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## MEDIA RELEASE

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***The Love Songs of Broadway***  
**Jenn Newman and Mike Eldred**  
**Lawrence Loeber, Piano; Steve Fitch, Drumset**

Monday, February 14 at 6 p.m.

Fairway House at Grayhawk

8620 E. Thompson Peak Parkway, Scottsdale 85255

**Tickets:** \$90, includes Gourmet Dinner; No Premium Seating or Student tickets  
Call (480) 488-0806, toll free (866) 488-0806 or visit [www.azmusicfest.org](http://www.azmusicfest.org) for tickets.

Complimentary valet parking is available.

For all its richly deserved reputation as a narrative form, the American musical truly excels at conveying emotion. Mention “The Great White Way” and you immediately think of characters declaring, musing or reminiscing about love. Tonight, we showcase these beguiling and emotional songs, performed by two of today’s most appealing actor-vocalists.

The *Portland Press Herald* has likened soprano **Jenn Newman** to the legendary Kate Smith when describing her voice as “warm, powerful and with an ability to hit spectacular high notes.”

An *Arizona Musicfest* favorite, Jenn is equally at home performing the classics as she is delivering contemporary favorites, often during the same concert.

Her diverse repertoire ranges from Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte* to Sister Amnesia in *Nunsense*. Newman has often been featured as soprano soloist in such works as Bach’s cantata “*Jauchzet Gott in allen Landen*”, Mozart’s *Exsultate, Jubilate*, Handel’s *Messiah*, Mendelssohn’s *Elijah* and Haydn’s *Creation*. Her regional stage credits include *Help, Help! The Globolinks!* (Emily), *Hansel and Gretel* (Gretel), *Godspell*, and the title role in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*.

Her recent pops engagements include solo performances with the symphony orchestras of Detroit, Portland (Maine), Winston-Salem, Greensboro, as well as numerous concerts with The Phoenix Symphony. On the cabaret stage, Newman debuted her first solo cabaret -- *An Evening with Jenn Newman* -- at The Laurie Beechman Theatre last August. She returns for more performances this winter and spring.

In addition to her live performances, Newman has recorded a solo CD, *Someone to Watch*. This collaboration with Larry Loeber (piano) and Steve Fitch (percussion) features timeless songs that showcase her versatility, musical skill and emotional range. This is her second appearance at *Arizona Musicfest*.

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One of America's most in-demand and beloved tenors, **Mike Eldred** has been thrilling audiences live and on recordings for over 20 years. He starred as Jean Valjean in the recent "final cast" of *Les Misérables*. Additional Broadway and National Tours include *The Civil War* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Among his regional credits are *West Side Story*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Heartland*, *My Fair Lady* and *Godspell*.

Eldred has performed in concert with many orchestras including the Toronto Symphony, Seattle Symphony, the Indianapolis Symphony, the Baltimore Symphony, the Kansas City Pops, the Long Beach Symphony, the Chicagoland Pops, the Cincinnati Pops, the Oklahoma City Philharmonic, the Houston Symphony, the Illinois Philharmonic, the Edmonton Symphony, Chicago's Grant Park Orchestra, and the Nashville Symphony.

His performance awards include "Tennessean Actor of the Year" (four years), *Nashville Scene's* "Best Musical Theatre Performer," and a nomination for the Nashville Music Awards "Male Vocalist of the Year." Eldred has appeared with many award-winning recording artists, among them Jim Brickman, Michael Bolton, Garth Brooks, Dennis DeYoung, Larry Gatlin, Vince Gill, Amy Grant, Richard Marx, Luther Vandross, Be Be Winans, Stevie Wonder, Wynonna, and Trisha Yearwood.

Eldred has released five solo recordings, include the holiday-themed *Let It Begin*, and a DVD entitled *Amazing Place, The Nature of Music*. This is his first appearance at *Arizona Musicfest*.

**Lawrence Loeber**, piano, attended Case Western Reserve/The Cleveland Institute, where he earned degrees in music and German. He earned a master's in Chinese Linguistics from The Ohio State University, while continuing piano studies and working as coach/accompanist for the Opera Department.

Larry has performed in recital at New York's Town Hall and Carnegie Recital Hall, and in venues throughout the Phoenix area. Now in his 13th season as freelance Principal Pianist for The Phoenix Symphony, he has soloed with that orchestra in works by Gershwin and Saint-Saëns. Larry is pianist and music coordinator at Scottsdale Congregational United Church of Christ.

In addition, he performs with members of The Phoenix Symphony in the church's chamber music series and directs its summer performing arts program. Larry maintains a private piano studio in Scottsdale. This is his fourth year at *Arizona Musicfest*, where he is also rehearsal pianist for the Chorus. Last February, Larry appeared as soloist with the Festival Orchestra in Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*.

**Steve Fitch**, Principal Percussionist, received his bachelor's from Oberlin Conservatory and his master's from The Eastman School. He earned sixth place in the "Snare Drum Individuals" division at the Drum Corps International Championship. Fluent in German, Steve taught for seven years at Bayreuth's "Festival junger Künstler" and has played, toured, and recorded extensively with the NDR Radio Philharmonie. He co-founded the Kalamazoo Percussion Trio in Hannover, Germany.

Steve has performed or toured with many stars, including Ray Charles, Al Jarreau and Bobby McFerrin. A prolific writer, his newest books are *Fantastic Feet*, *Fantastic Feet 2* and *Fantastic Hands*, published by Mel Bay Publications. A Yamaha Performing Artist, he is currently Assistant Principal Timpanist and drum set soloist with The Phoenix Symphony. When not performing with TPS, he can be heard in the Phoenix area, drumming in various jazz constellations. This is Steve's fourth year at *Arizona Musicfest*.

*Thank you Emerald Baton Impresarios Arch & Laree Rambeau  
for sponsoring this evening of romance and song,  
straight from The Great White Way!*