



Pink Martini Return to the Florida Theatre on Tuesday, March 30, 2021

Jacksonville, Fla. (June 8, 2020) – The Florida Theatre is pleased to announce the return of Pink Martini to the Florida Theatre on Tuesday, March 30, 2021.

Featuring a dozen instrumentalists, **Pink Martini** with vocalist **China Forbes**, blurs the lines between classical, pop, Latin and jazz music, invoking a very cool 60's-era cocktail lounge vibe to perform its multilingual repertoire, which include fan favorites "Amado Mio," "Hey Eugene" and "Ninna Nanna."

In 1994 in his hometown of Portland, Oregon, Thomas Lauderdale was working in politics, thinking that one day he would run for mayor. Like other eager politicians-in-training, he went to every political fundraiser under the sun... but was dismayed to find the music at these events underwhelming, lackluster, loud and un-neighborly. Drawing inspiration from music from all over the world – crossing genres of classical, jazz and old-fashioned pop – and hoping to appeal to conservatives and liberals alike, he founded the "little orchestra" Pink Martini in 1994 to provide more beautiful and inclusive musical soundtracks for political fundraisers for causes such as civil rights, affordable housing, the environment, libraries, public broadcasting, education and parks.

One year later, Lauderdale called China Forbes, a Harvard classmate who was living in New York City, and asked her to join Pink Martini. They began to write songs together. Their first song "Sympathique (*Je ne veux pas travailler*)" became an overnight sensation in France, was nominated for "Song of the Year" at France's Victoires de la Musique Awards, and to this day remains a mantra ("Je ne veux pas travailler" or "I don't want to work") for striking French workers. Says Lauderdale, "We're very much an American band, but we spend a lot of time abroad and therefore have the incredible diplomatic opportunity to represent a broader, more inclusive America... the America which remains the most heterogeneously populated country in the world... composed of people of every country, every language, every religion."

Pink Martini has released 11 studio albums on its own independent label Heinz Records (named after Lauderdale's dog), selling over 3 million albums worldwide. In 2019, the band released two EPs featuring the vocals of Pink Martini's newest members Jimmie Herrod and Edna Vazquez. Both vocalists have toured with the band for the past year and are officially part of the group with the release of Herrod's EP *Tomorrow* and Vazquez's *Besame Mucho*, both of which were co-produced by Thomas Lauderdale and China Forbes.

The historic, nonprofit Florida Theatre is sponsored by Community First Credit Union. For a complete list of upcoming events or to buy tickets visit the Theatre's official website, floridatheatre.com.

EVENT: Pink Martini
DATE: Tuesday, March 30, 2021
TIME: 8:00 p.m.
TICKET PRICE: \$32.50 - \$59.50
MEMBER PRESALE: Monday, June 8, 2020 at 10 a.m.
E-CLUB PRESALE: Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 9 a.m.
PUBLIC ON SALE: Friday, June 12, 2020 at 10 a.m.
WEBSITES: www.pinkmartini.com; www.floridatheatre.com
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