



SOCIETY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
Bringing the World's Best to Houston

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From Broadway and Hollywood to Houston: Marvin Hamlisch and Joel Grey Team Up for a Special Evening

Presented by Society for the Performing Arts

HOUSTON (March 1, 2010) – Society for the Performing Arts (SPA), bringing the world's best to Houston, presents *From Broadway to Hollywood: Marvin Hamlisch & Joel Grey in Concert*, Saturday, March 27, at 8 p.m. in Jones Hall.

Backed by an orchestra, legendary artists Marvin Hamlisch and Joel Grey are coming to Houston with a one-of-a-kind concert experience. It is a natural for Grey and Hamlisch to share the same stage, as their friendship goes back to when they worked together on the first *Cabaret* tour with Liza Minnelli in 1973.

Oscar and Tony Award winner Grey will take audience members on a virtual tour of his career through dancing; singing songs by composers such as Kander & Ebb, Rodgers & Hart, and Billy Joel; and sharing stories about *Cabaret*, *George M!* and *Chicago*. Oscar, Tony, Grammy, Emmy and Golden Globe Award-winning composer Hamlisch will lead the orchestra and entertain with hit songs from some of his 40-plus motion picture scores including *The Way We Were*, *Sophie's Choice* and *The Sting*. His amusing personality is sure to come alive on stage as he blends hilarious antics with his piano playing.

Grey has been entertaining audiences for more than 50 years on stage and the silver screen, hitting the mainstream as the Master of Ceremonies in *Cabaret*, and as the Wizard of Oz in the Broadway smash, *Wicked*. Grey has won acclaim in virtually every medium of entertainment: stage, screen, recording, concerts and television. In addition to performing, Grey has had three books of photography published: *Pictures I Had to Take* (2003), *Looking Hard at Unexamined Things* (2006) and *1.3: Images from My Phone* (2009).

The composer of the musicals *A Chorus Line*, *They're Playing Our Song*, *The Goodbye Girl*, and *Sweet Smell of Success* and films including *Ice Castles* and *Bananas*, Hamlisch has become the preeminent pops artist of our time. In addition to composing, he holds the position of principal pops conductor for the National Symphony Orchestra, plus the Pittsburgh, Colorado and Milwaukee Symphony Orchestras, and the Seattle and San Diego Symphonies.

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Prior to the performance, patrons are also welcome to attend the H-E-B Performance Prelude at 7 p.m. in the Jones Hall lobby by Houston Choral Showcase. Patrons are also welcome to attend the BMC Arts Talks! at 7:30 p.m. in Jones Hall, balcony level, by Regina Scruggs, KUHF 88.7FM host of *Music From the Movies*.

The performance of *From Broadway to Hollywood: Marvin Hamlisch & Joel Grey in Concert* is generously sponsored by the Humphreys Foundation, Continental Airlines, H-E-B, The Brown Hand Center and BMC Software.

Tickets range from \$20-\$70 and can be purchased online at www.spahouston.org, by phone at 713-227-4SPA or at the courtyard level ticket office at Jones Hall located at 615 Louisiana St. Hours of operation: 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Monday – Friday, and 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Saturday. For groups of 15 or more, call 713-632-8113.

About Society for the Performing Arts

Founded in 1966, Society for the Performing Arts (SPA) is the largest independent non-profit presenting organization in the Southwest. Since its inception, SPA has sponsored more than 800 performances of the world's finest music, dance and theater events, in adherence to the belief that the arts are fundamental to the overall enrichment and quality of life within the community. In addition to presenting artists, SPA seeks to provide a variety of learning experiences for adults and children through master classes, lectures and special student performances, as well as build relationships between the performing arts and other interests within the greater Houston area and throughout the state of Texas.

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