



# Exciting New Season Set For Local Venues

## TOP ACTS COMING TO THE SHARON, SAVANNAH CENTER



*Daily Sun*

Mike Love sings during a Beach Boys performance in May 2017.



*Submitted photo*

"Beautiful: The Carole King Musical," arrives in December.



*Submitted photo*

Bollywood Boulevard will make a stop in The Villages in April 2020.



*Submitted photo*

The World War II homecoming musical "Bandstand" opens February.



*George Horsford | Daily Sun*

The popular "Masters of Illusion" will return to The Villages.



By **KRISTEN FIORE** | *Daily Sun Senior Writer*

Fans of music, theater and comedy purchased almost 10% more tickets per show during the 2018-19 Villages entertainment season according to Brian Russo, director of entertainment. Cue: applause. But even as the season winds down and the curtains close, The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center and Savannah Center are planning a strong lineup for the season starting this fall. Much of it was announced Sunday. Patrons can look forward to some fancy dancing from Ballroom with a Twist in October, ventriloquist Terry Fator in November, and in 2020, Branford Marsalis in January, Kansas in February, the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain in March, Bollywood Boulevard in



Submitted photo

Legendary American classic rock band Kansas will perform in The Villages in February 2020.

## SEASON

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April, and many more fresh acts.

Old favorites are returning, too, including The Righteous Brothers, Kansas, Masters of Illusion and The Beach Boys.

"We are very excited to announce 'Beautiful: The Carole King Musical,' and to offer a three-part Broadway subscription with a 15% discount," said Elizabeth Constant, booking coordinator at The Sharon.

In addition to "Beautiful," which The Sharon will host for three performances in December, the Broadway subscription also will include the award-winning comedy "The Play That Goes Wrong" in December and the World War II homecoming musical "Bandstand" in February.

The Sharon is keeping its International subscription, a discount package on multi-cultural shows that launched in 2018, and adding a National Geographic subscription.

The National Geographic shows feature a speaker series on a variety of topics including Spinosaurus, the largest predatory dinosaur yet discovered, along with travel and underwater photography.

"I often get asked for TED talk-style seminar and lecture shows," Constant said. "This was a prepacked offering from National Geographic. They tour the country with many speakers to choose from."

Russo, who books the shows at Savannah Center, said Savannah Center will offer a new Classic Albums Live package.

Classic Albums Live is a show that chooses a famous album and then plays it live from start to finish. It has frequented Savannah Center, and will appear in the 2019-20 season with shows on the Beatles' "Abbey Road," Queen's "A Night at the Opera," Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers' "Damn the Torpedoes" and Fleetwood Mac's "Rumours."

Russo also is looking forward to a new title called "MozART," coming to Savannah Center in October, a combination of classical music and comedy.

"They mix in absolutely hilarious sketches with the music they perform," Russo said. "I think our residents will absolutely love them."

Constant and Russo said that when booking the season, they look for a balance of crowd favorites and fresh titles.

Tickets for many of the shows go on sale Wednesday.

To purchase tickets and see a list of newly announced shows, check out

### UPCOMING SHOWS AT SAVANNAH CENTER

**The Modern Gentlemen:**

Oct. 11-12

**David Bell:** Oct. 7

**MozART:** Oct. 29

**Branford Marsalis:**

Jan. 20, 2020

**Gatlin Brothers:**

Jan. 21, 2020

**Vic DiBitetto:**

Feb. 5, 2020

**Lords of 52nd Street:**

Feb. 27, 2020

### UPCOMING SHOWS AT THE SHARON

**Julie Fowlis:** Oct. 14

**Nutcracker:** Nov. 21

**The Righteous Brothers:**

Jan. 9-10, 2020

**Kansas:** Feb. 3-4, 2020

**Masters of Illusion:**

Feb. 17, 2020

**Ukulele Orchestra of**

**Great Britain:**

March 24, 2020

*Note: Some dates are tentative*

thevillagesentertainment.com or visit any Villages Box Office location.

More shows will be announced in the coming months, according to Russo.

The Villages Entertainment recently made upgrades to the ticketing system, including new touches to thevillagesentertainment.com that make buying tickets more interactive and efficient, as well as a new remote box office call center and more.

"Part of these upgrades also included a ton of infrastructure upgrades that are going to take us to another level very soon," Russo said. "This big launch was only the first phase of several more to come."

The word is out...Pets!



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