

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 4, 2015

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**JULY 4th FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR TO LAUNCH  
SUMMER 2015 MASTERCARD PERFORMANCE SERIES AT  
WEILL HALL + LAWN AT THE GREEN MUSIC CENTER**

**Broadway Powerhouse Megan Hilty to Join Conductor Michael Berkowitz  
And the Santa Rosa Symphony for Evening of  
Patriotic Favorites and Musical Theater Hits**

**Festive Celebration to Feature Kid-Friendly Play Zone and Fireworks Finale**

(Sonoma County, CA) — The third annual summer season at Weill Hall + Lawn at the Green Music Center (GMC) begins on Saturday, July 4, 2015, at 7:30 p.m. with an all-American program featuring Broadway and television star Megan Hilty with the Santa Rosa Symphony, led by Principal Pops Conductor Michael Berkowitz. The family-friendly celebration, located in the heart of Sonoma County's wine country, includes a kids play zone featuring games and carnival-like attractions, and a spectacular post-concert fireworks show.

The performance marks the first of more than a dozen concerts in the summer season, which spans from July to late September and utilizes the unique configuration of Weill Hall + Lawn, including traditional seats inside the concert hall, as well as outdoor table and lawn seating with unparalleled views of the Sonoma Mountains. Lawn patrons are encouraged to bring blankets and low-back folding chairs, and to pack a picnic or enjoy on-site concessions during the concert.

The gates to Weill Hall + Lawn open at 4:30 p.m., welcoming families to enjoy the kids play zone featuring activities such as a rock-climbing wall, bounce houses, face-painting, carnival games, arts and crafts, a magician and more. Admission to the play zone is free. Lawn tickets for children ages 2-12 are half price for the duration of the summer and children under two are free.

**Dining at the Green Music Center**

Dining offerings at the Green Music Center are expanded during the summer season: at the Dining Terrace, concertgoers can pair a pre-performance, three-course meal with the finest outdoor table seats (available at select concerts); pre-ordered boxed meals and small platters from San Francisco's iconic Boudin Bakery are available via the GMC website; a wide-variety of on-site concessions provide options for snacks, meals, prizewinning wines and domestic and craft beers; and Prelude Restaurant features prix fixe menus and indoor-

outdoor seating all summer long. Outdoor ticket-holders may also pack a picnic and enjoy a homemade feast. (No outside liquids, including water, are permitted. Free water bottle-filling stations are available on-site.)

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MasterCard is the Preferred Card of the Green Music Center.

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*The Press Democrat* is a Media Sponsor of the Green Music Center.

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### **About Megan Hilty**

Musical theatre and television actress and singer **Megan Hilty** rose to prominence for her roles on Broadway, including her 2004 debut performance as Glinda in *Wicked*, her portrayal of Doralee Rhodes in *9 to 5: The Musical* and Lorelei Lee in New York City Center's Encores! production of *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*. She gained further legions of fans as Ivy Lynn on the musical-drama TV series *Smash*, and has appeared on shows including *Sean Saves the World*, *Bones*, *The Closer*, *Desperate Housewives* and *Ugly Betty*; Hilty also provided the singing voice for Snow White in *Shrek the Third*. In 2013, Hilty released *It Happens All the Time*, her first solo album with Portrait, and also made her Carnegie Hall debut. She continues to make frequent concert appearances, both as a soloist and with symphony orchestras.

### **About Michael Berkowitz**

Currently serving his 10th season as Principal Pops Conductor of the Santa Rosa Symphony, **Michael Berkowitz** has been described as "providing the sparkle of the evening with his witty banter and self-assured conducting." The former Music Director to Marvin Hamlisch, Berkowitz has appeared with every major US orchestra and has performed as a drummer for Liza Minnelli, Billy Joel, Sting, Elton John and Bette Midler.

### **About the Santa Rosa Symphony**

Founded in 1928, the **Santa Rosa Symphony** ranks among the oldest symphony orchestras in the western United States. Conductor and Music Director Bruno Ferrandis has led the 80-plus member orchestra since 2006. In 2012, the Santa Rosa Symphony became Resident Orchestra of the Green Music Center's Weill Hall. The orchestra annually performs seven triple sets of classical concerts, in addition to their Symphony Pops and Family Series.

### **About the Green Music Center**

Nestled in the picturesque foothills of Northern California's esteemed wine country, the Green Music Center (GMC) is a focal point for arts in the region, with its spectacular 1400-seat Weill Hall and the recently opened 240-seat Schroeder Hall, a cathedral-like recital hall designed specifically to accentuate instruments, organ and voice in a small, intimate setting. A program of Sonoma State University, the GMC presents year-round programming of top classical, contemporary, jazz and world music artists through the MasterCard Performance Series and is home to the Santa Rosa Symphony.

### **About Sonoma State University**

Sonoma State University is a public liberal arts college located in California's premier wine country, one hour north of San Francisco. Nestled at the base of the idyllic Sonoma Mountains, the campus is home to more than 9,000 undergraduate students and is among the most popular campuses in the California State University system. Named a "Most Wired" campus by The Princeton Review and a "Best Regional University" by U.S. News & World Report, SSU was first in the country to offer an undergraduate degree in Wine Business.

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## TICKETS and BOX OFFICE INFORMATION

**TICKETS FOR THE 4TH OF JULY FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR WITH MEGAN HILTY AND THE SANTA ROSA SYMPHONY ARE AVAILABLE NOW**

**Gates open at 4:30 p.m. | Concert begins at 7:30 p.m.**

**Call 1.866.955.6040 or visit us online at [gmc.sonoma.edu](http://gmc.sonoma.edu).**

**Tickets start at \$20 (outdoor) and \$35 (indoor).**

**Children 12 and under are half price on the lawn and children under 2 are free.**

The Box Office is open Monday–Friday, 10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m., and two hours prior to all concerts.

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### **4TH OF JULY FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR WITH MEGAN HILTY AND THE SANTA ROSA SYMPHONY Summer 2015 MasterCard Performance Series**

Weill Hall + Lawn | Green Music Center  
Saturday, July 4, 2015, 7:30 p.m.

Megan Hilty, vocalist  
Michael Berkowitz, conductor  
Santa Rosa Symphony

STAFFORD SMITH: *The Star-Spangled Banner*

GOULD: *American Salute*

FRANK LOESSER: “Luck Be a Lady” from *Guys and Dolls*

COLEMAN and LEIGH: “The Best is Yet to Come”

FREDERICK LOEWE and ALAN JAY LERNER: “Almost Like Being in Love” from *Brigadoon*

RODGERS and HART: “This Can’t Be Love” from *The Boys from Syracuse*

GERSHWIN: “Someone to Watch Over Me” from *Oh, Kay!*

MARC SHAIMAN and SCOTT WITTMAN: “They Just Keep Moving the Line” from *Smash*

STEINER and DISCANT: Theme from *A Summer Place*

COHAN (arr. Ralph Hermann): *George M. Cohan Salute*

GERSHWIN: *Strike Up the Band*

MEREDITH WILSON (arr. Leroy Anderson): “Seventy-Six Trombones” from *The Music Man*

(arr. Bill Holcombe): *Armed Forces Medley*

*Sing-Along Rock and Roll Medley*

LEE GREENWOOD (arr. Bob Loweden): “God Bless the USA”

ARLEN and KOEHLER: “Get Happy”

STEPHEN SCHWARTZ (arr. William D. Brohn): “Popular” from *Wicked*

STEPHEN SCHWARTZ (arr. Torrie Zito): “For Good” from *Wicked*

STYNE and ROBIN: “Diamonds Are a Girl’s Best Friend” from *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*

TCHAIKOVSKY: 1812 Overture Solennelle in E-flat major for orchestra, Op. 49

BERLIN (arr. Bruce Healey): *God Bless America*

SOUSA: *Stars and Stripes Forever March*

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