



THE KIMMEL CENTER
ACADEMY OF MUSIC
MERRIAM THEATER

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.@KimmelCenter holiday tradition "A Soulful Christmas" returns 12/13 to inspire and uplift. This year's performance honors @RichwoodMuzik

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A graphic with the text "A SOULFUL CHRISTMAS" in white, bold, sans-serif font, set against a red background with a subtle pattern of white stars and light rays.

**BELOVED HOLIDAY TRADITION RETURNS TO VERIZON HALL TO
CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS WITH INSPIRATION AND SONGS
DECEMBER 13, 2016**

Performance To Honor Legendary Artist Richard Smallwood

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Philadelphia, PA, October 20, 2016) — The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts ushers in the holidays with what has become a cherished tradition, *A Soulful Christmas*. The joyous event, now in its 4th year, will bring together more than 300 voices from local choirs to perform holiday spirituals and gospel favorites, complemented by mini-sermons and messages of hope for the season delivered by local church leaders. This year's performance, taking place on Tuesday, December 13, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. in Verizon Hall, will honor Grammy Award-winning gospel artist Richard Smallwood and is curated by artistic and music director J. Donald Dumpson.

"This is one of the most spectacular performances of our entire season and one of my personal 'ah ha moments'," said Anne Ewers, President & CEO of the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts. "*A Soulful Christmas* personifies the spirit of the season, a powerful and moving evening that brings a number of communities and groups together as one. There's nothing quite like the annual performance of *Silent Night*, when the lights dim and more than 200 choir singers join together in song."

A Soulful Christmas will feature the Philadelphia Heritage Chorale led by Artistic and Music Director J. Donald Dumpson alongside hundreds of singers from the Philadelphia Heritage Chorale Youth Choir,

conducted by Rollo Dilworth, African Methodist Episcopal Church 1st District Mass Choir, Bright Hope Baptist Church Mass Choir, Deliverance Evangelistic Church Mass Choir, Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church Mass Choir, and Citywide Praise Dance Collaborative. Additional choirs performing include Cicely Tyson Creative and Performing Arts High School and East Orange High School Concert Choir. Special guests will include Brian Lenair, saxophone; Marvin Mills, organ; Patty Jackson, WDAS-FM radio announcer; and Fred Blain, WNAP-AM radio announcer.

Other upcoming performances on the Kimmel Center Campus include ***Mamma Mia!*** (December 27 – 31, 2016, Merriam Theater), **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater** (February 3–4, 2017, Merriam Theater), ***The Bodyguard*** (February 21–26, 2016, Academy of Music), and **PHILADANCO** (April 13–15, 2017, Perelman Theater).

A SOULFUL CHRISTMAS

Verizon Hall

December 13, 2016, 7:30 p.m.

Tickets

Tickets are available now starting at \$34.00. Tickets can be purchased by calling 215-893-1999, online at kimmelcenter.org, or at the Kimmel Center Box Office. Group sales are available for groups of 10 or more and can be purchased by calling (215) 790-5883. More information at kimmelcenter.org.

The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

Located in the heart of Center City, Philadelphia, the Kimmel Center's mission is to operate a world-class performing arts center that engages and serves a broad audience through diverse programming, arts education, and community outreach. The Kimmel Center Campus is comprised of the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts (Verizon Hall, Perelman Theater, SEI Innovation Studio, and the Merck Arts Education Center), the Academy of Music (owned by the Philadelphia Orchestra Association), and the University of the Arts' Merriam Theater. The Kimmel Center is also home to eight Resident Companies: The Philadelphia Orchestra, Opera Philadelphia, The Pennsylvania Ballet, The Philly POPS, PHILADANCO, The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, The Philadelphia Chamber Music Society and Curtis Institute of Music. With nearly 9,000 seats per night, The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts is the region's most impactful performing arts center, and the second largest in the country. TD Bank, America's Most Convenient Bank, is the season sponsor of the Kimmel Center's 2016-2017 Season. American Airlines is the official airline of Broadway Philadelphia. For additional information, visit kimmelcenter.org.

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