

Sandler Center Foundation and Virginia Arts Festival announce

Renée Fleming, soprano

February 23, 2019

Sandler Center for the Performing Arts

The Sandler Center Foundation and Virginia Arts Festival are pleased to welcome Renée Fleming back to Hampton Roads on February 23, 2019 as she takes to the Sandler Center stage in Virginia Beach. One of the most beloved and celebrated singers of our time, soprano Renée Fleming captivates audiences with her sumptuous voice, consummate artistry, and compelling stage presence. At a White House ceremony in 2013, President Obama awarded her the National Medal of Arts, America's highest honor for an individual artist.

A four-time Grammy winner, including the 2013 Grammy Award for Best Classical Vocal Solo, she brought her voice to a vast new audience in 2014, as the first classical artist ever to sing "The Star-Spangled Banner" at the Super Bowl. As a musical statesman, Renée has been sought after on numerous distinguished occasions, from the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize ceremony to performances in Beijing during the 2008 Olympic Games. In 2014, she sang in the televised concert at the Brandenburg Gate to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. In 2012, in an historic first, she sang on the balcony of Buckingham Palace in the Diamond Jubilee Concert for HM Queen Elizabeth II. Most recently, Renée performed a moving rendition of "Danny Boy" at the funeral of Senator John McCain.

In April 2018, Renée made her Broadway musical debut in a major revival of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Carousel*. In a rare double-header for a classical singer, Renée was featured on the soundtrack of two Best Picture and Best Soundtrack nominees at the 2018 Academy awards, *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*, and *The Shape of Water*, which won both prizes, as well as the Golden Lion Award at the Venice Film Festival.

She has recorded everything from Strauss's complete *Daphne* to the jazz album *Haunted Heart* to the movie soundtrack of *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*. *The Los Angeles Times* has called her "one of the truly magnificent voices of our time..." *The Wall Street Journal* has raved, "For sheer beauty of sound, no soprano today can match Renee Fleming."

Tickets go on sale Friday, September 28 and will be available online at www.vafest.org, by phone at 757-282-2822, or in person at the Festival Box Office at 440 Bank St., Norfolk. Group tickets are also available by calling 757-282-2819.

Renée Fleming, soprano
Saturday, February 23, 2019, 7:30 pm
Sandler Center for the Performing Arts
vafest.org or call (757) 282-2822

About the Sandler Center Foundation

Founded in 2005, the Sandler Center Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization with a mission to educate,

inspire, enrich and build our community, strengthen local arts organizations, and instill an appreciation of the arts in future generations through the underwriting of world-class performances at the Sandler Center. The Foundation is honored to partner with Virginia Arts Festival.

Among its initiatives are Education Programs, which serve 18,000 students annually. Eighty percent of these students are Title 1 qualified and received attendance funding from the Foundation. The Foundation also hosts the local military, educators, first responders and their families to a free Sandler Center resident company performance through their Local Heroes Program.

About Virginia Arts Festival

Since 1997, the **Virginia Arts Festival** has transformed the cultural scene in southeastern Virginia, presenting great performers from around the world to local audiences and making this historic, recreation-rich region a cultural destination for visitors from across the United States and around the world. The Festival has presented numerous U.S. and regional premieres, and regularly commissions new works of music, dance, and theater from some of today's most influential composers, choreographers, and playwrights. The Festival's arts education programs reach tens of thousands of area schoolchildren each year through student matinees, in-school performances, artists' residencies, master classes and demonstrations. ###

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