

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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December 2021 at the Green Music Center

Performances Include:

Joy To The World: A Christmas Musical Journey feat. Damien Sneed

Shawn Colvin, Marc Cohn, and Sara Watkins: Together in Concert

35th Anniversary of Windham Hill's Winter Solstice

San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus – *The Holidays are Here...Again!*

Handel's *Messiah* – American Bach Soloists and American Bach Choir

(Sonoma County, CA) – The holidays have arrived at the Green Music Center! In celebration of the in-person performances that move and inspire us, the Green Music Center presents five exceptional concerts to ring in the season!

December at the Green Music Center sees the return of pianist, singer, and arts educator Damien Sneed whose holiday show *Joy To The World: A Christmas Musical Journey* features a cast of 10 singers and musicians performing well-known holiday classics such as "Silent Night," "This Christmas," "Joy To The World," excerpts from *The Messiah*, and many others (Dec 9).

The next night Shawn Colvin, Marc Cohn, and Sara Watkins unite for a memorable show that will feature the three Grammy® Award-winning artists on stage together, performing songs and sharing stories (Dec 10).

This season marks the 35th anniversary of the multi-platinum Winter Solstice album series from Windham Hill Records (founded in Palo Alto in 1975). Grammy® Award-nominated singer, fiddler, pianist, and songwriter Barbara Higbie joins composer/guitarist Todd Boston, and cellist Mia Pixley, to lead a joyous holiday concert (Dec 16).

Having skipped one entire holiday season, the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus are about to explode with pent-up excitement. They've chosen the very best of the last 10 years along with brand new pieces, literally one showstopper after another. This performance will raise funds to benefit Face 2 Face, ending HIV in Sonoma County (Dec 18).

For the final performance of 2021 The American Bach Soloists return to Weill Hall to perform the perennial holiday classic—Handel's *Messiah*. Under the leadership of Co-Founder and Music Director Jeffrey Thomas, they have achieved their vision of assembling the world's finest vocalists and period-instrument performers to bring this brilliant music to life (Dec 19).

To purchase tickets to these and other performances in the 2021–22 Season visit gmc.sonoma.edu or call 1.707.664.4246.

December 2021 at the Green Music Center

Joy To The World

A Christmas Musical Journey

Featuring Damien Sneed

Thursday, December 9, 2021 at 7:30 P.M.

Weill Hall

Tickets: \$25-\$55

Joy To The World: A Christmas Musical Journey takes the listener through Damien Sneed's original arrangements of gospel, jazz, and classical favorites. The performance features a cast of 10 singers and musicians performing well-known holiday classics such as "Silent Night," "This Christmas," "Joy To The World," excerpts from The Messiah, and many others.

Damien Sneed is a remarkable pianist, organist, singer, and arts educator whose work spans multiple genres. He has worked with jazz, classical, pop, and R&B legends including the late Aretha Franklin, Wynton Marsalis, Jessye Norman, Diana Ross, Stevie Wonder, and more.

Supported in part by Clover Sonoma and Redwood Credit Union.

Shawn Colvin, Marc Cohn, and Sara Watkins: Together in Concert

Friday, December 10, 2021 at 7:30 P.M.

Weill Hall

Tickets: \$55-\$125

Shawn Colvin, Marc Cohn, and Sara Watkins unite for a memorable show that will feature the three Grammy® Award-winning artists on stage together, performing songs and sharing stories.

Shawn Colvin won her first Grammy® Award for Best Contemporary Folk Album with her debut album, *Steady On*. In 2016, Colvin was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Trailblazer Award by the Americana Music Association.

After winning a Grammy® for his soulful ballad "Walking in Memphis," Marc Cohn solidified his place as one of this generation's most compelling singer-songwriters, with a sound rooted in American rhythm and blues, soul, and gospel.

For two decades, Sara Watkins has been one of the most visible artists in roots music, with her catalog ranging from solo albums and Watkins Family Hour, a duo with her brother Sean Watkins, to her Grammy-winning bands Nickel Creek and I'm With Her.

Supported in part by Sonoma Cutrer, the Press Democrat, and Oxford Suites.

The 35th Anniversary of Windham Hill's Winter Solstice

Featuring Barbara Higbie, Todd Boston, and Mia Pixley

Thursday, December 16, 2021 at 7:30 P.M.

Weill Hall

Tickets: \$25-\$75

Celebrate the winter solstice and its warm traditions with a concert of original and traditional acoustic music. This season marks the 35th anniversary of the multi-platinum Winter Solstice album series from Windham Hill Records. Grammy® Award-nominated singer, fiddler, pianist, and songwriter Barbara Higbie joins composer/guitarist Todd Boston, and cellist Mia Pixley, to lead a joyous holiday concert.

Founded in Palo Alto in 1975, Windham Hill Records' audiophile recordings were a run-away success with critics and audiences alike. The Winter Solstice Concert brings this music full circle, reminding us why the name "Windham Hill" became synonymous with the best in acoustic music.

This special performance will also feature the acclaimed VOENA Children's Choir. Based in Benicia, the VOENA Children's Choir is renowned for their innovative arrangements and choral performances worldwide. Their shows, have graced both Presidents Clinton and Bush as well as performances at the World Expo, The Olympics, tours of South Africa and Italy, and for the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi. Their mission is to unite the world with children's voices.

Supported in part by Oliver's Market.

San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus

The Hologays are Here...Again!

Saturday, December 18, 2021 at 5 P.M.

Weill Hall

Tickets: \$25-\$85

Having skipped one entire holiday season, the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus is about to explode with pent-up excitement. They've chosen the very best of the last 10 years along with brand new pieces, literally one showstopper after another. You'll hear and see and feel all the things that were missed last holiday, from the sublime, such as the Randol Bass "Gloria" to a whacky take on "Bohemian Rhapsody." They'll all be singing and dancing for joy when we see you in the audience again.

Supported in part by thumbprint cellars.

Handel's *Messiah*

American Bach Soloists and American Bach Choir

Sunday, December 19, 2021 at 3 P.M.

Weill Hall

Tickets: \$35-\$95

The American Bach Soloists return to Weill Hall to perform the perennial holiday classic—Handel's *Messiah*. Under the leadership of Co-Founder and Music Director Jeffrey Thomas, the ensemble has been a leader in Historically-Informed Performance Practice since 1989. They have achieved their vision of assembling the world's finest vocalists and period-instrument performers to bring this brilliant music to life.

Supported in part by Balletto Wines and Exchange Bank

ABOUT THE GREEN MUSIC CENTER

Nestled in the foothills of Northern California's esteemed Wine Country, the Green Music Center (GMC) at Sonoma State University is a focal point for arts in the region. It is comprised of the spectacular 1,400-seat Weill Hall, an acoustically exceptional venue with a modular rear wall that opens to terraced lawn seating, providing picturesque views of the surrounding countryside, and the 240-seat Schroeder Hall, a cathedral-like recital hall designed specifically to accentuate instruments, organ and voice in a small, intimate setting. The Green Music Center presents year-round programming of top classical, contemporary, jazz, and world music artists and is home to the Santa Rosa Symphony.

ABOUT SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

Located in California's premier wine country one hour north of San Francisco, Sonoma State is a small campus with big ideas. With a tradition of promoting intellectual and personal growth, leadership opportunities and technological proficiency, SSU offers its students a friendly, safe and informal atmosphere on a beautiful campus setting. One of the most requested campuses in the CSU system, SSU is regularly named a "Best Regional University" by U.S. News & World Report.

The Press Democrat is the Media Sponsor of the Green Music Center

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