



FRANK ESPICH / The Star

Carmel Mayor Jim Brainard is seated in the official Mayor's Box, enjoying the Carmel Symphony Orchestra during a dress rehearsal on the main stage of the Palladium. "I think it's wonderful for Carmel," Brainard said. "It's going to add to the quality of life."

Debut

» Palladium is already 70 percent booked for its first season.

From HI

we've contributed to the region."

Carmel resident Doug Wilson, 58, can't wait to hear what the city has billed as one of the best concert halls in the world, acoustically.

The sound will be controlled by glass canopies that descend from the ceiling, and curtains that move along the wall. Detailed, hand-crafted plaster adds more than aesthetics; its layering will aid diffusion of sound better than smooth surfaces.

Wilson bought six season tickets to the Palladium to share with family and friends. He and his wife, Jayne Ann Wilson, are lifelong Carmel residents.

"I think it's going to help build a sense of community in Carmel," Wilson said. "Everybody I know has tickets for an event or two."

The Palladium's president and CEO, Steven B. Libman, believes there is a market for a world-class arts center.

As evidence, he points out that the Palladium is already 70 percent booked for its first season, which includes five series — classical, songbook, dance, jazz roots and country.

Libman, who came here after stints in Pittsburgh and the San Diego area, believes those first-season sales are remarkable.

"We are just thrilled with how the Central Indiana community has responded," he said. "I always knew this was a region that loves music, whether it's jazz, classi-

cal, rock or country."

And he enjoys the looks he sees in people's faces as they see the interior for the first time.

"I think that there is a natural reaction to something beautiful," he said, "and the Palladium is beautiful."

No detail has been spared inside the 154,000-square-foot building.

Panes of glass along the grand staircase are etched with the outline of the Palladium. That octagon image appears throughout the building, from the towering classical columns to the light fixtures to wallpaper borders along the ceiling.

The Palladium has three main entrances. Each has its own intricately designed lobby with design elements mirrored along the ceiling and in the polished Italian stone floors — circles in the east lobby, squares in the west and rectangles in the south.

Even the tiles in the bathroom appear like piano keys and bass and treble clefs.

But for all the details, it's the sound to which most are looking forward.

Carmel Symphony Orchestra harpist Wendy Muston, 52, believes playing at the Palladium will be a professional highlight. (The orchestra is one of seven resident companies at the Center for the Performing Arts.)

"I've been lucky enough to play at Alice Tully Hall, the Metropolitan Opera and the chamber hall at the Lincoln Center," Muston said.

"Those were huge moments in my life. Halls matter to musicians, but I think the ultimate truth is (that) magic happens in individual performances."

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Inside the Palladium, details help enhance the ambience for visitors. Pictured to the right (from top) etched glass patterns symbolic of the building are repeated throughout the structure; corridors on the building's east side connect the floors; much like the etched glass, wall-paper repeats the Palladium design; and the main floor seating offers style and comfort.



Carmel Symphony Orchestra Artistic Director David Bowden conducts during a dress rehearsal at the 1,600-seat Palladium concert hall.

THE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

The Center for the Performing Arts' main attraction is the 1,600-seat Palladium concert hall, which continues its opening celebration through Jan. 30. The center also includes the 200-seat Studio Theater that will open in March, and the 500-seat Tarkington proscenium theater that will open in August.

THE TIMELINE

- » **MAY 1997:** In his first term as Carmel's mayor, Jim Brainard unveils his plans for a new downtown that would include a performing arts center.
- » **MAY 2005:** The Carmel City Council narrowly approves spending \$80 million to build the center.
- » **SEPTEMBER 2005:** The nonprofit Carmel Performing Arts Foundation is created to raise more money for the center but falls far short of its fundraising goal.
- » **OCTOBER 2008:** The Carmel Redevelopment Commission approves Brainard's request for \$45 million to complete the center's construction. More loans are added over time as the cost continues to escalate.
- » **JAN. 22-30:** Scheduled opening of the Center for the Performing Arts.

SCHEDULE

Music, dance pack lineup for 1st season

By Jay Harvey

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The Cleveland Orchestra, Clint Black, Marvin Hamlisch, Yolanda Adams, the Vienna Boys Choir, Marcus Miller and Michael Feinstein are just some of the musical heavyweights scheduled to play the Palladium — Carmel's new 1,600-seat concert hall in the Center for the Performing Arts — when it opens this month.

The inaugural season, debuting Jan. 30 and sponsored by St. Vincent Health, packs lots of performances into five months, with five series — four musical genres, plus dance.

"Our goal is to bring in artists who haven't been here before, as well as those who haven't been here for a long time," said Steven B. Libman, CEO and president of the center.

Libman said the series — classical, jazz, country, songbook and dance — was selected because of its success in similar performing-arts centers throughout the country.

"We know this model works in other cities," he said. "We're not introducing a new way of doing things."

More categories could be added once full seasons get under way in 2011-12, said Libman, mentioning blues and bluegrass in particular. He and Feinstein, a scholar and advocate of the Great American Songbook who serves as the center's artistic director, planned the series.

Here's a look at the Palladium series, including dates and subscription prices. Individual tickets range from \$15 to \$109. Tickets can be purchased at the Palladium box office, by phone at (317) 843-3800 or at www.thecenterfortheperformingarts.org.

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Photo provided to The Star

Marvin Hamlisch is scheduled to perform at the Palladium on March 20 as part of the first season's Songbook Series.

CLASSICAL SERIES

Jan. 30: Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and the Miro Quartet with Lynn Harrell

March 5: Vienna Boys Choir (sold out)

March 11: Camerata Ireland

April 3: St. Petersburg Philharmonic

April 17: Kronos Quartet

May 22: Cleveland Orchestra, conducted by Franz Welser-Möst, with piano soloist Emanuel Ax

Subscription prices: \$162 to \$474

JAZZ ROOTS SERIES

Feb. 19: "Jazz Meets Gospel," with Take 6 and Yolanda Adams

March 26: "Three Generations of Divas," with Dianne Reeves, Jane Monheit and Nikki Yanofsky

April 30: "Celebrating Miles," featuring Marcus Miller, Wallace Roney and Ron Carter

May 20: "Super Sax," David Sanborn and Candy Dulfer

Subscription prices: \$150 to \$330

DANCE SERIES

March 16: Tango Buenos Aires

April 1: Savion Glover

Subscription prices: \$50 to \$130

COUNTRY SERIES

March 22: Vince Gill (March 23 show sold out)

April 9: Wright Brothers Band

April 29: Charlie Daniels Band (sold out)

June 17: Clint Black

Subscription prices: \$100 to \$270

SONGBOOK SERIES

March 20: Marvin Hamlisch

April 15: Debby Boone

May 11: Michael Feinstein (sold out)

June 4: Glen Campbell

Subscription prices: \$110 to \$310