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**WELLS FARGO
CENTER FOR
THE ARTS**

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**WELLS FARGO CENTER FOR THE ARTS
ANNOUNCES NEW SHOW SERIES:**

TRANSCENDENCE AT WELLS FARGO CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Presented by Gary and Marcia Nelson

**Sonoma’s Highly Acclaimed Transcendence Theatre Company to offer
A One-Night-Only Summer Concert and the Company’s First Holiday Show Series**

Tickets Go On Sale April 3

Sonoma, California (March 23, 2015) Today **Wells Fargo Center for the Arts** announced a new series of stage productions, featuring Sonoma’s highly acclaimed **Transcendence Theatre Company: *Transcendence at Wells Fargo Center for the Arts***, presented by Gary and Marcia Nelson. This new relationship between Wells Fargo Center for the Arts and Transcendence Theatre Company, best known for their successful outdoor summer concert series, “*Broadway Under the Stars in Jack London State Historic Park*,” represents the teaming up of two dynamic arts organizations that share a commitment to creating a communal experience of the arts through performance and education.

Transcendence at Wells Fargo Center for the Arts, sponsored by Gary and Marcia Nelson, will bookend the 2015 performance season with a one-night-only concert on **Wednesday, June 24, 2015** and then celebrate the season with the Company’s first ever Holiday show running **Friday, December 4 and Saturday, December 5**. All performances will be presented at Wells Fargo Center for the Arts (50 Mark West Springs Road in Santa Rosa). **Tickets, ranging in price from \$35 to \$129, go on sale to the general public on April 3, with a special pre-sale for members of Wells Fargo Center for the Arts and Transcendence Theatre Company beginning March 25.** A 15% discount is available when purchasing tickets for both the June 24 show and one of the December shows For the December 5 matinee only, youth under 18 receive a 10% discount. Tickets 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).

The shows presented as part of the *Transcendence at Wells Fargo Center for the Arts* series, similar to the “*Broadway Under the Stars*” musicals, feature a company of over 20 singer/dancers, artists from New York and Hollywood who come to Sonoma County stages directly from recent Broadway appearances. More than a standard musical revue, Transcendence shows weave popular Broadway songs into a spectacular themed performance.

The June 24 show, *OH, WHAT A NIGHT* will take the audiences on a journey of music and dance throughout the ages inspiring people to live life to the fullest. The concert features Broadway showstoppers, nostalgic standards and modern twists on some of the world's most uplifting and cherished songs.

The December holiday show, *JOY TO THE WORLD—A Broadway Holiday Extravaganza* will kick off the holiday season in Sonoma County with a fresh approach to seasonal concerts. A rousing eclectic mix of holiday favorites and Broadway show tunes that celebrates “the most wonderful time of year,” *JOY TO THE WORLD—A Broadway Holiday Extravaganza* showcases the distinctive blend of song and dance revue that distinguishes the highly acclaimed Transcendence shows. This series of shows featuring Broadway performers in a limited run promises to become a Bay Area holiday tradition.

Rick Nowlin, Executive Director for Wells Fargo Center for the Arts says of the collaboration: “Wells Fargo Center for the Arts is proud to be an integral community resource, offering world-class performances, vital Education Through the Arts programs, and helping local non-profit arts organizations grow by providing a home and support for their unique programs. And given that, we are delighted to welcome Transcendence Theatre Company to perform on our stage and broaden their reach to more of Sonoma County's theater lovers. We applaud Gary and Marcia Nelson, long-time supporters of Wells Fargo Center for the Arts for continuing their commitment to the arts by making this show series possible—it is a great gift to the community.”

“We believe this partnership is an exciting opportunity to bring together our two organizations and collectively augment our cultural and educational impact on the Sonoma County community,” Amy Miller, Artistic Director for Transcendence Theatre Company concurred. “This is a thrilling opportunity and we are so grateful to Wells Fargo Center for the Arts and Gary and Marcia Nelson for making this a reality.”

Presenters Gary and Marcia Nelson summed up the impetus for supporting this project: “As longtime residents of Sonoma County with a deep love for the place we call home, it gives us immense pleasure to support two non-profit companies we know contribute great things to the quality of our lives here. We believe in the mission of Transcendence Theatre Company and Wells Fargo Center for the Arts and were moved to bring them together to reach even more people than either of them are doing on their own. Our commitment to local philanthropy is about improving the lives of our neighbors and enhancing how we all live as a connected community. *Transcendence at Wells Fargo Center for the Arts* fits our vision perfectly.”

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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 visual art, 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.

About Transcendence Theatre Company

Transcendence Theatre Company is an award-winning nonprofit arts organization comprised of artists with professional experience from Broadway, movies, and television. The company's featured performers have appeared on Broadway in shows such as *The Book of Mormon*, *Mamma Mia*, *Les Miserables*, *Chicago*, *La Cage Aux Folles*, *Gypsy*, *Hairspray*, *Follies*, *42nd Street*, *White Christmas*, *Million-Dollar Quartet*, *Mary Poppins* among others. **Transcendence Theatre Company** specializes in producing high caliber Broadway concerts in distinctive Sonoma County locations—from their primary home within the majestic open-air ruins of the historic winery in Jack London State Historic Park to other remarkable and stunning settings throughout wine country and the community. The company's main stage signature *Broadway Under the Stars* shows, named the #2 "Outdoor Venue Not to Miss" by USA Today, weave an eclectic mix of popular music and Broadway songs into a spectacular concert performance of music and dance. **Transcendence Theatre Company** is also committed to presenting a distinctive "Transcendence Artist Series" that both supports the production and development of new works while shining the spotlight on such legends as Ben Vereen and highly acclaimed Broadway star Sutton Foster. Since their inception in 2011, **Transcendence Theatre Company** shows have been experienced by over 36,000 patrons and raised \$117,000 for Jack London State Historic Park.

About Gary and Marcia Nelson

All philanthropists are driven by their personal passions.

Gary's love of performing arts and Broadway musicals is deep seated. He grew up in Modesto and traveled by bus to San Francisco to see musicals.

Marcia is a "wanna be dancer" whose career was cut short in college but whose love of dance and music is fathomless.

Together, Marcia and Gary thrill at the chance to see and support live performing arts.