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The Philly POPS announce landmark 2015-2016 season



By: [Allen Foster](#) AXS Contributor Mar 14, 2015

[The Philly POPS](#) is the renowned orchestra known for presenting fabulous, crowd pleasing programs that offer a wonderfully thrilling experience for today's contemporary-minded, discriminating audiences. Acknowledged as the largest stand-alone POPS orchestra in America and simply thriving under the direction of the visionary Music Director Michael Krajewski, the orchestra has just revealed its phenomenal schedule for the 2015-2016 season.

October 9-11, 2015 – Sinatra: A Centennial Celebration
(Fri., Oct. 9 - 8 p.m.; Sat., Oct. 10 - 3 p.m.; Sun., Oct. 11 - 3 p.m.)

With the incomparable Michael Andrew as guest vocalist, this program celebrates Sinatra's 100th birthday in the elegance and style that only an ensemble of this nature is capable of delivering. Don't miss an entire concert event featuring timeless favorites made famous by the "Chairman of the Board," himself, along with other hits from the legend's life and times.

December 5-22, 2015 – Christmas Spectacular!

(Sat., Dec. 5 - 3 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 6 - 3 p.m.; Wed., Dec. 9 - 8 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 12 - 3 p.m.; Wed., Dec. 16 - 8 p.m.; Fri., Dec. 18 - 3 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 19 - 3 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 20 - 7 p.m.; Tues., Dec. 22 - 8 p.m.)

Guest conductor David Charles Abell will be returning for his third year to lead a truly magical program of Christmas classics featuring guest vocalist Lisa Vroman (Christine in Broadway's "Phantom"), organist Peter Richard Conte (Grand Court Organist of the world-famous Wanamaker Organ in Macy's since 1989), Philadelphia Boys Choir & Chorale, St. Thomas Gospel Choir, and more! The press announcement warns: "Don't miss the ever-popular audience sing-along!"

February 5-7, 2016 – The Carole King Songbook

(Fri., Feb. 5 - 8 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 6 - 3 p.m.; Sun., Feb. 7 - 3 p.m.)

Carole King is such an epic artist that she's even got her own Broadway show celebrating her life and her music. Not to be outdone, The Philly POPS is bringing in special guest vocalist, Tony-nominated Liz Callaway to present some of the greatest hits from the esteemed and prolific writer's critically acclaimed *Tapestry* album, along with songs she wrote for other artists such as Aretha Franklin's "Natural Woman," The Drifters' "Up on the Roof," and The Carpenters' "It's Going to Take Some Time."

March 4-6, 2016 – The Music of Billy Joel

(Fri., March 4 - 8 p.m.; Sat., March 5 - 3 p.m.; Sun., March 6 - 3 p.m.)

Continuing with the theme of presenting the works of some of the greatest American songwriters, in March, the program will revolve around none other than Billy Joel! With guest conductor Jack Everly at the helm and vocalist Michael Cavanaugh (handpicked by Billy Joel to play the lead in the Broadway musical "Movin' Out"), this program promises to be a must-see event.

April 15-17, 2016 – 100 Years of Broadway

(Fri., April 15 - 8 p.m.; Sat., April 16 - 3 p.m.; Sun., April 17 - 3 p.m.)

Featuring The Philly POPS, the 130-member POPS Festival Chorus, and award-winning Broadway guest vocalists Christiane Noll, Doug LaBrecque, and Dee Roscioli, this staggeringly expansive production will reach all the way back to 1910 to revitalize choice selections from the past 100 years of Broadway. Jerome Kern, Rodgers and Hammerstein, Stephen Sondheim, and Andrew Lloyd Webber will all be represented in the program, and audiences can look forward to hearing unforgettable favorites such as "All That Jazz," "Send in the Clowns," "Music of the Night," "Defying Gravity," and numerous others throughout the performance.

May 20-22, 2016 – Cirque Goes to the Movies - World Premiere!

(Fri., May 20 - 8 p.m.; Sat., May 21 - 3 p.m.; Sun., May 22 - 3 p.m.)

Wrapping up the spectacular 2015-2016 season, Michael Krajewski will be offering a truly jaw-dropping world premiere featuring Cirque de la Symphonie's "awe-inspiring physical feats of power and beauty paired with the music from blockbuster movie classics." Yes, there will be jugglers, acrobats, and aerial flyers performing astounding acts of breath-stealing wonder all set to the musical backdrop of such classics as "Gone With the Wind," "Chariots of Fire," "The Magnificent Seven," "Raiders of the Lost Ark," and "Gladiator."

In a recent press announcement, Krajewski offered some insight on why his programs are so strikingly original and widely appealing: "It's the creative process that I value most, cultivating new works for Pops audiences. I enjoy finding artists who aren't playing with symphonies and working with them to develop programs. I seek them out and make new collaborations -- like when I encouraged James Stephenson to compose the 'Concerto for Cell Phone,' which we performed in Philadelphia in April 2013."

Besides the regular season lineup, there are two other concert events worth spotlighting at this point in time. The first is the appearance of Deana Martin (Dean's daughter) on Saturday, October 10 at 8 p.m. at the Perelman Theater of the Kimmel Center. Deana is an artist who is truly in a class all her own. She brings a combination of riveting artistry and dazzling showmanship accompanied by her wonderful stories about growing up with her illustrious father, Uncle Frank, and the rest of the Rat Pack. Deana will be one of the signature events presented during the month-long celebration called Ciao! Philadelphia, which is put on by the Italian Consulate.

Deana Martin told AXS during a phone conversation earlier today, "I think it's really cool that this show is happening during the Sinatra celebration because I'll be honoring Uncle Frank -- and Dad, of course -- so, I'll be adding a few more Sinatra songs to my set. I'm excited about coming to Philadelphia to sing at the Perelman Theater, it's going to be a lot of fun! And, since it's also happening during the month-long celebration of Italian culture, I'll probably be doing some of my Italian jokes," she laughed. "It's going to be awesome, I'm really looking forward to it!"

The second concert event will take place on Saturday, December 12 at 8 p.m. at the Wells Fargo Center. This will mark the first time in over a decade that Andrea Bocelli has appeared in Philadelphia. In this special tour stop, the legendary tenor will be performing with The Philly POPS, which will be conducted by Eugene Kohn and feature Tony and Grammy Award winner Heather Headley along with Soprano Aida Garifullina. The Philly POPS Subscribers and Patrons will receive special pre-sale opportunities in mid March, while tickets will go on sale to the general public on March 30. Special VIP packages will also be available through The Philly POPS.

In a recent press statement, Frank Giordano, President of The Philly POPS, declared, "We are thrilled to be working with Bocelli, who is a legend in our time and the most beloved and

acclaimed tenor in the world. There is no performer on his level and no other dedicated/stand-alone Pops orchestra in America that has the distinction of performing with him.”

So, there you have it, the 2015-2016 season will be a mind-blowingly stellar extravaganza of musical artistry! Get your full-season subscription now... before they sell out! All 2015-2016 Philly POPS regular season performances will take place in Verizon Hall at The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts at 300 S. Broad St., Philadelphia, PA 19102. Single tickets for Christmas Spectacular and for the rest of the season, as well as Create-Your-Own subscriptions, will go on sale in Fall 2015. Subscription and ticket purchases may be made online at phillypops.org, in person at the Kimmel box office, or by phone at 215-893-1999. [Website](#) - [Facebook](#) - [Twitter](#).