

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## BARBARA B. MANN PERFORMING ARTS HALL AT FSW ANNOUNCES 2017-2018 FIFTH THIRD BANK BROADWAY SERIES



(Thursday, March 23, 2017) – The Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall at FSW announces the 2017-2018 Fifth Third Bank Broadway Series. The Six-Show Series consists of:

### **Andrew Lloyd Webber's LOVE NEVER DIES The Phantom Returns: December 5-10 (8 Performances) Southwest Florida Premiere of the North American Tour**

The ultimate love story continues in *Love Never Dies*, Andrew Lloyd Webber's spellbinding sequel to *The Phantom of the Opera*.

The year is 1907. It is 10 years after his disappearance from the Paris Opera House and the Phantom has escaped to a new life in New York where he lives amongst the screaming joy rides and freak shows of Coney Island. In this new, electrically charged world, he has finally found a place for his music to soar, but he has never stopped yearning for his one true love and musical protégée, Christine Daaé.

*Love Never Dies* is a dazzling new production, which takes audiences on a thrilling rollercoaster ride of intrigue, obsession and romance. Be seduced by the beautiful; sometimes magical and poetic; sometimes joyful; and occasionally melancholic score. Don't miss this magnificent continuation of one of the world's greatest love stories as it makes its Southwest Florida premiere in Fort Myers.

### **Finding Neverland: January 9-14 (8 Performances)**

The winner of Broadway.com's Audience Choice Award for Best Musical, this breathtaking smash "captures the kid-at-heart," says TIME Magazine. Vogue cheers, "It's a must-see you'll remember for years to come!" Directed by visionary Tony®-winner Diane Paulus and based on the critically-acclaimed Academy Award® winning film, FINDING NEVERLAND tells the incredible story behind one of the world's most beloved characters: Peter Pan. Playwright J.M. Barrie struggles to find inspiration until he meets four young brothers and their beautiful widowed mother. Spellbound by the boys' enchanting make-believe adventures, he sets out to write a play that will astound London theatergoers. With a little bit of pixie dust and a lot of faith, Barrie takes this monumental leap, leaving his old world behind for Neverland, where nothing is impossible and the wonder of childhood lasts forever. The magic of Barrie's classic tale springs spectacularly to life in this heartwarming theatrical event. FINDING NEVERLAND is "far and away the best musical of the year!" (NPR).

### **An American In Paris: January 23-28 (8 Performances)**

**AN AMERICAN IN PARIS** is the new Tony Award®-winning musical about an American soldier, a mysterious French girl, and an indomitable European city, each yearning for a new beginning in the aftermath of war.

Acclaimed director/choreographer and 2015 Tony Award®-winner Christopher Wheeldon brings the magic and romance of Paris into perfect harmony with unforgettable songs from George and Ira Gershwin in the show that earned more awards than any other musical in the 2015 season!

The New York Times raves, "**AN AMERICAN IN PARIS** is a triumph! Pure joy!" and the Wall Street Journal declares, "Once you've seen it, you'll find it hard to settle for less ever again." Don't miss this stunning Broadway hit when it arrives in Fort Myers on its first national tour.

### **Motown The Musical: March 13-18 (8 Performances)**

**"MORE THAN A BROADWAY SHOW. A CELEBRATION OF MUSIC THAT TRANSFORMED AMERICA!"**  
– CBS Sunday Morning

It began as one man's story... became everyone's music... and is now Broadway's musical. **MOTOWN THE MUSICAL** is the true American dream story of Motown founder Berry Gordy's journey from featherweight boxer to the heavyweight music mogul who launched the careers of Diana Ross, Michael Jackson, Smokey Robinson and many more. Motown shattered barriers, shaped our lives and made us all move to the same beat. Featuring classic songs such as "My Girl" and "Ain't No Mountain High Enough," experience the story behind the music in the record-breaking smash hit **MOTOWN THE MUSICAL!**

### **The Bodyguard Starring Deborah Cox: March 27-April 1 (8 Performances)**

Based on the smash hit film, the award-winning musical will star Grammy®Award-nominee and R&B superstar DEBORAH COX!

Former Secret Service agent turned bodyguard, Frank Farmer, is hired to protect superstar Rachel Marron from an unknown stalker. Each expects to be in charge; what they don't expect is to fall in love. A breathtakingly romantic thriller, **THE BODYGUARD** features a host of irresistible classics including *Queen of the Night*, *So Emotional*, *One Moment in Time*, *Saving All My Love*, *Run to You*, *I Have Nothing*, *I Wanna Dance with Somebody* and one of the biggest selling songs of all time - *I Will Always Love You*.

**Beautiful The Carol King Musical: April 3-8 (8 Performances)**

**BEAUTIFUL – The Carole King Musical** tells the inspiring true story of King’s remarkable rise to stardom, from being part of a hit songwriting team with her husband Gerry Goffin, to her relationship with fellow writers and best friends Cynthia Weil and Barry Mann, to becoming one of the most successful solo acts in popular music history. Along the way, she made more than beautiful music, she wrote the soundtrack to a generation.

Featuring a stunning array of beloved songs written by Gerry Goffin/Carole King and Barry Mann/Cynthia Weil, including “I Feel The Earth Move,” “One Fine Day,” “(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman,” “You’ve Got A Friend” and the title song, **BEAUTIFUL** has a book by and Tony® Award-nominee and Academy® Award-nominated writer Douglas McGrath, direction by Marc Bruni, choreography by Josh Prince, and took home two 2014 Tony® Awards and a 2015 Grammy® Award.

Season Ticket prices range from \$134.82 to \$578.96 for the Six-Show Series and can be purchased at the Box Office, by phone (239) 481-4849 or online at [www.bbmannpah.com](http://www.bbmannpah.com).

Single tickets for the 2017-2018 Fifth Third Bank Broadway Series will be available at a later date.