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## ARTISTS FOR A CAUSE FUNDRAISER



STEVEN MARINE

The cast of 2015 Singing with the Stars fundraiser to support non-profit Artists for a Cause. From left to right – Rusty Meacham, Peter Jones, Leslie Levy, Charles Jones, Shaun Kelly, Rick Creech, Avery Sommers, Hank Gonzalez, Anne Scott, Glen Webber

## Cast of Martin County Singing with the Stars announced

By Megan Morris  
YourNews contributor

STUART – Artists for a Cause (A4AC) is pleased to announce the cast of the second annual Singing with the Stars (SWTS) performance, competition and fundraiser.

The non-profit organization called out to singers in the community to apply and audition to compete in Singing with the Stars and they were heard!

Out of the many applications received, seven community “note”-able stars have been selected and paired with professional singers.

Each duo has selected their song and has begun their practice sessions and fundraising efforts as they prepare for the competition on stage at StarStruck Theatre in Stuart on Friday, February 20 at 7 p.m.

This year’s cast of Singing with the Stars is peppered with well-known members of the community in fields varying from Major League Baseball to Broadway. The professional singers were carefully selected by A4AC founder and Executive Director Terry Barber and SWTS Director and StarStruck Theatre owner, Jennifer Jones.

Professional singers include: Avery Sommers, Broadway performer who appeared in Ain’t Misbehavin’, Showboat and Chicago; Shelley Keelor, actress, entertainer and vocal

### STARS from 1

teacher who most recently appeared in The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber at the Lyric Theatre; Peter Jones, musical director and owner of StarStruck Academy & Theatre who most recently starred in The Best of Broadway at StarStruck Theatre; and Charles Jones, actor and lead singer of a four piece band called SubGroove.

The local “note”-able community stars include: Anne Scott, Martin County Commissioner; Rusty Meacham, Major League Baseball alumni; Leslie Levy, owner of Style Encore Stuart and Plato’s Closet; Shaun Kelly, owner of Perfectly Legal Office Solutions; Glenn Webber, Attorney; Rick Creech, civil engineering and surveying consultant and Hank Gonzalez of Sailfish Point Realty.

The event is about more than the glitz and glamour of performing on stage – the community stars are also tasked with raising funds for Artists for a Cause. While the cast is excited to get onstage and compete to win the Best Performance category, there is also an award category for the fundraising portion.

The first cast rehearsal was Monday, January 5 and the energy in the room was palpable. As the community stars and celebrity professionals worked on group numbers separately, each pair of duets were professionally coached to prepare for the competi-

tion. The cast members, although friendly, were ready to compete and jested about everything from who could raise the most money, to who chose the best song, to who’s Florida heritage stemmed back the furthest.

Cast member and Martin County Commissioner Anne Scott summed up the feeling in the room when she said, “I know something is wrong if a day goes by and I’m not bursting into song!”

“We have a very dynamic group of individuals performing this year and are excited to watch them showcase their talent while using their creativity to raise funds,” said A4AC Executive Director Terry Barber. Singing with the Stars is our signature fundraising event with the proceeds helping our organization to continue to do what we do best - to use art as a catalyst to improve communities.”

The cast is also hard at work securing sponsors. Thank you to Virtuoso sponsor Mr. Chain, Harmony Sponsor Paul J. Feinsinger, CPA, CFP and Duet sponsor NisAir, as well as Your Voice Weekly for their partnership. A4AC also thanks Elisabeth Lahti, The William H. Donner Foundation, The Elmezzi Foundation, and The MAH Foundation for their continued support of programs that help artists to meet the critical needs of our community.

For more information about sponsorships, visit [www.a4ac.org/Upcoming-Events.html#SWTS](http://www.a4ac.org/Upcoming-Events.html#SWTS),

call 772-419-8778, or email [info@a4ac.org](mailto:info@a4ac.org). To show your support for Martin County’s local talent, purchase a ticket to Singing with the Stars. Tickets are on sale now at [www.starstruckfl.com/tickets.html](http://www.starstruckfl.com/tickets.html) and range in price from \$35

to \$100.

To learn more about A4AC please visit [www.a4ac.org](http://www.a4ac.org), call 772-419-8778 or email [info@a4ac.org](mailto:info@a4ac.org). Registration is available for artists, charities, and volunteers on the website.

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