THE PIANO GUYS, WITH OVER HALF A BILLION YOUTUBE VIEWS, AT UCONN

Fri, Nov 13, 2015 at 8 pm / Doors Open at 7 pm

The Piano Guys, one of the biggest names in the music world will perform at UConn’s Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts on Friday, Nov 13, at 8 p.m. Doors open at 7 p.m.

Hailing from Utah, The Piano Guys are four dads who became an Internet sensation by way of their immensely successful series of strikingly original self-made music videos. Pianist Jon Schmidt and cellist Steven Sharp Nelson, plus Paul Anderson, Tel Stewart and Al van der Beek, have made over 50 viral videos since early 2011, including their hit video, an innovative multi-handed version of One Direction’s “What Makes You Beautiful” and a gorgeous reinvention of the hit song “Let It Go” from Disney’s Frozen. It’s the Guys’ highly original mash up of classical music with pop that has been the cause of an Internet phenomenon that has led to over 500 million YouTube views, and 1.3 million likes on Facebook. Their endearing personalities along with an obvious will to inspire young and old, keeps the fans coming back for more.

The Piano Guys have appeared in People magazine and have performed on TV shows around the world. Some of their major appearances include: The Today Show, Katie, The Tonight Show, Fox & Friends, CBS This Morning, Huckabee, BBC Breakfast (UK), Globo TV (Brazil), Mario Barth Show (Germany) and more. They also had a national PBS Special Live at Red Butte.

Their first four major-label albums The Piano Guys, The Piano Guys 2, A Family Christmas, and Wonders each reached number one on the Billboard New Age Albums and Classical Albums charts. The album Wonders, released on Portrait/Sony Masterworks in 2014, was the group’s highest charting album ever at #12 on the Billboard Charts.

Hailing from Utah, the group first started with Anderson, who devised a Facebook promotional page and YouTube channel as a way to pump up the volume on advertising for his piano shop. He asked Jon Schmidt, a local pianist with eight albums and seven piano books of his song transcriptions, to join him. Schmidt included the young guest cellist, Nelson, who had performed with him on numerous occasions.

Van der Beek contributes as head of studio operations, as well as co-writing and some vocal texturing, music arranging, and percussion work. Stewart was a piano mover when he began working with the group as its videography genius. And Anderson closed his store at the end of 2011 to make the phenom full time in 2012.

For more information visit http://thepianoguys.com.

This year the University of Connecticut’s Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts proudly celebrates its 60th anniversary. 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
THE PIANO GUYS, continued

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 was named Best College/University Performing Arts Center in the Hartford Advocate Best of Hartford Readers' Poll for both 2012, 2013 and CTNOW Best of Hartford Readers' Poll for 2015.

Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts is located at 2132 Hillside Road on the UConn campus in Storrs. Floor and mezzanine seating is $65. Balcony seating is $55.

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.