Physicians Mutual Omaha Symphony Christmas Spectacular combines tradition and Broadway dazzle

OMAHA, Neb., Dec. 3, 2014– Omaha’s holiday tradition is back and better than ever before, as the Physicians Mutual Omaha Symphony Christmas Spectacular brings Broadway singers, dancers, and memorable holiday songs to the Holland Performing Arts Center stage for six performances Dec. 18-21, 2014.

Conducted by Resident Conductor Ernest Richards on, the production will feature newly commissioned symphonic music arrangements by Doug Katsaros and Richardson, Broadway singers and dancers, local chorus Résonance, beautiful costumes, flying reindeer, a wise penguin, and the always popular dancing Santas.

The Omaha Symphony’s annual Christmas performances have become a Yuletide tradition for thousands of Omaha and metro-area families. Audiences can expect to hear their perennial favorites, such as an audience sing-along and the children’s favorite “Sleigh Ride,” and be introduced to new sequences, such as a prequel to last year’s hit Billy Elliot. This year, the symphony will look back on how Rudolph learned to fly with the help of a perspicacious penguin in Rudolph: The Real Story, conceived by Richardson and written by Katsaros. Eric Novak, the New York City puppeteer behind last year’s intricate reindeer headpieces, created a penguin puppet and flying reindeer similar to those used in The Lion King on Broadway. Richardson and Katsaros also collaborated on a new piece, “I Do” This Christmas, which takes a look at love and romance during the holidays.

New York City-based choreographer Parker Esse will direct the Christmas Spectacular. Television personality and song-and-dance man Dave Webber will once again appear in the production. Principal singers include 2013 Christmas veterans Kevin Vortmann and Tiffany Haas, who also appeared this fall in the symphony’s Andrew Lloyd Webber Requiem and Favorite Broadway Choruses, Richard Todd Adams (who appeared in the spring 2013 production Lerner and Loewe Songbook), and Omaha Symphony newcomer Siri Howard. Dancers include Kristine Kerwin, Tony Neidenbach, Annie Petermeyer, Clifton Samuels, Kristen Smith Davis, Charles South, Jessi Trauth, and Ryan VanDenBoom. Other featured performers include the voices of Résonance, the SNJ Singers, Community Choristers, the Omaha Public Schools Mini-Singers, the Heartland Youth Ballet, and students from Omaha Symphony violinist Anne Nagosky’s violin studio.

Preconcert entertainment will take place in the lobbies prior to each performance, including the River City Ringers and the Immanuel Chime Choir, Nagosky’s violin students, the Heartland Youth Ballet, and reindeer from Kringle Stables outside in the Holland Center courtyard. Hiland Dairy will have a table set up at the Friday and Saturday evening performances featuring sampling of holiday beverages.

The Physicians Mutual Omaha Symphony Christmas Spectacular has six performances to choose from: Thursday, Dec. 18, at 7 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 19, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 20, at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 21, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets start at $19 and can be purchased by visiting www.omahasymphony.org or by calling...
Ticket Omaha at 402-345-0606. Groups of 10 or more can receive a 20% discount by contacting sales manager Dave Johnson at djohnson@omahasymphony.org or 402.661.8578.

Sponsors for *Physicians Mutual Omaha Symphony Christmas Spectacular* include title sponsor Physicians Mutual, Pops series sponsor Immanuel Communities, CHI Health, Residence Inn by Marriott, the Robert H. Storz Foundation, CenturyLink, media sponsor WOWT Channel 6, and holiday season sponsor ConAgra Foods.

Concert attendees are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item to the Holland Center during the months of November and December for the Food Bank for the Heartland to support ConAgra Foods’ Shine the Light on Hunger campaign.

The Omaha Symphony is a non-profit organization that presents more than 200 live orchestral performances from September through June. In addition to MasterWorks, Symphony Pops, Symphony Rocks, Movie Music, Symphony Joslyn, and Family series concerts, the Omaha Symphony’s nationally recognized education programs touch the lives of nearly 30,000 schoolchildren each year. For tickets or information regarding the Omaha Symphony, call 402-345-0606 or visit omahasymphony.org.

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