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Note: Photos available at <http://mccallumtheatre.com/index.php/media>

THE SUMMIT: THE MANHATTAN TRANSFER MEETS TAKE 6

McCALLUM THEATRE

Friday – February 10 – 8:00pm

Palm Desert, CA – The McCallum Theatre and Fitz’s Jazz Café at the McCallum present The Summit: The Manhattan Transfer Meets Take 6 on Friday, February 10, at 8:00pm. Combining forces for the first time, The Manhattan Transfer and Take 6, two of the most acclaimed, award-winning vocal groups in pop music, create an unforgettable concert event. Between them, the two groups boast a remarkable 20 Grammy Awards, and a range of styles that covers nearly every genre of popular music; from jazz to swing, from gospel to R&B.

The Summit: The Manhattan Transfer meets Take 6 is one of the most unique and thrilling musical collaborations ever assembled. These two musically iconic groups have joined forces to perform together. This is an event!

Unlike other music co-bills or meetings, The Manhattan Transfer and Take 6 were not content to sing a set and simply join each other for a finale. They have created musical moments on-stage – singing and performing nearly a dozen songs together – during this show. You will experience the creativity, excitement, and renowned performances that only two phenomenal groups can bring to one stage, in-the-moment.

The Manhattan Transfer, celebrating their 45th anniversary in 2017, sets the standard as one of the world’s greatest and most innovative vocal groups. Winners of ten Grammy Awards, with millions of records sold, this amazing quartet is building upon the legacy created by founder Tim Hauser who organized the four-part harmony group in 1972 in New York City. Now, Janis Siegel (alto), Alan Paul (tenor), Cheryl Bentyne (soprano), and newcomer Trist Cureless (bass) who replaced Tim following his passing in 2014, are proud to extend Tim’s vision more than four decades later.

Defying categorization, in 1981, The Manhattan Transfer became the first act to win Grammy Awards in the pop and jazz categories in one year for Best Pop Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocal and Best Jazz Performance Duo or Group.

Beginning with their first performances in the 1970s, the members of the Vocal Hall of Fame have become cornerstones of contemporary music, known for their versatility, incorporating pop, jazz, R&B, rock and roll, swing, symphonic, and a cappella music. In their 45 years, the group has attained longevity while navigating devastating obstacles. In 1978, a car accident caused original member Laurel Masse to leave the group. She was replaced by Cheryl Bentyne who made her recording debut on the 1979 *Extensions*

album which won two Grammys for “Birdland” – Best Jazz Fusion Performance, Vocal or Instrumental; and Siegel won for Best Arrangement for Voices.

In 1985, The Manhattan Transfer’s *Vocalese* made history as the single greatest Grammy nominated album in one year with 12 nominations. *Vocalese*, featuring Dizzy Gillespie, Ron Carter, and the Count Basie Orchestra, changed the perception of The Manhattan Transfer from pop singers to jazz artists. *Vocalese* earned two Grammys: Best Jazz Vocal Performance, Duo or Group, and Best Vocal Arrangement for Two or More Voices for “Another Night in Tunisia” (won by Bentyne and Bobby McFerrin).

In addition to McFerrin, The Manhattan Transfer has sung with great vocalists, including Ella Fitzgerald, Tony Bennett, Smokey Robinson, Bette Midler, Phil Collins, B.B. King, Chaka Khan, James Taylor, and Frankie Valli.

The Manhattan Transfer is returning to the road for a special collaboration, joining Take 6 on The Summit Tour across the United States. As the group looks to record their 30th album in 2017, the first new CD in eight years, the members are extremely enthusiastic about the future.

Take 6 (Claude McKnight, Mark Kibble, Joel Kibble, Dave Thomas, Alvin Chea and Khristian Dentley), heralded by Quincy Jones as the “baddest vocal cats on the planet,” is the quintessential a cappella group. Six virtuosic voices united in clear harmony, against a backdrop of syncopated rhythms, innovative arrangements, and funky grooves that bubble into an intoxicating brew of gospel, jazz, R&B, and pop. With praise from such luminaries as Ray Charles, Stevie Wonder, Brian Wilson, Ella Fitzgerald and Whitney Houston, Take 6 is recognized as the pre-eminent a capella group in the world.

At Walmart’s 50th Anniversary celebration, Take 6 captivated the audience with their rendition of the Louis Armstrong hit “What a Wonderful World.” Showing their global reach, Take 6 closed the show with Ladysmith Black Mambazo to a standing ovation. Two weeks later, at the behest of producer Phil Ramone, Take 6 thrilled a sold out audience at the Songwriters Hall of Fame Awards performing with, and honoring, Ben E. King on his classic “Stand By Me.” As a group that knows no musical bounds, they then brought the house down with their tribute to Woody Guthrie with “This Land Is Your Land.”

Take 6 has come a long way from their days at Huntsville, Alabama’s Oakwood College where McKnight formed the group as The Gentleman’s Estate Quartet in 1980. When tenor Mark Kibble heard the group rehearsing in the dorm bathroom, he joined in the harmonies and performed on stage that night. Shortly afterward, they took the name Alliance. When they signed to Reprise Records/Warner Bros. in 1987, there was another group with the same name so they became Take 6. Says McKnight: “It pretty much was a play on the Take 5 jazz standard and the fact that there are six of us in the group, so it became Take 6.”

Their self-titled debut CD won over jazz and pop critics, scored two 1988 Grammy Awards, and landed in the Top Ten Billboard Contemporary Jazz and Contemporary Christian Charts.

They have performed on "Saturday Night Live," the Oscars, the Grammys, and have performed for four U.S. Presidents, and at the Democratic National Convention.

What's behind Take 6's success? The answers are direct and simple: faith, friendship, respect, and love of music. From their exceptional Christmas show, to their symphony shows, to their new album *Believe*, these qualities are at the heart of the Take 6 phenomenon.

The McCallum Theatre and Jim "Fitz" Fitzgerald present The Summit: The Manhattan Transfer Meets Take 6, as part of the Fitz's Jazz Café series, on Friday, February 10, at 8:00pm. This performance is co-sponsored by Desert Lexus, United American Mortgage, Studio Dentistry, SoCal Pianos, CBS Local TV 2 and CV 104.3FM.

Tickets for this performance are \$87, \$77, \$57 and \$37. Tickets are available at the Theatre's website at www.mccallumtheatre.com or by calling the McCallum Theatre Box Office at (760) 340-ARTS. The McCallum Theatre, located at 73000 Fred Waring Drive, Palm Desert CA 92260, accepts payment by cash, personal check, VISA, MasterCard, Discover and American Express.

*The McCallum Theatre Box Office, its phone center and website, are the **only** authorized outlets for tickets to performances presented at the Theatre. Tickets purchased from any other sources, such as brokers or secondary market websites, are purchased at consumer's own risk and cannot be guaranteed as valid.*

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