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Doc Severinsen and His Big Band

Center for Performing Arts

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Doc Severinsen
and His Big Band

The Center for Performing Arts
AT GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY
The Center for Performing Arts
at Governors State University

Jeffrey Ortmann, Acting Executive Director

presents

Doc Severinsen and His Big Band Orchestra

April 11, 1997

Sponsored by Coldwell Banker 1st American

ICM Artists Presents

DOC SEVERINSEN AND HIS BIG BAND

Doc Severinsen, trumpet/conductor

Barbara Morrison, Vocalist

TRUMPETS
Tom DeLibero
Snooky Young
Conte Candoli
Dennis Tribuzzi

TROMBONES
Mike Daigeau
Steve Wiest
Ernie Tack

SAXOPHONES
John Bambridge
Karolyn Kafer
Ernie Watts
Doug Webb
Chad Makela

RHYTHM SECTION
Ed Shaughnessy - drums
Joel DiBartolo - bass
Ross Tompkins - piano

PRODUCTION
Bernadette E. Hilario, Road Manager
Mark Ockenfels, Production Manager/FOH Mixer

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Brandie L. McMenamin
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73 LEAP Scholars

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Some GSU students push themselves so hard they don't qualify for state or federal financial aid which are geared to the traditional student, the 18-to 22-year old who takes a full load or close to it. Eighty-six percent of the GSU student body attend only part time; most are employed, many full time; the majority have family duties and can take only one course per trimester. They're mature, tireless, responsible and motivated, but because they carry fewer than six credit hours a term they are ineligible for government or even conventional scholarship assistance.

To remedy this situation, Governors State University has instituted the "Learning Excellence Award for Persistence" (LEAP) program, which covers tuition expenses for less-than-half time students who meet the same academic and financial need requirements as half and full-time students receiving financial assistance. YOU CAN HELP! For a gift as small as $50, pooled with gifts from other members of this audience, a part-time GSU student doesn't have to drop out of school this trimester. Of course, a larger gift helps that much more. Please send your check to the

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Doc Severinsen

Doc Severinsen, best known to late night television audiences as the “Tonight Show’s” flamboyant Grammy Award-winning musical director, has established a multidimensional career beyond his late night repertoire, including symphonic, jazz and big band concert appearances, recordings and commercials plus designing and manufacturing trumpets.

Although Severinsen’s signature has been his superb trumpet playing, quick witted banter and original style of clothes on the “Tonight Show,” he is one of today’s preeminent instrumentalists. Today, Doc continues to tour across the country performing concerts in an array of musical styles—he performs classical and pop music as a guest conductor/performer with symphony orchestras. In addition to guest assignments, Doc is Principal Pops Conductor of the Phoenix Symphony, the Buffalo Philharmonic, the Minnesota Orchestra and the Milwaukee Symphony. Severinsen also plays sizzling jazz with his jazz group, Facets and big band tunes with the famous former “Tonight Show” Band, now known as Doc Severinsen and His Big Band.

He’s added a new dimension to his gifted repertory when Art Modell, owner of the Browns, thought their old Fight Song needed dusting off. Originally composed in the 40’s, the mascot tune had become out of step with the 90’s. So, Art turned to Doc. With a spiffy new arrangement, Doc has given the forty year old melody a new lease on life—an upbeat, very modern, jazzy rhythm.

In a professional career that spans over 40 years, Severinsen has recorded over 30 albums, ranging in style from Big Band to Jazz Fusion to Classical. Severinsen’s recent recordings have included the Grammy nominated, “Once More With Feeling” and “Merry Christmas from The Tonight Show Orchestra.” Both recordings, from the Amherst label, were performed by Doc and the “Tonight Show” band and have received rave reviews. His last album, “Unforgettable Doc,” on the Telarc label, highlights Severinsen’s musical diversity with the trumpet with the backdrop of the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra.

Devoted to his instrument, Severinsen practices a minimum of two hours a day. He has been voted Top Brass Player more than ten times in Playboy’s prestigious annual music poll and received a Grammy Award in 1987 for Best Jazz Instrumental Performance - Big Band, for his world premiere digital recording on the Amherst Label, “Doc Severinsen and the Tonight Show Band - Volume I” album. Other recordings on Amherst include “Facets.” His most recent award was in July 1994 when he received the Honorary Minnesota Musician Award from the Minnesota Symphony.

Severinsen’s success dates back to his childhood hometown of Arlington, Oregon. Nicknamed “Little Doc” after his father, a dentist, Dr. Carl Severinsen, Little Doc had originally wanted to play the trombone, but the senior Severinsen, a gifted amateur violinist, urged him study violin. The younger Severinsen insisted on the trombone, but had to settle for the only horn available in their small community - a trumpet.
One week later with the help of his father and book of instructions, the seven-year-old was so good that he was invited to join the high school band. At the age of twelve, Little Doc won the Music Educators National Contest and while still in high school, was hired to go on the road with the famous Ted Fio Rito Orchestra.

After completing his education and serving in the Army, Severinsen toured with the Tommy Dorsey, Benny Goodman and Charlie Barnet bands. He finally settled down in New York as an NBC staff musician in 1949, joining the “Tonight Show” Orchestra in 1962 and becoming the musical director in 1967. Somewhere along the line the “Little” was lost but “Doc” stayed and became known to late night audiences across America.

In his non-musical moments, Doc enjoys horses, cooking (Italian is his specialty), collecting American art and keeping fit with daily runs and workouts - interests he shares with his wife, television producer/writer Emily Marshall.