

20th Anniversary Season

Performing Arts Series

presents

An Evening

with

Martin Short

Jeff Babko, piano

Saturday, February 12, 2011

Yardley Hall

Johnson County Community College

Tonight's program will not have an intermission

Martin Short

Martin Short, a comedic chameleon and a master of hilarious impressions, has won fans and accolades in television, film and theater since his breakout season on *Saturday Night Live* over two decades ago.

Short won his first Emmy in 1982 while working on Canada's *SCTV Comedy Network*, which brought him to the attention of the producers of *Saturday Night Live*. He became a fan-favorite for his portrayal of characters such as Ed Grimley, lawyer Nathan Thurm and "legendary songwriter" Irving Cohen.

His popularity and exposure on *Saturday Night Live* led Short to cross over quickly into feature films. He made his debut in *Three Amigos* and followed with *Inner Space* and Tim Burton's *Mars Attacks*. One of Short's most memorable roles was in the remake of *Father of the Bride*, as Franck the wedding planner, a role he reprised a few years later in *Father of the Bride II*. Later this year, Short will be featured in the animated *Dorothy of Oz* as the voice of the Jester.

Short is also an accomplished stage actor, winning a Tony and an Outer Critics Circle Award for his role in the revival of *Little Me*. He was also nominated for a Tony and took home an Outer Critics Circle Award for the musical version of Neil Simon's *The Goodbye Girl*. Short co-wrote and starred in *Fame Becomes Me*, prompting the *New York Times* to describe Short as "a natural for live musicals, a limber singer and dancer who exudes a fiery energy that makes you want to reach for your sunglasses."

Short returned to television in an Emmy-nominated role for the mini-series *Merlin* and host of *The Martin Short Show*, which garnered him seven Emmy nominations. Short has also written, produced and starred in three comedy specials, winning two Cable Ace awards and an Emmy. In 2001 Short launched the critically acclaimed *Primetime Glick* garnering another five Emmy nominations.

In 2010, Martin joined the critically acclaimed FX series *Damages* as the lawyer Leonard Winstone, and for his work was nominated for his 19th Emmy award.

Martin also lends his voice as the Cat in the critically acclaimed PBS series *Cat in the Hat Knows a Lot About That*.

Short's incredible career has been recognized by the public and critics alike, and by his Canadian homeland. In 1994, Short was awarded the "Order of Canada" (the Canadian equivalent to British knighthood) for his contribution to Canadian culture and was inducted into the Canadian Walk of Fame in June 2000.

Jeff Babko

Pianist, arranger, composer and producer Jeff Babko has been actively playing the piano since the age of 4. Hailing from Valencia, California, he began private studies at the prestigious California Institute of the Arts at age 10, and continued on to college at the University of Miami Frost School of Music, and simultaneously became an active and respected working musician in the city of Miami.

Returning to Los Angeles after schooling, Babko embarked on his first world tour with Julio Iglesias. The tour lasted three years, taking him across the U.S., Europe, Asia and South America. While working for Iglesias, Babko formed a jazz quintet which recorded *Misfits of Silence*, a CD distributed worldwide. This jazz group led him to work with many instrumental jazz and “fusion” acts, including guitarists Larry Carlton and Robben Ford and drummer Simon Phillips, all with whom Babko would tour the world as well. Babko is heard on recordings by all three artists.

Work with Phillips led to Babko’s experience playing with his heroes, the band TOTO, on a 2000 European tour. Other pop and rock tours followed, including alternative country singer Shelby Lynne and songwriter Peter Himmelman.

Babko’s TV experience began in 1999 with the syndicated *Martin Short Show* and continued on the *Wayne Brady Show*. Babko has toured with Mr. Short since 2001. For the last eight years, Jeff has been a member of Cleto & The Cletones, the “house band” airing on ABC’s *Jimmy Kimmel Live*, and he is responsible for composing most of the music heard on the program.

In 2007, Babko’s *Mondo Trio* CD was released, and *Down Beat* magazine called it one of 2007’s best. In addition, Babko is on James Taylor’s recent album *Covers* and will tour this year as a member of Taylor’s “Band Of Legends.” Another noted 2010 tour was with Sheryl Crow’s “100 Miles From Memphis,” where Babko was a member of the Thieves band.

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