

**\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\***  
December 19, 2019

## **Asolo Rep Proudly Provides Free and Discounted Tickets for Local Youth and Families Throughout Critically Acclaimed run of *THE SOUND OF MUSIC***

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Family Day at *THE SOUND OF MUSIC* photos are available by visiting:  
<https://asolorep.smugmug.com/THE-SOUND-OF-MUSIC-Family-Day/>

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(SARASOTA, December 19, 2019) — Throughout Asolo Rep's critically acclaimed run of *THE SOUND OF MUSIC* the theatre has provided free and discounted tickets for more than 1,200 area youth and families. This initiative supports the institution's belief that it is crucial for the next generation to experience the magic of live theatre at a young age.

The theatre hosted a sold-out student matinee on December 4 for more than 500 students (grades 8 - 12) from schools in Sarasota and Manatee County. As part of the program, Asolo Rep Education & Engagement department provided educational materials (curriculum, interactive activities, and discussion questions) to connect the show onstage to the lives and learning of students. The theatre also provided an additional 200 discounted tickets for students from other schools for performances throughout the run.

More than 100 families (500+ patrons) attended Family Day at *THE SOUND OF MUSIC* on Saturday, December 7. Attendees received discounted tickets and also engaged in pre-show interactive activities, hosted by arts partners Embracing Our Differences, The Ringling and The Sarasota Opera, including an opera singing lesson, a paper collage craft, an inside look at the real von Trapp family and more.

"Seeing and hearing the incredibly honest reactions of young people as they experience theatre is magic," said Muriel O'Neil Education & Engagement Director **Sara Brunow**. "It's so exciting to hear how a show like *THE SOUND OF MUSIC* affects the young people in an audience — affects us all. Theatre is for everybody and through our programming, we're working to actively connect with our community and the next generation by exploring the stories we tell onstage. We can't wait to do more."

Asolo Rep's Education & Engagement department is in the process of expanding its offerings. Visit <https://www.asolorep.org/engage-learn> to stay up to date. *THE SOUND OF MUSIC* runs through December 28. For tickets and information, visit [www.asolorep.org](http://www.asolorep.org).

Asolo Rep's Education & Engagement Director is sponsored by the Muriel O'Neil Fund for the Performing Arts of Community Foundation of Sarasota County.

## **SPONSORS**

Asolo Rep is able to present **THE SOUND OF MUSIC** because of the generosity of its sponsors. The corporate sponsors for THE SOUND OF MUSIC are Plumbing Today, Sarasota Herald-Tribune, Sarasota Magazine, ABC 7, WUSF Public Media, and Michael's on East, with additional support from the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture. Asolo Rep 2019-20 Major Season Sponsors are Florida State University, the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation, Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation, Gulf Coast Community Foundation, Community Foundation of Sarasota County, the Huisking Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, Designing Women Boutique, The Exchange, and Sunset Cadillac of Bradenton. Asolo Rep's artistic programs are paid for in part by Sarasota County Tourist Development Tax revenues.

**THE SOUND OF MUSIC** Family Day was made possible, in part, with lead support from Community Foundation of Sarasota County and additional support from the Koski Family Foundation and Publix Super Markets Charities.

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## **ABOUT ASOLO REP**

Now in its 61st season, Asolo Repertory Theatre is recognized as one of the premier professional theatres in America and one of the largest in the Southeastern United States. One of the few select theatres in the nation that performs in true rotating repertory, Asolo Rep's highly skilled acting company and extensive craftsmanship bring to life this unique performance method that gives audiences the opportunity to see multiple productions in the span of a few days. Asolo Rep presents up to 10 productions each season including contemporary and classic works and provocative musical theatre experiences. A theatre district in and of itself, Asolo Rep is committed to expanding its reach into the community, furthering its collaboration with the best theatre artists working in the industry today and cultivating new artists through its affiliation with the FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training. Under the leadership of Producing Artistic Director Michael Donald Edwards and Managing Director Linda DiGabriele, Asolo Rep's ambitious theatrical offerings and ground-breaking education and community programming engage audiences and ensure its lasting legacy for future generations. [www.asolorep.org](http://www.asolorep.org)

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