



Quick Reference

Cabaret Music Event

Best of Billy Joel
feat. Michael Cavanaugh,
star of Broadway's *Movin' Out*

Date

Sat, Oct 15, 8:00 pm

Place

Jorgensen Center
for the Performing Arts
2132 Hillside Road
UConn campus, Storrs, CT

Tickets

\$30-\$45

Box Office

860.486.4226
Mon–Fri, 10 am–5 pm

The Box Office window is also
open for walk-up ticket sales
90 minutes before showtime.

For Immediate Release

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TONY AND GRAMMY NOMINEE MICHAEL CAVANAUGH BRINGS BEST OF BILLY JOEL TO JORGENSEN CABARET

Sat, Oct 15, 2016 at 8 pm / Cabaret doors open at 7 pm

Tony and Grammy nominated performer Michael Cavanaugh pays tribute to superstar singer/songwriter Billy Joel when his acclaimed Best of Billy Joel tour comes to UConn's Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts on Saturday evening, October 15. With a voice and keyboard style that many say rival the Piano Man himself, Cavanaugh and his band will put audiences in "A New York State of Mind" in Jorgensen's cozy, candle-lit cabaret setting where they can enjoy beverages, sandwiches, and deserts from a cash bar as they sing along to such Billy Joel classics as "Uptown Girl," "Just the Way You Are," "She's Always a Woman," "Movin' Out," and many more of the music icon's solid gold hits. Doors open at 7:00 pm and the curtain is at 8:00 pm.

Cavanaugh is best known for his role in the Broadway musical *Movin' Out*. Hand-picked by Billy Joel to star in the title role, Piano Man, he performed in the show for three years and more than 1,200 performances, culminating in 2003 with both Grammy and Tony award nominations. Cavanaugh's high-energy renditions of Billy Joel's compositions have been described as "amazing" by *The New York Times*, "brilliant" by *Variety*, and *Billboard* hailed him as "the new voice of the American Rock and Roll Songbook."

Michael began playing at age 7, when his parents bought their first piano. Encouraged by family and friends, and inspired by his hero Billy Joel, Michael formed his first band at age 10 and began playing local functions, fine-tuning the craft that would become his chosen career. His first full time gig as a musician was an extended engagement in Orlando Florida at a piano bar called Blazing Pianos. In January of 1999, Michael received an offer that would unknowingly change his life, with an opportunity to play Las Vegas at the famed New York, New York Hotel and Casino. It was there that Billy Joel spotted Michael and joined him on stage one fateful night of February 2001.

"When I was in Vegas I became friends with Billy Joel's tour manager, and he surprised me one night by bringing Billy Joel to the piano bar where I was working. I can talk calmly about it now, but I wasn't calm about it then, that's for sure," says Cavanaugh. "I didn't want to touch Billy's music in front of him, so I opened the set with Elton John's 'Saturday Night's Alright for Fighting.' Billy was great. He wound up getting on the piano that was across from me and we started jamming. That was the first night I ever met him and it led to me getting my role in *Movin' Out*."

Soon after their impromptu jam session, Michael closed up shop at New York, New York and moved to New York City to work alongside Joel and Twyla Tharp to shape the Broadway musical that would be called *Movin' Out*. With the close of *Movin' Out* at the end of 2005, Cavanaugh began touring in his own right, creating a show that reinterprets the modern pop/rock songbook.

Cavanaugh soon became one of the hottest artists in the corporate/events market. He continues to perform worldwide for company and charity events as well as sporting events including PGA tour events, the U.S. Open, and the Indy 500.

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BEST OF BILLY JOEL, continued

It wasn't long before symphony orchestras discovered his talents and audience appeal. He accepted his first orchestral booking, "Michael Cavanaugh – The Songs of Billy Joel and More," which debuted in April of 2008 with the Indianapolis Symphony and continues to tour. In October 2008, he signed with Warner/ADA to distribute his first CD titled *In Color*. In June 2010, Cavanaugh debuted his second symphony show in the "Generations of Rock" series entitled "Michael Cavanaugh: The Songs of Elton John and More," followed by the debut of his third symphony show, "Singers and Songwriters: the Music of Paul Simon, Neil Diamond and James Taylor" in 2012. He continues to tour all three symphony productions.

Mr. Cavanaugh wishes to thank his Jorgensen Media Sponsor: Lite 100.5 WRCH.

For more information about the artist please visit www.michaelcavanaugh.com

This year Jorgensen was voted Best College or University Performing Arts Center in the Hartford Courant's CTNow, as well as Connecticut Magazine's Best of Performing Arts Venues (College) for 2016. Established in December of 1955, Jorgensen has grown to become the largest college-based presenting program in New England. Each season Jorgensen enriches the lives of students, faculty, staff, and area residents with 30 to 35 diverse performances from nationally and internationally acclaimed artists and ensembles ranging from classical music to world music and dance, classical ballet and contemporary dance, comedy, family programming, and contemporary entertainment. Dedicated to University of Connecticut president Albert N. Jorgensen, Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts continues to follow his vision of the University as the state's educational and cultural leader.

Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts is located at 2132 Hillside Road on the UConn campus in Storrs. Tickets are available now online. Prices are: Cabaret Table Seats - \$45; Floor Riser Seats - \$40; Mezzanine - \$35; Balcony - \$30; Students & Youth Under 18 - \$20.

For tickets and information, call the Box Office at 860.486.4226, Monday through Friday, 10 am - 5 pm, and 90 minutes prior to events, or order online at jorgensen.uconn.edu. Convenient \$5 event parking is available in the North Garage. Free parking is available in Lots 9, F, and L. For a detailed parking map, go to park.uconn.edu.

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