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# Press Release

**Who:** Bob Lappin and The Palm Beach Pops**What:** "The Genius of Cole Porter" with Lillias White and Longineu Parsons**Where:** Kravis Center for the Performing Arts, West Palm Beach and  
Carole & Barry Kaye Performing Arts Auditorium at FAU, Boca Raton**When:** January 4, 5, 7, 8 and 9, 2008**Time:** 8:00 p.m.**Cost:** Tickets \$25 to \$85

## Bob Lappin and the Palm Beach Pops Salute The Genius of Cole Porter

**December 19, 2007 (West Palm Beach, FL)** Anything goes when Bob Lappin and The Palm Beach Pops present a rousing tribute to this all-American composer, songwriter and musical master in "The Genius of Cole Porter." Bob Lappin and The Palm Beach Pops welcome back Tony Award winner Lillias White to salute the clever lyrics and sophisticated melodies of Cole Porter with American Songbook favorites "I Get a Kick Out of You," "I Concentrate On You," "Anything Goes," "Blow Gabriel, Blow" and "You're the Top." World-renowned trumpeter and singer, Longineu Parsons, makes a special appearance to showcase his highly original compositional and improvisational style.

Guest vocalist Lillias White is the quadruple-crown winner of the 1997 Tony Award, Drama Desk Award, Outer Critics Award and the People's Choice Award for Best Featured Actress in a Musical for her performance in the Cy Coleman musical *The Life*. Longineu Parsons has performed in over 30 countries and is touted by critics to be one of the world's best trumpet players.

Cole Porter's musical interest began to develop at the age of 10 when composing a song for his mother. His works include the musical comedies *Kiss Me Kate*, *Fifty Million Frenchmen* and *Anything Goes*, as well as songs like "Night and Day," "Begin the Beguine" and "I've Got You Under My Skin". Porter was noted for his sophisticated and sometimes ribald lyrics, clever rhymes, and complex forms...and was probably the most prolific single contributor to the Great American Songbook.

Bob Lappin and The Palm Beach Pops bring you "The Genius of Cole Porter" concerts on January 4 and 5 at 8:00 p.m. at the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts in West Palm Beach. Tickets are \$25 to \$85 and

available by calling 561.832.7469 or visiting [www.palmbeachpops.org](http://www.palmbeachpops.org). The series continues on 7, 8 and 9 at 8:00 p.m. at the Carole and Barry Kaye Performing Arts Auditorium at FAU in Boca Raton. Tickets are \$27 to \$65 and are available by calling 800.564.9539 or visiting [www.palmbeachpops.org](http://www.palmbeachpops.org). For additional information, call the Palm Beach Pops Box Office at 561.832.7677 or visit [www.palmbeachpops.org](http://www.palmbeachpops.org).

### **Lillias White**



LILLIAS WHITE has been recognized on Broadway with the Tony Award, Drama Desk Award, Peoples' Choice Award and The Outer Critics Award for Best Actress in a Musical - Broadway's Prestigious Quadruple Crown - for her 1997 role as Sonja in *The Life*. In addition, she won The Drama Logue Award for Best Actress in a Musical for her role in the national tour of *Dreamgirls*. Other theater credits include the Broadway productions of *How to Succeed in Business...*, *Once on This Island*, *Rock n' Roll: The First 5,000 Years* (Aretha Franklin), *Barnum* and *Carrie*. Lillias White has also gone on the national and international tours for *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Tintypes* and *The Wiz*. Lillias recorded "Dreamgirls: The Concert," "Too Hot To Handle" (The Gospel version of Handel's Messiah) and was featured with Tony Bennett on Cy Coleman's most recent record. She regularly appears in concert at The Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center.

### **Longineu Parsons**



LONGINEU PARSONS has been hailed by critics internationally as one of the world's finest trumpet players. He performs classical and jazz on trumpet, and his compositions include works for symphony orchestra, chamber music, jazz and solo piano. Longineu's musical conception involves the bringing together of different musical genres, representing many cultures, functioning together as a unified whole. He has performed and recorded with such greats as Cab Calloway, Nat Adderley, Cecil Taylor, Nancy Wilson, Joe Williams, Herbie Mann, Frank Foster, Mal Waldron, Sam Rivers, David Murray, Hamiet Bliuiett, Billy Harper, Hal Singer, Jimmy Witherspoon, Don Moye, Francois Lindemann, Manu Dibongo, Sugar Blue, and others. Longineu is currently an Associate Professor, and Master of Music in classical trumpet from the University of Florida.

### **Cole Porter**

COLE PORTER learned piano and violin at age six and composed his first song at the age of ten with a song dedicated to his mother, called *Song of the Birds*. His first Broadway show was *See America First* in 1916.

After early success with one-off songs like *Don't Fence Me In*, which was re-released in a World War II musical called *Hollywood Canteen*, Cole signed some contracts with the film industry. The first film with a Cole Porter song was *The Battle of Paris* from 1929. In 1934, Porter wrote his greatest score of this period with *Anything Goes* (1934). Its songs include "I Get A Kick Out Of You," "All Through The Night," "You're The Top," and "Blow, Gabriel, Blow," as well as the title number. His works include the musical comedies *Kiss Me Kate* which was based on Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*, and *Fifty Million Frenchmen*, as well as songs like "Night and Day", "I Get a Kick Out of You" and "I've Got You Under My Skin". Porter was noted for his sophisticated and sometimes ribald lyrics, clever rhymes, and complex forms. Porter was probably the most prolific single contributor to the Great American Songbook.

A 1990 album brought Cole Porter music to many younger listeners as the album *Red, Hot, and Blue*. The album features Cole Porter songs sung by popular musicians of the 1980s and 1990s. Porter songs still maintain a strong presence in movie soundtracks (from Woody Allen Movies, to *Tank Girl*), with the most popular songs *Lets Do It (Let's Fall In Love)* and *Night and Day*. The 2004 movie *De-Lovely*, named after a silly Cole Porter song title, rekindled the nation's love for Cole Porter's music due to the beautiful sets, all-star actors, famous musicians, and the soundtrack. Cole Porter died at the age of 73 in Santa Monica, California.

### **About Bob Lappin and The Palm Beach Pops**

Founded in 1991 by Music Director and Conductor, Bob Lappin, The Palm Beach Pops quickly distinguished itself as a world-class pops orchestra with a debut concert in 1992. In collaboration with the best musicians and

guest artists on the international music scene, The Palm Beach Pops performs over 34 concerts a year in South Florida at the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts in West Palm Beach, the Carole and Barry Kaye Performing Arts Auditorium at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Eissey Campus Theatre at Palm Beach Community College in Palm Beach Gardens as well as other national venues. The Palm Beach Pops' comprehensive education and community outreach program has engaged over 50,000 youths since its inception in 1998. Their dedication to the preservation of the American Songbook continues to allow the orchestra to garner national and international acclaim as a premier pops orchestra.

Bob Lappin and the Palm Beach Pops is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization. For information about the Palm Beach Pops In-School Youth Music Education Program, Tickets for Children & Families Program, volunteer opportunities and tax-deductible donations, call 561-832-POPS or go to [www.palmbeachpops.org](http://www.palmbeachpops.org).

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