

RUTH ECKERD HALL

RICHARD B. BAUMGARDNER CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

PRESS RELEASE

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**BRITAIN'S GOT TALENT WINNER
WORLD-RENOWNED TENOR
PAUL POTTS
TO PERFORM AT RUTH ECKERD HALL ONE NIGHT ONLY
SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2009 AT 7 PM**

Tickets go on sale for this exclusive Tampa Bay performance Friday May 15 at 10 am!

May 12, 2009, Clearwater, FL – Ruth Eckerd Hall announces that *Britain's Got Talent* winner and world-renowned tenor, Paul Potts will perform at Ruth Eckerd Hall for one night only on Sunday, July 12 at 7 pm. This will be Paul's only Tampa Bay appearance. Tickets go on sale this Friday, May 15 at 10 am.

The last two years have been an epic journey of incredible hard work and dedication.

Paul Potts' debut album *One Chance* sold more than three and a half million albums, rocketed to the number one spot in 15 countries (including the United Kingdom) and stormed to the top 5 in another 5, including the United States.

Winner of 'Best International Artist 2009' at the prestigious Echo Awards in Germany, Paul has also become a YouTube sensation and to date has had more than 74 million hits charting his meteoric rise to fame. In Germany, Paul has spent an astounding 7 weeks at #1 and 23 weeks in the Top 10.

Paul has come a long way since March 17, 2007 when he awkwardly shuffled onto the audition stage and performed his spine tingling rendition of *Nessun Dorma*. From zero to hero in 60 seconds, he captivated the hearts of millions and opened the exclusive world of opera to many. "When I stepped on to the stage the crowd were baying for blood. The act before had been a disaster. As I walked to the mark, in my £35 suit, I just wanted to turn around and run away." But he didn't run. Instead he summoned every ounce of strength, wowed the audience and judges and more than 13 million viewers watched him win the first series of *Britain's Got Talent* on ITV.

Within days of winning *Britain's Got Talent*, Paul was on a flight to New York to make a live appearance on NBC's *Today* show in Times Square, and a media frenzy surrounded him with networks vying for him to appear on international shows.

January 2008 saw him embark on a world tour with 55 dates but as his popularity soared more dates were added and he completed over 100 sell out shows in concert halls, arenas and stadiums around the globe.

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Now Paul returns to the stage in support of his new album that has been almost a year in the making and showcases his stunning work. Working with an array of world acclaimed producers, composers and European orchestras, Paul returns with a new found confidence and vigor that leaves no doubt as to his incredible talent and shows he has risen to the latest challenge, "The second album is always a challenge, when your first is such a success you cannot be complacent and believe the second will do the same. There is more pressure, you have to work harder, be bigger, better, this is the same for every artist."

Passione includes a mixture of original material along with breathtaking classics including the haunting *La Prima Volta (The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face)* and *Memory*, the ageless classic written and composed by Andrew Lloyd Webber. The album also features the showstopper *E Lucevan Le Stelle*, one of the most emotional songs in Puccini's Opera, *Tosca*. The haunting melody and Bass clarinet in *E Lucevan Le Stelle* are what drew Paul to the aria and is one of his all time favorites.

"I am unbelievably excited and proud of this album. I have worked with some amazing people in Europe to create a beautiful album full of the passion that I feel for my music. I love what I do and feel so incredibly fortunate to be able to continue and release a second album where I can share magnificent aria's full of inspiration, energy, and power."

Reserved tickets priced at \$58.00 and \$39.00 will be available at the Ruth Eckerd Hall Ticket Office located at 1111 McMullen Booth Road in Clearwater, by calling 727.791.7400 or by logging onto www.rutheckerdhall.com. The Ruth Eckerd Hall Ticket Office is open Monday through Saturday, from 10 am to 6 pm and one hour prior to showtime. A limited number of VIP seats (which includes a premium seat and a meet & greet) priced at \$88.00 will also be available.

Designed by the prestigious Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, Ruth Eckerd Hall celebrates its 26th season as the number six ranked venue in the world, according to the entertainment industry trade publication Billboard Magazine. Known for its 2,180-seat acoustically perfect auditorium, artists from America and around the world, ranging from classical, rock, opera, Broadway, Jazz, pop and more are included in the stellar lineup of more than 200 performances a year.

Ruth Eckerd Hall and the Ruth Eckerd Hall Foundation are 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organizations.

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