

RUTH ECKERD HALL

RICHARD B. BAUMGARDNER CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

PRESS RELEASE

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RUTH ECKERD HALL RANKED #1 IN THE WORLD BY BILLBOARD MAGAZINE!

December 22, 2009, Clearwater, FL – Entertainment industry trade publication *Billboard* announced in its year-end issue, that Ruth Eckerd Hall is ranked #9 in the world in venues having 5,000 seats or less. Within that same ranking, Ruth Eckerd Hall is #1 in the world in venues having 2,500 seats or less. Based on the report, Ruth Eckerd Hall had gross ticket sales of \$10,865,802 and ticket sales of 224,227 to concerts and events between December 6, 2008 and November 21, 2009. During this twelve month period Ruth Eckerd Hall presented 173 performances and had 26 sellouts.

Within the same issue, Ruth Eckerd Hall is ranked #8 in the world in venues with 5,000 seats or less for the Decade-End Top 10 ranking (from December 11, 1999 to November 21, 2009). Based on the report, Ruth Eckerd Hall had gross ticket sales of \$84,004,732 and ticket sales of 2,525,479 to concerts and events. During this ten year period, Ruth Eckerd Hall presented 1,291 performances and had 320 sellouts. Within that same period, Ruth Eckerd Hall is #1 in the world in venues having 2,500 seats or less.

"Ruth Eckerd Hall continues its 27th season with a stellar lineup of shows including Tony Bennett, Bob Newhart, Foreigner with special guest Eddie Money, Chita Rivera, the Moscow State Radio Symphony Orchestra, Val Caniparoli's A Cinderella Story and Vince Gill," commented Robert A. Freedman, Ruth Eckerd Hall President and CEO. "We are very pleased to be able to present these incredible performances, but even with this success we still need to raise more than 2 million dollars every year to bring this quality programming and support our stellar education programs at The Marcia P. Hoffman Performing Arts Institute to our community. We are thankful to our members and the Tampa Bay area community for their continued support", Freedman concluded.

Reserved tickets are 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.rutherfordhall.com. The Ruth Eckerd Hall Ticket Office is open Monday through Saturday, from noon to 6 pm and one hour prior to showtime. Tickets will also available by logging onto www.ticketmaster.com.

Designed by the prestigious Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, Ruth Eckerd Hall is 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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