The Annenberg Theater at Palm Springs Art Museum Announces Its 13th Annual Opening Night Benefit Concert and 2015-2016 Performance Series

PALM SPRINGS (May 11, 2015) – The Annenberg Theater at Palm Springs Art Museum Announces its 13th Annual Opening Night Benefit Concert and 2015-2016 Performance Series with a stellar line-up of Broadway talent. Tickets will go on sale May 19, 2015.

The Opening Night Benefit Concert on Saturday, November 14 will showcase Broadway sensations Norm Lewis and Laura Osnes. The duo will perform an exciting array of showtunes together and individually. Lewis has appeared on Broadway in *The Phantom of the Opera* (as Phantom), *Porgy and Bess* (as Porgy), *The Little Mermaid* (as King Triton), *The Wild Party* (as Eddie), *Side Show* (as Jake), and many others. Osnes Broadway appearances include *Cinderella* (as Cinderella), *Bonnie and Clyde* (as Bonnie), *Anything Goes* (as Hope Harcourt), *Grease* (as Sandy), and *South Pacific* (as Nellie). Tickets for the Opening Night Benefit Concert and post-show supper are \$295 (\$265 for Annenberg Theater Council members), or \$95 for the performance only.

Following the Opening Night Benefit Concert, the 2015-2016 Performance Series continues with one spectacular performance per month, from December 2015 through April 2016. Maureen McGovern debuts the series on December 12. She is best known for her premier renditions of the Oscar-winning songs "The Morning After" from *The Poseidon Adventure*, and "We May Never Love Like This Again" from *The Towering Inferno*. Her Broadway hits include *The Pirates of Penzance*, and *Little Women*, *The Musical*. She has more than 19 albums to her credit.

Marilyn Maye, having spent a life-time entertaining audiences and still going strong, follows on January 16, 2016. Appearing 76 times on *The Tonight Show* Starring Johnny Carson, he labeled her the "Super Singer," while Ella Fitzgerald referred to her as "The greatest white female singer in the world." With an endless stream of awards, notable accolades include being named an official Jazz Legend by The American Jazz Museum, and being recognized by the Smithsonian Institution which chose her recording of "Too Late Now" for inclusion in its Best Performers of the Best Compositions of the 20th Century permanent collection, along with such other singing greats as Billie Holiday, Frank Sinatra and Judy Garland.

On February 20, award-winning Broadway performer Christine Andreas will mesmerize the audience with her incredible vocals. Andreas received a Theatre World Award for her performance in *My Fair Lady* as Eliza Doolittle, and Tony Nominations for her performances in *Oklahoma!* and also *On Your Toes*. In addition, Andreas has produced two CD's which have both placed in the Top Ten of *USA Today's* music lists. Music Director for the evening will be Andreas' husband, Martin Silvestri.

Jane Monheit, a brilliant jazz and contemporary vocalist with two Grammy Award nominations, takes the stage on March 19. She has 9 albums and has performed from the White House to The Rainbow Room, and every venue in between. Monheit has collaborated with artists such as Michael Bublé, Ivan Lins, Terence Blanchard and Tom Harrell, and has appeared on numerous television shows including *Emeril*, Ramsey Lewis' *Legends of Jazz*, *Letterman*, *The View*, and *The Today Show*.

Wrapping up the season on April 9 are Broadway rising-stars and newlyweds Jarrod Spector and Kelli Barrett. Spector is currently playing Barry Mann in <u>Beautiful</u>: The Carole King Musical, in which he was Tony nominated for this role. He has been praised for playing Frankie Valli in Jersey Boys and has performed in Les Miserables. Barrett performs as Lara in the new musical <u>Doctor Zhivago</u>. Her other Broadway credits include Baby It's You, The Royal Family, and Wicked.

Uniquely located within Palm Springs Art Museum, the 433-seat, state-of-the-art Annenberg Theater is a true combination of the visual and performing arts with nearly perfect acoustics. All Season Performances take place on Saturday's at 8 p.m. Ticket prices vary and can be ordered on-line at www.annenbergtheater.org or by calling the box office at (760) 325-4490.

For more information about Palm Springs Art Museum visit www.psmuseum.org or call (760) 322-4800. Palm Springs Art Museum is located at 101 Museum Drive in downtown Palm Springs.

About Palm Springs Art Museum

Palm Springs Art Museum is the largest cultural institution in the Coachella Valley and includes three locations in Palm Springs and Palm Desert. The flagship building is located in downtown Palm Springs and features compelling art exhibitions, a vast permanent collection, and the 433-seat Annenberg Theater, all in a 150,000 square foot, architecturally-significant building. Palm Springs Art Museum Architecture and Design Center, Edwards Harris Pavilion features exhibitions and programming that explore the rich topics of architecture and design. Palm Springs Art Museum in Palm Desert is an 8,400 square foot, Silver LEED-certified building named The Galen that presents rotating exhibitions and special collections. It is surrounded by the four-acre Faye Sarkowsky Sculpture Garden featuring important sculpture works. Admission to the Palm Desert location is now free to the public, generously underwritten by Helene V. Galen. For more information, call 760-322-4800, visit www.psmuseum.org, and follow the museum on Facebook, Twitter and InstaGram.