



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Jazz Pianist David Benoit Returns to the Carpenter Center Stage on Saturday, Dec. 18 for a Christmas Tribute to Charlie Brown**

*Vocalist Courtney Fortune joins Mr. Benoit for this holiday celebration  
of Vince Guaraldi tunes and favorite Benoit compositions*

**LONG BEACH, California** — Grammy-nominated jazz pianist and composer David Benoit returns to the Carpenter Center on Dec. 18 at 8 p.m. for a heartwarming celebration of Vince Guaraldi’s music from the TV classic “A Charlie Brown Christmas.” Joined by jazz vocalist Courtney Fortune, David Benoit performs Guaraldi’s jazzy holiday tunes along with his own festive favorites. A long-time tradition for fans of Vince Guaraldi’s music and Charles Schulz’s “Peanuts,” Saturday’s performance marks Benoit’s seventh appearance with the Carpenter Center for this holiday treat.

David Benoit’s relationship with the “Peanuts” franchise spans more than two decades, with performances for “Peanuts” television specials and movies, including “The Peanuts Movie” (2015). “I’ve always been a ‘Peanuts’ fan,” says Benoit, who credits the TV special “A Charlie Brown Christmas” with inspiring him to become a jazz musician. “I was already a fan of the comic strip,” he says, “but when I heard that jazz piano trio, that was the defining moment when I decided that I wanted to play like Vince Guaraldi.”

### **ABOUT DAVID BENOIT**

Born in Bakersfield, CA and raised in Los Angeles, David Benoit has recorded 36 albums and worked with musicians including Dave Koz, Faith Hill and David Sanborn. Benoit’s latest release, “David Benoit And Friends” (2019), features tributes to guitarist Kenny Burrell and includes covers of Irving Berlin, Coldplay and Portugal The Man.

Benoit has served as conductor with a wide range of symphonies including the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Asia America Symphony Orchestra, and the London Symphony Orchestra. A long-time guest educator with the Mr. Holland’s Opus Foundation, he received the organization’s Excellence in Music Award in 2001. In 2015, Benoit recorded the opening theme song and piano solos for “The Peanuts Movie,” the 3-D animated adaptation of the beloved Charles Schulz comic strip. In 2010, Benoit received a Lifetime Achievement

Award from the American Smooth Jazz Awards. He continues to host a morning jazz radio show on KKJZ 88.1-FM.

## **ABOUT COURTNEY FORTUNE**

Courtney Fortune is an acclaimed singer, songwriter, and songwriting coach. She is recognized by the John Lennon Foundation and is a recipient of the Brian Wilson Musical Achievement Award for her work in the songwriting field. She has written and performed for major labels, TV and film, pop stars, and was even the subject of a Japanese reality TV show.

## **Event Details**

### **David Benoit Christmas Tribute to Charlie Brown featuring Courtney Fortune**

**Venue:** Carpenter Performing Arts Center, 6200 Atherton St. Long Beach, CA 90815

**Date:** Saturday, Dec 18, 2021

**Time:** 8 p.m.

**Tickets:** \$45, online sales only

**Box Office:** (562) 985-7000, [carpenterarts.org](http://carpenterarts.org)

Additional ticketing information is available at [carpenterarts.org/ticket-office](http://carpenterarts.org/ticket-office).

Press photos are available at [carpenterarts.org/press](http://carpenterarts.org/press).

Presentations are made possible in part by Season Media Partner KPCC 89.3-FM.

## **Attendance Information**

Attendees must be fully vaccinated and show proof of vaccination or a recent negative test result. Masks are required regardless of vaccination status. For attendance details, see [carpenterarts.org/faq](http://carpenterarts.org/faq).

## **About the Carpenter Center**

Now celebrating its 26th season, the Richard and Karen Carpenter Performing Arts Center located on the California State University, Long Beach campus gracefully accommodates large and small productions, seating 1,054 patrons. Each season, the Carpenter Center showcases emerging and established musicians, dancers, actors, speakers, comedians, and visual artists, as well as other artistic, educational, and cultural experiences that enrich lives, promote lifelong learning in and through the performing arts and serve as a gateway between the university and the greater community.

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