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Artists for a Cause announces cast of Martin County Singing with the Stars

FOR YOUR VOICE NEWS & VIEWS

MARTIN COUNTY — Artists for a Cause is pleased to announce the cast of the second annual Singing with the Stars performance, competition and fundraiser.

The nonprofit 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, Feb. 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 Artists for a Cause founder and executive



Photo courtesy of The Firefly Group

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

director Terry Barber and Singing with the Stars director and StarStruck Theatre owner, Jennifer

Jones.

Professional singers include: Avery Sommers, Broadway per-

former who appeared in "Ain't Misbehavin'," "Showboat" and

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“Chicago;” Shelley Keelor, actress, entertainer and vocal 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, Jan. 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 competition. 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,” Barber said. “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 News & Views* for their partnership. Artists for a Cause 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 the community.

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

[coming-Events.html#SWTS](http://www.a4ac.org/Up-coming-Events.html#SWTS), call (772) 419-8778, or email 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 and range in price from \$35 to \$100.

Artists for a Cause is a Palm City-based, national nonprofit organization that helps visual and performing artists to use their talents for community improvement, stimulating culture, while addressing the critical needs of communities. Some programs help artists and charities to get the most out of their collaboration, while most produce results directly, by feeding the poor, healing the sick, or solving other problems through unique artistic solutions. Additionally, we never ask artist professionals in a struggling industry to donate or give away their livelihood. No program is merely about art for arts’ sake — Artists for a Cause is about the arts as a solution. Current programs include Dance for Food, Therapeutic Arts, Support for Charities, Elisabeth Lahti Donated Instrument Closet, Classical for Schools, Artists for a Cause Scholarships, Artists for a Cause High School Clubs — all of which improve communities through artistic endeavors. To learn more about Artists for a Cause, please visit www.a4ac.org, call (772) 419-8778 or email info@a4ac.org. Registration is available for artists, charities, and volunteers on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#).

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