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**This February The Aventura Arts and Cultural Center Offers Entertainment
from Sidesplitting Comedians to International Music Sensations**

AVENTURA – A Broadway star, distinguished pianists, hilarious comedians and international music sensations perform this February at the Aventura Arts and Cultural Center.

The South Florida Symphony Orchestra presents "**Double Speak & Hidden Meanings,**" a program featuring the eminent American pianist, **Christopher Taylor on Saturday, February 1 at 8 p.m.** Taylor will perform one of Prokofiev's most popular works, "Piano Concerto, No. 3." In addition, Maestra Sebrina María Alfonso will conduct Liszt's "Hamlet: Symphonic Poem No. 10" and Shostakovich's "Symphony No. 10." Premiered in 1953 after Stalin's death, this Symphony was Shostakovich's first major work after his 1948 denunciation. With "Hamlet," Liszt sought to recreate one-movement works by inventing the symphonic poem, music inspired by literary and other nonmusical sources. Tickets are \$35, \$45 and \$55.

America's famed comedy troupe **The Second City** is bringing big laughs to Aventura with its hilarious revue **Happily Ever Laughter** on **February 6 at 8 p.m.**, featuring some of the best sketches, songs and improvisation from *The Second City's* 53-year history. From the company that launched the careers of Tina Fey, Stephen Colbert, Steve Carell, Gilda Radner, Bill Murray, Amy Poehler and current *Saturday Night Live* star Jason Sudeikis, among many others, comes the next generation of the comedy world's best and brightest presenting an evening of hilarious sketch comedy and *The Second City's* trademark improvisation. Tickets are \$39.

The Rhythm Foundation, Inc. presents Portuguese fado sensation **António Zambujo** on **Friday, February 7 at 8 p.m.** Akin to blues and flamenco, fado has become synonymous with Portugal, and usually features the lovely and distinguishable style of Portuguese guitarists blended with the power of the human voice. As a teen, Zambujo moved to Lisbon and joined the prestigious Clube de Fado. Now fado's latest heartthrob, Zambujo gained fame by playing the part of Francisco Cruz, first husband of fado diva Amália Rodrigues, in the smash hit *Amália*. Since his 2002 debut CD, he has toured internationally, and been awarded countless honors. Tickets are \$35 and \$45.

One of the most relevant and versatile voices in musical theater today, **Stephanie J. Block** performs on **Sunday, February 9 at 2 p.m.** A Broadway virtuoso, Block received both a Drama Desk and 2013 Tony Award nomination for Best Leading Actress in a Musical for her portrayal of Alice Nutting/Edwin Drood in The Roundabout Theatre's production of *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. She obtained a Drama Desk Award nomination for creating the role of Judy Bernly in *9 to 5: The Musical*. She created the roles of 'Grace O'Malley' in *The Pirate Queen* and the much acclaimed 'Liza Minnelli' role in *The Boy From Oz*, opposite Hugh Jackman. She also played the role of Elphaba on Broadway in the smash hit *Wicked* and created the role for the first national

tour, for which she won numerous awards including the prestigious Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Actress in a Musical. Tickets are \$39.50

A suspenseful film from Christian Petzold, one of Germany's most influential directors, **Barbara** will be presented on **Tuesday, February 11 at 7 p.m.** Set in 1980s East Germany, young physician Barbara Wolff finds herself banished to a small, country hospital. While there, she must weigh her dedication to her patients and newfound attraction to a fellow doctor against a potential escape to the West. Shown in German with English subtitles, tickets are \$10 and are general admission. The auditorium opens at 6:30 p.m.

Beatriz Malnic, a highly respected interpreter of Bossa Nova and Samba, will present **The Girl from Ipanema - 50 Years of Bossa Nova** on **Saturday, February 15 at 8 p.m.** The words "Bossa Nova," translated as "New Trend" are synonymous with Brazilian jazz and trigger memories of Bossa Nova's greatest American hit, "The Girl from Ipanema." A lyrical fusion of Samba and Jazz, Bossa Nova acquired a large following in the 1960s, initially among young musicians and students. Since its birth, Bossa Nova has remained a vital part of the standard jazz repertoire. In this performance Malnic will be accompanied by talented local musicians, including Jorge Sosa on piano, Ivo de Carvalho on guitar, and others. Tickets are \$39.

Audiences will hear Yiddish favorites in a finger-snapping, toe-tapping afternoon of Horahs and Klezmer with **The Harvey Nevins Yiddish Swing Orchestra** on **Sunday, February 16 at 2 p.m.** South Florida's finest group of talented, world renowned musicians and a female vocalist will perform melodies from traditional eastside New York, Second Avenue and European revivals. Tickets are \$25 and \$30.

In this intimate evening, **Sam Harris** will entertain the audience with selections from his new book, **"Ham: Slices of a Life"** on **Thursday, February 20 at 8 p.m.** Slated to be released in January 2014, *Ham: Slices of a Life* is called "New Yorker-worthy," by *The New York Times*, and contains 16 of Harris' humorous stories and essays discussing friendship, celebrity, growing up and getting sober. Harris' diverse career has run the gamut from singer/songwriter and Broadway, film and television actor to writer, director and producer. After winning *Star Search* in its premiere season, Harris never looked back. He is a multi-platinum recording artist with nine studio CDs to his credit. Tickets are \$39.50

Lisa Landry: That's Funny . . . You Don't Look Jewish arrives on **Saturday, February 22 at 8 p.m.** and aiming to prove the saying "He who laughs last, laughs best." Raised Catholic, Landry says she converted to Judaism because, "It's the same guilt but with 20 percent off at Macy's!" An utterly likable and down-to-earth entertainer who is incredibly easy to relate to, the Louisiana native is a gifted writer, talented actress and outstanding stand-up comic. In addition to her appearances on *The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson* and *The Bonnie Hunt Show*, Landry starred in *Comedy Central Presents Lisa Landry* and her comedy release *Put Your Keys in the Key Bowl* was one of iTunes' "Top 10 Best Comedy CDs" of that year. The Aventura Comedy Series may contain material not appropriate for children under 13 years old. Tickets are \$32.50 and \$37.50.

The Miami International Piano Festival presents the third appearance of pianist **Claudio Martinez Mehner** on **Sunday, February 23 at 5 p.m.** In 2010, he made such a strong impression at his South Florida debut at the Discovery Series that he was invited back to perform at the Master Series in 2012. Now, Mehner takes the stage at Aventura for a unique recital of exquisite master pieces: Bach's Aria Variata, Chopin's 4 Mazurcas and Scherzo 4, Albeniz's Selections of Suite Iberia and Debussy's Selections of Preludios. His flawless

technique captures the very souls of his listeners. This is the 3rd concert of four very special Sundays at 5:00 pm that engage audiences in an intimate and accessible fashion, followed by a catered reception. Tickets are \$30.

The Broward Center for the Performing Arts manages the Aventura Arts & Cultural Center, a 14,864-square-foot, 326-seat waterfront complex that hosts performing arts, cultural and educational programming for all ages. The Aventura Arts & Cultural Center is located at 3385 N.E. 188 Street in Aventura and on Twitter @AventuraCenter.

Tickets, group discounts and scheduling information for all performances are available through the Aventura Arts & Cultural Center's box office at (877) 311-7469 or online at www.AventuraCenter.org.

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