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The Oklahoma City Philharmonic will present "The Christmas Show" starring Elizabeth Stanley from Nov. 30 to Dec. 2

Spreading Christmas cheer Broadway style

Oklahoma City Philharmonic performance features Elizabeth Stanley

By Van Mitchell
Staff Writer

The second production in The Chickasaw Nation Pops Series with the Oklahoma City Philharmonic's will be "The Christmas Show" featuring performances by Broadway star Elizabeth Stanley at the Civic Center Music Hall.

This year's new production runs Thursday, Nov. 30 at 7:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday Dec. 1 and 2 at 8 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 2 at 2 p.m.

"Since 1991 the Oklahoma City Philharmonic has presented The Christmas Show, a holiday favorite for the whole family," said Susan Webb, marketing and public relations director for the OKC Philharmonic. "Patrons look forward to the leadership of Maestro Joel Levine, the artistry of the musicians, the festive musical selections and the quality of the staging, choreography and lighting. The tap dancing Santa's are an audience favorite that always bring great joy. For children, parents and grandparents, this performance is a great way to get the whole family in the spirit for the holidays. Additionally, we are excited

to see the growing number of small businesses and companies that are making this their special holiday event each season! What a great way to leave the stresses of the world behind and enjoy a shared experience with music."

A collaborative production created by Levine and Director Lyn Cramer, this year's concert features Stanley, noted for her roles on Broadway in "Million Dollar Quartet," "Company" and "Cry-Baby" as well as starring in the First National Tour of "Bridges of Madison County."

"We are really excited to have her here," Webb said. She said "The Christmas Show" has been produced in various forms since 1991, and each year it provides fresh new interpretations of both traditional holiday music, as well as brand new selections. Audience favorites include The Mistletoes dancers, the popular Philharmonic Pops Chorale led by Vince Leseney, Jeffrey Meek's costumes.

She said the Philharmonic will perform a variety of Christmas music selections including "Sleigh Ride" and "Jingle Bells," and "I've got my Love to Keep me Warm," to "I Wonder As I Wander," "O Little Town of

Bethlehem" and "First Noel."

"The show will entail a lot of family holiday favorites as well as sacred selections," Webb said. "We will also have a western Christmas medley which we haven't done before. They can come early to have a free photo made with Santa in the lobby before the performance, and the magical sounds of the hand bell choir set the mood for the event before the show."

The Oklahoma City Philharmonic has gained recognition as one of the nation's premier regional orchestras. Tracing its roots to 1924, the Oklahoma City Philharmonic was formed in 1988 under the musical direction of Levine and has remained steadfast in its mission "to provide inspiration and joy for the community through orchestral music."

Webb said "The Christmas Show" continues to be a popular holiday staple for families and friends. "It is a great way to kick off the holiday season," Webb said. "There is something for everyone."

Tickets start at \$19 and are available by phone at (405) 842-5387, online at www.okcphil.org, or www.okcciviccenter.com.