

## PRESS KIT: Rock 'n Roll Heaven

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – February 1, 2010

### Are you ready to rock?

*“Rock ‘n Roll Heaven” a feast of hits from on high*

In *Rock ‘n Roll Heaven*, Centre Stage honors the artists whose genius defined American popular music during the **50’s, 60’s and 70’s**. And what better way to honor a firmament filled with rock legends than with a **no-holds-barred concert**? From Dusty Springfield to Bill Haley to Sam Cooke to Jim Croce – we’ve combed the catalog for the best of the best and paired the songs we found with some of the most phenomenally talented performers in the Upstate.

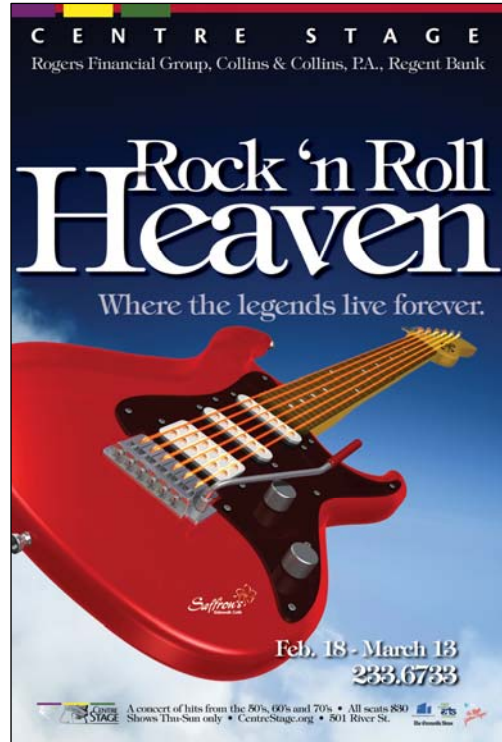
Scan our performers’ biographies and you’ll find, among other things, a starring role in the Broadway tour of *Fame*, studio sessions in Nashville and Los Angeles, appearances on major network television shows like *Seinfeld* and *The Simpsons*, and ... getting the idea?

Make no mistake, at \$30 a ticket, *Rock ‘n Roll Heaven* is the entertainment bargain of the season. A concert of hits that you absolutely don’t want to miss – not in this lifetime, anyway!

**Sponsored by Rogers Financial Group, Collins & Collins, P.A., Regent Bank and Saffron’s Sidewalk Café**, *Rock ‘n Roll Heaven* will run **February 18 - March 13** with 8 p.m. performances February 18-20, 25-27, March 4-6 and 11-13 and 3 p.m. performances February 21, 28 and March 7. Performances will be given on **Thursdays-Sundays** ONLY. All tickets are **\$30. No discounts or student rush tickets available** for this show. All seats reserved. The box office can be reached at 864.233.6733 from 2-6 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 2 hours before performances. The theater is located at 501 River Street inside the Citi Smith Barney building just one block off Main Street in downtown Greenville. For more information, visit the web site at [CentreStage.org](http://CentreStage.org).

#### MEDIA ONLY: FOR MORE INFORMATION

Tim Brosnan, Marketing  
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### Production details

**Play title:** *Rock 'n Roll Heaven*

**Play type:** Concert of hits from the 50s, 60s and 70s

**Dates/times:** **February 18-March 13, 2010**  
**Evening shows:** February 18-20, 25-27, March 4-6 and 11-13 at 8 p.m.  
**Matinees:** February 21, 28 and March 7

**Location:** **Centre Stage**  
501 River Street  
Greenville, SC 29601  
*(First floor of the Citi-Smith Barney building, one block behind the Westin Poinsett Hotel)*

**Tickets:** **All tickets are \$30.**  
**No discount or group rate tickets available.**

**Box office:** Hours are 2-6 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 2 hours before curtain.

**Contact:** **Tim Brosnan, Marketing**  
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**Web site:** [www.CentreStage.org](http://www.CentreStage.org)

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### Production personnel

Glenda ManWaring, *Creative Director*  
Joe Wehunt, *Music Director*  
Kimberlee Ferreira, *Director/Choreographer*  
Alex D. Forrest, *Lighting/Scenic Designer*  
Elyse Middlebrooks, *Costume Designer*  
Wade Powell, *Sound Designer*

#### Vocalists

Lainee Garrett  
Drew Horton  
Marvin King  
Katie Martin  
Kelley Whitlock Norwine  
Tara Stewart  
Dani Dickerson Turner  
Victor Young  
Larry Zarella

#### Musicians

Greg Day (bass)  
Tim Lee (electric guitar)  
Garrett McKinney (drums)  
Doug Norwine (sax)  
Joe Wehunt (keyboard)

#### Dancers

Turner Fortner  
Casey Alexandra Thornton

## PRESS KIT: Rock ‘n Roll Heaven

### Company biographies

#### Greg Day

(Bass/Trumpet) is the director of instrumental music at Southern Wesleyan University. A former member of the US Army band, Greg has played bass and trumpet in the Upstate in many venues since his days as a student at Furman University.



**Elaine “Lainee” Garrett** (Vocalist) began singing at age 3. Her passion for singing led her to Atlanta where she began a career traveling and performing in package shows with popular recording artists such as Clarence Carter, Candi

Staton, B.B. King and others. Lainee has performed throughout the United States and abroad. In Greenville, she has performed with jazz musicians in the Jazz on Main Series, Artisphere, the Handlebar, and special events throughout the Upstate. She has also performed with the Carolina Pops Orchestra at Thornblade. Lainee is a member of the music department staff of the South Carolina Governor’s School for the Arts and Humanities.

#### Drew Horton (Vocalist)

has been performing since he was 11 years old. A professional solo artist since 1998, he has shared the stage with many major recording artists including Edwin McCain, Cravin’ Melon, and Maroon 5. Together with ensemble members Katie Martin and Joe Wehunt, Drew performs with one of



Greenville’s premier party band, HitMob7. He is the worship director Springwell Church in Taylors and vice-president of franchise development for ARCpoint, a national drug and alcohol testing franchise company.

#### Marvin King (Vocalist)

comes from a musical family, so it was a natural progression for him to choose a career as a guitarist and vocalist. As a professional musician, Marvin has signed two major recording contracts – one in 1978 with Polydor Records and another in 1992 with Liberty Records (Capital Nashville). Marvin plays with Marvin King & Blues Revival (with his 13-year-old son, Marcus King) with an acoustic duo (with his wife, Leanda) and with Southern Crescent Band. He wrote and produced his newest CD, *Hugh in Europe*.



**Tim Lee** (Electric Guitar) received his B.A. in music with a concentration in classical guitar from Southern Wesleyan University in 2006. His musical theater credits include productions of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Joseph*

*and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *SWUsical* (a celebration of SWU’s musicals). Currently, Tim plays with Tooth and Nail Atlanta recording artist Corey Crowder and the local dance band Hitmob 7. He is staff guitarist at Marathon Community Church in Powdersville.

## PRESS KIT: Rock ‘n Roll Heaven

**Katie Martin** (Vocalist) was born into a life of music and spirituality, first performing at the age of three at her father’s church in Maine. Since then, Katie has performed in several musical theater productions, and now sings with co-star Drew Horton and his wife Laura in HitMob7. Her Centre Stage credits include *Country Queens: Nashville’s Leading Ladies*, *Bus Stop*, *Crimes of the Heart* and *Beehive the 60’s Musical*.



**Garret McKinney** (Drums) began his drumming career at age 12. Garret played snare drum for the Mauldin HS marching band, the Pioneer Drum and Bugle Corps, the University of North Texas Drumline and the Carolina Crown

Drum and Bugle Corps. He also studied jazz drumset at University of North Texas. Since school he has played in several bands, including Sinatra and Tarrytown (Dallas, TX), Dropping Dimes and Shades of Gray (Columbia, SC) and Jump Street Band (Greenville, SC). This is Garrett’s first appearance at Centre Stage.

**Doug Norwine** (Sax) has received 12 gold and platinum records from the RIAA for his work as a musician. Perhaps his most popular credit is that of the baritone sax behind Lisa Simpson and her mentor, “Bleeding Gums” Murphy on the FOX television series, *The Simpsons*. Doug also has been featured on such television shows as



*Roseanne*, *Full House*, *Seinfeld*, *Mad About You*, *Rugrats*, *Suddenly Susan*, *The Tonight Show*, *Family Ties*, *Will and Grace*, *West Wing*, *General Hospital*, *Frasier*, and many more. A busy staff musician for major motion-picture companies including Touchstone, Universal, Warner Brothers and others, Doug’s movie credits include *JFK*, *True Lies*, *Ten Things I Hate About You* and *Fright Night*. Doug has been a soloist on numerous recordings with such artists as Chaka Khan, Melissa Manchester, The Four Tops, Ray Charles, Maureen McGovern, and Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons. In addition to his studio work, Doug has performed and toured with many famous artists such as Frank Sinatra, Paul McCartney, Bette Midler, Tony Bennett and Harry Connick, Jr.

**Kelley Whitlock Norwine**

(Vocalist) has performed throughout the United States and Europe, with significant time spent in Los Angeles and Dallas. She has recorded vocals on numerous albums sung with Steve March Torme, performed back-up for Barry Manilow, and has recorded extensively with husband Doug Norwine. Kelley has held the position of Musical Director or Worship Leader at a number of churches in South Carolina, Los Angeles and Dallas over the last 20 years. Her Los Angeles theater credits include the roles of Ado Annie in *Oklahoma!* and Truvy in *Steel Magnolias*. A huge sports fan, Kelley was selected to sing the national anthem prior to the Los Angeles Kings Hockey game and other sporting events around the Los Angeles area.



## PRESS KIT: Rock ‘n Roll Heaven

### Tara Stewart Simon

(Vocalist) has been performing since the age of three. She starred as Serena Katz in *Fame* on Broadway and as Edythe Herbert in *My One and Only* in West Palm Beach, FL. Tara teaches private piano, voice, acting and composition lessons to children and adults of all ages and recently signed a recording contract with a Christian record label. For more about Tara, visit her online at [tarasimon.com](http://tarasimon.com).



**Dani Dickerson Turner** (Vocalist) was most recently seen as Angela in *Honky Tonk Angels* at the Greenville Little Theater. Her other credits include Narrator in *Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat*, Rosemary in *How to*

*Succeed In Business Without Really Trying*, and Ado Annie in *Oklahoma!*

**Joe Wehunt** (Music Director/Keyboard) is a graduate of Furman University with a degree in music theory and composition. He has played in the orchestras of Bob Hope, George Burns, The Fifth Dimension, Debbie Reynolds, Jim Nabors, Mickey Rooney, Ann Miller, Johnny Cash, and Ringling Brothers Barnum & Bailey Circus. At Centre Stage, Joe has served as music director for *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story* and *Clear Lake: The Rock and Roll Reunion*. Joe currently plays with HitMob7 and is staff composer at Skyline Post where he



wrote the new music theme for the Carolina Panthers.

**Victor Young** (Vocalist) has had a love of music ever since he can remember – from elementary school through the military – and he finds time to sing whenever he can. “I credit my family for this and love them for it.” He thanks Centre Stage for giving him this opportunity to share his voice. “Thanks to my family and friends for their ongoing support.”



**Larry Zarella** (Vocalist) started playing guitar and singing in church at the age of 16. He’s traveled much of the U.S. with his dog and guitar playing festivals, schools, clubs and coffeehouses. After settling in Talkeetna, Alaska, Larry formed a band called “Denali



Cooks.” He’s written many songs and sold “tens & tens” (Larry’s calculation) of his CD’s all over the world. You can listen to Larry’s music at [trespassmusic.org](http://trespassmusic.org).

**Turner Fortner** (Dancer) is a senior at Wren High School where she is a member of the Category V Dance Team, attends Marathon Community Church, and has danced for the last 15 years. Turner also has performed at Greenville Little Theatre and Wren High School and has danced competitively for Upstate Carolina Dance Center.

**Casey Alexandra Thornton** (Dancer) is a junior at Easley High School where she is a member of the National Honor Society and Vice President

## PRESS KIT: Rock 'n Roll Heaven

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for the Junior class. After performing at both the South Carolina Children's Theatre and Greenville Little Theatre, Casey is making her Centre Stage debut.

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### Production staff

**JeanE Bartlett** (Stage Manager) is backstage again after recently appearing onstage in *A Christmas Memory*. Previous stage management credits include *Country Queens: Nashville's Leading Ladies*, *The Dining Room*, *Bus Stop*, *Crimes of the Heart* and *The Skin of our Teeth*. Other on-stage credits at Centre Stage include *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story*, *Sordid Lives*, *The World Goes 'Round*, *Quilting the Sun* and *The Laramie Project*. JeanE's "real" job is as a Greenville.Pro Realtor with REMAX Foothills in Greenville.

**Kimberlee Ferreira** (Director/Choreographer) left her native Texas for New York City at 18 to dance and sing her way to fame. Though she didn't find fame (or fortune), she did learn a lot from some very talented people. Many years of summer stock, regional and dinner theater and some early MTV gigs kept her busy. Since 1998, Kimberlee has been the resident choreographer at Greenville Little Theater, and was guest director for *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Honky Tonk Angels* and *Ain't Misbehavin'*. At Centre Stage, Kimberlee choreographed *The Fantasticks* and directed *Clear Lake: The Rock and Roll Reunion*. She also choreographs for the SC Children's Theater and Fountain Inn Repertory Experience.

**Alex D. Forrest** (Lighting Designer, Scenic Designer) graduated from JL Mann High School and the Fine Arts Center in 2008. While at the Fine Arts Center, Alex studied music, as well as technical theater. He brings both of these talents to bear on this production.

**Glenda ManWaring** (Creative Director) returns from a ten-year directorial hiatus during which she focused on performing. Her Centre Stage performance credits include *It's A Wonderful Life* (Mary), *Crimes of the Heart* (Chick) and *Moonlight and Magnolia's* (Miss Poppenghul). Other performance credits include *The Little Foxes* (Birdie), *Ah, Wilderness!* (Lilly) and *The Sound of Music* (Elsa), *Annie* (Lilly), *The Music Man* (Marian) and *Oliver!* (Nancy). Glenda also has extensive commercial voiceover and industrial video credits. By day, she works at Southside Fellowship Kids as their Creative Ministry Director.

**Elyse Middlebrooks** (Costume Designer) is a recent graduate of North Greenville University where she earned a degree in Technical Theater. She spent a summer with the Kentucky Shakespeare Festival as a costume design intern and now lives in Greenville. Her Centre Stage credits include *The God Committee*, *The Dining Room*, *Mauritius*, and *A Christmas Memory*.

**Wade Powell** (Sound Designer/Engineer) has designed sound for many Centre Stage productions, including *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story*, *The Fantasticks*, *Souvenir: A Fantasia on the Life of Florence Foster Jenkins*, *It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* and *Country Queens: Nashville's Leading Ladies*. He attended The Recording Workshop in Chillicothe, Ohio where he studied audio recording and now owns Workhorse Studios. Wade also has worked as a live engineer for Browning Bryant, Chuck Leavell (piano player for The Rolling Stones), Sandy Patti, The Tams, Bill Pinkney and The Original Drifters, Cravin' Melon, Cliff Barrows and George Beverly Shea of the Billy Graham Crusade. He also designs and installs sound reinforcement systems, including the one here at Centre Stage.

## PRESS KIT: Rock 'n Roll Heaven

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### Set list

*Rock 'n Roll Heaven* is a concert of hits from the 50s, 60s and 70s. The following songs are included in the set list for this concert:

*Ain't No Mountain High Enough*  
*All You Need Is Love*  
*Blue Suede Shoes*  
*Car Wash Blues*  
*Chain of Fools*  
*Get Back*  
*I Feel Good*  
*I'll Be There*  
*If You Don't Know Me by Now*  
*Imagine*  
*In the Midnight Hour*  
*Knock on Wood*  
*Land of 1,000 Dances*  
*Leroy Brown*  
*Mustang Sally*  
*Pride and Joy*  
*Purple Haze*  
*RESPECT*  
*Rock and Roll Heaven*  
*Rock Around the Clock*  
*Son of a Preacher Man*  
*Song for You*  
*Soul Man*  
*Stormy Monday*  
*Super Freak*  
*Sweet Home Alabama*  
*Twistin' the Night Away*  
*We've Only Just Begun*  
*While My Guitar Gently Weeps*  
*Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow*

### Our current gallery artist:

#### Jo Ann Taylor

**NOTE:** Centre Stage partners with the Metropolitan Arts Council (MAC) to present the works of Upstate visual artists in our public areas during the run of each production. The featured artist during *Rock 'n Roll Heaven* is Jo Ann Taylor. The exhibition is free and open to the public 2-6 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays.

#### Artist statement: Jo Ann Taylor

*Most of my paintings in the exhibit are "Visions from My Mind's Eye." They were painted in the studio to music that brought a certain creative rhythm into the process. Other pieces were painted en plein air and represent an emotional presentation of my feelings for the beauty of nature. I am grateful to Metropolitan Arts Council and Centre Stage for letting me be a part of their community of entertainment. It is an exciting blend of performing and visual art.*

**Jo Ann Taylor** is a Virginian by birth and a South Carolinian by choice. She is a signature member of the International Watercolor Society. She has served as artist-in-residence in Corner Brook (Newfoundland, Canada) Hickory Knob Resort Park (SC), Santee State Park (SC) and Givhan's Ferry State Park (SC). Two of her paintings were chosen by the South Carolina Humanities Council to travel for a year in South Carolina and Barbados, West Indies. One of her paintings was purchased by Pickens County Museum for its permanent collection. Her studio in Dacusville, SC is included in the South Carolina Heritage Corridor Art Trail.