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**Jazz Singer Jane Monheit Teams Up with Pianist Michael Kanan to Play
Ellington and Gershwin Oct. 7-8**

*The sultry cabaret singer joins longtime pianist Michael Kanan to recast the works
of composers Ellington and Gershwin for a new jazz generation.*

LONG BEACH, California — Jazz singer Jane Monheit teams up with her longtime collaborator, pianist Michael Kanan, to take on the work of two jazz giants in their Richard and Karen Carpenter Performing Arts Center debut Oct. 7-8 at 7 p.m. These performances are the first of the theater's Cabaret series, in which patrons are seated on the large Carpenter Center stage, offering an up-close view of the performers.

"Two Play Two: Monheit & Kanan play Ellington & Gershwin" brings the catchy, confirmed classics of Ellington and Gershwin into the current era with the help of pianist Michael Kanan (see full bios below).

The New York Times has praised Monheit's "sweet, sulky, supple pop-jazz voice" whose "clear, ringing tone suggests a trumpet in its silvery mode."

ABOUT JANE MONHEIT

"Everything I'm singing now is a reflection of my truest self," Jane Monheit writes on her website. "After all this time in the industry, after touring for 13 years, it's time to just be me, with complete and utter freedom."

At age 20, New York vocalist Jane Monheit was the first runner-up in the 1998 Thelonious Monk Institute vocal competition, winning a \$10,000 scholarship to further her musical education. Judges couldn't exactly place her sound, which blended natural elegance with a potent yet impressively controlled presentation, and by 2000, Monheit had joined Diana Krall as one of the most highly-touted female talents in jazz.

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That May, Monheit signed to N-Coded and released her debut, "Never Never Land." Angelic and traditional, Monheit's structured set of 10 popular standards illustrated her vocal talents. "Come Dream with Me" arrived in 2001; it consisted of several standards as well as a few lesser-known jazz compositions. She released "In the Sun" in 2002, "Taking a Chance on Love" in 2004, the holiday-themed "Season" in 2005, and "Surrender" in 2007. Along the way she picked up two Grammy nominations, one for the song "Since You Asked," and another for "Dancing in the Dark."

"The Lovers, The Dreamers and Me" arrived in 2009, featuring her version of the classic Muppets ballad "The Rainbow Connection." A year later she released "Home" on Emarcy, and in 2013, she released her ninth studio album, the Gil Goldstein-produced "Heart of the Matter." In 2015, celebrated jazz pianist David Benoit chose her for his first collection of vocal songs, "2 in Love."

ABOUT MICHAEL KANAN

Michael Kanan is originally from Boston, MA, where he attended Boston College. His first jazz instructor, Harvey Diamond, was a student of legendary pianist and composer Lennie Tristano. After several years of study with Diamond, and many freelance gigs in Boston, Michael moved to New York City in 1991, where he studied for a year with Sal Mosca and then with Sophia Rosoff, with whom he currently studies.

From 1995-2001, Michael was the accompanist for vocal great Jimmy Scott, with whom he toured the United States, Europe and Japan, played numerous TV and radio performances, and recorded three CDs.

In addition to his work accompanying vocalists like Mr. Scott, Jane Monheit, Annie Ross, and Madeleine Peyroux, Michael has also played in many instrumental settings. He performed in New York with guitar wizard Kurt Rosenwinkel, and with him recorded the popular CD Intuit for the Criss-Cross label. Michael was also a founding member of the International Hashva Orchestra, which included Mark Turner and Jorge Rossy and has led his own trio, with bassist Ben Street and drummer Tim Pleasant, on two recordings for Fresh Sound Talent: "Convergence" and "The Gentleman Is a Dope." His most recent CD is a duet album with saxophonist Nat Su, "Dreams and Reflections."

For the past 11 years, Michael has been the pianist/arranger for the Jane Monheit band, touring the United States, Canada, Europe, Brazil and Japan and performing on several of her albums and DVDs.

TICKET INFO

Single tickets for "Two Play Two: Monheit & Kanan play Ellington & Gershwin" start at \$45, and subscriptions to all four Cabaret Series events start at \$140. For tickets and more information, visit CarpenterArts.org or call the Carpenter Center Ticket Office at (562) 985-7000. This series is made possible in part by Season Media Partner KPCC 89.3-FM.