

December 2, 2015
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“A WELL-STRUNG CHRISTMAS” TO MAKE FLORIDA PREMIERE AT THE BROWARD CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Well-Strung, The Singing String Quartet, returns to South Florida with its all new holiday show

FORT LAUDERDALE – On the heels of its Billboard Top 10 Classical Crossover album, Well-Strung returns to South Florida with ***A Well-Strung Christmas*** in the Amaturio Theater at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts on **Friday, December 18 at 7:30 p.m.**

This new show has been devised by Well-Strung, Mark Cortale and director Richard Jay-Alexander, and features the group’s own unique pop-classical spin on some of the most beautiful and traditional holiday favorites, such as "Silent Night" and irreverent newly observed versions of songs like "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus" and "Sleigh Ride," all the way to George Michael's "This Christmas" and everything in between.

The New York Times recently called Well-Strung, "A talented quartet of men who sing and play instruments brilliantly fusing pop and classical music from Madonna to Beethoven." Well-Strung, featuring Edmund Bagnell (first violin), Christopher Marchant (second violin), Daniel Shevlin (cello) and Trevor Wadleigh (viola), is a string quartet with a modern twist. The group plays universally recognized classical pieces while also singing pop music hits from the likes of Taylor Swift, Rihanna, Kelly Clarkson,

The foursome created by Mark Cortale and Christopher Marchant has quickly gained international attention. In September, they were invited to perform at the Vatican in Rome and at a gala for President Obama. Their hit ‘viral’ music video “Chelsea’s Mom,” released this summer, led to a command performance for - and meeting with - 2016 presidential candidate Hillary Clinton. The group has received critical acclaim at New York’s prestigious Feinstein’s/54 Below and well beyond, from the House of Blues in New Orleans to the Leicester Square Theatre in London. They have performed recently at the NYC TrevorLIVE Gala, as well as on *The Today Show* and *Watch What Happens Live*. They have also performed with artists such as Kristin Chenoweth, Neil Patrick Harris, Audra McDonald and Deborah Voigt.

On October 2, Well-Strung released its second studio album titled *POPssical*, a celebratory blend of pop hits sung by the group accompanied by respected classical music. The album features ten tracks including renditions of “Blank Space (Feat. Bach)” and “Royals (Feat. Palladio)” as well as the infamous ode to Hillary Clinton, “Chelsea’s Mom” as a bonus track. To celebrate the release of *POPssical*, the group surprised its fans with a bonus music video for the track “The Devil Went Down to Georgia (Feat. J.S. Bach).” In the new video, the group takes Bach’s Double Violin Concerto and adds the southern charm of Charlie Daniels Band to create a unique sound all its own. Well-Strung’s new *POPssical* album is available now at iTunes or on CD at CDBaby.

Tickets are available for \$35-\$45. Ticketmaster is the only official ticketing service of the Broward Center, Parker Playhouse and affiliated venues. Buy tickets online at BrowardCenter.org or Ticketmaster.com; by phone at 954-462-0222; in person at Ticketmaster outlets or the Broward

Center's AutoNation Box Office. Know who you are buying from when you purchase tickets. We CANNOT PROVIDE REFUNDS OR CUSTOMER SERVICE for tickets purchased from unauthorized sites, brokers or secondary ticket sellers.

The Broward Center for the Performing Arts is located in the Riverwalk Arts & Entertainment District at 201 SW Fifth Avenue in Fort Lauderdale.

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All dates, programs and artists are subject to change.

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CALENDAR BRIEF: On the heels of its Billboard Top 10 Classical Crossover album, Well-Strung returns to South Florida with **A Well-Strung Christmas** in the Amaturio Theater at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts on **Friday, December 18 at 7:30 p.m.** In this new show, the singing string quartet offers its own unique pop-classical spin on holiday favorites. Tickets are available for \$35-\$45. Ticketmaster is the only official ticketing service of the Broward Center, Parker Playhouse and affiliated venues. Buy tickets online at BrowardCenter.org or Ticketmaster.com; by phone at 954-462-0222; in person at Ticketmaster outlets or the Broward Center's AutoNation Box Office. The Broward Center for the Performing Arts is located in the Riverwalk Arts & Entertainment District at 201 SW Fifth Avenue in Fort Lauderdale.

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About Mark Cortale Productions:

Mark Cortale (Artist Manager & Producer) is the Producing Artistic Director at The Art House in Provincetown, Massachusetts. In his inaugural season in 2011, he founded the Broadway @ The Art House series featuring Seth Rudetsky as host and pianist, and added the Broadway @ Town Hall series there in 2014. The artists he has presented on the series to-date have included some of the entertainment world's biggest stars, including Neil Patrick Harris, Matthew Broderick, Sarah Jessica Parker, Rosie O'Donnell, Patti LuPone, Chita Rivera, Audra McDonald, Sutton Foster, Vanessa Williams, among many others. The Broadway @ series also premiered in 2013 in New Orleans @ NOCCA, in Australia (Sydney & Melbourne) with Megan Mullally and in London's West End with Patti LuPone at the Leicester Square Theater. In 2014-15 the series travelled to Santa Monica @ The Broad Stage, New Orleans @ The New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA), Fort Lauderdale @ The Parker Playhouse, San Francisco @ The Nourse Theatre, Dallas @ The Dallas Theater Center, and in Detroit @ The Berman Center for the Performing Arts. This past October it launched in Philadelphia @ The Kimmel Center. He also co-founded Well-Strung, The Singing String Quartet and has produced their hit shows throughout the US, and in the U.K. and Australia. In 2012 Mark produced the feature film *Varla Jean and the Mushroomheads*.

About The Broward Center for the Performing Arts

The Broward Center for the Performing Arts is one of America's premier performing arts venues. Presenting more than 700 performances each year to more than 700,000 patrons, the Center showcases a wide range of exciting cultural programming and events, and offers one of the largest arts-in-education programs in the United States, serving more than 150,000 students annually. The Broward Performing Arts Foundation, Inc. receives and maintains funds to sustain, develop and secure the future of the

Broward Center. The Broward Center for the Performing Arts is located in the Riverwalk Arts & Entertainment District at 201 SW Fifth Ave. in Fort Lauderdale. For more information, visit BrowardCenter.org.

The Riverwalk Arts & Entertainment Consortium is a cultural partnership between the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Bonnet House Museum & Gardens, NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale, Florida Grand Opera, Fort Lauderdale History Center and the Historic Stranahan House Museum. It is supported by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners as recommended by the Broward Cultural Council and the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau. Programs are sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.