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Dazzling Omaha Symphony Christmas Celebration back for a dancing extravaganza
Omaha's production brings together Broadway singers & dancers for a Christmas spectacular like no other

OMAHA, Neb., Nov. 28, 2017- Celebrate the season with a tap dancing extravaganza of festive Yuletide fun with the *Physicians Mutual Omaha Symphony Christmas Celebration*, opening Dec. 9 with 10 performances through Dec. 17, at the Holland Performing Arts Center.

Led by Principal Pops Conductor Ernest Richardson, the Omaha Symphony's annual Christmas show celebrates the joy, romance, and magic of the holiday season with an original concert production that can't be seen or heard anywhere else. Bringing together Broadway singers and dancers, a 68-piece orchestra, charming stories, stunning costumes, flying reindeer, falling snow, and the always popular dancing Santas, *Christmas Celebration* will feature breathtaking new arrangements of holiday favorites alongside magical Broadway-style storytelling and choreography.

Audiences can expect to hear their perennial favorites, such as the show-stopping "O Holy Night," "Be a Santa" with the always-popular "dancing Santas," and "Sleigh Ride" performed with the help of pint-sized audience members. Omaha Symphony violinist Anne Nagosky's studio of violin students are also a favorite, performing a featured arrangement of "Il est né, le divin Enfant" and "Ding! Dong! Merrily on High," arranged by Richardson, with the orchestra.

The *Christmas Celebration* always features new sequences that dazzle. This year, the concert will feature "Hot Chocolate" from *The Polar Express* and "Rudolph: The Real Story," continuing the recent tradition of a mini-Broadway musical that showcases the talented cast and original storytelling. A tap extravaganza to "Jingle Bells" featuring dancer Aaron Burr will have audiences on their feet.

The *Christmas Celebration* will feature faces that have become familiar to Omaha audiences: veteran performers of Broadway and concert stages who have again chosen to spend their holidays in Omaha include principal singers Siri Howard and Richard Todd Adams, who is returning to Omaha after spending last year as a member of the *Cats* revival cast. Newcomers Jeff Kready (*Billy Elliot the Musical*, *Les Misérables*) and Charlotte Maltby, fresh off of playing Maria von Trapp in the first national tour of *The Sound of Music*, will round out the quartet of singers. New York City-based choreographer Parker Esse also returns to direct the *Christmas Celebration* for a fourth year.

The dancers, all from New York City, include Aaron Burr, C.K. Edwards, Sally Glaze, Erica Mansfield, Erin Moore, Elle-May Patterson, Lizz Picini, Justin Prescott, Clifton Samuels, and Connor Schwantes. Other featured performers include Résonance, a premier vocal ensemble comprised of multi-talented professional singers from the Omaha area, and local favorite Dave Webber in his 21st appearance in the symphony Christmas program.

Preconcert entertainment will take place in the lobbies prior to each performance, including Anne Nagosky's Violin Studio, Heartland Youth Ballet, River City Ringers, Immanuel Chimers, Boys Town Voices, and the SNJ Singers.

New this year will be decorated lobbies that resemble a festive Alpine village, with a craft for kids, and hot chocolate and sweets for sale.

There are 10 performances of the *Physicians Mutual Omaha Symphony Christmas Celebration*: Saturday, December 9, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, December 10, 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.; Thursday, December 14, 7:30 p.m.; Friday, December 15, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, December 16, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, December 17, 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Tickets to *Christmas Celebration* start at \$19 and can be purchased by visiting www.omahasymphony.org or by calling Ticket Omaha at 402-345-0606. Student Rush tickets are available one hour prior to the concert. Any student with a valid student ID may purchase up to two Student Rush tickets for \$10 each.

The title sponsor of *Christmas Celebration* is Physicians Mutual. *Christmas Celebration* is part of the Omaha Symphony Pops series, sponsored by Immanuel Communities. Other sponsors include Conagra Brands, Robert H. Storz Foundation, Children's Hospital and Medical Center, Residence Inn Marriott, and media partner WOWT Channel 6.

Concert attendees are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item to the Holland Center during the month of December for the Food Bank for the Heartland to support Conagra Brands' Shine the Light on Hunger campaign.

The Omaha Symphony is a non-profit organization that presents more than 100 live orchestral performances from September through June. In addition to MasterWorks, Symphony Pops, Symphony Rocks, Movies, Symphony Joslyn, and Family series concerts, the Omaha Symphony's nationally recognized education programs touch the lives of nearly 30,000 students each year. For tickets or information regarding the Omaha Symphony, call Ticket Omaha at 402.345.0606 or visit omahasymphony.org.

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