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## **Aventura Arts & Cultural Center Rings In the New Year in January With Broadway, Comedy and Music Stars**

**AVENTURA, Fla.** – The Aventura Arts & Cultural Center gets the New Year off with a bang this January with theatrical fireworks starring some of the biggest names in theater, music and comedy.

The month begins with **Steve Solomon’s Cannoli, Latkes, and Guilt: the Therapy Continues...** starring the creator and star of the award-winning show *My Mother’s Italian, My Father’s Jewish and I’m in Therapy*. This time, Solomon’s parents are moving from Brooklyn to their new retirement home in South Florida and between the chaos with his parents, the movers and his dysfunctional but lovable family, the therapy continues. **Performances are Saturday, January 6 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, January 7 at 2 and 7 p.m.** Tickets are \$45–\$49.

The City of Aventura’s Broadway Concert Series presents two of New York’s hottest stars **Santino Fontana with special guest Jessica Fontana on Wednesday, January 10 at 8 p.m.** With his rich voice, dynamic versatility and charisma, Santino Fontana was nominated for a Tony Award® for his performance as Prince Topher in Rodgers & Hammerstein’s *Cinderella*. The voice of Hans in Disney’s *Frozen*, he has also appeared on Broadway in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs* and *Billy Elliot*. Jessica Fontana has starred on Broadway in the title role of Rodgers & Hammerstein’s *Cinderella* as well as *Baby It’s You* and *Pipe Dream* and is familiar to South Florida audiences for her local performances in *The Most Happy Fella* and *110 in the Shade*. Tickets are \$45–\$49

Avery Summers and Ken Page, an original Broadway cast member of *Ain’t Misbehavin*, star in ***This Joint is Jumpin’: Celebrating the Music of Fats Waller* on Saturday, January 13 at 8 p.m.** Waller’s innovations to the Harlem “stride piano style” laid the groundwork for modern jazz piano and his standards “Ain’t Misbehavin” and “Honeysuckle Rose” were both inducted into the Grammy® Hall of Fame. Tickets to this performance, presented by the City of Aventura, are \$45–\$49.

The 2017–18 Family Fun Series presented by Hoffman’s Chocolates and the Broward Center for the Performing Arts at the Aventura Arts & Cultural Center presents ***Charlotte’s Web* staged by Theatreworks USA on Saturday, January 13 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.** Based on E.B. White’s heartwarming children’s book, *Charlotte’s Web* tells the story of a pig named Wilbur and a little barn spider named Charlotte. This treasured tale, featuring madcap and endearing farm animals, explores bravery, selfless love and

the true meaning of friendship. Each show in the series includes free pre-show face painting and arts activities along with a complimentary post-show sweet treat from Hoffman's Chocolates. Tickets are \$16 for individuals (\$18 the day of the show) with \$3 lap seats for infants 12 months or younger.

The Miami International Piano Festival presents Kemal Gekic on **Sunday, January 14 at 5 p.m.** A multimedia-presentation with Prof. Frank Cooper, the concert explores "Symphonie Fantastique" and its self-portrait of its composer, Hector Berlioz. "Symphonie Fantastique" tells the story of an artist's self-destructive passion for a beautiful woman describing his obsession and dreams, tantrums and moments of tenderness, and visions of suicide and murder, ecstasy and despair. Born in Croatia, Gekic is an Artist in Residence and a professor at Florida International University. As a recording artist, Gekic has won accolades in Europe, America and Japan for insightful, original views of the music. This concert is not suggested for children under 10 years of age. Tickets are \$35.

Star of three PBS specials, the successful intentional singer and entertainer returns to the Aventura Arts & Cultural center in **Dudu Fisher Celebrates JerUSAlem on Thursday, January 18 at 7:30 p.m.** Having sung leading roles on Broadway, London's West End and the most prestigious stages around the world, Fisher is internationally known. An observant Jew who will not work on Friday nights, a Saturday matinee or Jewish holidays, he has a large following among diverse communities. Tickets are \$50–\$75.

The City of Aventura presents the unforgettable songs of Motown in **A Temptations Revue featuring Barrington "Bo" Henderson on Friday, January 19 at 8 p.m.** Herderson is a Grammy® Award winner and former lead singer of the iconic group from 1998–2003. This dynamic show delivers some of the most recognizable and culture-defining songs in pop music history including "My Girl," "Papa Was a Rollin' Stone," "Get Ready," "Ain't Too Proud to Beg," "Just My Imagination" and "I Wish It Would Rain." Tickets are \$50–\$55.

**Vic DeBietto** churns energy, honesty and humanity into nonstop laughter on **January 20 at 8 p.m.** as part of the Aventura Comedy Series presented by Black Box Productions. His pace is frenetic. His material vivid and true. From his first words, DiBietto leaves his audience breathless with laughter. DeBietto is a frequent contributor to 95.5 PLJ's *The Todd Show* and is also featured in Kevin James' movie *Mall Cop*. He has appeared on *America's Funniest People* and has warmed up hundreds of audiences for the hit shows *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire* and *The Ricki Lake Show*. This event may include adult language and content. Tickets are \$35–\$45.

Main Event Entertainment presents **Direct from Las Vegas—An Evening with Cher, Elton, Bette Midler & Streisand** that brings back the wonderful variety shows of the '70s and '80s with Las Vegas' top impersonators The Edward Twins. Singing live vocals, they recreate the hits of Sonny & Cher, Billy Joel, Elton John, Neil Diamond, Lionel Richie, Stevie Wonder, Ray Charles, Lady Gaga, Celine Dion, Rod Stewart, Bette

Midler, Barbara Streisand, Andrea Bocelli, Tom Jones and many more. Performances are **Sunday, January 21 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.** Tickets are \$40–\$60.

In ***Loesser Known: The Stories and Songs of Frank Loesser* on Wednesday, January 24 at 8 p.m.**, Heather Lundstedt celebrates the theatrical genius who composed *Guys & Dolls*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *Where's Charley?* and *Greenwillow*. Lundstedt delivers Loesser's timeless showtunes and standards including "Luck Be a Lady," and "Baby, It's Cold Outside" in this night of unforgettable music presented by the City of Aventura. Tickets are \$40–\$45.

The City of Aventura presents a Smart Stage Matinee production of ***The Cat in the Hat* on Thursday, January 25 at 10 and 11:30 a.m.** In this Theatreworks USA adaptation of the Dr. Seuss classic, Sally and her brother know that The Cat in the Hat is the funniest, most mischievous cat they have ever met from the moment his tall, red-and-white-striped hat appears around the door. While their mother is away, he turns a rainy afternoon into an amazing adventure, but what will their mom find when she returns home? For group sales, please call 954.660.6307 or email [groups@BrowardCenter.org](mailto:groups@BrowardCenter.org). Single tickets are limited for this event and are \$10 with \$3 lap seats for infants 12-months or younger.

One of the greatest rock 'n' soul tours of all time is recreated with two amazing tribute bands in ***We Rock Then We Soul Tour*** presented by the City of Aventura on **Thursday, January 25 at 8 p.m.** The group of talented musicians and vocalists of Elements bring the funk, R&B and jazz sound of Earth, Wind & Fire to the stage while Beginnings rocks out with the songs of Chicago. Tickets are \$50–\$55.

The most important Venezuelan comedian of recent times comes to the Aventura Arts & Cultural Center when Black Box Productions presents **Emilio Lovera on Friday, January 26 at 8 p.m.** With more than 30 years of comedy experience, Lovera is one of the most important Spanish-speaking comedians to hit the stage, using a hilarious mix of charisma and personality that, over the years, has made him a favorite with the public. This Spanish-language concert may include adult language and content. **Tickets are \$60.**

**Tapestry–The Carole King Songbook on Saturday, January 27 at 7:30 p.m.** recreates the sound and vibe of a 1970s concert experience following King's legendary album *Tapestry*. That landmark record made King a household name and won four Grammy® Awards for Record of the Year (*It's Too Late*), Album of the Year, Song of the Year (*You've Got a Friend*) and Best Pop Vocal Performance. Tickets to this presentation by Stellar Entertainment are \$35–\$45.

The City of Aventura presents a family-friendly performance that is leaving audiences howling for more with ***Mutts Gone Nuts* on Sunday, January 28 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.** The comedy duo Scott and Joan Houghton along with their nine amazing canine partners that were all adopted from animal shelters and rescues, deliver the unexpected with incredible high-flying Frisbee dogs, tight wire dogs, dancing dogs,

magic dogs and of course, the one and only Sammie the Talking Dog. VIP tickets include a meet and greet with the artists. Tickets are \$35 with \$75 VIP tickets.

In the latest entry in the Aventura Foreign Film Series, doctor-turned-filmmaker Thomas Lilti delves into the medical world with ***The Country Doctor on Tuesday, January 30 at 7:30 p.m.*** A devoted and revered countryside doctor is faced with his own serious illness and left with no choice but to secure a replacement only to find he must deal with a doctor who arrives from a city hospital. Not rated, the film is shown in French with English subtitles. The Aventura Foreign Film Series presented by the City of Aventura is hosted by Shelly Isaacs who introduces the film and leads a post-screening discussion. Tickets are \$12.

After 700 performances, the leading man of Cameron Mackintosh's spectacular new production of *The Phantom of the Opera* comes to the Aventura Arts & Cultural Center to celebrate Broadway's greatest hits in ***Chris Mann: A Night with the Phantom on Wednesday, January 31 at 8 p.m.*** Mann rose to fame as Christina Aguilera's finalist on NBC's *The Voice* and has since headlined his own symphony tour, starred in two specials for PBS and made the *Billboard* charts with his releases *Roads* and *Constellation*. Tickets are \$45-\$49.

Ticketmaster is the only official ticketing service of the Aventura Arts & Cultural Center. Buy tickets online at [aventuracenter.org](http://aventuracenter.org), by phone at 877.311.7469, or in person at the Aventura Arts & Cultural Center box office Tuesday through Saturday from noon to 5 p.m. and 90 minutes prior to each performance. For group sales, please call 954.660.6307.

The Broward Center for the Performing Arts manages the Aventura Arts & Cultural Center, a 14,864-square-foot, 330-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. Join the conversation on Twitter at #AventuraCenter, and follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/aventuracenter](https://facebook.com/aventuracenter) and Instagram at [aventuracenter](https://instagram.com/aventuracenter).

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