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Celebrate the holidays at Wells Fargo Center for the Arts

December at the Center features holiday traditions—returning favorites and an American holiday event making its Santa Rosa debut

SANTA ROSA, CA (November 7, 2013) – It’s holiday time at **Wells Fargo Center for the Arts** and the roster of entertainment options is as culturally diverse and varied as the people the Center serves. As an integral part of Sonoma County’s community and a premiere performing arts venue in the Bay Area, Wells Fargo Center for the Arts (50 Mark West Springs Road, Santa Rosa) features a wide range of holiday choices for everyone. At holiday time, tradition is frequently the theme. This year the Center presents seasonal favorites as well as introducing several new holiday events. Tickets and information for all Center shows are available through Wells Fargo Center for the Arts online at wellsfargocenterarts.org, by calling 707-546-3600, or in person at the ticket office at 50 Mark West Springs Road in Santa Rosa (open daily, noon to 6pm).

Holiday time kicks off **Tuesday, December 3 at 8 p.m.** with America’s favorite celebration of the season for 25 years, **Mannheim Steamroller Christmas**, making its first appearance in Santa Rosa. Grammy Award-winner **Chip Davis** has created a show that features the beloved Christmas music of Mannheim Steamroller, “the number one Christmas artist in history,” along with dazzling multimedia effects performed in an intimate setting. Tickets are \$75 and \$55 and are available for purchase now.

Then on **Friday, December 6, at 7 p.m.**, for the seventh consecutive year, Wells Fargo Center for the Arts highlights the multi-cultural aspects and diversity of Sonoma County’s community with its presentation of **Posada Navideña**, featuring traditional Mexican folkloric dance and music. Part of the Rodney Strong Vineyards Dance Series, this replication of the authentic Posada celebrations in Mexico, is performed by dancers and musicians from Sacramento’s renowned **Compañía Mazatlán Bellas Artes** portraying the “Pastorella” (pilgrimage) made by Joseph and Mary before the birth of Christ.

Tickets for the Posada are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. The ticket price includes family-friendly arts and crafts starting one hour prior to the show, a post-show Posada celebration that includes food, music, and the traditional Posada procession.

Given that Wells Fargo Center for the Arts was originally built as the home of the Santa Rosa Symphony, there is no more beloved tradition than having this community treasure return to play music for Center audiences. On **Sunday, December 15 at 3 p.m.**, **Symphony Pops: A Very Merry Holiday Pops** will be the second in the 2013-2014 Symphony Pops series, which is enjoying its 9th season at the Center. This uplifting concert, conducted by Symphony Pops conductor Michael

Berkowitz, features holiday music from traditional to swing to rock. The Santa Rosa Symphonic Chorus joins the orchestra for special arrangements of “Baby It’s Cold Outside,” “Sleigh Ride,” “O Holy Night,” “Jingle Bells Forever,” “Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairies,” an audience sing-along, and much more.

Tickets are \$75, \$56, \$45, and \$32.

The holiday spirit at Wells Fargo Center for the Arts continues throughout December with **Roustabout Theatre’s White Christmas** (December 13 – 15 and 21-22), **Dave Koz & Friends Christmas Tour with special guests Oleta Adams, Jonathan Butler, and Keiko Matsui** (Tuesday, December 17), **Moscow Ballet’s Great Russian Nutcracker** (December 18 & 19), **The Brian Setzer Orchestra: Christmas Rocks 10th Anniversary Tour!** (Thursday, December 26) in a swingin’ holiday concert and many other events.

Additional shows throughout the month at the Center feature “living legend” **Willie Nelson & Family** (Friday, December 13), popular comedian **George Lopez** (Saturday, December 7) and the **8th Annual Chris-Mix acoustic evening featuring Matt Nathanson presented by Mix 104.9.** (Thursday, December 12).

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About Wells Fargo Center for the Arts

A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, Wells Fargo Center for the Arts is home to world-class performances, nationally recognized education programs, contemporary sculpture, and many popular 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.

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