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For Immediate Release

MEDIA ALERT: LEON FLEISHER TRIBUTE CONCERT TO AIR SEPT. 21 ON WFMT CLASSICAL RADIO

The broadcast features Leon Fleisher's final Ravinia concert, recorded July 23, 2018

HIGHLAND PARK, IL — The “Leon Fleisher and Friends” concert performed and recorded in Ravinia Festival’s Martin Theatre on July 23, 2018, will be broadcast by **WFMT** classical radio on September 21 at 8 p.m. to commemorate the late, acclaimed pianist **Leon Fleisher**.

Fleisher, who passed away August 2, showed a prodigious talent for music at just four years old, and his incredible career as a performer and educator spanned decades. A paragon of the piano, he was as generous a musician off the stage as on, sharing the wealth of his 92 years with **Ravinia’s Steans Music Institute** this summer in what would be his final professional engagement. The pianist performed on 47 concerts and gave 22 master classes at Ravinia.

“Leon Fleisher was a great artist. His integrity and commitment to truth, his unerring sense of proportion, his larger-than-life persona, the sheer beauty of his sound, and the power of conviction in his playing were unparalleled and mesmerizing,” shared Miriam Fried, director of the RSMI Program for Piano & Strings, of which Fleisher was a faculty member for 24 summers, including the 1988 inaugural season.

Fleisher’s 2018 concert in Ravinia’s Martin Theatre was in celebration of the pianist’s 90th birthday—on the very date—and featured him performing an arrangement of “Sheep May Safely Graze” from Bach’s “Birthday” Cantata No. 208 and Kirchner’s *For the Left Hand*, a piece written for Fleisher in 1995.

The program also included pianist **Katherine Jacobson Fleisher**, his wife, joining him for performances of two works for four-hands piano—Schubert’s Fantasy D. 940 and Ravel’s *La Valse*—as well as the **Argus Quartet** and bassist **Kit Polen** playing alongside Fleisher in an arrangement of Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 12, K. 385p. The Argus Quartet was in residence at RSMI in 2017 and had won the M-Prize and Victor Elmaleh competitions later that same year.

ABOUT WFMT

WFMT is one of the world’s most respected classical music radio stations, available on-air at 98.7 FM, online at wfmt.com/listen, and on the WFMT app. WFMT showcases superlative programs, concerts, and live events—from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Grant Park Music Festival, the Metropolitan Opera, Ravinia Festival, and many more. WFMT is also a leading producer and syndicator of a diverse selection of outstanding musical series, including *Exploring Music with Bill McGlaughlin*, the Beethoven Network, and the Jazz Network. Connect with WFMT on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

ABOUT RAVINIA

Ravinia, located just north of Chicago, is North America's oldest and most diverse music festival, presenting over 140 different events every summer, including the annual residency of the nation's finest orchestra, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. As a nonprofit organization, Ravinia provides arts programs for over 85,000 people in communities within Cook and Lake Counties through its Reach Teach Play education programs. Ravinia's Steans Music Institute is a summer music conservatory which awards 60–70 fully paid fellowships each year to the most talented young professional musicians from around the world to work with an esteemed faculty and the headliners who frequent the festival. For information, visit Ravinia.org.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

WFMT Schedule: www.wfmt.com/schedule/

Ravinia welcomes all festival fans to follow, connect, and interact online with @RaviniaFestival on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#), as well as its blog, backstage.ravinia.org.

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