Rodney Strong Vineyards Dance Series:
Complexions Contemporary Ballet (8pm, \$45/\$25, pre-show discussion at 7pm)
- 24 Clover Stornetta Family Fun Series: Golden Dragon Acrobats
(6:30pm, \$21 adults/\$16 children, Free Fun with Art at 5:30pm)
- 25 Alton Brown Live! Edible Inevitable Tour (8pm, \$85-VIP/\$65/\$45)
- 27 Symphony Pops Series: The King of Swing - Benny Goodman at the Symphony
(3pm, \$75/\$56/\$45/\$32, pre-show discussion at 2pm)
- 30 Vince Gill (8pm, \$79/\$59)

November

- 5 The Official Blues Brother™ Revue (8pm, \$45/\$35)
- 8 Buddy Guy (8pm, \$67/\$57/\$47)
- 9 Whose Live Anyway? (8pm, \$59/\$39)
- 13 Clover Stornetta Family Fun Series: Story Pirates
(6:30pm, \$17 adults/\$12 children, Free Fun with Art at 5:30pm)

December

- 3 Mannheim Steamroller Christmas by Chip Davis (8pm, \$75/\$55)
- 4 Clover Stornetta Family Fun Series: Angelina Ballerina - The Musical
(6:30pm, \$21 adults/\$16 children, Free Fun with Art at 5:30pm)
- 6 Rodney Strong Vineyards Dance Series:
Compañía Mazatlán Bellas Artes' Posada Navideña (7pm, \$10 adults/\$5 children)
- 15 Symphony Pops Series: A Very Merry Holiday Pops
(3pm, \$75/\$56/\$45/\$32, pre-show discussion at 2pm)
- 17 Dave Koz & Friends Christmas Tour (8pm, \$69/\$59/\$39)
- 18 & 19 Moscow Ballet presents Great Russian Nutcracker
(7pm, \$102-VIP/\$68/\$48/\$37.50/\$27.50)

2014

January

- 16 JE Media presents Psychic Medium & Author John Edward (7pm, \$94/\$74/\$54)
17 Robert Irvine Live! (8pm, \$100-VIP/\$55/\$40)
30 Irish Rovers (8pm, \$38/\$28, pre-show discussion at 7pm)

February

- 1 Clover Stornetta Family Fun Series: Chris Perondi's Stunt Dog Experience
(3pm, \$21 adults/\$16 children, Free Fun with Art at 2pm)
15 Kathleen Madigan: Gone Madigan (8pm, \$32)
21 Clover Stornetta Family Fun Series: Stuart Little
(6:30pm, \$17 adults/\$12 children, Free Fun with Art at 5:30pm)
23 Symphony Pops Series: Three Phantoms in Concert
(3pm, \$80/\$61/\$50/\$37, pre-show discussion at 2pm)

March

- 4 Ladysmith Black Mambazo (8pm, \$39/\$29)
5 Rodney Strong Vineyards Dance Series:
Ailey II (8pm, \$45/\$25, pre-show discussion at 7pm)
9 Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis (8pm, \$89/\$69/\$49)
12 Clover Stornetta Family Fun Series:
Jim Henson's Sid the Science Kid – Live! (6:30pm, \$21 adults/\$16 children, Free Fun
with Art at 5:30pm)
15 Glenn Miller Orchestra (3pm, \$45/\$30, pre-show discussion at 2pm)
28 Clover Stornetta Family Fun Series: Peter Pan
(6:30pm, \$17 adults/\$12 children, Free Fun with Art at 5:30pm)

April

- 2 Ina Garten (8pm, \$125-VIP/\$65/\$45)
27 Symphony Pops Series: Return of the Classical Mystery Tour - A Tribute to the Beatles
(3pm, \$80/\$61/\$50/\$37, pre-show discussion at 2pm)

May

- 3 Clover Stornetta Family Fun Series:
Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day
(6:30pm, \$17 adults/\$12 children, Free Fun with Art at 5:30pm)
9 Mario Cantone (8pm, \$65/\$45)

More performances will be added throughout the year.