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CITY OF PALMDALE

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Benefit Concert for Palmdale Playhouse to Feature Vegas Favorite Jimmy Hopper
PALMDALE – Las Vegas Review-Journal’s “Entertainer of the Year” Jimmy Hopper will headline a concert to benefit the Palmdale Playhouse on Friday, Sept. 25 at the Playhouse, located at 38334 10th St. East in Palmdale.

Organized by local residents Gary and Patty Rardon, tickets are \$150 and include an exclusive wine and tapas hors d’oeuvres reception and performance by the energetic Hopper. Proceeds will be used to renovate the Playhouse’s dressing rooms.

Tickets are available at www.cityofpalmdale.org/playhouse.

Hopper has built a reputation of thrilling audiences with a wide-ranging musical repertoire and remarkable vocals that moved one music critic to write, “Hopper is Freddie Mercury meets Andréa Bocelli.” Named “Las Vegas Entertainer of the Year” by Gaming Today and “Performer of the Year” by the Las Vegas Review-Journal, Jimmy Hopper will, as he has done countless times before, bring the house down, and all for a good cause.

“Gary and I have formed a committee to help raise \$45,000 to help renovate the dressing rooms,” Patty Rardon said. “More than 20 years ago, Gary was involved with fund raising for the Playhouse opening. Since then there have been hundreds of

performances, thousands of performers and thousands more who have enjoyed this gem of a performing arts center. There have been many upgrades and improvements over the years and now we want to help put the finishing touches with the dressing room restoration.”

For more information, please contact Patty Rardon at 661/609-1845.

About Jimmy Hopper (from www.jimmyhopper.com)

When National Enquirer invited readers to meet “the hottest unknown performer in America,” it was only a matter of time before Jimmy Hopper would make his Journey of the Heart one which would reach far beyond his popularity in the showrooms and other major venues of Las Vegas. His interim move to the Big Apple provided numerous opportunities to tour nationwide while writing the music and score for the animation project and Broadway musical, *The Day There Was No More Music*, touted by some to be the next *Lion King*. The animation version is currently in production stages.

Becoming one of the most sought after concert and performance-show entertainers started long before Las Vegas. Jimmy Hopper began singing at the age of three at the top of his lungs from the back-yard swing in Virginia with his audience of six siblings. His mother tells the story that the neighbors would come out to listen and remind her that “He has the voice of an angel...he’ll grow up to be a singer.” Prophetic words indeed.

Fast forward through years of performances and his numerous jingles written for television and radio to the late 1980s, when Jimmy developed a nodule on his vocal

chords from having sung rock and roll through the years. After the surgical talents of Frank Sinatra's doctor and the eight weeks required to forego singing, Jimmy secured vocal training from Darlene Romano, an opera teacher who taught him "proper technique" but, as Jimmy aptly states, "didn't mess with my style." The two years of training increased his range to an astounding five octaves.

His journey continued, from San Francisco in the late 90s where he was awarded "Pop Vocalist of the Year" by the San Francisco Concerto Orchestra, to Las Vegas in 1998. Interestingly enough, it was his first year at the Rio Hotel that he began singing opera. One music critic provided the most apt description when he said, "Hopper is Freddie Mercury meets Andréa Bocelli." The white spiked hair is startling in contrast to the strong opera vocals which flow from his lips, when in the next breath he takes on symphonic rock that brings the house down.

The rest of the story is rave reviews—from the five years as the Bellagio's headliner in Las Vegas, to engagements across the country from Harrah's Lake Tahoe to New England's Big E music festival to the Hoku Amphitheatre in Kona, Hawaii. Additional accolades in Las Vegas included "Las Vegas Entertainer of the Year" by Gaming Today and "Performer of the Year" by the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

Jimmy Hopper delivers a high-energy inimitable evening drawing fans of all ages. He sings the soundtrack of our lives in perfect pitch. As Ron Taft of Ron Taft Productions/Los Angeles summed it up, "Jimmy Hopper...the most amazing voice you'll ever love!"