

14TH ANNUAL GALA TO FEATURE SARAH MCLACHLAN

On Friday, March 27th the Foundation will celebrate its 14th Annual Gala featuring Grammy® award winner, singer and songwriter, **Sarah McLachlan**. We are particularly excited about this year's gala star because of her commitment to children and the performing arts. One of her proudest initiatives is that of her non-profit, the Sarah McLachlan School of Music which provides free after-school music education for at-risk and underserved children who otherwise would not have access to such programming. Her personal endeavor to support arts education makes her a perfect complement to the gala and the foundation's mission to provide funding in support of arts education in Sarasota, Manatee, Desoto and Charlotte Counties through the Schooltime Performance Program, teacher workshops and integrative arts education programs

Our fabulous three time Gala Co-Chairs, Lucille Smith, Kathy Martella, and Brenda Maraman are back again and we are so grateful for their commitment to making our Gala a success year after year.

There are many ways to contribute to our gala through individual tickets, sponsorships, auction items and wish-list donations. Advertising space in the Gala program book is also available for as little as \$100 and up to \$600. For details please contact the foundation at 941-366-5578 or visit vwfoundation.org.





A LETTER FROM MONICA VAN BUSKIRK PRESIDENT AND CEO

Happy New Year from the Van Wezel Foundation Staff.

I'm pleased to tell you we have an exciting lineup of Schooltime Performances for the 2014-2015 season. We kicked off on October 22nd with "Otherwise Known as Sheila the Great". At a time when many schools and institutions have drastically cut back on arts programs, the Van Wezel Hall with our support continues to offer a wide variety of programs to the children of Sarasota, Manatee, Charlotte and Desoto counties.

We are also very pleased to announce three new shows as part of our new upcoming season of Foundation sponsored events:

- The Van Wezel Foundation's 14TH ANNUAL GALA FEATURING SARAH MCLACHLAN will be on FRIDAY, MARCH 27TH . SAVE THE DATE!!
- RINGO STARR SHOW AND DINNER CELEBRATING THE VAN WEZEL HALL'S 45TH ANNIVERSARY will be on FEBRUARY 24TH, 2015.
- HARRY CONNICK JR. will perform TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH at the Van Wezel Hall.

Finally, we want to announce our FRIENDS SOCIETY. This program is an outgrowth of our popular Friends Program. It's grown in size and we are striving to improve and offer more as part of this program. Remember that it supports both the Children's education programs at the Van Wezel Hall and our beautification projects for the Hall.

See you all in the new year.

Monica Buskirk, President and CEO

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JOIN OUR FRIENDS SOCIETY PROGRAM AND RECEIVE EXCLUSIVE VIP BENEFITS!

Making an annual contribution of \$3,000 or more to the Van Wezel Foundation entitles our Friends Society Program members to exclusive benefits as our way of saying "Thank You". Some of the many benefits include:

- Best Seats: Special notice to purchase two tickets to any of the Van Wezel sponsored programs.
- Participation in the ticket return program and the ticket donation program
- Reserved parking area
- Special event invitations
- Van Wezel program book listing, approximately 100,000 distributed each season!
- Access to the Founders Lounge one hour prior to curtain and during intermission for all Van Wezel sponsored programs.



If you're not a Friends Society Program member already, why not join this season? With all the fabulous upcoming shows and perks – it's a great time to be a donor! For additional details, please visit www.vwfoundation.org



LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

The Van Wezel Foundation's mission is to enrich the lives of the Gulf Coast Community, with an emphasis on children, through the performing arts while supporting the needs of the Van Wezel - the region's premier performing arts hall. To provide for the successful future of our mission and support the Hall and Foundation's many community outreach programs and education programs, please consider a gift through our Planned Giving Program. It will ensure the legacy of your commitment to the

Foundation for generations to come, Members of our Legacy Society are recognized in the Foundation's publications as well as at all of their events. To become a member of the Legacy Society, the only requirement is a statement of establishment or intent to establish a gift to the Van Wezel Foundation in one's estate plans. No documentation of the amount or form of gift is required. Membership can also be anonymous, if desired. **For additional details, please contact Michele Strauss, Development Director at 941-366-5578 or visit www.vwfoundation.org.**



SAVE ★ THE ★ DATE

for our next member event!

THE VAN WEZEL PERFORMING ARTS HALL

45th Anniversary

Tuesday, February 24th at 5:30 p.m.

Cocktails, Dinner and Show

Tickets: \$280pp

For tickets and details, call the foundation office at
941-366-5578 or visit vwfoundation.org

REFER A FRIEND PROGRAM

Have you heard about our new “Refer a Friend Program”? This new and exciting program is an easy way to earn free tickets to shows at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall and free pre-show dinners at the delicious Mattison’s Bayside. During each season, for the first friend you refer that becomes a member of the Van Wezel Foundation’s Friends Society, you will receive two tickets to the show of your choice. For the second friend you refer that becomes a member of the Friends Society, you will receive two tickets to the show of your choice and two pre-show dinners at Mattison’s Bayside. For the third friend you refer that becomes a member of the Friends Society, you will receive two tickets to the show of your choice, two pre-show dinners at Mattison’s Bayside and your name will be hung on the “Refer A Friend Ambassador” plaque in the Founders Lounge. Call Michele Strauss at 941-366-5578 or visit vwfoundation.org for more details!



NEW FRIENDS AT THE VWF!

We’d like to recognize our new friends at the Van Wezel Foundation! All of our donors are special to us and we could not accomplish our mission without their help! They’ve supported us at shows, the Gala and much more! Thank you to our new friends, longtime friends and all who have helped the Van Wezel in its success.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard J. Diedrich
Mr. Eric Baird
Mr. and Mrs. Donald T. Baker
Mrs. Jacqueline M. Lewis
Mr. and Mrs. Robert I. Cohen
Ms. Cathy Hansell

Mr. and Mrs. William F. McClure, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Phil Lasco
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Griese
Ms. Toby A. Etkin
Mr. and Mrs. Joel Schleicher
Sabal Trust Company

THANK YOU TOTAL WINE & MORE!



Thank you to Total Wine & More for their generous donation of \$10,000 to the Van Wezel Foundation.

We are so grateful for their support and enjoyed meeting everyone at the ribbon cutting on October 23. We wish them much success with their new store on South Trail.



PERFORMANCES, DATES, AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

SCHOOL HOUSE ROCK LIVE!
NOV 3 - VAN WEZEL
NOV 4 - NORTH PORT

LET'S GO SCIENCE SHOW!
NOV 13

FLY GUY AND OTHER STORIES
JAN 23
A Theatreworks USA production

MAYHEM POBB
FEB 9

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER
FEB 18

THE LIGHTNING THIEF
A Theatreworks USA production

Curious George
A Theatreworks USA production
MAY 5 - VAN WEZEL
MAY 6 - NORTH PORT

OCT 22
An ArtsPower Production

JUDY BLUM
Otherwise Known as Sheila's Great

SCHOOLTIME PERFORMANCES

The Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall and the Van Wezel Foundation are excited to present the 2014/2015 Schooltime Performance schedule, posted left. Without the help of our valuable donors, we could not bring over 25,000 children to our theatre each year!

VAN WEZEL FOUNDATION STAFF

Monica Van Buskirk, President and CEO
Michele Strauss, Director of Development
Barbara Brosius, Chief Financial Officer
Erin Guzzo, Marketing and Events Manager
Elsie Merrill, Donor Relations Manager
Jeff Granston, Donor Relations Assistant
Cathleen Mai, Database Coordinator

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2014-2015

Mike Martella, Chairman
Philip Delaney, Vice Chair
Karl Newkirk, Secretary
Shaun Merriman, Treasurer
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DIRECTORS EMERITUS

John Dart
 Beatrice Friedman
 Carolyn Michel
 Michael R. Pender, Jr.
 Harvey Rothenberg, Founding Vice Chair

We hope everyone had a very happy holiday season and we wish you all a happy new year.



Bottom row L to R: Michele Strauss, Monica Van Buskirk and Erin Guzzo. Top row L to R: Elsie Merrill, Jeffrey Granston, Cathleen Mai and Barbara Brosius

Drawing at
VAN WEZEL FOUNDATION GALA

THE KEY to WIN

2015 LEXUS CT 200h
DONATION \$100
ONLY 1,000 TICKETS

FRIDAY MARCH 27
DRAWING 7PM

WIN A WILDE LEXUS .COM

BENEFITING
VAN WEZEL FOUNDATION™
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RULES: Drawing by Chance is open to citizens or permanent residents of the United States who are eighteen (18) years of age or older. Payment of all applicable Federal, State and Local taxes, are the responsibility of, and must be paid by the winner(s). Winner(s) will be issued Internal Revenue tax form(s) 1099 stating the value of the prize(s). No Purchase Necessary. Winner(s) need not be present to win. See complete rules at www.vanwezel.org/events/gala-2015/chance-drawing and at the office of Van Wezel Foundation, 777 N. Tamiami Tr., Sarasota, FL 34236.

2ND ANNUAL WELCOME BACK BRUNCH

On Sunday, November 2nd, the Van Wezel Foundation hosted its annual Welcome Back Brunch for donors and their friends. Entertainment was provided by the one and only Jimmy Mazz who dazzled everyone with his Las Vegas Legends Show! Guests enjoyed a delicious brunch prepared by Mattison's Bayside and indulged in a beautiful afternoon on the Bayfront.



Jackie Gries, Ilene Lasco and Michele Strauss at the 2014/2015 Welcome Back Bruch.



Jim and Jean Zakovec at the 2014/2015 Welcome Back Brunch

VANWEZEL
FOUNDATION™

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