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**Classic and contemporary dazzle in symphony's *Christmas Celebration***  
*Omaha's production brings together Broadway singers & dancers for a Christmas spectacular like no other*

OMAHA, Neb., Nov. 29, 2018- The *Physicians Mutual Omaha Symphony Christmas Celebration* is the merriest way to celebrate the Yuletide season! Come home for the holidays with the Omaha Symphony's singing, dancing, and musical extravaganza, opening Dec. 8 with 10 performances through Dec. 16, at the Holland Performing Arts Center.

Led by Principal Pops Conductor Ernest Richardson, the Omaha Symphony's annual Christmas show celebrates the magic of Christmas with an original concert production that can't be seen or heard anywhere else. Bringing together a stellar cast of Broadway singers and dancers, a 68-piece orchestra, charming stories, dazzling costumes, flying reindeer, falling snow, and even tap dancing Santas, *Christmas Celebration* features new arrangements of holiday classics and contemporary Christmas favorites alongside Broadway-style storytelling and choreography.

Familiar and beloved numbers include the show-stopping "O Holy Night," "Be a Santa," with the audience-favorite "dancing Santas," and the kid-friendly "Sleigh Ride." Omaha Symphony violinist Anne Nagosky's violin students are also a highlight of any *Christmas Celebration*, having performed in the symphony's Christmas show for nearly 20 years as of 2018. This year, the group will perform an arrangement of "I Saw Three Ships" and "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen," featuring students from age 4 through 18.

New in this year's *Christmas Celebration* are several dance sequences that will feature the female dancers, including Chuck Berry's "Run, Run Rudolph," and a fun number called *Nutcracker Gone Wrong*, which will feature music from Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*, but with some rather awry dancing from the traditional ballet. Also, continuing the recent tradition of a mini-Broadway musical that showcases original storytelling will be "Billy Elfiott," the story of an elf who would much rather dance than make toys.

Familiar faces will be seen in the *Christmas Celebration* cast, including returning principal singers Kevin Vortmann and Richard Todd Adams. Vortmann, who has been in numerous Omaha Symphony productions, including *Christmas Celebration*, returns to the Holland Center stage after a year off, while Adams is back for a second year in a row, having participated in the symphony's Christmas show in 2015. Rounding out the Christmas quartet of principal singers are Erin Stewart (*A Little Night Music*, *The Phantom of the Opera*) and Lindsey Blivin (*Jeekyll and Hyde*, *Mary Poppins*). New York City-based choreographer Parker Esse also returns to direct the *Christmas Celebration* for a fifth year.

The principal dancers, all from New York City, include Saint Aubyn, Caleb Dicke, Sally Glaze, Erica Mansfield, Daniel May, Erin Moore, Samaria Nixon-Fleming, and Connor Schwantes. Dancers from the Heartland Youth Ballet will also be featured. Other performers include Résonance, a premier vocal ensemble comprised of multi-talented professional singers from the Omaha area, and local favorite Dave Webber in his 22<sup>nd</sup> 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, the Rose Brigade from the Rose Theater, guitar students from Omaha South Magnet High School, and the SNJ Singers.

After a terrific response last year, a children's craft table, and hot chocolate and cookies will return for preconcert fun.

There are 10 performances of the *Physicians Mutual Omaha Symphony Christmas Celebration*: Saturday, December 8, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, December 9, 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.; Thursday, December 13, 7:30 p.m.; Friday, December 14, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, December 15, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, December 16, 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Tickets to *Christmas Celebration* start at \$19 and can be purchased by visiting [www.omahasymphony.org](http://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 Foundation, Children's Hospital & Medical Center, Pinnacle Bank, the Robert H. Storz Foundation, and media partner WOWT Channel 6.

Concert attendees are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food items 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](http://omahasymphony.org).*

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