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The 5th Avenue Theatre Honors the Centennial of the Ship of Dreams with TITANIC: THE CONCERT April 13-15, 2012

Music and Lyrics by Maury Yeston; Book by Peter Stone; Directed by David Armstrong
*A concert presentation of TITANIC, the breathtaking Broadway musical,
featuring spectacular singers, a full orchestra, and the award-winning
Pacific Lutheran University Choral Union*

(Tuesday, March 20, 2012 – SEATTLE, WA) In honor of the 100th anniversary of the Titanic's epic voyage, **The 5th Avenue Theatre** is presenting a concert as grand and beautiful as the Ship of Dreams it celebrates: ***Titanic: The Concert***. With music and lyrics by **Maury Yeston** and book by **Peter Stone**, *Titanic: The Concert* is a truly unique way to celebrate the centennial of one of the most memorable events of the last century. Musical theater's brightest stars from Seattle and Broadway will sing the soulful and sweeping score of *Titanic: The Musical* with the support of a 25-piece orchestra and the 80 voices of the award-winning Pacific Lutheran University Choral Union. The story of the Titanic will come to life through music on The 5th Avenue stage on nights that coincide exactly with the ship's historic journey and tragic end

The concert features the tremendous voices of Seattle and Broadway musical theater stars including **Ed Watts, Stanley Bahorek, Greg Stone, Anne Allgood, Ryah Nixon, Allen Fitzpatrick, Timothy Piggee, David Pichette, Jeff Steitzer, and Carol Swarbrick**. The concert will be directed by 5th Avenue Executive Producer and Artistic Director **David Armstrong**, with musical direction by **Ian Eisendrath**.

Titanic: The Concert plays four performances only – **April 13-15, 2012** at **The 5th Avenue Theatre** (1308 5th Ave, Seattle, WA 98101). Tickets (starting at \$19.00) may be purchased at www.5thavenue.org, by phone at 206-625-1900, or at the Box Office at 1308 5th Avenue in downtown Seattle.

The tragic tale of the April 15, 1912 sinking of the RMS Titanic has been retold time and again from thousands of perspectives. In 1997, the story was brought to life in a spectacular

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musical format when *Titanic* opened on Broadway. With music and lyrics by Maury Yeston (*Nine, Grand Hotel, December Songs*) and a book by Peter Stone (*The Will Rogers Follies, 1776, Curtains*), the musical is based on true stories of the Titanic's crew and passengers, and follows members of both the elite and the working class as they journey on the "Ship of Dreams." With its delicately intertwining stories and lush music, *Titanic* took top awards at the 1997 Tony Awards including Best Musical, Best Book of a Musical, Best Original Score, Best Orchestrations, and Best Scenic Design. It also won the 1997 Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Orchestrations.

"Maury Yeston's breathtaking music and lyrics make *Titanic: The Musical* one of the most beautiful musicals of the modern era," said 5th Avenue Theatre Executive Producer and Artistic Director David Armstrong. "Our concert will make this timeless score the star, showcased by some of the finest voices in the country accompanied by a full orchestra."

Titanic stars Broadway's **Ed Watts** as Barrett, the stoker. Watts returns to The 5th Avenue Theatre where he recently appeared in the world premiere musical *Saving Aimee*. Watts also starred in The 5th Avenue's acclaimed production of *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*. Most recently seen in *The Fantasticks* Off-Broadway, he has also performed in the Broadway revival of *Finian's Rainbow*, *The Most Happy Fella* at The New York City Opera, and the national tour of *Les Misérables*.

As telegraph operator Harold Bride, **Stanley Bahorek** returns to The 5th where he starred in *Candide* as the title character in The 5th's 2010 production. The New York star was most recently seen in *Amadeus* at the Alley Theatre. He has performed in the national tour of *Big River*, on Broadway in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and Off-Broadway in *Rent* and *See Rock City*.

Greg Stone joins the cast as the Titanic's designer, Thomas Andrews. Stone has performed on Broadway as Jean Valjean in *Les Misérables*, as well as in *The Pirate Queen, Urban Cowboy*, and *Rodgers & Hammerstein's Oklahoma!* Other New York credits include *Juno, Of Thee I Sing, Under the Bridge*, and *Summer of '42*. In 2009, Stone received a Helen Hayes nomination for Outstanding Lead Performer in the Signature Theatre's critically acclaimed reimaging of *Les Misérables*. Stone makes his 5th Avenue debut in *Titanic: The Concert*.

Playing 2nd class passenger Alice Beane is Seattle luminary **Anne Allgood**. Allgood's list of performance credits is extensive. Her 5th Avenue productions include *Rodgers & Hammerstein's Oklahoma!, A Christmas Story, Candide, Company, Gypsy*, and many others. She has toured regionally in *Urinetown, Evita* and *Floyd Collins*, and nationally in tours of *Parade* and *Beauty and the Beast*. On Broadway, she performed in *The Most Happy Fella, Carousel, Beauty and the Beast, The Sound of Music*, and *Imaginary Friends*. Allgood's other Seattle credits include roles at ACT, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Intiman Theatre, Village Theatre, and Seattle Children's Theatre.

Roosevelt High School grad **Ryah Nixon** returns to The 5th Avenue Theatre as 3rd class passenger Kate McGowan. Nixon last graced The 5th Avenue stage when she performed in the national tour of *9 to 5: The Musical*. She will return to play Maureen in *Rent* this

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summer. She performed in the ensemble of *9 to 5* and ultimately replaced Diana Degarmo as Dora Lee for the final leg of the tour. Nixon made her Off-Broadway debut in *Another Part of the Forest*. She has appeared previously at Village Theater in *Aida: The Musical* and *Meet Me in St. Louis*.

Allen Fitzpatrick will play the role of Captain E.J. Smith. Fitzpatrick, who will also be featured in The 5th Avenue production of *Damn Yankees* in April, returns immediately to The 5th after performing in both *Rodgers & Hammerstein's Oklahoma!* and *Cinderella*. Fitzpatrick has performed on Broadway in *Driving Miss Daisy*, *Memphis*, *Sweet Smell of Success*, and *42nd Street*, among others. He has performed in five national tours, including *Sunset Boulevard*, starring as Max opposite Petula Clark.

Timothy Piggee, who performs the role of 1st Officer William Murdoch, appeared in the pre-Broadway engagement of *Catch Me If You Can* at The 5th Avenue Theatre, and performed with the original Broadway cast. He has worked on many Seattle stages, including Intiman Theatre, The Group Theatre, Seattle Children's Theatre, The Empty Space Theatre, Tacoma Actor's Guild, A Contemporary Theatre, and Seattle Repertory Theatre.

David Pichette's Seattle resume shows multiple credits in every major theater in town. His 5th Avenue credits include *Rodgers & Hammerstein's Oklahoma!*, *1776*, *My Fair Lady*, *Wonderful Town*, and *Candide*. He recently performed as Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol* at ACT. Also a playwright, Pichette co-authored an adaptation of *Double Indemnity* with Bob Wright which completed a successful run at ACT Theatre.

Joining the cast as The Major is Seattle star **Jeff Steitzer**. He returns to The 5th where he appeared previously as Senex in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. Steitzer has worked at all the major houses in Seattle including Seattle Repertory Theatre, Intiman Theatre, ACT Theatre, Seattle Children's Theatre. The talented actor has performed on Broadway in the Tony-nominated revival of *Inherit the Wind* and the dual roles of Admiral Boom and the Bank Chairman in *Mary Poppins*. An accomplished singer and stage actor, Steitzer is also a voiceover actor and is best known for lending his voice as the "Voice of God Multiplayer Announcer" on all three *Halo* games for Microsoft Xbox.

Pacific Northwest treasure **Carol Swarbrick** joins the remarkable talent of *Titanic: The Concert* as Ida Straus, wife of Isidor Straus, owner of Macy's Department Store. The Sequim resident has performed on Broadway in productions of *Whoopie* and *Side by Side by Sondheim*, as well as in the 1995 revival of *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*. She has toured nationally and regionally, and she was widely acclaimed for her performance as Mrs. Lovett in *Sweeney Todd* at The 5th Avenue Theatre. Swarbrick has also performed at The 5th in *White Christmas*, *Into the Woods*, *Hello Dolly*, and many others.

Adding their spectacular acting and vocal talents to this concert presentation are **Andi Alhadeff, Jared Michael Brown, Molly Davidson, Bob De Dea, Kirsten deLoehr Helland, Nick DeSantis, Jim Dries, Mary Jo DuGaw, Anne Eisendrath, Sean Glynn, Hugh Hastings, Eric Jensen, Corinna Lapid Munter, Lindsey Larson, Matthew Lewis, Sonya**

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Meyer, Cheryl Massey Peters, Robert McPherson, Matt Owen, Lindsay Powers, David Quicksall, Heath Saunders, Aaron Shanks, and Jenny Shotwell.

About the R.M.S. Titanic

On April 10, 1912, the RMS Titanic, the largest passenger ship of the era, departed Southampton, England on its maiden voyage for New York. More than 2,200 people, including 885 crew members, boarded the ship and sailed in luxury for four days. On the evening of April 14, the Titanic was ahead of schedule, motoring rapidly toward New York City. Several ships had reported icebergs in the waters southeast of Newfoundland where Titanic was sailing. The crew heard these warnings, but disregarded their severity, in part because they thought their liner was unsinkable. At 11:40 PM, an iceberg was spotted. The crew attempted to steer clear of the mass, but was fatally unsuccessful. The ship was not impervious to the jagged ice and a gash more than 220 feet long was carved into its side. The Titanic quickly began to take on water. Some passengers knew instantly that the ship was about to sink. Some were oblivious. Still others chose to accept the inevitability of the ship sinking, and continued their evening, listening to live music until they were submerged. Passengers were ordered to evacuate, women and children first, but with insufficient life rafts and below-freezing conditions, 1,523 perished that night. The unsinkable ship succumbed to the depths at 2:20 AM on April 15, 1912.

More about The 5th Avenue Theatre

The 5th Avenue Theatre is one of the nation's premier incubators for new musical theater. Since 2002, the celebrated company has produced 13 new musicals. Five have moved on to Broadway premieres, earning a combined 14 Tony Awards, including two for Best Musical (*Hairspray* and *Memphis*). The 5th Avenue Theatre is also known for its world class, critically acclaimed productions of musicals chosen from both the contemporary canon and the Golden Age of Broadway.

Unique in its Chinese-inspired design, this exquisite theater opened in 1926 as a venue for vaudeville and film. In 1980, the non-profit 5th Avenue Theatre began producing and presenting top-quality live musical theater. Today, under the leadership of Executive Producer and Artistic Director David Armstrong, Managing Director Bernadine Griffin and Producing Director Bill Berry, The 5th Avenue Theatre attracts an annual attendance of more than 287,000 and ranks among the nation's largest and most respected musical theater companies.

In addition to its mainstage productions, The 5th Avenue Theatre is also committed to encouraging the next generation of theatergoers through its extensive educational outreach programs which include: The Adventure Musical Theatre Touring Company, The 5th Avenue Awards Honoring High School Musical Theatre, the Student Matinee Program, and Spotlight Nights. For more information about The 5th Avenue Theatre, its season and its programs, please visit www.5thavenue.org.

Special thanks to The 5th Avenue Theatre 2011-12 season co-sponsors Safeco Insurance and US Bank, and media sponsor *The Seattle Times*. Additional thanks to production sponsor The Capital Grille.

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More about Pacific Lutheran University Choral Union

The PLU Choral Union, established by Richard Sparks in 1984 and conducted by Richard Nance since 1993, is one of six choral ensembles at Pacific Lutheran University. With participants including of faculty, staff, students, and members of the Puget Sound community, this 80-voice ensemble is recognized as one of the nation's finest community choruses. It has been selected by audition to perform for the prestigious National Convention of the American Choral Directors Association in San Antonio in March 2001, at the World Harp Congress in Geneva, Switzerland in July 2002, and at the Cambridge (England) Summer Music Festival in 2005. In the summer of 2008, the choir undertook its third international tour, performing in the Czech Republic, Germany, Slovenia and Croatia. In the summer of 2011, the Choral Union toured and performed in Scandinavia.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHAT: In honor of the 100th anniversary of the Titanic's epic voyage, **The 5th Avenue Theatre** is presenting a concert as grand and beautiful as the Ship of Dreams it celebrates: ***Titanic: The Concert***. Musical theater's brightest stars from Seattle and beyond will sing the soulful and sweeping score of *Titanic: The Musical* with the support of a 25-piece orchestra and the 80 voices of the award-winning Pacific Lutheran University Choral Union. On nights that coincide exactly with the ship's historic journey and tragic end, the story of the Titanic will come to life through music on The 5th Avenue stage. The concert features the tremendous voices of Seattle and Broadway musical theater stars including **Ed Watts, Stanley Bahorek, Greg Stone, Anne Allgood, Ryah Nixon, Allen Fitzpatrick, Timothy Piggee, David Pichette, Jeff Steitzer, and Carol Swarbrick**. *Titanic: The Concert* will be directed by 5th Avenue Executive Producer and Artistic Director **David Armstrong**, with musical direction by **Ian Eisendrath**. With music and lyrics by **Maury Yeston** and book by **Peter Stone**, *Titanic: The Concert* is a truly unique way to celebrate the centennial of one of the most memorable events of the last century.

WHEN: **April 13** – 8:00 PM
April 14 – 2:00 PM & 8:00 PM
April 15 – 1:30 PM

WHERE: **The 5th Avenue Theatre** (1308 5th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101)

TICKETS: Single tickets start at \$19.00. For more information, or to purchase tickets, please visit www.5thavenue.org or call the Box Office at (206) 625-1900. Tickets may also be purchased by calling (888) 5TH-4TIX.

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