



## HSV Concerts Association announces shows for new season

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The Hot Springs Village Concerts Association, now entering its 24th year, has announced the shows for the 2015-2016 season, and the lineup is truly stellar.

The series begins Sept. 15-18, with internationally acclaimed German pianists Andreas Kern and Paul Cibis engaging in a Piano Battle.

The program consists of six rounds of head-to-head performances of classical pieces, with each round featuring a different "style" of music.

The pianists have very distinct performance styles, and may actually improvise on tunes requested by the audience.

Kern, according to the group's website, "has developed concert projects and formats that often feature unorthodox venues, or whereby musicians collaborate with artists in other fields, such as theater and dance," in an effort to draw wider, younger audiences.

Cibis has performed at concerts and music festivals world-wide and released several albums, most recently a collection of solo pieces by Taiwanese composer Kainan Huang.

On Oct. 20-23, bluegrass musician Ricky Skaggs will hit the stage, with his long-time band, Kentucky Thunder.

Skaggs started playing the mandolin at the age of 5, and when he reached the ripe old age of 6 he performed on stage with bluegrass idol Bill Monroe. He made his television debut at age 7 when he performed with music legends Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs.

Throughout Skaggs' long (40-plus years) career, he has won 14 Grammys, eight Country Music Association awards, 11 International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA) awards, and many others.

Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder have been named Instrumental Group of the Year from the IBMA multiple times, and the group has won seven Grammys.

The next program of the series debuts Nov. 4-7, and features The Hit Men, a group of musicians who performed behind the scenes on many of the mega-hits of the '60s, '70s and '80s.

This group of excellent musicians, arrangers and composers performed or recorded with the likes of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, Tommy James and the Shondells, Cat Stevens, Jim Croce, Elton John and Kiki Dee, and Jim Webb, and have now come together to bring audiences the genuine sounds of the hits from a golden era of songwriting.

According to publicity material, the band will "also share back stories and anecdotes from their days in recording studios and on the concert circuit; it's a great look back through rock and roll history from the guys who lived and breathed the experience."

Rock and roll oldies take center stage again when Phil Dirt and the Dozers bring their show, "Surf's Up," to the Village Feb. 16-19.

Promotional materials call the group “America’s premier rock ‘n roll oldies review,” which will recapture the wonderful days of the ‘50s, ‘60s and ‘70s.

Hits from the Four Seasons, the Righteous Brothers, Roy Orbison, the Beach Boys, the Platters, the Doobie Brothers, the Eagles, etc., will have rock and roll fans singing along and dancing in the aisles.

Phil Dirt and the Dozers have been performing for more than 20 years, and each of the musicians brings his own extensive training and experience to energize the group and the audience.

Country music returns to the Woodlands Auditorium March 15-18, with Live from Nashville, a wide-ranging revue of the songs that define American music. Singers, dancers and a band of bona fide Nashville musicians, set off by “dazzling staging and costuming,” will perform songs from country greats such as Jimmy Rodgers, Patsy Cline, Bill Monroe, the Charlie Daniels Band, Garth Brooks and Taylor Swift.

Performances will center on the roots of country music and the “golden age,” the influence of gospel and country rock, “today’s stars” and patriotic music.

The Hot Springs Village Concerts Association, a member-only, non-profit organization, has a stated mission “to bring artists and audiences together for the thrill of live performance in a variety of genres.”

The group presents five shows each season – from September through March – and each program runs for four consecutive evenings. There is no reserved seating, but the auditorium usually opens 45 minutes before the concert to allow members to select their favorite seats.

The annual membership fee is \$85 (\$17 per show), and 2,400 memberships will be available for the 2015-2016 season. Single performance tickets, when available, will sell for \$27. Members must select which “series” they prefer (i.e., Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays or Fridays) at the time of purchase.

Subscription revenue covers only part of the budget, with the balance coming from patrons. Five donor categories are available to patrons (ranging from \$25 to \$500 or more), and donors are listed in every concert program.

For more information on the Hot Springs Village Concerts Association, visit

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Renewing members will have first crack at series selection, and will receive packets in the mail around April 6. New members can join the Association and purchase tickets beginning June 1 at [hsvticketsales.com](http://hsvticketsales.com).

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