



OMAHA
SYMPHONY

listener's guide

2021/2022 SEASON

Viva Las Vegas with Frankie Moreno

Saturday, May 7, 2022 at 7:30 PM | Sunday, May 8, 2022 at 2 PM

Holland Center Kiewit Concert Hall

Ernest Richardson, conductor | Frankie Moreno, performer

Program selections to be announced from the stage.

SPONSORED BY:



Frankie Moreno, performer

With 17 Top-Ten albums (five No. 1's), 81 Top-Ten singles (67 No. 1's), an Emmy nomination, and being named Las Vegas "Headliner of the Year" five times, Frankie Moreno is consistently breaking records and wowing audiences from coast to coast with his own brand of genre-blurring Rock 'n' Roll.

Reaching millions of record sales worldwide, Frankie continues to write and release new music. In 2019, he made music history by becoming the only artist to have six albums debut at a Top-Ten spot on the Billboard Charts in a 12-month period.

As a child prodigy on the piano and a gifted multi-instrumentalist, Frankie was first

introduced to American audiences at the age of 10 on CBS's *Star Search*. His performance on ABC's *Dancing with the Stars* brought him into America's living rooms again performing his self-penned hit "Tangerine Honey." He has continued to perform sold-out concerts including Carnegie Hall, The Kennedy Center, The Hollywood Bowl, and Vegas residencies.

Frankie's collaboration with world-renowned violinist Joshua Bell, *At Home with Friends*, reached the No. 1 spot on Billboard. The album included Sting, Josh Groban, Chris Botti, Kristin Chenoweth, and Regina Spektor. Frankie and Josh have since released *Musical Gifts*, which reached No. 8 on Billboard and featured Plácido Domingo, Gloria Estefan, Allison Krauss, and Chick Corea.

Frankie toured the U.S. with Sugarland and Billy Currington. He joined multi-platinum artists Air Supply for their world tour as musical director and wrote their radio single "Dance with Me," reaching No. 7 on Billboard's Top 40. He has performed his original works for his symphony concerts with the nation's premier orchestras.

Frankie Moreno commands audiences around the world with his highly contagious music and playful stage antics. His songs are cleverly crafted and his musicianship is virtuoso. Frankie is an all-around talent who puts his heart and soul into his music. He is unquestionably a unique artist.



Ernest Richardson, Principal Pops Conductor

Ernest Richardson is presently the principal pops conductor and resident conductor of the Omaha Symphony. Since 1993, he has laid the groundwork and led the development of the Symphony's vaunted education and community engagement programs, in addition to his artistic leadership in the Symphony Pops, Rocks, and Movies series. During Richardson's tenure, he has created the annual top-selling Christmas Celebration production, internationally performed "Only in Omaha" concerts, the Symphony's Family series, unique-to-Omaha Choral Collaborative, and a host of education and community program that brings the Symphony to all.

Richardson holds the position of music director and principal conductor of the Steamboat Symphony Orchestra in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Under his leadership the organization has grown from a community orchestra to a resident professional orchestra and one of the finest up and coming orchestras in the Front Range of Colorado.

A recipient of the 2016 Nebraska Governor's Arts Award for Excellence in Arts Education, Richardson has encouraged and supported countless young musicians. As the founding artistic director and CEO of the innovative Rocky Mountain Summer Conservatory, he based his program on four foundation principles that have catapulted it to national attention: the passionate, persistent pursuit of perfection that reveals the extraordinary within, vision directed leadership, the musician as athlete, and in all things, balance. The Rocky Mountain Conservatory has attracted the finest faculty and leading young musicians from around the world since 1997. Richardson also held the position of music director and principal conductor of the Santa Barbara Music and Arts Conservatory from 2012 to 2015, and works with students each summer at the Omaha Conservatory of Music Summer Institute.

An accomplished composer and arranger, Richardson's composition *Three Scenes for Chamber Orchestra* was debuted by the Omaha Symphony in 2011. His work is featured largely in the Symphony's annual Christmas production and on many education and outreach programs, and has been performed outside of Omaha by the Phoenix Symphony, the Neue Philharmonie Westfalen in Gelsenkirchen, Germany, and the Steamboat Springs Orchestra.

Richardson began studying the violin at age three with his father, Dr. Vernal Richardson. He continued his string education at Indiana University with Tadeusz Wronski, later concentrating on the viola at the University of Michigan with Donald McInnes. He studied conducting with Samuel Krachmalnick and Gustav Meier, and composition with William Albright and William Bolcom. An avid fly fisherman, Richardson can be found on trout streams in Colorado and municipal lakes in Nebraska. He has also earned a black belt in tae kwon do, and has been known to help his sons build award-winning pinewood derby cars and craft his own batons. He lives in Omaha with his wife and children.