



PRESS RELEASE

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ELLA + LOUIS: ALL THAT JAZZ

Louisville, KY (August 8, 2016)...Principal Pops Conductor, Bob Bernhardt, and The Louisville Orchestra open the 2016/17 Pops Series with a 100th birthday celebration of "The First Lady of Song" Ella Fitzgerald at the Kentucky Center on Saturday, September 17, 2016 at 8pm. **Ella + Louis: All That Jazz** gives a taste of two unique performers; Marva Hicks' sultry voice performing as Ella Fitzgerald and master trumpet player, Byron Stripling as jazz legend, Louis Armstrong.

NYTheaterGuide.com says of Ella + Louis, "Most impressively, Stripling and Hicks managed to capture the respective spirits and channel certain characteristics of the musicianship of both Armstrong and Fitzgerald, while at the same time making these songs refreshingly and completely their own."

From "Love is Here to Stay" to "Just One of Those Things" and highlights from Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*, Stripling and Hicks light up the stage as they take you on a journey through one of the most memorable collaborations in music history while entertaining and capturing everyone's hearts along the way. Single tickets for **Ella + Louis: All That Jazz** range from \$27 - \$69 and are available by calling 502.584.7777 or on line at LouisvilleOrchestra.org. Subscriptions to the Pops Series range from \$134 - \$377 and are available by calling 502.587.8681 or at LouisvilleOrchestra.org.

With more than three decades of experience as a Music Director, conductor of Pops, and in the Opera pit, Louisville Orchestra Principal Pops Conductor **Bob Bernhardt** continues to bring his unique combination of easy style, infectious enthusiasm and wonderful musicianship to the city and orchestra he loves. **Now in his 35th season with the LO, and 20th as Principal Pops Conductor**, he accepted the post of Assistant Conductor in 1981 and has worked with the Louisville Orchestra in every season since.

Broadway veteran, **Marva Hicks** has performed with music superstars such as Lena Horne, Stevie Wonder, Whitney Houston and Michael Jackson. She has enjoyed recurring roles in *L.A. Law*, *Star Trek: Voyager*, and *Mad About You* as well as the daytime drama, *One Life To Live*. She has performed on the big screen along such talent as Denzel Washington, Patti La Belle, and Eartha Kitt. This performance is her Louisville Orchestra debut.

Byron Stripling returns to Louisville by popular demand after his widely successful 2014 tribute to Louis Armstrong. That electrifying and heartfelt tribute to Louis Armstrong has become America's most popular orchestral pops program. With his engaging rapport, jazzy vocals and virtuosic trumpet sounds, Byron dazzles audiences wherever he goes. Stripling earned his stripes as lead trumpeter and soloist with the Count Basie Orchestra under the direction of Thad Jones and Frank Foster. He has played and recorded extensively with the bands of Dizzy Gillespie, Dave Brubeck, and Buck Clayton to name a few. Currently, Stripling serves as artistic director and conductor of the highly acclaimed Columbus Jazz Orchestra.

Find full bios and high resolution images here:

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The Louisville Orchestra is dedicated to connecting to a broad diverse audience by creating engaging and relevant programs and performing in a multitude of venues.

2016/17 Pops Series sponsored by Hilliard Lyons/LG&E

Ella + Louis: All That Jazz September 17, 2016 || **Star Wars + More: Music of John Williams** November 5, 2016
Cirque Musica Holiday Spectacular November 26, 2016 || **Music of David Bowie** January 7, 2017 || **America** February 4, 2017
Time for Three March 25, 2017