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## The Intelligencer

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### Midtown Men bring harmony to Bucks County Playhouse fundraiser



"Jersey Boys" actor/singers Christian Hoff, Michael Longoria, Daniel Reichard and J. Robert Spencer, now known as the Midtown Men, will perform a concert at Jericho Farms in Wrightstown.

By Liz Johnson

The original cast of the Broadway musical "Jersey Boys" will appear at Galavant in the Garden, a fundraiser for the Bucks County Playhouse, at Jericho Farms in Wrightstown.

Now calling themselves Midtown Men, actor/singers Christian Hoff, Michael Longoria, Daniel Reichard and Tony Award nominee J. Robert Spencer will perform a concert celebrating the music that defined the '60s, Saturday starting at 6:30 p.m. Guests are asked to wear cocktail attire appropriate for a lawn event.

"It's a theatrical event, a rock concert complete with a seven-piece band," said Spencer.

The Broadway production was loosely based on Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, which the crew performed 1,300 times.

"We all left the show, but we kept getting phone calls. People wanted to hear us perform again," said Spencer.

Now they've expanded their repertoire to include songs from the Beatles, the Monkees, Buffalo Springfield, Ronnie Spector, as well as the Four Seasons.

"We've done over 700 concerts, private events, fundraising parties and concert halls," said Spencer. Saturday's concert at Jericho Farms will benefit the The Playhouse Artists, a nonprofit started last year to raise funds for programming at the playhouse.

"We are very excited about this year's event," said Chairman Marvin Woodall. "They bring a jolt of Broadway excitement to this lovely country setting."

Food will be provided by Iron Chef Jose Garces, and there will be a silent auction to raise additional money.

The Midtown Men recently were featured on two PBS concert specials: "The Midtown Men Live in Concert," taped at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center's Prudential Hall, and "Meet the Midtown Men," which goes behind the songs to get an inside look at the performers and their music.

They've also recorded a version of "All Alone on Christmas" from the movie "Home Alone 2: Lost in New York City," produced by E Street Band member Stevie Van Zandt.

Spencer said the foursome met Van Zandt several years ago and always promised to do something together. When Van Zandt came across the song, he told them he wanted to do it with a four-part harmony in the vein of the Four Seasons.

"He's so much fun, such a nice guy and completely a genius," said Spencer. "It was a wonderful experience."

*For more information, visit [bcptheater.org](http://bcptheater.org) or call 267-740-2093.*