



For immediate release:

**TUCSON DESERT SONG FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES ITS
SIXTH SEASON: "BERNSTEIN AT 100" –
A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE AND MUSIC OF LEONARD
BERNSTEIN ON THE CENTENNIAL OF HIS BIRTH
JANUARY 16-FEBRUARY 4, 2018**

**TUCSON DESERT SONG FESTIVAL, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH TUCSON'S
LEADING ARTS ORGANIZATIONS, PRESENTS 30 EVENTS IN 18 DAYS**



Top: Leonard Bernstein by Paul de Hueck
L to R: *Sasha Cooke* by *Dario Acosta*, *Kelly Markgraf* by *Laura Rose*, *Kelley Nassief* by *June Jacobson*, *Jubilant Sykes* by *Phill Fewsmith*, *Jamie Bernstein* by *Steven J. Sherman*

20 WEST 72ND STREET, APT. 606 / NEW YORK, NY 10023-4908 / TEL: (917) 699-7188 or (212) 496-9418
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The Tucson Desert Song Festival (TDSF) will celebrate the life and music of Leonard Bernstein, the iconic conductor, composer, pianist and educator, from January 16 through February 4th, 2018, in Tucson, Arizona. Over a period of eighteen days, TDSF, in partnership with Tucson's leading arts organizations, will present 30 events honoring Bernstein at 100. The festival will provide a rich and unusual context in which to experience Bernstein's work.

Leonard Bernstein's compositions span classical, Broadway, jazz and pop music idioms with a singularly American voice. TDSF Director George Hanson has curated a festival that draws from every aspect of Bernstein's compositional range, from large to intimate works, featuring, films, lectures, symposiums and master classes. Highlights include a fully-staged production of Bernstein's comic operetta *Candide* (in partnership with Arizona Opera); *Trouble in Tabiti* (in partnership with the Tucson Symphony Orchestra) featuring mezzo-soprano Sasha Cooke and bass-baritone Kelly Markgraf; *Mass*, in a new reduced version (in partnership with True Concord Voices & Orchestra) featuring Jubilant Sykes; the "Kaddish" symphony, narrated by Jamie Bernstein, and an evening with Broadway star Chita Rivera.

George Hanson, a former assistant to Bernstein states, "Leonard Bernstein is one of America's most important and influential musicians. His impact is felt by all who were alive during his glorious career; and is still felt today even by those too young to recall his time on earth. Nowhere else in the world, as far as we know, can a listener experience the full spectrum of Bernstein's genius in such a short period of time, and in such a beautiful place as Tucson."

Jamie Bernstein, narrator, writer and broadcaster, will be TDSF's Artist-in-Residence, sharing insights and memories of her father and his work. Dr. Matthew Mugmon, the New York Philharmonic's Leonard Bernstein Scholar, will also be in residence. Ms. Bernstein and Dr. Mugmon will provide context to help understand the complex life and career of Leonard Bernstein and will participate in symposia, *Leonard Bernstein's Impact on American Music*, among them.

Tucson Desert Song Festival is presented in partnership with Arizona Early Music Society, Arizona Opera, Arizona Friends of Chamber Music, Ballet Tucson, New York Festival of Song, True Concord Voices & Orchestra, Tucson Guitar Society, Tucson International Jewish Film Festival, Tucson Jazz Festival, Tucson Symphony Orchestra, UA Fred Fox School of Music, and UA Presents.

The Tucson Desert Song Festival's Bernstein celebration is made possible through the generous support of Dorothy Dyer Vanek. Jeannette Segel, TDSF board president said, "Dorothy Dyer Vanek, our Festival Sponsor, has enabled TDSF to reach out to the world with this extraordinary offering. Her original matching gift made it all possible."

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“Bernstein at 100”
A Celebration of the Life and Music of Leonard Bernstein
January 16 – February 4, 2018
Tucson, AZ

www.TucsonSongFest.org

George Hanson, Festival Director
Jamie Bernstein, Artist-in-Residence
Dr. Matthew Mugmon, Leonard Bernstein Scholar-in-Residence

Events:

Tuesday, January 16, 2018, 7:00 pm

Festival Opening Event
“Leonard Bernstein’s Two Worlds”
From Broadway to Opera
Kristin Dauphinais, mezzo soprano
UA Fred Fox School of Music’s Holsclaw Hall
Presented by UA Fred Fox School of Music

Wednesday, January 17, 2018, 7:00 pm

Jennifer Johnson Cano, mezzo soprano
UA Fred Fox School of Music’s Holsclaw Hall
Presented by Arizona Opera

Thursday, January 18, 2018, 7:30 pm

“Somewhere—The Songs of Leonard Bernstein”
Bill Charlap Trio
Fox Tucson Theater
Presented by Tucson Jazz Festival

Friday, January 19, 2018, 7:30 pm

Sunday January 21, 2018, 2:00 pm

Bernstein: Symphony No. 3, “Kaddish”
Tucson Symphony Orchestra
José Luis Gomez, conductor
Kelley Nassief, soprano
Jamie Bernstein, narrator (Festival Artist-in-Residence)
Tucson Symphony Chorus – Bruce Chamberlain, director
Tucson Arizona Boys Choir – Julian Ackerley, director
Presented by Tucson Symphony Orchestra

Saturday, January 20, 2018, time TBD

“On the Waterfront” with an introduction and Q&A by Jamie Bernstein
Jewish Community Center
Presented by Tucson International Jewish Film Festival

Monday, January 22, 2018, 7:00 pm

Symposium: *Leonard Bernstein’s Jewish Heritage*

Details TBA

Tuesday, January 23, 2018, 4:00 pm

Symposium: *Leonard Bernstein's Impact on American Music*

Jamie Bernstein, Artist-in-Residence

Dr. Matthew Mugmon, Leonard Bernstein Scholar-in-Residence

Presented by Dan Asia and UA Fred Fox School of Music

Tuesday, January 23, 2018, 7:30 pm

Chita Rivera—A Legendary Celebration

Centennial Hall

Presented by UA Presents

Thursday, January 25, 2018, 12:00 pm

New Directions in Art Song – Bernstein's vocal influence

Kristin Dauphinais, mezzo soprano

UA Fred Fox School of Music's Holsclaw Hall

Friday, January 26, 2018, 7:30 pm

Sunday, January 28, 2018, 3:00 pm

Bernstein: *MASS* (new reduced version)

True Concord Voices & Orchestra

Jubilant Sykes, Celebrant

Also Featuring UA Dance Ensemble

Centennial Hall

Presented by True Concord Voices & Orchestra

Saturday, January 27, 2018, 3:00 pm

Sunday January 28, 2018, 3:00 pm

Voltaire's *Candide*: The Music of Voltaire's Time

Arizona Early Music Society

Aaron Sheehan, tenor

Kathryn Mueller, soprano

Grace St. Paul's Church

Presented by Arizona Early Music Society

Saturday, January 27, 2018, 7:30 pm

Sunday, January 28, 2018, 2:00 pm

Bernstein: *Candide*

Tucson Music Hall

Presented by Arizona Opera

Tuesday, January 30, 2018, 7:00 pm

"Lenny and Friends"

Steans Institute Singers

UA Fred Fox School of Music's Holsclaw Hall

Presented by Ravinia's Steans Institute

Wednesday, January 31, 2018, 7:30 pm

Bernstein: *Arias and Barcarolles*

New York Festival of Song

Steven Blier, Michael Barrett

Leo Rich Theater

Presented by Arizona Friends of Chamber Music and NYFOS

Friday, February 2, 2018, 7:30 pm

Saturday, February 3, 2018, 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm

Sunday, February 4, 2018, 1:00 pm

“Bernstein and Ballet” Featuring the music of *West Side Story*

Stevie Eller Dance Theater

Presented by Ballet Tucson

Saturday, February 3, 2018, 2:30 pm

Young Composers Showcase and Competition

UA Fred Fox School of Music’s Holsclaw Hall

Saturday, February 3, 2018, 7:00 pm

Philippe Sly, Bass Baritone

John Britton, Guitar

UA Fred Fox School of Music’s Holsclaw Hall

Presented by Tucson Guitar Society

Friday, February 2, 7:30 pm at St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church

Saturday, February 3, 2:00 pm & 7:30 pm at Catalina Foothills High School

Sunday, February 4, 2:00 pm at Catalina Foothills High School

Bernstein: *Trouble in Tahiti*

José Luis Gomez, conductor

Sasha Cooke, mezzo soprano

Kelly Markgraf, bass baritone

University of Arizona Vocal Jazz Trio

Bernstein: Three Episodes from *On the Town*

Bernstein: *Trouble in Tahiti*

All events are subject to change.

About Tucson Desert Song Festival

TDSF is a unique, collaborative festival, presented in partnership with Tucson’s leading arts organizations. TDSF provides subsidies to its partners, enabling them to bring world-class singers and exciting programs to their stages. It is the Festival’s mission to enrich Tucson’s musical life, while making the city a true “Culture Destination.” The festival provides a world spotlight to shine on Tucson.

Past alumni of the TDSF have included: Jamie Barton, Susan Graham, Christine Goerke, Nadine Sierra, Nathan Gunn, Kelley O’Connor, Amber Wagner, Rene Barbera, Tamara Mumford, Alek Shrader, Daniela Mack, James Valenti, Jill Grove, Heidi Stober, William

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Burden, Corinne Winters, Anthony Dean Griffey, David Adam Moore, Jennifer Johnson Cano, Angela Brower, Zach Borichevsky and Katie Van Kooten.

www.TucsonSongFest.org

About Jamie Bernstein

Jamie Bernstein is a narrator, writer and broadcaster who has transformed a lifetime of loving music into a career of sharing her knowledge and enthusiasm with others. Her father, composer-conductor Leonard Bernstein, her mother, the pianist and actress Felicia Montealegre, and their legions of friends in the arts, fostered an upbringing bursting with music, theatre and literature. Jamie's symphony pops concert "Bernstein on Broadway," has enjoyed success with orchestras across North America and features Jamie's concert narration performed live with orchestra and vocalists. She has written and produced several concerts for young people on the music of Copland, Mozart, Bernstein and others including the acclaimed program "The Bernstein Beat," a family concert about her father modeled after his own groundbreaking Young People's Concerts. Jamie also travels the world as a concert narrator, performing both her own scripts and standard concert narrations. She is a frequent speaker and has hosted numerous shows for radio stations in the United States and Great Britain.

About George Hanson

George Hanson's recent conducting schedule brought debuts with the Chicago Symphony, Orchestre Philharmonique de Nice and Pacific Symphony. In 2015 he capped a 20-year relationship with the Tucson Symphony Orchestra, returning as Music Director Emeritus to conduct Gustav Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde*. His many highlights during his two decades with TSO include releasing the orchestra's first-ever CD to international acclaim, and receiving the Certificate of Congressional Special Recognition from Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords. Commitments to education and community outreach have been hallmarks of Hanson's time in Tucson.

As assistant to Leonard Bernstein, Hanson worked closely with the great American maestro from 1982 until shortly before his death in 1990.

Along with his duties as TDSF Festival Director, a post he has held since 2015, Hanson added an appointment as Artistic Advisor/Permanent Guest Conductor of the Orquesta Filarmonica de Sonora in Hermosillo, Mexico. He continues as Music Director of the Sunriver Music Festival in Oregon.

Hanson's extensive opera conducting experience includes engagements with Berlin's Komische Oper, Vienna's Kammeroper, the Hungarian State Opera in Budapest and six seasons as General Music Director of the Wuppertal Opera in Germany, where he conducted and supervised 10 productions each season. North American opera engagements include Arizona Opera and Minnesota Opera.

Educated at Indiana University, the Vienna Hochschule für Musik and the Curtis Institute, Hanson served as assistant to Leonard Bernstein, and has shared the stage with Yo-Yo Ma, Joshua Bell, Itzhak Perlman and Lang Lang.

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THE FOLLOWING IS NOT FOR PUBLICATION:

For additional information and materials, interviews, etc., contact:

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