



## **2019 NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY CONCERT** **BIOGRAPHIES**

### **Joe Mantegna**

Joe was awarded the Tony and Joseph Jefferson Award for his acclaimed performance as Richard Roma in David Mamet's Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Glengarry Glen Ross*. Some of Joe's film and television highlights are; *House of Games*, *Searching for Bobby Fisher*, *Godfather III*, his Emmy and Golden Globe nominated role of Dean Martin in *The Ratpack*, his Emmy nominated role of Pipi Delana in *The Last Don*, and the voice of Fat Tony on *The Simpsons*. For two seasons, Joe starred with Mary Steenburgen and Amber Tamblyn in the critically acclaimed CBS drama *Joan of Arcadia*, winner of the 2004 People Choice Award for best new drama as well as picking up three Emmy nominations. In 2008, Joe reprised his Emmy nominated role of Lou Manahan opposite Debra Messing in USA Network series *The Starter Wife*. Joe has also lent his voice to the Disney/Pixar film, *CARS2* and continues his 23-year run as Fat Tony on *The Simpsons*. In April of 2011, Joe received a Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Joe lends much of his free time to a number of philanthropic endeavors. In May of 2012, Joe was appointed the National Spokesperson for The U.S. Army Museum, to lead the fundraising campaign to build the long-planned National Museum of the United States Army. He's also an ambassador for the Gary Sinise Foundation, which builds homes for wounded veterans, as well as hosting the *National Memorial Day Concert* since 2006. His passions also include various autism related charities as well as being a long-time supporter of the Barbara Sinatra Center for Abused Children. In 2014, Joe received the Lifetime Achievement award from the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce for his dedication to the community and craft of acting. Currently, Joe stars as FBI Special Agent David Rossi in season fourteen of the Hit CBS Drama *Criminal Minds* as well as hosting and producing duties for nine seasons on *Gun Stories* for the Outdoor Channel. Joe resides in Los Angeles with his wife of 40 years Arlene, and their two daughters Mia and Gia.

### **Mary McCormack**

Mary McCormack is one of today's boldest and most versatile actresses, continually challenging herself with roles that often deft Hollywood standards and bring to light the complex lives of ordinary women. She has shown her immense talent working in film, television and on stage, and has tackled roles ranging from slapstick comedy to intense drama. Tony-nominated for her role in Broadway's *Boeing Boeing* opposite Mark Rylance, she is also widely known for her four seasons as a regular cast member of *The West Wing* (two SAG Award nominations), as the lead of USA's critically acclaimed *In Plain Sight*, and for her role opposite Howard Stern in *Private Parts*. Mary's recent television work includes starring roles in the AMC series *Loaded*, the NBC comedy series *Welcome To The Family* as well as arcs on such shows as HBO's *The Newsroom*; *Scandal* (ABC); Gus van Sant's award-winning miniseries *When We Rise* (ABC); *House Of Lies* (Showtime) and the *Will & Grace*

reboot (NBC). Mary will also appear in the new Hulu Blumhouse anthology series, *Treehouse*. Most recently, she could be seen starring in ABC's, *The Kids Are Alright*. Mary returned to the Broadway stage in 2008 to star in *Boeing-Boeing* alongside Christine Baranski, Mark Rylance and Bradley Whitford. Marc Camoletti's classic sixties comedy won the Tony for Best Revival and earned Mary a 2008 Tony nomination for "Best Performance by a Featured Actress in a Play." Additional stage credits include a highly successful run opposite Alan Cumming as Sally Bowles in the Sam Mendes and Rob Marshall-directed Broadway production of *Cabaret* for the Roundabout Theatre Company, as well as the acclaimed London stage production of Neil LaBute's play *Bash*; the David Warren-directed productions of *My Marriage To Earnest Borgnine*; and Jon Robin Baitz's *A Fair Country*. Mary's breakout performance, opposite Howard Stern in *Private Parts*, won her universal critical acclaim. Some of McCormack's additional television and feature credits include: Aaron Sorkin's NBC smash hit *The West Wing*; a recurring role on *ER*; *Right At Your Door*; the Stephen King thriller, *1408*; Christopher Guest's *For Your Consideration*; the Steven Soderbergh and George Clooney HBO political series, *K-Street*; as Justine Appleton in Steve Bochco's *Murder One*, as well as the USA Network miniseries *Traffic*, directed by Stephen Hopkins (24). In addition, McCormack has appeared in varied roles in such films as *Dickie Roberts: Former Child Star* opposite David Spade, *K-PAX* opposite Jeff Bridges and Kevin Spacey; *Full Frontal*, directed by Steven Soderbergh and opposite David Duchovny and Catherine Keener, *High Heels & Low Lifes*, with Minnie Driver; *Mystery, Alaska*, written by David E. Kelley and starring Russell Crowe; *Other Voices*, with Stockard Channing and Campbell Scott, *The Broken Hearts Club*, opposite John Mahoney and Timothy Olyphant; *The Big Tease* opposite Craig Ferguson; *Gun Shy* with Sandra Bullock and Liam Neeson; the Clint Eastwood film, *True Crime*; Mimi Leder's *Deep Impact*; *The Alarmist*, opposite Stanley Tucci; *Father's Day* and *MIRACLE ON 34th STREET*. She also appeared in Michael G. Cooney's *The Men* and the feature film *Drone* with Sean Bean as well as Amazon's period drama *American Girl: Mary Ellen*. In 2019 she will be seen in a cameo role in the NETFLIX feature *Murder Mystery* starring Jennifer Aniston and Adam Sandler. Born in Plainfield, New Jersey, McCormack is a graduate of Trinity College and resides with her family in Los Angeles.

### **Sam Elliott**

Sam Elliott's iconic career began with a bit part in the classic film *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*. He rose to stardom playing the lead in Paramount Pictures' cult classic *Lifeguard*, and has since built a career with many memorable and iconic film and television roles. Elliott was nominated for an Academy Award, a SAG Award, a Critics' Choice Award and won a National Board of Review Award for his performance in Warner Bros.' remake of *A Star is Born* alongside Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper. Elliott will next be seen in a CGI and live-action remake of Disney's animation feature *Lady and the Tramp*. On television, Elliott currently stars opposite Ashton Kutcher in the hit Netflix comedy series *The Ranch*, which is in production on its eighth season. Elliott's long list of notable film work includes *The Hero*, *The Man Who Killed Hitler and then the Bigfoot*, *I'll See You in My Dreams*, *Mask*, *Fatal Beauty*, *Road House*, *Rush*, *Gettysburg*, *Tombstone*, *The Big Lebowski*, *The Hi-Lo Country*, *The Contender*, *We Were Soldiers*, *Off the Map*, *Hulk*, *Thank You for Smoking*, *Barnyard*, *Ghost Rider*, *The Golden Compass*, *Up in the Air*, *Did You Hear About the Morgans?*, *Marmaduke*, *The*

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*Company You Keep, Draft Day, Digging for Fire, Grandma, The Good Dinosaur, and Rock Dog.* Elliott's television credits include a recurring role on the hit FX series *Justified*, for which he won a 2015 Critics' Choice Award, Netflix's *Grace and Frankie*, and the NBC comedy *Parks and Recreation*. He was nominated for an Emmy and a Golden Globe for his role in the 1995 CBS miniseries *Buffalo Girls*. Other television movie credits include *Avenger, You Know My Name, Conagher* (for which he was nominated for a Golden Globe) and *The Quick and the Dead*. In 2013, he was nominated for an Emmy Award for Outstanding Voice-Over Performance for his work on the popular Cartoon Network series *Robot Chicken*.

### **Patti LaBelle**

Beautiful, simply does not describe the incomparable force known to the world as Patti LaBelle. As time continues to evolve, the soulful songbird's name has become synonymous with grace, style, elegance and class. Belting out classic rhythm and blues renditions, pop standards and spiritual sonnets have created the unique platform of versatility that she is known and revered for. It's a small wonder that Patti has time for anything else in between recording and touring, but she makes time and the world is oh so happy that she does! She has written six books, *Don't Block the Blessings, LaBelle Cuisine: Recipes to Sing About, Patti's Pearls, Patti LaBelle's Lite Cuisine, Recipes for the Good Life* and her most recent, *Desserts LaBelle*. Several years ago, she introduced Patti's Good Life, a successful product line that includes a variety of sauces, sweet potato pie, cobblers and cakes. She stars in her own highly rated cooking show, *Patti LaBelle's Place*, which premiered its second season on the Cooking Channel in 2017. Additionally, Patti released her first jazz album, *Bel Hommage*, and a holiday album, *Patti LaBelle and Friends - Home for the Holidays*, in 2017. World renowned for her dynamic career as an entertainer and entrepreneurial success, Patti's work as a humanitarian is just as legendary. She remains an advocate for adoption, diabetes, cancer, HIV/AIDS and many other causes and non-profit initiatives. While she has reached the heights of success throughout her 50-plus year career, Patti has also endured and survived personal strife. Within a ten-year period, she lost her mother, three sisters and best friend to diabetes and cancer. In 1994, she was diagnosed with diabetes and shortly thereafter became a spokesperson for the American Diabetes Association. The same motivation that had Patricia Louise Holte blossom from a choir member to lead vocalist for Patti LaBelle & The Bluebelles and later Labelle, to a solo artist is the same energy that keeps her fire burning at seventy-four years young. "Each year I grow, and that's a blessing from God. I do what I can do. I do what I feel God has given me the energy to do, so I just go out there and I do it...It's not about making money because I don't need money, but I need to sing. With a voice or without, I've got to get on that stage." And the world is thankful that Patti's voice sounds so good to our ears.

### **Gavin DeGraw**

Gavin DeGraw is a multi-platinum selling singer, performer and songwriter. He first broke through with the 2003 release of his debut album, *Chariot*, which sold over 1 million copies, earned platinum certification, and yielded three hit singles: *I Don't Want To Be, Follow Through*, and the title-track, *Chariot*. Gavin's self-titled second album debuted at No. 1 on the digital sales chart and at No. 7 on Billboard's Top 200 album chart in 2008, earning Gavin his first Top 10 album. It spawned the hit singles *In Love With A Girl*, which Billboard dubbed "a rocking homerun," and the gold-certified *We Belong Together*. In 2009, Gavin released *Free* as a gift to his die-hard fans clamoring for recorded versions of Gavin's live favorites.

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His third studio album, *Sweeter*, was released in September 2011 and produced the smash single, *Not Over You*, co-written with OneRepublic's Ryan Tedder. The track reached #1 on the Hot AC charts, was a top 10 hit on Top 40, and was certified double platinum. In 2013, DeGraw released his fourth studio album, *Make A Move*, which included the hit song *Best I Ever Had* and garnered rave reviews from such publications as Billboard, People and Entertainment Weekly amongst many others. In addition, Gavin was nominated for his first Grammy for *We Both Know*, the song he co-wrote with Colbie Calliat for the 2013 film, *Safe Haven*. Since then he has been consistently touring around the world, including sold out dates with the legendary Billy Joel. Gavin released his fifth studio album *Something Worth Saving* in September 2016 featuring singles *She Sets the City On Fire* and *Making Love with The Radio On*. For more information visit [www.gavindegraw.com](http://www.gavindegraw.com) - [facebook.com/gavindegraw](https://www.facebook.com/gavindegraw) - twitter: @gavindegraw.

### **Dennis Haysbert**

Dennis Haysbert captured the attention of audiences and critics alike with his groundbreaking role as President David Palmer on FOX's hit series *24*, for which he received his first Golden Globe nomination, and two Screen Actor Guild nominations. He starred in the CBS series *The Unit*, which continues to be an iconic and culturally relevant television show. Haysbert's recent projects include Fox 2000's *Breakthrough*, the faith-based drama based on the true story of Joyce Smith's account of her son's miraculous recovery detailed in her novel *The Impossible: The Miraculous Story of a Mother's Faith and Her Child's Resurrection*. Other film projects include Columbia Pictures *The Dark Tower*, Netflix's romantic comedy *Naked*, Warner Bros.' comedy *Fist Fight*, Magnolia Pictures' *Experimenter*, Seth MacFarlane's *Ted* sequel, *Ted 2*, Sony's Crackle, *Dead Rising: Watchtower*, Paramount Picture's *Men Women & Children*, Lionsgate's *Dear White People*, as well as, Screen Gems,' romantic comedy *Think Like a Man Too*, sequel to the 2012 film *Think Like a Man*. Additional films include, Dimension Film's *Sin City: A Dame to Kill For*, Millennium Entertainment's *Life of a King*, Universal Pictures International's *Welcome to the Jungle*, 20th Century Fox's animated film *Mr. Peabody & Sherman*, Walt Disney's *Wreck-it Ralph*, Indomina's *LUV*, DreamWorks' *Kung Fu Panda 2*, The Weinstein Company's *The Details*, Universal's *Breach* and *Jarhead*. Additional films include: New Line Cinema's *Love and Basketball*, Warner Bros., *Absolute Power*, Orion Production's *Love Field*, Paramount's *Major League*, Warner Bros., *Heat*, Columbia Pictures' *Random Hearts*, Trimark Picture's *What's Cooking*, Fox's *Waiting to Exhale*, Columbia Pictures and Sony Production's *The Thirteenth Floor*, Orion Picture's *Navy Seals*, Alfa Omega's *Suture*, and Dream Works' *Sinbad Legend of the Seven Seas*. Haysbert has also appeared on the small screen in the critically acclaimed CBS production *Now and Again* and Syfy's *Incorporated*. In 2015, Haysbert was given the honor of becoming the newest voice of NBC News' *Meet The Press*. Haysbert is a third-party advocate for Allstate Insurance Co. and has appeared in commercials for the company since 2003. Born and raised in Northern California, Haysbert began acting with a television role on an episode of the Emmy-winning *Lou Grant*. He is active in the fight against AIDS and in 2000 was spokesperson for the Harlem Health Expo "Break the Silence" as well as The Western Center on Law and Poverty.

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He has done many USO tours, most recently in Italy, Germany, Southwest Asia, Afghanistan, and aboard a Naval Ship. Haysbert lives in Los Angeles.

### **Alison Krauss**

Born in Champaign, Illinois, Alison Krauss grew up listening to everything from folk to opera to pop and rock music, but quickly fell in love with bluegrass when she began playing fiddle at the age of five. Shortly after, Krauss began entering fiddle contests. At the age of 14, Rounder Records signed her to her first record deal and she went on to release her debut solo album two years later. The accomplished bluegrass musician became a member of the Grand Ole Opry at age 21. Since 1985, Krauss has released 14 albums including five solo, seven with her longtime band and musical collaborators Union Station, and the Robert Plant collaboration *Raising Sand*, which was certified platinum and won five Grammys, including Album of the Year and Record of the Year. She's sold more than 12 million records to date, and her honors include 27 Grammys, nine Country Music Association awards, 14 International Bluegrass Music Association Awards, two Academy of Country Music Awards and two Gospel Music Association awards. *Windy City*, her latest solo album, debuted at No. 1 on the *Billboard* Top Country Albums and Top Bluegrass Albums charts and received two Grammy nominations. The album was produced by Buddy Cannon, whose vocal harmonies Krauss grew up listening to and were the soundtrack to her childhood. "Buddy sang harmonies on everything back then," Krauss says. She also reveals of Cannon, "I don't do something unless I feel like I'm called to do it. That's what I felt like, so I honored it. It's like the same feeling of when you know something is right musically, with a song or a batch of songs - the same feeling, but this was attached to a person instead of a batch of songs." Krauss frequently collaborates with artists from numerous genres, including Dolly Parton, Taylor Swift, Kenny Rogers, Emmylou Harris, Gillian Welch, Vince Gill, The Chieftains, James Taylor, The Cox Family, Yo-Yo Ma, Johnny Mathis, Cyndi Lauper, Heart, Bad Company and Phish. She has recorded and toured with Willie Nelson, whom she honored with a performance during the 2015 Gershwin Prize Tribute Concert. She will reunite with Nelson this summer on a co-headlining tour throughout North America. *Whiskey Lullaby*, a duet which she performed with Brad Paisley won two CMA Awards in 2004. She has also produced albums for Alan Jackson, Nickel Creek and The Cox Family. Some of these collaborators were also formative to Krauss and she lists influences including Tony Rice, Ricky Skaggs, Dolly Parton, Larry Sparks, The Cox Family, and Ralph Stanley. Krauss has contributed songs to numerous films, including *Down to the River to Pray* in the cult classic film *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* and *You Will Be My Ain True Love* and *The Scarlett Tide* in the film *Cold Mountain*. She has also provided the voice for several cartoon movie characters, including Bambi's mother in *Bambi II* and Annabelle in *Annabelle's Wish*, as well as the singing voice of Davey's girlfriend in the Adam Sandler movie *Eight Crazy Nights*. In 2013, she performed at the Kennedy Center's *American Voices* festival that was created and hosted by Renee Fleming and also honored Dolly Parton and Paul Simon with performances during The Kennedy Center Honors. She has performed for three presidents - George W. Bush, Bill Clinton and Barack Obama.

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### **Christopher Jackson**

Christopher Jackson is a Tony Award nominated actor as well as a Grammy and Emmy Award winning songwriter/composer best known for starring as George Washington in the critically acclaimed, award-winning musical, *Hamilton*, on Broadway. He can currently be seen starring in the hit CBS drama *Bull* where he plays Chunk, a stylist who prepares defendants for trial. Chris will soon be seen in Netflix's mini-series *When They See Us* directed by Ava DuVernay. He will be starring alongside Michael K. Williams, Vera Farmiga and John Leguizamo. In December 2018, *One Last Time* (44 Remix) was released as a part of the Hamildrop series which featured Chris alongside President Obama and BeBe Winans. His Broadway credits include *Holler if Ya Hear Me*, *After Midnight*, *The Bronx Bombers* (Derek Jeter), *In The Heights* (Benny), *Memphis* (Delray Farrell) and *The Lion King* (Simba). Off Broadway includes *Bronx Bombers* (Primary Stages), *The Jammer* (Atlantic Theater Co.), *Lonely, I'm Not* (Second Stage), *In the Heights* (37 Arts), and *Cotton Club Parade* (ENCORES at City Center). In film and TV, he has appeared in *Freestyle Love Supreme* (Pivot Network) *Person of Interest*, *A Gifted Man*, *Fringe*, *Gossip Girl*, *Tracers*, and *Afterlife*. Christopher has recorded an original song written by Lin-Manuel Miranda for the Disney film *Moana* and was also the Composer/Songwriter for *Sesame Street* (6 Emmy nominations and 1 win), and co-Music Supervisor and Writer for The Electric Company (PBS). Chris won an Emmy Award for his song with Will.I.Am, *What I Am*. In 2010 he released his first solo album titled, *In The Name Of Love* with Yellow Sound Lab Records and is currently working on his 2nd album. Recently, Chris performed at Kennedy Centers Honors Gala celebrating Lin-Manuel Miranda. He also has several musical projects in development for the musical stage.

### **Amber Riley**

Actress and singer Amber Riley is best known for her role as 'Mercedes Jones' in the Golden Globe Award-winning musical comedy, *Glee*. She recently played the role of Kali in Tyler Perry's *Nobody's Fool* which premiered fall 2018. The film also stars Tiffany Haddish, Tika Sumpter, Omari Hardwick, and Whoopi Goldberg. Riley recently wrapped a year-long run in her West End debut of the revival production of *Dreamgirls* in the iconic role of Effie White. The production marked the UK premiere of the award-winning production. Riley won the Laurence Olivier Award for Best Actress in a Musical for her performance. In 2013, she won season 17 of ABC's hit competition series *Dancing with the Stars* alongside her partner Derek Hough. Additional recent television appearances include a starring role in the UPtv original movie, *My One Christmas Wish* and a starring role alongside Queen Latifah, Mary J Blige and newcomer Shanice Williams as Addaperle, the Good Witch of the North, in NBC's live production of *The Wiz*. Riley's numerous theatre credits include *Alice in Wonderland*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Into the Woods* and *Mystery on the Docks* with the Los Angeles Opera. In November 2012, she made her New York stage debut to rave reviews in New York City Center's *Duke Ellington's Cotton Club Parade*.

### **Justin Moore**

Chart-topping powerhouse Justin Moore proves that, through all the fame and success, he's still just the same country boy he's always been on his stellar new album, *Late Nights and Longnecks*. Tipping its cap to Alan Jackson and George Strait, the record is Moore's most traditional-sounding collection to date, a no-frills portrait of small-town life and big-time

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dreams that's not afraid to let its hair down and party at the end of a hard day's work. Equal parts celebration and reflection, the album is a showcase for Moore's evocative storytelling and unforgettable voice, complemented by an all-star band featuring Grammy and CMA Award-winning guitar icon Brent Mason ACM-winning pedal steel hero Paul Franklin among others. "I've never worked with those guys before, but they've played on some of my favorite albums of all time," says Moore. "We thought it would be really cool to bring them in and record the whole thing at The Castle, this historic studio just south of Nashville where a lot of those legendary hit records were made. Not only did it result in my best album yet, it was also the most fun experience I've ever had recording." An Arkansas native who grew up idolizing Dwight Yoakam and Keith Whitley, Moore knows a thing or two about hit records himself. After signing to The Valory Music Co., an imprint of the Big Machine Label Group, he landed his first country #1 with *Small Town USA*, the breakout single off his 2009 self-titled debut. The record went platinum, as did its 2011 follow-up, *Outlaws Like Me*, which yielded yet another #1 single with *If Heaven Wasn't So Far Away*. In 2014, Moore landed the coveted New Artist of the Year trophy at the ACM Awards after releasing his critically acclaimed third album, *Off The Beaten Path*, and in 2016, he dropped *Kinda Don't Care*, his third consecutive #1 record. *The New York Times* hailed Moore as proof that "old forms can stand even stronger with injections of new ideas," while *Billboard* celebrated his "down-home personality and wry sense of humor," and *Rolling Stone* praised the "upbeat mix of contemporary country and honest twang that he perfected." Moore's songs racked up more than a billion on-demand and programmed streams, and he performed everywhere from *Kimmel* to *The Today Show* in addition to headlining arenas and amphitheatres around the country.

### **Jaina Lee Ortiz**

With humble beginnings as a professional Salsa dancer in The Bronx, New York, Jaina Lee Ortiz set her sights on her dream of becoming an actor. After moving to Los Angeles, CA., she made her television debut in Amazon's *The After*, created by Chris Carter (X-Files). Shortly thereafter, Ortiz starred as the female lead in Fox's *Rosewood*, then completed a major recurring arc opposite Ryan Phillippe in the second season of the USA hit series *Shooter*. Named as one of The Hollywood Reporter's 10 Rising TV Stars Poised for a Breakout in 2019, Jaina currently stars in the lead role of 'Andy Herrera' in the second season of the *Grey's Anatomy* spin-off, *STATION 19* from producer Shonda Rhimes.

### **Alyssa Raghu**

Alyssa Raghu is an American singer/songwriter from Orlando, Florida who recently took her talents to the stage for *American Idol (2018)* and *American Idol (2019)*. She was voted by America into the Top 8 and was a favorite of Katy Perry. She wowed audiences with her soft yet powerful tone and breathtaking vocals. Alyssa is the first contestant in *American Idol* history to become a semi-finalist twice in two separate years, as well as the only person to be a semi-finalist in one year and a finalist in another. Alyssa Raghu favors pop music but is flexible in her repertoire. She has been singing her entire life and knew from age 11 that she wanted to pursue a professional career in music. She flourished in the musical chorus programs of both her middle school and high school.

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She became heavily involved in acting and theater at Lake Nona High School where she was nominated for an Applause Award for her role as Nina Rosario in the high school interpretation of Lin Manuel Miranda's *In the Heights*. Through her charitable performances, Alyssa's philanthropic work has helped raise funds for organizations that help women and children prosper as well as for the hurricane victims in Puerto Rico. She performs at fundraisers for military veterans and champions events that help children living with disabilities and illnesses. Alyssa Raghu was also hold's the position as Chair of the Global Citizen Committee for the World Heritage Cultural Center which promotes cultural awareness through Dance, Music & the Arts. Alyssa plans to continue to use her platform to create positive change for those in need. She truly believes music can bring us all closer together. Alyssa is currently working on her debut album.

### **General Colin L. Powell, USA (Ret.)**

For over fifty years, General Colin L. Powell, USA (Ret.) has devoted his life to public service. Having held senior military and diplomatic positions across four presidential administrations, Powell's deep commitment to democratic values and freedom has been felt throughout the world. From 1987-1989 Powell served as President Ronald Reagan's National Security Advisor. He served from 1989-1993 as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for both President George H.W. Bush and for President Bill Clinton, and was not only the youngest officer and first ROTC graduate to ever serve in the position but was also the first African American to do so. During his time as Chairman, he oversaw 28 crises to include the Panama intervention of 1989 and Operation Desert Storm in the 1991 Persian Gulf War. Under President George W. Bush, Powell was appointed the 65th Secretary of State, leading the State Department in major efforts to address and solve regional and civic conflicts in the Middle East, Sudan, Congo and Liberia, in the Balkans, Haiti, Northern Ireland, Afghanistan, and elsewhere. Powell is the Chair of the Board of Visitors of the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership at his alma mater, the City College of New York (CCNY). The Powell School was inaugurated May 2013 and stands alongside CCNY's other premier named schools. He is the founder and chairman emeritus of the America's Promise Alliance, dedicated to forging a strong and effective partnership alliance committed to seeing that children experience the fundamental resources they need to succeed. Currently, Powell is a Strategic Advisor at Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers, the renowned Silicon Valley venture capital firm, and serves on the Board of Directors of Bloom Energy, an alternative energy company. In March of 2014, he joined the Board of Directors of Salesforce.com, the world's largest provider of Cloud-based customer relationship management software. His autobiography, *My American Journey*, was a best seller and has been published in more than a dozen different languages. Powell's second book, *It Worked for Me*, reveals the lessons that shaped his life and career and was an instant best seller when it was published in May 2012.

### **Jack Everly**

Jack Everly is the Principal Pops Conductor of the Indianapolis and Baltimore Symphony Orchestras, Naples Philharmonic Orchestra and the National Arts Centre Orchestra (Ottawa). He has conducted the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl, The New York Pops at Carnegie Hall and The Cleveland Orchestra at Blossom Music Center.

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Maestro Everly will conduct over 90 performances in more than 20 North American cities this season. As Music Director of the *National Memorial Day Concert* and *A Capitol Fourth* on PBS, Maestro Everly proudly leads the National Symphony Orchestra in these patriotic celebrations on the National Mall. Mr. Everly is also the Music Director of the IPL *Yuletide Celebration*, now a 30 plus year tradition. He led the ISO in its first Pops recording, *Yuletide Celebration, Volume One*, that included three of his own orchestrations. Some of his other recordings include *In The Presence* featuring the Czech Philharmonic and Daniel Rodriguez, Sandi Patty's *Broadway Stories*, the soundtrack to Disney's *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* and *Everything's Coming Up Roses: The Complete Overtures Of Jule Styne*. Originally appointed by Mikhail Baryshnikov, Mr. Everly was conductor of the American Ballet Theatre for 14 years, where he served as Music Director. In addition to his ABT tenure, he teamed with Marvin Hamlisch on Broadway shows that Mr. Hamlisch scored. He conducted Carol Channing hundreds of times in *Hello, Dolly!* in two separate Broadway productions. Maestro Everly, a graduate of the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University, holds an Honorary Doctorate of Arts from Franklin College in his home state of Indiana. He is a proud resident of the Indianapolis community and when not on the podium you can find Maestro Everly at home with his family.

### **The National Symphony Orchestra**

The 2018–2019 season marks the National Symphony Orchestra's 88th season, and Gianandrea Noseda's second as its music director. The Italian conductor serves as the Orchestra's seventh music director, joining the NSO's legacy of such distinguished leaders. Its artistic leadership also includes Principal Pops Conductor Steven Reineke and Artistic Advisor Ben Folds. Founded in 1931, the Orchestra has always been committed to artistic excellence and music education. In 1986, the National Symphony became an artistic affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, where it performs year-round. The NSO's community engagement projects are nationally recognized, including NSO In Your Neighborhood, an annual week of approximately 50 performances in schools, churches, community centers, and other unexpected venues; *Notes of Honor*, which offers free performances for active, veteran, prior service, and retired members of the military and their families; and Sound Health, a collaboration with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and its affiliated organizations. Career development opportunities for young musicians include the NSO Youth Fellowship Program and its tuition-free Summer Music Institute. For more information, visit [nationalsymphony.org](http://nationalsymphony.org).

### **Michael Colbert**

Michael Colbert is the Executive Producer of two of television's longest-running and multi-award winning live programs that commemorate America's freedom and independence at the U.S. Capitol. *A Capitol Fourth*, America's national Independence Day party, celebrates its 39th annual broadcast in 2019. The *National Memorial Day Concert*, which marks its 30th anniversary this year, has become the nation's premier tribute to our men and women in uniform, their families at home, and all those who have given their lives for our country. Capital Concerts was founded by Michael's father, Jerry Colbert, who passed away in January, 2017.

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Michael Colbert, who managed the organization in partnership with his father for over 20 years, continues to direct Capital Concerts year-round. He is the primary liaison with the over twenty government and non-governmental Washington agencies and organizations that contribute to the shows, and oversees the hundreds of television professionals who participate annually. In addition to his annual work on these patriotic events, Colbert's credits include major national television specials on CBS, Fox, PBS and Comedy Central in locations ranging from Washington, DC, New York and Los Angeles to Nashville. He has also produced a wide range of major corporate events.

### **Paul Miller**

Paul Miller is a veteran television director and producer whose credits include *The Carol Burnett 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Special* on CBS, *The Country Music Awards*, *The Tony Awards*, *Saturday Night Live*, *Star Spangled Spectacular: A Celebration of the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our National Anthem*, *In Living Color* and many specials and series for all the major broadcast and cable television networks. He won a 2016 Emmy Award as Executive Producer of *It's Your 50th Christmas, Charlie Brown*. Paul has received an additional six Emmy nominations, and won for directing the *Tony Awards* and the ABC News coverage of the Inauguration of President Barrack Obama. He has also been nominated twice for the Directors Guild of America Award in the Musical/Variety category and won for directing the *Tony Awards*. Paul has directed the annual PBS broadcasts of *A Capitol Fourth* and the *National Memorial Day Concert* for the past twenty years. He is a partner in RickMill Productions, a Hollywood based entertainment company that has produced numerous series for Comedy Central as well as specials for HBO and Showtime.

### **Barr Weissman**

Barr Weissman has produced and edited the documentary segments for the *National Memorial Day Concert* since 1998. Mr. Weissman edited and helped produce several independent documentaries; including the Academy Award winning film, *The Stonecarvers* and *Mr. Justice Brennan*. He has directed and edited biographical films for the Kennedy Center Honors for CBS (including films on The Who, Mel Brooks, Bruce Springsteen and Tom Hanks). In addition, he has produced and edited documentaries for the Discovery Channel, National Geographic, NBC, PBS, and others. His work has been recognized by the Emmy's, received awards at film festivals worldwide, and screened at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Weissman's most recent film, *The Secret To A Happy Ending* has screened at film festivals and theaters world-wide and received 4 stars from *Rolling Stone*. In 2016, Mr. Weissman produced and edited 10 films for the Musical Crossroads gallery at the new Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. A native Washingtonian, Mr. Weissman produced and independently distributed two critically acclaimed documentaries about the city - *Home: The Langston Terrace Dwellings* and *A View From The Street: The Art Of Lily Spandorf*.

### **Kirk Ellis**

Kirk Ellis won two Emmys, a WGA Award, a Peabody and the Humanitas Prize for his work as writer and co-executive producer on the HBO miniseries *John Adams*. The miniseries won a record breaking 13 Emmys in total, as well as four Golden Globe awards.

(more)

Previously, Ellis received an Emmy nomination and won the WGA Award and Humanitas Prize for the ABC miniseries *Anne Frank*, which he wrote and co-produced. Miniseries on which he has served as writer and producer have garnered more than 50 Emmy nominations. With Bryan Cranston and ITV Studios, Ellis is executive producer and show runner for *A Great Improvisation*, based on the book by Stacy Schiff, which chronicles Benjamin Franklin's efforts to negotiate a treaty with France at the height of the American Revolution. The project is one of two currently in development at History, along with a planned limited series about Gen. Douglas MacArthur's years in Korea. Ellis is also developing a dramatic series set in the world of Chinese-American night clubs in World War II, based on the Lisa See novel *China Dolls* and produced in conjunction with actor/producer Daniel Dae Kim. Upcoming motion picture projects include *Age of Reason*, based on an incident in the life of Thomas Paine; the bilingual feature *El Demócrata*, the story of Mexican Revolutionary hero Francisco Madero, and a biography of the Marquis de Lafayette for director Jean-Francois Richet (*Mesrine*) and Why Not Productions. Ellis is also co-author of *The Order: 1886*, a history-based videogame for Sony, which debuted to record sales in February 2015. With Santa Fe-based Atalaya Productions, he is developing the television series *The Harvey Girls* and *Shadows of War*, a drama set in wartime Tuscany and based on the experiences of Anglo-American writer Iris Origo. A graduate of the University of Southern California's School of Cinema and Television, Ellis began his professional career as a film critic for *The Hollywood Reporter*, and at age 24 served as the magazine's international editor. In 1992, he formed Shadow Catcher Productions, an independent production banner under which Ellis develops his own indie features and documentaries. Ellis made his feature film debut writing and co-producing *The Grass Harp*, based on the coming-of-age novel by Truman Capote. A former co-governor of the writers' branch of the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, Ellis served for four years as chairman of the Santa Fe, New Mexico Arts Commission and also sits on the board of the Center for Contemporary Art. The former president of Western Writers of America, he also serves on the advisory board of Richmond, Virginia-based James River Writers.

### **Joan Meyerson**

Joan Meyerson's entertainment industry career has been extensive; one of her first producer credits, with David L. Wolper Productions, was for the Oscar-nominated documentary *Say Goodbye*. She has written and produced frequently for PBS, including writing for more than fifteen years the *National Memorial Day Concert*, for which she has won two Writers Guild of America awards for Outstanding Script (nominated for a third). Other PBS credits include one of its top-rated miniseries *Walking The Bible*, based on the *New York Times* bestseller of the same name, *Japan: Memoirs Of A Secret Empire*, nominated for an International Documentary Association award, and *Michiyo And Kelly: A Quest For Education*. A graduate of the University of California at Berkeley, she also attended its Graduate School of History and special programs at the Sorbonne in Paris and the University of Mexico. She has been a guest lecturer at UCLA, USC and at many industry conferences on the art and craft of writing documentaries. Meyerson was recently honored with the Writers Guild West 2019 Morgan Cox Award in recognition for her decades-long, outstanding service to the Guild.