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Bob Lappin & The Palm Beach Pops

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Press Release

Who: Bob Lappin and The Palm Beach Pops
What: "The Best of Jimmy Van Heusen and Sammy Cahn"
with Christine Andreas and Michael Andrew
Where: Kravis Center for the Performing Arts, West Palm Beach – February 4 and 5
Carole and Barry Kaye Performing Arts Auditorium at Florida Atlantic University,
Boca Raton – February 7 thru 9
Time: 8:00 p.m.
Tickets: \$25 to \$85

Bob Lappin and The Palm Beach Pops Unveil The Men Behind Ol' Blue Eyes in "The Best of Jimmy Van Heusen and Sammy Cahn" Concerts

January 21, 2008 (West Palm Beach, FL) Come fly away with Bob Lappin and The Palm Beach Pops when they present "The Best of Jimmy Van Heusen and Sammy Cahn" for a look at the dynamic duo who composed over 50 songs sung by and recorded by Frank Sinatra, as well as many other great entertainers including Bing Crosby and Bob Hope. This moving concert features all time favorites including "Come Fly With Me," "But Beautiful," "Here's That Rainy Day," "Nancy," "All The Way," "Darn That Dream" and many more performed by guest vocalists soprano Christine Andreas of *My Fair Lady* fame as Eliza Doolittle, plus Michael Andrew, whom Merv Griffin called "one of the all-time great singers."

Tickets for "The Best of Jimmy Van Heusen and Sammy Cahn" concerts on February 4 and 5, 2008 at 8:00 p.m. at the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts in West Palm Beach are available by calling 561.832.7469 and at the Carole & Barry Kaye Performing Arts Auditorium at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton at 8:00 p.m. on February 7, 8 and 9, 2008 by calling 800.564.9539. Tickets are also available at www.PalmBeachPops.org.

Jimmy Van Heusen & Sammy Cahn

In addition to being one of Frank Sinatra's closest pals, Jimmy Van Heusen, a four-time Oscar Award winner and a Grammy Award winner, wrote extensively for Mr. Sinatra and is considered to be one of the greatest contributors to the American Songbook with over 400 songs (50 of them with lyricist Sammy Cahn). Van Heusen was born in 1913 in New York as Edward Chester Babcock, and through his work as a radio disc jockey, he began composing songs, playing them on the air. With inspiration from an ad for Van Heusen shirt collars, Chester chose his new name. Van Heusen wound up moving to and making his living in the Tin Pan Alley recording district in New York City, where he met Sinatra while working as an in-house songwriter for Remick Music Corp. Van Heusen had his first big hit in 1939 with "Darn That Dream," a song written for Benny Goodman. "Imagination" was written for and sung by Sinatra along with the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, becoming a number one hit in early 1940 – suddenly Van Heusen's songs could be heard all over radio.

Van Heusen teamed up with Johnny Burke, an exceptional lyricist and began writing songs for Paramount Pictures, more specifically Bing Crosby films, for which he won an Oscar in 1944 for the tune "Swingin' On A Star" in the film *Goin' My Way*. All together, they wrote songs for 23 Crosby movies. It was during this period

that other great composers such as Gershwin, Kern, Porter, Berlin and Rodgers were hot on the scene – with Van Heusen being just half their age. This musical genius was also a cross-country aviator and test pilot for Lockheed during World War II.

Lyricist Sammy Cahn, born Samuel Cohen in New York the same year as Jimmy Van Heusen, was nominated for more than 30 Oscars, and won four times. Before working with Van Heusen, Cahn had a successful career with composer Jules Styne in the 1940s, working on 19 films in Hollywood and wrote the classic “Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow” recorded by Bing Crosby. Cahn had been friendly with Sinatra from Sinatra’s early days with Tommy Dorsey, and many of his lyrics were written specifically for Sinatra’s movies. Cahn won an Oscar in 1954 for the title song to the film *Three Coins in the Fountain* before pairing up with Van Heusen in 1955 – the beginning of one of the greatest musical collaborations.

Van Heusen and Cahn wrote almost all the songs Sinatra sang in movies, and a couple of songs for his albums, including title songs like “Come Fly With Me” and “Come Dance With Me.” In 1959, the pair’s Oscar-winning song “High Hopes” from the film *A Hole in the Head* was reworked to become the official anthem of the 1960 Kennedy presidential campaign. Among their compositions are “September of My Years,” “Call Me Irresponsible,” “All The Way,” and many more.

Christine Andreas



Christine Andreas is best known for her work on Broadway as Eliza Doolittle in *My Fair Lady* and received two Tony nominations for her work as Laurey in *Oklahoma!* Her other Broadway credits include *Angel Street*, *Rags* and *The Scarlet Pimpernel*. Christine has also been featured on television programs including *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*, PBS’ *Musical Comedy Tonight* and as the evil shrink, Taylor Benson, on *Another World*.

Michael Andrew



In addition to being the headline singer and band leader at the world famous Rainbow Room, Michael Andrew also starred in his own show, “Mickey Swingerhead and the Earthgirls” which led to the creation of his own band, Swingerhead. Michael formed the Coconut Club Orchestra for Merv Griffin at the Beverly Hilton Hotel, in which Merv called Michael “one of the all-time greatest singers.”

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.

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