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BAY AREA CABARET REOPENS SAN FRANCISCO'S MOST HISTORIC SHOWROOM, THE FAIRMONT VENETIAN ROOM

Presents Seventh Season of Nationally Renowned Vocalists

Season launches October 17 with Marvin Hamlisch and West End star Maria Friedman, continues with Broadway legend Chita Rivera, Rent's Adam Pascal and Anthony Rapp, Carlyle duo John Pizzarelli and Jessica Molaskey, Dreamgirl Anika Noni Rose and Tony winner Lillias White

San Francisco, CA (8 September 2010) --- Bay Area Cabaret, the local organization devoted to presenting audiences with top performers who expand the definition of cabaret, announced it has been invited to reopen the Fairmont Hotel's historic Venetian Room as a showroom, and given exclusive music booking rights to present its musical series in the city's legendary showroom. Said **Marilyn Levinson**, Founding Executive Producer of Bay Area Cabaret, now in its seventh season, "The Venetian Room reigned supreme as America's premier supper club from 1947 to 1989. It was here that Tony Bennett introduced his signature song 'I Left My Heart in San Francisco' and show business legends like Ella Fitzgerald, Marlene Dietrich, Tina Turner, Joel Grey, Bobby Short, James Brown, Vic Damone, Nat 'King' Cole, and many, many other performers held forth for more than four decades. We are thrilled and honored to be reopening this historic room as a music venue, where we will be presenting this generation's top Broadway, pop and jazz performers."

Still thriving as the city's top destination for weddings and other elegant celebrations, but dark for 21 years as an entertainment venue, the Venetian Room will return to the spotlight with a gala reopening on **7pm Sunday, October 17**. The evening's presentation, "Marvin and More," will feature Grammy, Emmy, Tony, and Pulitzer Prize winning composer **Marvin Hamlisch**, (*A Chorus Line, The Way We Were, They're Playing Our Song*), London's three-time Olivier Award winner Maria Friedman and Broadway's "Les Miz" star J. Mark McVey. This gala event kicks off the seventh season of Bay Area Cabaret, a nonprofit organization dedicated to presenting extraordinary solo performances by top Broadway, cabaret and jazz artists, and broadening the audience for high quality intimate entertainment. For those purchasing premium seats (\$175), a reception with the artists follows the show in the Fairmont's spectacular Crown Room.

Bay Area Cabaret's series continues **Friday, November 5** with a **8pm** concert by **Chita Rivera**, whose last appearance in San Francisco in 2008 was received by the *San Francisco Chronicle* with a rave review, calling her "irrepressible... the theatrical equivalent of a knockout punch." The two-time Tony Award winner will perform songs

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from her legendary Broadway career in her own concert **Chita Rivera: My Broadway**, featuring selections from her most celebrated musicals, including *West Side Story* ("America"), *Sweet Charity* ("Where Am I Going?" and "Big Spender"), *Chicago* ("All That Jazz" and "Nowadays"), *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, *Bye, Bye, Birdie* and *The Rink*, and featuring the music of Leonard Bernstein, John Kander & Fred Ebb, Charles Strouse, Stephen Sondheim and Cy Coleman among others. Broadways' original "Anita" of *West Side Story*, Rivera is the recipient of seven Tony Award nominations, including one for her most recent Broadway appearance in *Chita Rivera: The Dancer's Life*.

On **Sunday, November 21 at 7 pm.**, Bay Area Cabaret presents an acoustic and electric performance of re-imagined Broadway, pop and original music by *Rent* stars **Adam Pascal and Anthony Rapp**, followed by an exclusive party with the artists. Originally performed at Feinstein's at the Regency, *Adam and Anthony Live* kicks off their tour of Japan, New York's Town Hall, and other prestigious destinations around the country and the world.

Next on the series, New York's Café Carlyle comes to San Francisco **5pm Sunday, March 13, 2011** with winners of New York's coveted Nightlife Award, jazz guitarist **John Pizzarelli** and his wife, Broadway star **Jessica Molaskey** (*Tommy*, *Sunday in the Park with George*). Having recorded over 20 albums, the latest a tribute to Duke Ellington, this duo blends musical genres seamlessly and intelligently. Says *The New York Times'* Stephen Holden: "In wit and musical savvy, nothing matches these smart conceptual shows, in which Mr. Pizzarelli's jazz guitar and crooning and Ms. Molaskey's theatrical jazz singing fuse into something that's greater than the sum of its parts."

Tony winner and *Dreamgirls* star **Anika Noni Rose** makes her San Francisco concert debut **5pm, Sunday, May 1, 2011**. A Tony Award winner (*Caroline or Change*) also known for her role in the movie musical *Dreamgirls*, Ms. Rose was a graduate of ACT, who went on to star in productions of *Aida*, *Three Penny Opera*, and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (with James Earl Jones) on Broadway. Her other films include Disney's *The Princess and the Frog* and the upcoming Tyler Perry film, *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf*.

The season will conclude with Broadway's finest vocalist **Lillias White** (*FELA!*, *Dreamgirls*, *Chicago*, *Cats*) performing **5pm Saturday, May 14, 2011** with a tribute to composer Cy Coleman. A winner of the Tony Award, Drama Desk Award, People's Choice Award, and Outer Critics Circle Award for her role in Cy Coleman's musical *The Life*, this powerhouse singer pays tribute to the legendary songwriter (*Witchcraft*, *Big Spender*, *The Best Is Yet To Come*).

For patrons of Bay Area Cabaret, the Fairmont Hotel offers a three-course dinner in the Laurel Court for \$40 plus tax and tip, plus free parking for all who dine in the Laurel Court. The hotel also offers a special "Take the Elevator Home" room rate of \$179 per night plus tax, which also includes complimentary parking (valid until 12/31/10 and subject to availability).

Bay Area Cabaret was founded by Marilyn Levinson, a fifth generation San Francisco native and niece of James Schwabacher, Jr., founder of San Francisco Opera's 27-year-old Schwabacher Debut Recital Series. Bay Area Cabaret (BAC) is a not-for profit, all-volunteer organization, which presents extraordinary performances in a variety of

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elegant venues in the San Francisco Bay Area. Through its concert series and wide-ranging outreach activities, BAC aims to expand the definition of cabaret and broaden the audience for intimate entertainment, offering Great American Songbook entries from Harold Arlen and Stephen Sondheim to Jonathan Larson and Stevie Wonder. Past seasons have featured Sutton Foster, Christine Ebersole, Barbara Cook, television actors Michael Tucker and Jill Eikenberry, jazz diva Nnenna Freelon, Broadway stars Marin Mazzie and Jason Danieley, sopranos Patricia Racette and Karen Slack, and multi-platinum songwriter and jazz vocalist Ann Hampton Callaway.

Tickets for individual concerts start at \$45 general/\$40 subscribers and are available at www.bayareacabaret.org or by phone at City Box Office (415) 392-4400. Subscriptions, discounts for groups of 8 or more are available directly from Bay Area Cabaret at (415) 927-4636. For Bay Area Cabaret 2010 / 2011 season subscriptions, premium seats with reception for opening night, or for more information including audio and video samples call (415) 927-4636 or visit www.bayareacabaret.org.

Below is a complete listing of Bay Area Cabaret's 2010 / 2011 season.

Marvin and More

Marvin Hamlisch, with special guests Maria Friedman and J. Mark McVey

When: 7pm Sunday, October 17, 2010

Where: Venetian Room of the Fairmont San Francisco
900 Mason Street, atop Nob Hill, San Francisco

Tickets:

Premium seating & post-show Crown Room reception tickets (\$175) or subscriber tickets (\$90) are available exclusively at Bay Area Cabaret (415) 927-INFO. A limited number of general (\$100) tickets are at bayareacabaret.org or City Box Office (415) 392-4400.

Grammy, Emmy, Tony and Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Marvin Hamlisch opens the season with London's West End star Maria Friedman and Broadway ("Les Miz") tenor J. Mark McVey. The evening will feature compositions from *A Chorus Line*, *The Way We Were*, *They're Playing our Song* and other selections from Hamlisch's vast Broadway and Hollywood repertoire. Mr. Hamlisch will also pay tribute to the work of Stephen Sondheim, Richard Rodgers and other musical theatre composers, accompanied by London's Maria Friedman. This performance marks the West Coast debut of this three-time Olivier Award winner and National Theatre star.

Chita Rivera

Chita Rivera: My Broadway

When: 8pm Friday, November 5, 2010

Where: Venetian Room of the Fairmont San Francisco
900 Mason Street, atop Nob Hill, San Francisco

Tickets: \$60 general/ \$55 subscribers
(415) 392-4400 or www.bayareacabaret.org.

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An intimate evening of music with two-time Tony Award winner CHITA RIVERA performing songs from her legendary Broadway Career in her own concert CHITA RIVERA: MY BROADWAY comes to the Venetian Room. Accompanied by her longtime musical trio, Rivera will perform selections from her most celebrated musicals, including numbers from *West Side Story* ("America"), *Sweet Charity* ("Where Am I Going?" and "Big Spender"), *Chicago* ("All That Jazz" and "Nowadays"), *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, and *The Rink*, and featuring the music of Leonard Bernstein, John Kander & Fred Ebb, Charles Strouse, Stephen Sondheim and Cy Coleman. "You leave this show walking on air!" raves the *New York Times*. "Shimmering show-biz perfection," cheers the *Los Angeles Times*. "Chita Rivera is more than a musical theatre star. She's a force of nature," raves the *Associated Press*.

Adam Pascal & Anthony Rapp

Adam & Anthony Live: The Guys from "Rent"

When: 7pm Sunday, November 21, 2010

Where: Venetian Room of the Fairmont San Francisco
900 Mason Street, atop Nob Hill, San Francisco

Tickets: \$40 general/ \$35 subscribers/ \$20 students under 21/ \$75 post-show party
(415) 392-4400 or www.bayareacabaret.org.

Party tickets: (415) 927-4636 (limited availability)

Adam Pascal and Anthony Rapp, who co-starred in the original Broadway and London productions of "Rent" as well as in the film and touring versions of the show, perform an electric and acoustic concert with music from *Spring Awakening*, *Aida* and *Rent*, fresh interpretations of Sondheim songs and other familiar Broadway music, along with a mix of pop and original songs. Pascal created both the role of Roger in *Rent*, and Radames in the Disney adaptation of the Verdi opera *Aida*, and appeared in the Broadway production of *Cabaret* and London's star-studded production of *Chess*. Rapp's theatre credits include *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, *Six Degrees of Separation*, *Hedwig & the Angry Inch*, and film credits include *A Beautiful Mind*, *Adventures in Babysitting*, and *Dazed and Confused*. Originally performed at Feinstein's at the Regency, *Adam and Anthony Live* kicks off their tour of Japan, New York's Town Hall, and other prestigious destinations around the country and the world.

John Pizzarelli & Jessica Molaskey

The Carlyle Show

When: 5pm Sunday, March 13, 2011

Where: Venetian Room of the Fairmont San Francisco
900 Mason Street, atop Nob Hill, San Francisco

Tickets: \$45 general/ subscribers \$40 (415) 392-4400 or www.bayareacabaret.org.

Winners of New York's coveted Nightlife Award, jazz guitarist and former RCA bandleader John Pizzarelli and his wife, Broadway star (*Tommy*, *Sunday in the Park with George*) Jessica Molaskey bring their most recent Café Carlyle show to the Venetian Room. Having recorded over 20 albums, the most recent a tribute to Duke Ellington, and currently hosting a music-themed radio show *Radio Deluxe*, Mr. Pizzarelli and Ms. Molaskey blend musical genres seamlessly and intelligently. Says the *New York Times*' Stephen Holden: "In wit and musical savvy, nothing matches these smart conceptual

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shows, in which Mr. Pizzarelli's jazz guitar and crooning and Ms. Molaskey's theatrical jazz singing fuse into something that's greater than the sum of its parts."

Anika Noni Rose
In Concert

When: 5pm Sunday, May 1, 2011

Where: Venetian Room of the Fairmont San Francisco
900 Mason Street, atop Nob Hill, San Francisco

Tickets: \$45 general/ \$40 subscribers (415) 392-4400 or www.bayareacabaret.org.

Best known for her role in the movie-musical *Dreamgirls*, Tony Award winner (*Caroline Or Change*) Anika Noni Rose returns to San Francisco to make her solo concert debut with Bay Area Cabaret. After graduating from ACT, the actress-singer went on to star in productions of *Aida*, *Three Penny Opera* and *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof* (with Terence Howard and James Earl Jones) on Broadway. Other films include Disney's *The Princess And The Frog* and the upcoming Tyler Perry film *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When The Rainbow Is Enuf*.

Lillias White
My Guy Cy

When: 8pm Saturday, May 14, 2011

Where: Venetian Room of the Fairmont San Francisco
900 Mason Street, atop Nob Hill, San Francisco

Tickets: \$45 general / \$40 subscribers (415) 392-4400 or
www.bayareacabaret.org.

Bay Area Cabaret's season finale will star one of Broadway's greatest vocal talents, Lillias White. Having won the Tony Award, Drama Desk Award, People's Choice Award and Outer Critics Circle Award for her role in Cy Coleman's musical, *The Life*, the powerhouse singer pays tribute to the legendary songwriter with her special one-woman show, which played to rave reviews at New York's Lincoln Center. Nominated for a 2010 Tony Award for her featured role in *Fela!*, Ms. White's other credits include *Dreamgirls* (Dramalogue Award), *Chicago*, *Cats*, *Funny Girl*, *Hair*, and an Emmy-Award winning role on TV's *Sesame Street*.

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MEDIA PHOTOS: For high res photos visit <http://www.cb-pr.com/press/bayareacabaret.html>