

LISA SMITH WENGLER
CENTER FOR THE
arts
PEPPERDINE



2015-2016 YEAR IN REVIEW

OUR MISSION

Dear Friends,

We had a phenomenal year at the Lisa Smith Wengler Center for the Arts in 2015-2016, and I'm thrilled to share a few highlights with you, the people who made it possible.

We pride ourselves in offering something for everyone. I'm particularly pleased at the wide range of performances we presented last season, including Kenny Loggins with his new group Blue Sky Riders, legends Herb Alpert and Lani Hall, and the astonishing and breathtaking dance of MOMIX. We continued our support of talented emerging artists through performances in our recital series by talented musicians like Parkening International Guitar Competition winner Meng Su and cellist Narek Hakhnazaryan. Our Andy Warhol exhibition was one of the most popular exhibits in the history of the Weisman Museum, drawing more than 11,500 visitors.

All of us are thirsty for the inspiration, wonder, and joy that come from the arts. Your contributions this year provided live performances and museum exhibitions for thousands of people, including thousands of schoolchildren who might not otherwise have been able to receive high-quality arts experiences. On behalf of our staff, our students, and all those we serve—thank you!

Sincerely,
Rebecca Carson
Managing Director



We have been regular attendees over the past years and last night's concert has to be one of the most enjoyable. Thank you for your hard work in bringing such great talent to your venue."
—Michael Young

The mission of Lisa Smith Wengler Center for the Arts at Pepperdine University is to present an innovative, unique, entertaining, and diverse program of exceptional performances and museum exhibitions and thus:

- » Enhance the educational experience at the University for all students and to provide a professional laboratory to train students in the arts
- » Foster artistic excellence and creativity
- » Connect Pepperdine University and the richly varied communities of Los Angeles and surrounding communities



55,311 patrons served in 2015–2016

2,253 artists, technicians, and onstage participants

34,030 attendees to performances in Smothers Theatre, Lindhurst Theatre, and Raitt Recital Hall

21,152 attendees to the Frederick R. Weisman Museum of Art

7,272 Pepperdine University students attending performances, exhibitions, and master classes

5,391 ARTSReach performance attendees

\$5,103 worth of tickets donated to 64 deserving nonprofit organizations benefiting arts, education, the local community, and various friends of Pepperdine

808 zip codes served

“If you wanted a bit of heaven, even the beaches in Malibu paled in comparison to the sounds delivered by the Gospel Hall of Fame group Take 6 at Pepperdine’s Smothers Theatre.”
—Jazz Weekly

“This band shook me to the core, and made me realize why I fell in love with music in the first place... they are the greatest band in country music.” —Folk Works review of Marty Stuart and His Fabulous Superlatives



SERVICE

Pictured: Marty Stuart and his Fabulous Superlatives.

HIGHLIGHTS

September 25

Malibu residents and music legends Herb Alpert and Lani Hall play to a sold-out crowd in Smothers Theatre.

October 10

Local children's stories were selected to be turned into musicals and performed with Story Pirates.

November 12

The Fine Arts Department dedicates its production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *South Pacific* to Chancellor Emeritus Charlie Runnels.

December 1

A holiday favorite, the Center for the Arts Guild Holiday Boutique and Luncheon welcomes 144 guests, raising \$13,647 to support the popular ARTSReach program.

December 13

Grammy Award-winner LeAnn Rimes has a sold-out holiday performance in Smothers and stops to say hello to our CFA Guild members before the show.

January 16

Marc Cohn returns to Smothers Theatre and the *Andy Warhol: Life & Legends* exhibition opens at the Frederick R. Weisman Museum of Art.



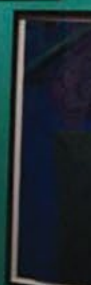
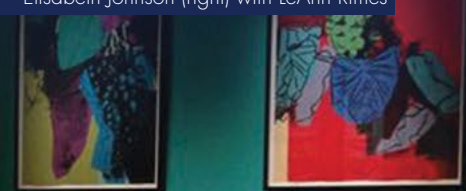
Student writers with the cast of Story Pirates



Pepperdine students with Charlie Runnels



Guild member Becky Johnson (left) and her daughter Elisabeth Johnson (right) with LeAnn Rimes



“LOVED this exhibit! Bring us more, MORE!”
—Nanci and John Iannone

January 25

Gabriela Martinez conducts a piano master class with Pepperdine music students after her public recital.

January 28

Stephanie Bettman and Luke Halpin visit NEW Academy Canoga Park to teach a music class before their public performance in Smothers Theatre.

February 3

Scott Coulter holds a musical theatre master class with Pepperdine theatre and music students.

February 5

The Jones Family Singers, in conversation with Pepperdine's Dr. Joi Carr, hold a convocation with Pepperdine students before their public performance.

“What a phenomenal show at an outstanding venue!” —Stephanie Langlois

“Loved your performance last night at Smothers Theatre. I love that theatre and the campus. *Defying Gravity: The Music of Stephen Schwartz* event was amazing. Ben Vereen has such an inspiring story to sing.”
—Patty Paul to Jason Graae

“Smothers Theatre is an exceptional venue—comfortable, easy parking, great acoustics, and every seat is good in this theatre (I've attended many shows here and have been seated throughout). What really draws me to this venue is the unique, eclectic, and high-caliber performances that are offered.” —Tracy Gore

“You and the center are hidden gems in the community!” —Lisa Sugino

“Thanks for putting on such a great show last night at Pepperdine! It was warm, funny, touching, and sentimental all at the same time. It felt as if we were all at a fun evening party with a big extended family!”
—Facebook fan



Gabriela Martinez (second from right) and master class students



Bettman and Halpin teaching at NEW Academy Canoga Park

“Smothers Theatre at Pepperdine University is a fabulous place to experience a concert. Every seat is good. We all loved Herb Alpert and Lani Hall. The band was the best.”
—Pam Wood, Goldstar member



Scott Coulter (second from left, back row) and master class students



Pepperdine's Dr. Joi Carr and the Jones Family Singers.

HIGHLIGHTS

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February 6

Seaver student Paul Dufresne wins the prestigious W. Oren Parker Undergraduate Scene Design Award with his final Pepperdine scenic design work appearing in Smothers Theatre for the Flora L. Thornton Opera Program's sold-out production of *The Magic Flute*.

February 22

The Gold Medalist from the 2015 Parkening International Guitar Competition, Meng Su, returns to Pepperdine for a sold-out recital in Raitt Recital Hall.

March 4

Pepperdine's Theatre Department hosts Irish playwright Lynda Radley for a week long residency to workshop her new play *Interference* with Seaver students, who premiered the show at the 2016 Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

April 9

The Pickford Ensemble, comprising Seaver music and composition students, debuts new music written for the Mary Pickford classic silent film *A Little Princess*.

May 12-14

The Ascending Voice IV, an international symposium of sacred a cappella music, comes to Pepperdine, with performances of Cerulean: Voices Extraordinary and the Grammy-winning Christian a cappella group Take 6.



Richard Flamminio, Juanita Del Arroz, guitarist Meng Su, Christopher Parkening, Manny Del Arroz and Lou Drobnick

“Thank you for this terrific concert. It was a totally fabulous experience with a most talented group; we had no idea who they were before you shared them with us. This reaffirms our belief that your theatre and concerts are truly a rare gift that we are lucky to experience.” —Karen and Doug Kirk



Playwright Lynda Radley with Rebecca Carson, Marnie Mitze, Michael Marion and Laurel Marion

“Working with Scott Coulter was an amazing experience. Not only was he obviously very talented, but he was also personable and able to communicate his feedback to us clearly and effectively. What I enjoyed the most about this master class was that the feedback he provided was so specific to each person and their song choice/type. Scott really went above and beyond in making sure the feedback he gave us was really going to help us improve our performance and vocal abilities. I would love to have more master classes like the one we had with Scott. Thank you for setting all this up!”

—Tasia Jungbauer, Seaver Student



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** In memoriam*

*Gifts received from August 1, 2015
through July 31, 2016*



Left: Katie and Jasmine Runnels. Right: Ellen Weitman and Karen Orefice



Managing Director Rebecca Carson and Lisa Smith Wengler

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Canyon Charter Elementary	Oceancrest Homeschool
Community Preparatory Academy	Olivelands Elementary
Conejo Valley Homeschoolers	Our Lady of Malibu
DeAnza Academy of Technology & Arts	Palisades Charter
Faith Academy	Piru Elementary
Grant Elementary	Point Dume Marine Science School
Haskell & STEM Magnet	Rio del Mar
Holy Family	Rio del Valle
Hoover Academy	Rio Vista
Juan Cabrillo	Riverside Drive
Kirk O'the Valley	Roots & Rhythms Homeschool
Lassen Elementary	San Cayetano
Looking Ahead: The Actors Fund	SMASH
Los Primeros School	SOCIA Art
McKinley Elementary-Compton	Somis Union
McKinley Elementary-Santa Monica	Stoner Avenue Elementary
	Thurgood Marshall
	Valor Academy
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	William Jefferson Clinton Middle School



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