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NEWS RELEASE

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Augusta Symphony Presents COLUMBIA COUNTY MUSIC SERIES FEATURING COMEDIC VOCALISTS "HUDSON SHAD"

An extraordinary group of vocalists accompanied by piano, Hudson Shad performs some of the greatest tunes from the 20s and 30s as well as some of the most recognized songs from the 40s, 50s and 60s, all with their own imaginative and humorous style!



The Augusta Symphony Columbia County Music Series presents comedic vocalists Hudson Shad on Saturday, February 23rd at 7:30 p.m. at the Jabez Sanford Hardin Performing Arts Center in Evans. Tickets are \$30 per person and can be purchased online at www.augustasympphony.org or by calling 706.826.4705. Full-time students and military personnel with valid I.D. may purchase \$7 tickets on concert evening only (subject to availability). The box office opens at Jabez Sanford Hardin Performing Arts Center at 6:30 p.m. on concert evenings.

An extraordinary group of vocalists accompanied by piano, Hudson Shad performs some of the greatest tunes from the 20s and 30s as well as some of the most recognized songs from the 40s, 50s and 60s, all with their own imaginative and humorous style. Hudson Shad founder Wilbur Pauley comments, ***"If the audiences in the USA remember variety shows like Ed Sullivan and the Smothers Brothers, that is the format for our concerts...some songs, a little patter, a set/costume change, some more songs...And the music is instantly recognizable to almost everyone. Once upon a time, before TV and even before radio, a family would have dinner together, and after dinner they'd get out the instruments or gather around a piano to sing or play for the enjoyment and fun of it all. I guess that's what we're after."***

The name **Hudson Shad** is unique, catchy and meaningful. A type of fish, the shad population in the Hudson River diminished as a result of pollution; however, as the condition of the Hudson River improved the shad began to return. "Similarly," states Wilbur Pauley, "the music of the 20s and 30s, long forgotten, was returning to public consciousness due to Hudson Shad's revival of the repertoire." Following in the tradition of the European Comedian Harmonists and American a cappella ensembles from the 1920s and 1930s, Hudson Shad's diverse repertoire includes classical German (lieder) songs and hits from The Revelers, The Mills Brothers and The Paul Whitman Orchestra. The group's vocal talents continue with songs from 40s, 50s, and 60s such as "Stardust", "Summerwind" and "Speak Low." At Hudson Shad's 1995 debut in Germany the German national news magazine *Der Stern* hailed the ensemble as the first equal heirs to the Comedian Harmonists.

While Hudson Shad takes their cue from vocal ensembles of the past, the group's performances could never be described as imitation. Members of Hudson Shad are classically trained musicians and approach each piece the way a conductor approaches learning a new score. Each piece reflects the wit and imagination of the individual members. Known internationally for their interpretation of "The Family" in Kurt Weill's *Seven Deadly Sins*, Hudson Shad has performed this work the New York Philharmonic, the San Francisco Symphony, the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Chicago Symphony, among others.

Founded by Wilbur Pauley, *bass*, other members of Hudson Shad are Peter Becker, *bass baritone*; Mark Bleeke, *first tenor*; Eric Edlund, *baritone*; Timothy Leigh Evans, *second tenor*; and, Michael Fennelly, *pianist*.

For interview requests, contact Wilbur Pauley of Hudson Shad via email at wilburpauley@aol.com or phone at 312.961.2851. Visit <http://hudsonshad.net> for more information about Hudson Shad.

THE CORPORATE CONCERT SPONSOR FOR THE EVENING'S PERFORMANCE IS GEORGIA POWER. INDIVIDUAL CONCERT SPONSORS ARE WAYNE & DANA BROWN, DR. J. ROGERS BYRD, JEAN & JOHN CHASE, DR. ELAINE FELDMAN, DR. LARRY MILLEN, AND MR. & MRS. W. CHARLES MOYE. Media sponsors are Beasley Broadcast Group, Columbia County Magazine, and AT&T The Real Yellow Pages.

For more information about the Augusta Symphony, visit www.augustasympphony.org, call 706.826.4705, fax 706.826.4735 or email marketing@augustasympphony.org. Located on the second floor of Sacred Heart Cultural Center, the Symphony office is open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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The Augusta Symphony Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit entity and is supported in part by an award from the Georgia Council for the Arts through the appropriations of the Georgia General Assembly. The Georgia Council is a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art. The Augusta Symphony is also supported in part by the Columbia County Community and Leisure Services, and the Greater Augusta Arts Council through appropriations from the City of Augusta.



The premier provider of orchestral music in the Central Savannah River Area.
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