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LONDON

Paul McCartney Tells Fans: Don't Be Like Me And Eat Too Much

Paul McCartney's Christmas message to his fans around the world: Don't be like me and eat and drink too much. The 76-year-old tweeted his lighthearted holiday wishes Tuesday illustrated with photos from his younger days. He says "don't eat and drink too much! I know I will, but that's no excuse for you." He says, "I hope you enjoy all your presents and I hope you remember the true meaning of Christmas, which is love and peace and being good to each other."

Backstage Pass

INSIGHTS ON STAGE, SCREEN AND BEYOND

Support Music Education at Three Tenors Plus One Show

By KRISTEN FIORE | Daily Sun Senior Staff Writer

Fill your ears and mind with the beautiful music made popular by tenor Andrea Bocelli and fill your heart with the knowledge you are giving the gift of music education.

This year's Three Tenors Plus One show, a tribute to Bocelli, will be presented by The Opera Club of The Villages at 3 and 7 p.m. Feb. 2 at The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center.

Tickets, which range from \$15 to \$45, can be purchased online at thevillagesentertainment.com or at any Villages Box Office location.

This year's set of performers have musical influence all over the world.

The show will include internationally recognized Fanyong Du, the Metropolitan Opera's John McVeigh and Villages Charter School alumnus Devin Eatmon, who won the Opera

Club's Harold S. Schwartz Music Scholarship in 2011 and has gone on to perform at the Aspen Music Festival.

The "plus one" is Carson Dorsey, a Texas soprano working to bring American music to audiences in Albania.

Locally known Maestro Bill Doherty will perform as the accompanist.

Net proceeds from the show will benefit the club's Harold S. Schwartz Music



Michael Johnson | Daily Sun

Kaitlyn Alexandra McMonigle, Bill Doherty, Todd Wilander and Marcel d'Entremont get set to take a bow following their performance at the last Opera Club of The Villages presentation of the Three Tenors Plus One at The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center. The concert benefits the Harold S. Schwartz Music Scholarship.

Scholarship, which is awarded to promising music students in Marion, Lake and Sumter counties. The top winner receives a \$12,000 scholarship and other monetary prizes follow in amounts of \$10,000, \$8,000 and \$6,000.

Sometimes there also is a \$1,000 encouragement award.

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Oliver Hardy Was Terrifying, Inspiring for Actor John C. Reilly

The role earned him a Golden Globe nomination after he spent time to fully embody the comedian.

By ANDREW DALTON
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES

Playing Oliver Hardy, the large comic with the even larger persona, was a burden that became a mission for John C. Reilly.

The actor had early misgivings about becoming the man whose legendary partnership with Stan Laurel is explored in "Stan & Ollie," which will be released Friday in the United States by Sony Pictures Classics.

"It was a pretty terrifying prospect," Reilly told The Associated Press in an interview earlier this month after learning the role had earned him a Golden Globe nomination. "Those are some very big shoes to fill, no pun intended. I didn't know that it was going to work out so well. It was really an act of faith."

At the beginning of the process, Reilly developed a deep affection for Hardy through books, through Hardy's letters to his wife and through the more than 100 screen appearances he made with Laurel, played by Steve Coogan.

It was on finding out how neglected Hardy and his partner were late in their lives and careers — the period explored in the film, which documents a trying tour through the United Kingdom in the early 1950s when the men were in their early 60s — that Reilly felt not only a compulsion but also a duty to do it.

"I just didn't feel I was worthy at first," Reilly said. "But when you learn about Laurel and Hardy, and how the world kind of forgot them at the end of their life, I realized I had to do this for Oliver. I would just keep saying, 'do it for Oliver.'"

He took on the entirety of Hardy for the part, mentally and physically, spending four hours in the makeup chair on shooting days and taking on the full feeling of his body.

"I had weights built into the fat suit so that I could always feel that, you know, the heft of it, so I wouldn't just feel like this light foam suit," Reilly said. "And I think I started to rue that decision by the end because the weight was just like — it was a lot every day to carry."

Other aspects of Hardy were easier to imitate.

"Ollie really loved good times, and was always after wine, women and song. I can relate to that," Reilly said with a laugh. "I mean, I work a lot too, but I can relate to that."

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CELEBRITY SPOTLIGHT



MARIAH CAREY

Mariah Carey's 24-year-old Christmas classic is so popular it set a new one-day streaming record on Spotify on Christmas Eve. Chart Data reported that "All I Want for Christmas Is You," released in 1994, was played 10.8 million times.



RUTH BADER GINSBURG

A spokeswoman for the Supreme Court says Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was discharged from New York's Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center after cancer surgery.



ROBIN THICKE

Singer Robin Thicke surprised his pregnant girlfriend with a marriage proposal. The 41-year-old singer proposed to model April Love Geary with friends and family. Geary is pregnant with their second child.

DAKAR, SENEGAL

At New Museum of Black Civilizations, a Call to Come Home

The Museum of Black Civilizations in Senegal opened this month amid a global conversation about the ownership and legacy of African art. The West African nation's culture minister isn't shy: He wants the thousands of pieces of cherished heritage taken from the continent over the centuries to come home. Last month, a report recommended that French museums give back works taken without consent.

— The Associated Press

Continued from Previous Page

The group works to fund these scholarships because they know it's important to make the opportunities available, according to Gerri Piscitelli, president of the Opera Club.

"Schools in the past used to have sophisticated music programs," Piscitelli said. "Now they don't. Many public schools have cut out art and music because of government cutbacks. We want to enable musically gifted students to continue their education at the college level."

Past winners of the Harold S. Schwartz Music Scholarship have gone on to be international instrumentalists, music teachers, college professors and New York opera singers.

This year, the group has worked to make Three Tenors Plus One, the show that funds the bulk of the scholarship, more accessible to a wide range of audiences by making it a tribute to Bocelli, one of the world's most famous singers.

"The show isn't all heavy Italian," Piscitelli said. "It has something for everyone. We really want to show the residents and the population in The Villages that the art is really alive and well. It changes, and we are doing that to accommodate those needs and address the fact that things are changing."

"We have a responsibility to

make our music as accessible as possible," added Doherty. "I think Andrea Bocelli is carrying on that tradition, and we want to do that, too. We want people in The Villages to develop a love and understanding of opera music and what our club does in support of young talent."

In addition to the Harold S. Schwartz Music Scholarship, the club also funds the Oscar Feliu Award, a \$3,000 award to one or two Villages Charter School students who have flourished in the music program. Winners can use the money toward anything from private lessons to a new instrument.

The group also funds the Music Assistance Program at The Villages Charter High School, which funds lessons for 10 instrumentalists and 10 vocalists.

"It's our love of music that we want to continue, and if we do, we will be ensuring an audience for the future," Piscitelli said.

Audiences at Three Tenors Plus One can expect to hear selections like, "Life is Beautiful," "Music of the Night," "O Sole Mio" and more.

"Music pulls us all together," Doherty said. "It unites us. It's one of the real joys of life."

Kristen Fiore is a senior staff writer with The Villages Daily Sun. She can be reached at 352-753-1119, ext. 5270, or kristen.fiore@thevillagesmedia.com.



Photos by Michael Johnson | Daily Sun

Tenor Kaitlyn Alexandra McMonigle performs during the Opera Club of The Villages presentation.



Tenor Bill Doherty performs at The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center. He's back for the Feb. 2 shows.



Canadian tenor Marcel d'Entremont was featured during a previous Three Tenors Plus One performance.

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