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A Moment in KPAS History

NOTE: This is the 5th article in a series of 6 articles on the history of the Kerrville Performing Arts Society in celebration of their 25th Anniversary Season.

(Kerrville, TX) – The Kerrville Performing Arts Society has broadened the horizons of the arts to Kerrville through bringing in a variety of performing arts throughout their 25-year history. The performing arts include Broadway, theater, drama, comedy, music, dance, opera, and the marching arts, such as brass bands, etc. Artists who participate in these arts are called performers, including actors, comedians, singers, dancers, and musicians.

With the upcoming October 12th performances by the San Antonio Symphony, KPAS has selected this musical organization to open their Silver Celebration based on the historical significance of the San Antonio Symphony. While KPAS was in its formative years, securing the services of a large music ensemble was considered too costly for their budget. However, the San Antonio Symphony generously offered their performances at a rate that was financially affordable, which in turn provided stability and recognition to the newly formed KPAS organization.

The San Antonio Symphony has appeared on the KPAS series five times (more than any other artist) in addition to being the musical organization selected to perform at the dedication of The Kathleen C. Cailloux Theater (in 2003) after a multi-million dollar renovation of the Municipal Auditorium. Large music ensembles that have performed during the 25 seasons of KPAS include: Austin Symphony, Baylor Symphony, the University of Houston Wind Ensemble, Chamber Orchestra Kremlin, Moscow Chamber Orchestra and the San Antonio Municipal Band.

The Vienna Choir Boys have performed in the KPAS series three times over the last 25 seasons...once in each decade. During their 1980 and 1990 performances, they sang in the old Municipal Auditorium, while their 2007 performance was in the renovated auditorium, The Kathleen C. Cailloux Theater.

Pianists have graced the pages of KPAS programs more frequently than any other soloist type. To honor that accomplishment, KPAS will be presenting The 5 Browns as their 25th anniversary season closer on May 4-5, 2009. The 5 Browns will feature 5 siblings (all graduates of the prestigious Juilliard School of Music) performing on five Steinway grand pianos.

The two vocal ensembles that have each appeared most on KPAS programs are The Vienna Choir Boys and Chanticleer. Each of these fine ensembles has appeared in Kerrville three times. Additional vocal ensembles have



included: University of Texas Chorale, Harvard Glee Club, Centenary College Choir, Quink and the African Children's Choir.

Dance is another genre of the performing arts which has been very popular throughout the KPAS series. Visiting artists have included: London Ballet, Theatre Ballet of Canada, Ballet Austin (four times), Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Fort Worth-Dallas Ballet, Dance Kaleidoscope, Saint-Petersburg Ballet, San Diego Ballet, Momix, Trinity Irish Dancers, and The Stepcrew.

Large scale productions including opera, operetta, and Broadway shows have brought La Traviata and La Boheme (Texas Opera Theater), Lend Me a Tenor, Porgy and Bess, Pirates of Penzance (Carl Rosa Opera), and Peter Pan.

Highlights of KPAS' jazz presentations include: Southwest Texas Jazz Ensemble, North Texas 1:00 Lab Band, and Irvin Mayfield and the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra. Big bands have included the Artie Shaw Orchestra and the Glenn Miller Orchestra.

Chamber music has been an integral part in KPAS programming during the 25 seasons. String, brass, woodwind, vocal, and guitar ensembles have appeared numerous times providing audiences with artists of exceptional high quality. For a complete listing of these organizations, visit www.kpas.org/mission/concert_history.htm.

Variety is the key word in KPAS' programming. From the opening season where Turk Pipkin's Children's Circus appeared, the creative mimework of Mummenschanz, to the sophisticated sound of the New York Philomusica Chamber Ensemble, KPAS Artistic Directors have developed a talent for bringing in artists that will provide "something for everyone" in each year's series. From the youth in our community, Kerrville's work force, to the retirees, the organization of the Kerrville Performing Arts Society continues to set forth the mission that was established 25 seasons ago in presenting world-class artists in the heart of the Texas Hill Country.

To join in KPAS' Silver Celebration season, contact KPAS at 830.896.5727 or visit www.kpas.org, Tickets for KPAS events are available at the Cailloux Theater Box Office (830.896.9393).

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