



Beethoven, Broadway, Billy Joel and more!

Monday, January 14, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Celebrate the most romantic day of the year with a sensational concert featuring Ontario's popular piano man. Backed by the **Cambridge Symphony Orchestra**, virtuoso pianist **Mark Payne** tickles the ivories performing a hit parade of memorable tunes from rock 'n' roll classics and jazz standards to movie hits and more in the concert *I Love A Piano*.

You'll fall in love all over again with beloved songs like "Music of the Night," "Bohemian Rhapsody," "Your Song," "Great Balls of Fire," and "I Love A Piano," plus Gershwin's famed "Rhapsody in Blue," Liberace's version of "Chopsticks," and greatest hits medleys from Billy Joel, Carole King, and more.

"Mark is not only a terrific musician, but also a funny and engaging entertainer capable of jumping from one genre to another with ease," says **Alex Mustakas**, Artistic Director of Drayton Entertainment. "Audiences will be impressed with his amazing piano skills and the variety of music packed into one concert."

With a career spanning more than 25 years, Mark Payne is a multi-faceted entertainer who has performed virtually every conceivable role with orchestras, opera companies and theatres across Canada – pianist, singer, music director, conductor, arranger, repetiteur, and chorus master. At home in almost every musical genre, he has performed great piano works including Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Concerto and Beethoven's First Piano Concerto, as well as contemporary pop hits, musical theatre works, and more. His one-man shows *Simply Grand* and *I Love A Piano* have played consistently to sold out crowds, and he has recorded multiple CDs, including "Simply Grand" and "Reflections".

Founded in 2004, the Cambridge Symphony Orchestra is one of Canada's busiest community orchestras. Under the director of Music Director Sabatino Vacca, the revered ensemble continues to attract talented musicians as well as notable soloists such as Ben Heppner, Valerie Tyron, and Richard Margison, among others.

This concert will be led by guest conductor **Anthony Bastianon**. Bastianon has worked as a Music Director in productions across Canada. His versatility as a musician has brought him opportunities to work with pop celebrities such as Chantel Kreviazuk and Josh Groban, as well as theatre icons Andrea Martin and Michael Burgess. He is currently on faculty at the Sheridan College Music Theatre Performance Program and is the Artistic Director of Voices Rock Canada.

The concert will also feature guest performers **Callandra Dendias-Peter** and **Mark-Anthony Del Brocco**. Dendias-Peter has performed in numerous musicals across the country including *Mamma Mia!* at the Royal Alexandra Theatre, *Hairspray* at the Centre In The Square, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* and *Shrek* at The Grand Theatre, and many productions at Victoria Playhouse Petrolia. Del Brocco is a sought-after pianist, comedian, music director and accompanist, who will perform piano duets with Payne.

Drayton Entertainment and the Cambridge Symphony Orchestra previously worked together on *A Salute to Broadway* in 2013, *The Magic of Gilbert & Sullivan* in 2014, *The Music of Disney* in 2015, *Strike Up The Band* in 2016, *All You Need is Love* in 2017, and *Come Fly With Me* in 2018. *I Love A Piano* continues the proud tradition for a seventh consecutive year.

I Love A Piano is on stage at the Hamilton Family Theatre Cambridge for three performances only – Thursday, February 14 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and Friday, February 15 at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are **\$35** for adults and **\$25** for youth under 20 years of age. Tickets for groups of 20 or more are **\$30** each. HST is applicable to all ticket prices. All proceeds go to charitable programs for Drayton Entertainment and the Cambridge Symphony Orchestra.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.draytonentertainment.com/cso-2019, in person at the **Hamilton Family Theatre Cambridge** Box Office, or by calling **(519) 621-8000** or toll free **1-855-DRAYTON (372-9866)**.

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