

Home for the Holidays? Join us for John Ellison's "You're Some Kind of Wonderful" Concert on December 30th



We are honored and thrilled to present singer John Ellison in concert performing with his daughter Rachel Ann Lewis and his granddaughters Ella and Rayna Lewis, on Saturday, December 30th for two shows only at 2 PM and 8 PM. John is the legendary artist who recorded the song "Some Kind of Wonderful" in 1967 with his band Soul Brothers Six. John's hi-energy performance style will take you back to experience the greatest songs of the '60s, '70s, and '80s.

We sat down with John to get to know the man behind the music and learn about his life of triumph over adversity. Raised in poverty in a small and poor West Virginia town, John was determined to create a better life for himself and landed in Rochester, NY in the mid-60's when he formed his original band. We asked John what the highlight of his lengthy career is and his answer was an amazing story! In 1999, he opened for James Brown at a jazz festival in Nice, France. Going to France was great. Opening for James Brown was even better, but the highlight was a review of his performance in the next day's newspaper. The article said that although James Brown's name was more well-known than his, the concert would only be remembered because of the performance of John Ellison! To this day he still has the clipping (in French of course).

After such a long and successful career and having his song become one of the most famous in the history of popular music, which has been recorded by more than seventy different artists,

we asked him what motivates him to keep performing at age 82 and he simply said, "Because I love it!" What he loves most though is performing with his daughter and granddaughters who both participate in our Youth Education Program. Ella has performed in the lead role in Annie and has been in many musicals at MPAC. Rayna has even graduated to our mainstage with her appearance in Music Man last December. We asked John what he thought about his family being in the performing arts and this is what he said "Words cannot express how proud I am to have my daughter and granddaughters on stage with me. It's a dream come true." And we're in for a treat because John's daughter will be performing songs by Tina Turner and Aretha Franklin. John is also planning to do duet with her.



When asked what we can expect when seeing him and his family performing. He told us this, "The audience will be captivated by the high energy level of my performance, the amazing vocals, and the variety of songs that I will deliver." Besides "Some Kind of Wonderful," John will be performing favorites through the decades, such as, "Unchained Melody, Stand by Me", and "Shout". While talking to him we were struck with how youthful he is, which he attributes to living a clean life. But we must add that it's also his upbeat and infectious spirit that shines brightly in his voice. For a pre-New Year's Eve date night, don't miss this opportunity to see and hear the living legend John Ellison, and his family, in what will be a truly remarkable musical event!

As a valued subscriber, we have TWO special offers for you!

1. **MPAC would like to offer you \$5 off tickets for John's concert. Simply call the Box Office at (941) 748-5875 and use the code 'HOME' when ordering your tickets and receive \$5 off each seat.**
2. **As a special thank you for attending, John is offering signed CDs to the first 100 households who purchase ticket.**



Tickets for You're Some Kind of Wonderful

Our Team Is On Santa's Nice List This Year



Our staff has put together Christmas Wish Lists (and checked it twice). Most of the items are on Amazon, but some of their toys are not. Each item was selected to help

us deliver an even better experience at the performing arts center. Check out some of the items from each of the team members.

The links for all things not Amazon are right next to it.

If you would like to purchase one of the supplies, simply click on the button below to go to Amazon, add the things you would like to purchase to your cart, purchase and it will be shipped directly to us. You may have one of the items at home and want to donate it. You can simply stop by Monday-Friday 9 AM-5 PM with your donation. You can also ship directly to the theatre address at 502 Third Avenue West, Bradenton, FL 34205.

Be sure to fill out a gift receipt so we know who to thank!

Rick's Wish List for the Stage

1. A Rio digital stagebox for rentals and concerts - [Buy at Sweetwater](#)

Caren's Wish List for the Costume Shop

1. Fabric for the costumes for Kiss Me Kate by purchasing gift cards at JoAnn Fabrics (total cost is \$635) - [Buy at JoAnn Fabrics](#)
2. Wig Heads for shows
3. Garment Steamer Ironing Gloves
4. Quilting Rulers
5. Dirt Devil Vacuum Cleaner
6. Cricut Maker & Digital Content Bundle
7. Rowenta Stainless Steel Iron
8. Boxes of sewing needles and thread for costume construction and repair

Larry's Wish List for the Scene Shop

1. Variable Speed Scroll Saw
2. Oscillating/Edge Belt Sander
3. A Wall Dust Collector to keep the shop nice and clean!
4. A miter saw hood to collect dust
5. Vinyl Floor Transition Trim

Dan's Wish List for Marketing and Communications

1. New Camera flash for our productions and events

Kristin & Melissa's Wish List for Production

1. Behringer Eurolive 12" Active Floor Monitor-Need 6-[Buy at Sweetwater](#)
2. Topstick to secure portable microphones to the performers

Mary's List for the Administrative Office

1. Stamps for our Thank You letters and Birthday cards and to pay the bills
2. An electronic three-hole paper punch for scripts and important documents
3. Cases of paper
4. Envelopes for all the correspondence we have with patrons and donors

Jillian's Wish List for the Kiwanis Ballroom and Rentals

1. New black tablecloths for our weddings, banquets, and meetings
2. Batteries-AAA and AA for microphones and remotes for our event spaces

**Staff Christmas List at
Amazon**

Janene's Wish List for our Organization

Do you have someone on your list who is impossible to buy for? Consider getting them a gift certificate to MPAC or making a donation to our organization on their behalf.

If you are planning to give before the end of the year, be sure your online transaction is completed or your check is postmarked by December 31, 2024.

**Make Your Year-End Gift
Here**

Come Celebrate Our Historic 75th Season

Crimes of the Heart (*Drama*)

The tragicomedy play relates the story of the three Magrath sisters who reunite at Old Granddaddy's home and share their tales of hardship and misery.

Opens Thursday, January 11th

Oklahoma! (*Musical*)

The groundbreaking musical from Rodgers & Hammerstein that set the stage for all that followed!

Opens Thursday, January 18th

The Glass Menagerie (*Drama*)

A drama of great tenderness, charm and beauty, *The Glass Menagerie* is one of the most famous plays of the modern theatre.

Opens Thursday, February 29th

Parade (*Historical Musical*)

This stirring Tony Award-winning musical explores the endurance of love and hope against all the odds.

Opens Thursday, March 7th

My Son the Waiter-A Jewish Tragedy (*Comedy*) *

Actor/comedian Brad Zimmerman's moving & hilarious story about the grit & passion required to 'make it' as an artist, and the sweet rewards that come from never giving up.

April 3rd-7th

Working (*Musical*)

Working paints a vivid portrait of the workers that the world so often takes for granted through music and song.

Opens Thursday, April 11th

Kiss Me Kate (*Musical Comedy*)

The battle of the sexes takes center stage as former spouses feud onstage and off during a musical presentation of Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*.

Opens Thursday, April 25th

Concert Corner

Tis the Season Christmas Concert *

December 21st at 7 PM and December 22nd at 7 PM

Jimmy Buffet Tribute with the Aquaholics *

January 5th at 2 PM & 8 PM

When Music Speaks *

January 6th at 7:30 PM

A Neil Diamond Tribute (*Concert*) *

Saturday, February 10th at 2 PM & 8 PM

Temps, Tops, Supremes & Gladys: A Motown Revue with the Soul Sensations (Concert) - Back by Popular Demand for *THREE Big Shows!* *

Thursday, February 15th at 7:30 PM

Friday, February 16th at 8 PM

Saturday, February 17th at 8 PM

Those Were the Days-the Spirit & Folk Songs of the '60s (Concert) *

Tuesday, March 12th at 2 PM & 7:30 PM

Start Spreading the News with Liza & Frank (Concert) *

Saturday, March 23rd at 2 PM

Atlantic City Boys (Concert) *

Sunday, March 24th at 2 PM & 7 PM

The Goldtones (Concert) *

Saturday, March 30th at 2 PM

Majesty of Rock (Concert) *

Saturday, April 13th at 8 PM

* indicates shows that are not produced by the Manatee Performing Arts Center

+ To upgrade your giving level to Insider, call (941) 749-1111 x106

For KIDS By KIDS Productions

These productions typically run 30-45 minutes in length

Celebrate Broadway! Spring Education Program (Musical)

Saturdays beginning January 20th from 9 AM-12 PM each week

Celebrate Broadway! Show (Musical)

Saturday, May 11th at 2 PM

Penguin Program

Finding Nemo KIDS

Penguin Players (ages 23 and up)

Monday, March 25th & Wednesday, March 27th at 7:30 PM

Penguin Project (ages 8-22)

Tuesday, March 26th & Thursday, March 28th at 7:30 PM

Our online ticket office is available 24/7
at **ManateePerformingArtsCenter.com** or click below.

**Purchase your ticket to
entertainment!**

**Call us the Box
Office**

The Florida Cultural Group, Inc.. is a 501(c)3 non-profit serving our community since 1947. Annual support from our donors funds everything we do. Our mission is to



create, entertain, and strengthen an artistic, creative, curious and thriving community by bringing people together.

Please call us at (941)-749-1111 if you'd like help navigating your charitable donation options.

About the Manatee Performing Arts Center

"We are committed to being the community's premier theater and the region's center for cultural, educational, and artistic expression. Our team works tirelessly to ensure that we deliver engaging excellence for all ages, through the talent we present, the services we offer, and the experiences we create. Our goal is not just to entertain you...we want to inspire you."

Connect with us on social media!



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