

# Peace Center season offers favorites and legends

Johnny Mathis, Tony Bennett to return; 'Lion King' to roar

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The Peace Center's 2011-2012 season includes several popular favorites, a slew of performers new to Greenville and at least a couple of legends, Peace Center officials said Wednesday.

In the legendary category, two much-loved crooners are coming back to woo Greenville audiences this season: Tony Bennett on Oct. 12 and Johnny Mathis on April 7.

Some returning familiar faces include singer/songwriter Mary Chapin Carpenter (Oct. 19) and funnyman Garrison Keillor (Dec. 5).

Acts appearing in Greenville for the first time include pop stylists Cyndi Lauper and Dr. John (Oct. 11), Broadway star Audra McDonald (Nov. 11), the all-male vocal ensemble Cantus (Dec. 12) and the smooth jazz band Pink Martini (March 30).

In all, more than two dozen separate shows will be featured



The Lion King is expected to be a huge draw for the Peace Center.



Bennett



Mathis



Keillor



McDonald

- Oct. 8-9: Momix
- Oct. 11: Cyndi Lauper and Dr. John
- Oct. 12: Tony Bennett
- Oct. 19: Mary Chapin Carpenter.
- Nov. 1-6: "Peter Pan," starring Cathy Rigby
- Nov. 11: Audra McDonald
- Dec. 5: Garrison Keillor
- Jan. 6: Comedian Dennis Miller
- Jan. 21: Comedian Colin Quinn
- Feb. 15: Bruce Hornsby
- Feb. 21-26: "Memphis"
- March 14: Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis
- March 30: Pink Martini
- April 7: Johnny Mathis
- April 17-22: "Les Miserables"
- June 12-July 8: Disney's "The Lion King"

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by the Upstate's cornerstone performing arts venue.

"I really love this season," said Peace Center president Megan Riegel. "I'm absolutely thrilled, across the board, with the programs. I think the community will be pleased, too. It's very diverse and high quality."

As a part of the upcoming season, the Peace Center plans to continue and expand its popular "The Place for Everyone" series, which offers tickets at half the usual price at select shows.

Sponsored by the Peace Center and Peace Partners, "The Place for Everyone" series has been credited with sold-out shows that include many newcomers to the Peace Center.

"Response to this has