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DAVID BENOIT + VINCE GUARALDI = ONE COOL YULE

~ Benoit Shares Stage with Sara Gazarek, the All-American Boys Chorus, and Charlie Brown ~

LONG BEACH, CA –On December 17 at 8:00 p.m., *David Benoit Christmas Tribute to Charlie Brown* returns to the Carpenter Center on the campus of Cal State Long Beach. Jazz king David Benoit has become a holiday tradition at the Carpenter Center, honoring Vince Guaraldi’s timeless tunes from the animated TV classic *Merry Christmas Charlie Brown*. That music, penned by Guaraldi, is as associated with the season as tinsel and candy canes, and it’s exhilarating to hear it swing forth from Benoit’s gifted hands. This year, Benoit is joined by jazz-bird Sara Gazarek and appearance by the All-American Boys Chorus.

David Benoit started his career as the musical director for Lainie Kazan, Ann-Margret and Connie Stevens. He has performed for three sitting presidents. His career spans six decades with dozens of albums, multiple Grammy nominations, film scores, and conducting credits under his belt. Currently, he plays host to a jazz radio show on KKJZ 88.1.

For decades, Benoit has celebrated the music of Peanuts composer and jazz giant Vince Guaraldi. With Guaraldi’s passing, Benoit took up that mantle performing many Peanuts-centric projects for TV, film, theatre, and recordings, becoming the orchestral voice of the Peanuts franchise for over 15 years. Peanuts cartoonist Charles Schultz formed a friendship with Benoit only a couple years before his passing. After Schultz’s death, Benoit released a memorial album entitled, “Here’s to You, Charlie Brown: 50 Great Years.”

Acclaimed jazz vocalist Sara Gazarek will join Benoit at the Carpenter Center as his special guest. Touted as “the next important jazz singer,” by the LA Times, and “impeccable,” by the Winnipeg Free Press, Gazarek has three notable CD’s to her credit and is a pitch-perfect addition to Benoit’s creamy jazz stylings.

The All-American Boys Chorus has been charming audiences for over 40 years. Though based in California, they perform internationally, giving the young men (ages 8-15) an opportunity to see the world while honing their skills and sharing their love for music. Benoit often performs his Christmas Tribute to Charlie Brown with various children’s choirs, and four years ago, The All-American Boys Chorus was invited to join him at the Carpenter Center. That pairing proved to be a great success, and they remain an integral part of this holiday showcase.

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(Carpenter Center cont.)

David Benoit Christmas Tribute to Charlie Brown
Carpenter Performing Arts Center * 6200 E Atherton Street, Long Beach, CA 90815
Saturday, December 17 @ 8 p.m.

Single tickets start at \$45, and tickets for subscribers start at \$35. For tickets or more information, visit CarpenterArts.org or call the Carpenter Center Ticket Office at (562) 985-7000. Our season is made possible in part by Season Media Partner KPCC 89.3-FM.

ABOUT THE CARPENTER CENTER Founded in 1994, the Carpenter Performing Arts Center located on the CSULB campus gracefully accommodates large and small productions, seating 1,062 patrons. The Center is named after pop music duo Richard and Karen Carpenter, who both attended California State University, Long Beach. Their music still epitomizes the best of our culture; modern and traditional, wholesome and sage. The Carpenter Center continues to honor that elegant legacy each season by showcasing emerging and established musicians, dancers, actors, comedians and visual artists as well as other culturally relevant presentations.

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