

Star-Spangled 200, Inc.  
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**Award Winning Actor John Lithgow to Host Star-Spangled Concert at Pier Six Pavilion**

*Two-hour live broadcast will feature performances from music stars Kristin Chenoweth, Little Big Town, Pentatonix and more to be announced. Tickets go on sale July 18<sup>th</sup>.*

BALTIMORE (July 16 ) – Star-Spangled 200, Inc. (SS200), Maryland Public Television (MPT) and dick clark productions (dcp) today announced acclaimed actor, musician and author John Lithgow will host *Star-Spangled Spectacular: Bicentennial of our National Anthem* at Pier Six Pavilion in Baltimore on Saturday, September 13, 2014. The two-hour concert special will also broadcast LIVE as part of THIRTEEN'S Great Performances series on PBS at 8 PM ET, followed by an encore telecast at 10 p.m. (Check local listings.) The live television event is a highlight of Star-Spangled Spectacular, a weeklong celebration of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our national anthem.

Also announced today are performances by Emmy and Tony Award-winning actress and accomplished singer Kristin Chenoweth; Grammy Award-winning country group Little Big Town; vocal sensations Pentatonix; the Grammy Award-winning Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Music Director Marin Alsop; and more to be announced soon. The patriotic special will feature a diverse star-studded line up of entertainers paying tribute to our nation's ideals in a thrilling and inspiring concert at the Pier Six Pavilion. The Baltimore harbor, replete with tall ships and naval vessels will serve as a stunning backdrop. The program will also include ceremonial activities at Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, historical highlights and an extraordinary fireworks crescendo.

*Star-Spangled Spectacular: Bicentennial of our National Anthem* is a production of Maryland Public Television, dick clark productions and THIRTEEN Productions LLC for WNET with assistance from the Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission and Star-Spangled 200, Inc. and will be executive produced by David Horn, *Great Performances*; Assaf Blecher, Vice President of Programming and Development, dick clark productions; and Steven J. Schupak, Maryland Public Television. The television show will be directed and executive produced by veteran award-winning producer Paul Miller.

Two hundred years ago, Francis Scott Key, a Maryland-born attorney, was inspired to write the words to what would become the United States' national anthem. In 2012, Star-Spangled 200 and the Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission began a multi-year commemoration of this legacy which will culminate with Star-Spangled Spectacular, a weeklong festival taking place on September 10–16, 2014. Within this festival, *Star-Spangled Spectacular: Bicentennial of our National Anthem* will take place. The festival will include tall ships, Navy gray hulls, a performance by the Blue Angels, landside festivities, and this special television program to honor the national anthem.

Tickets for the *Star-Spangled Spectacular: Bicentennial of Our National Anthem* will go on sale Friday, July 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. and can be purchased online at [piersixpavilion.com](http://piersixpavilion.com), over the phone by calling 410-244-1131, or in person by visiting the Rams Head Live (Baltimore) or Rams Head On Stage (Annapolis) box offices. Doors will open at 5:00 pm, with onsite concert festivities scheduled to begin at 7:00 pm, including a special non-broadcast performance by the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra prior to the live television broadcast.

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#### Concert Talent Line Up

**John Lithgow** is an American actor, musician, and author. In 1973, he won a Tony Award three weeks after his Broadway debut, in David Storey's "The Changing Room." Since then he has appeared on Broadway twenty more times, earning five more Tony nominations, another Tony, four Drama Desk Awards, and induction into the Theatre Hall of Fame. In the early 1980's Lithgow began to make a major mark in films. At that time, he was nominated for Oscars in back-to-back years, for "The World According to Garp" and "Terms of Endearment." In the years before and after, he has appeared in over forty films. Upcoming releases include Tommy Lee Jones' "The Homesman," Christopher Nolan's "Interstellar" and Ira Sachs' "Love is Strange" alongside Alfred Molina. For his work on television, Lithgow has been nominated for eleven Emmy Awards. He has won five of them, one for an episode of "Amazing Stories," and three for his portrayal of the alien High Commander, Dick Solomon on the NBC comedy series "3rd Rock from the Sun." He has also been honored with two Golden Globe Awards, two SAG Awards, The American Comedy Award and has received a Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Lithgow is also celebrated for his work for children which includes acclaimed books, concerts, and albums. Since 1998 he has written nine New York Times best-selling children's picture books, including the recently published "Never Play Music Right Next To The Zoo."

Emmy and Tony Award winner and Oklahoma and Hollywood Bowl Hall of Fame inductee, **Kristin Chenoweth** effortlessly transitions between stage, television, film and an accomplished singing career. She received an Emmy Award for her role in "Pushing Daisies," a Tony Award for her role in "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown" and was also nominated for her original role of Glinda the Good Witch in "Wicked." Chenoweth most recently co-starred in the animated film Rio 2 and performed to sold-out audiences at the famed Carnegie Hall and Royal Albert Hall. She's also completed production on the Universal film "The Boy Next Door," "Opposite Sex," "Hard Sell" and the Disney Channel's live-action original movie "Descendants." Chenoweth continues to tour and will return to Broadway in the Roundabout Theatre Company's "On the Twentieth Century" in early 2015. Additional TV credits include: The West Wing, Glee, G.C.B and The Good Wife.

Grammy Award-winning Country group, **Little Big Town** – consisting of members Karen Fairchild, Phillip Sweet, Kimberly Schlapman, and Jimi Westbrook – first entered the music scene more than 15 years ago with hits such as "Boondocks," "Bring It On Home," "Good As Gone" and Grammy-nominated single "Little White Church. The quartet's fifth studio album *Tornado* was released on September 11, 2012 and debuted at the top of the Billboard Country Chart where it stayed for five consecutive weeks. The album has been certified Platinum with sales of more than 1 million copies and features #1 hits "Pontoon" and "Tornado." Little Big Town recently completed their sixth studio album working again with producer Jay Joyce. The first single off of the new album entitled "Day Drinking" is quickly climbing the Country radio charts. The album, entitled *Pain Killer*, is set for release on October 21<sup>st</sup>.

Vocal sensations **Pentatonix** are taking instrument-free music far beyond anyone's wildest expectations. Named after the world's most widely recognized five-note music scale, this quintet has transformed one of pop music's purest and most soulful expressions into an exciting future, filled with limitless sonic possibility. From their original tracks to their intricate reimagining of pop hits and epically complex arrangements and medleys, Pentatonix have quickly developed a sound and style that is entirely unique and undeniably infectious.

Pentatonix have ignited one of the biggest online and global followings. The PTXofficial YouTube channel boasts over 500 million views, buoyed by more than 5.9 Million subscribers, and is one of the Top 100 most subscribed-to music channels.

The Grammy Award-winning **Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO)** is internationally recognized as having achieved a preeminent place among the world's most important orchestras. Acclaimed for its enduring pursuit of artistic excellence, the BSO has attracted a devoted national and international following while maintaining deep bonds throughout Maryland with innovative education and community outreach initiatives. The BSO made musical history in September 2007, when Maestra Marin Alsop led her inaugural concerts as the Orchestra's 12th music director, making her the first woman to head a major American orchestra. With her highly praised artistic vision, her dynamic musicianship and her commitment to accessibility in classical music, Maestra Alsop's leadership has ushered in a new era for the BSO and its audiences.

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### **About Star-Spangled 200**

Star-Spangled 200 is a multi-year commemoration that celebrates the 200th anniversary of our national anthem. Star-Spangled Sailabration in Baltimore's Inner Harbor and the Chesapeake Bay launched the events in June 2012. Sailabration included a maritime festival with 45 vessels from a dozen nations and an airshow featuring the Blue Angels, and drew more than 1.5 million visitors. Star-Spangled 200 continued Spring 2013 through Summer 2014 with the Chesapeake Campaign, a series of more than a dozen festivals in waterfront communities around the Bay. Two conferences were held at the U.S. Naval Academy in 2013 - Cross Tech, June 10-11 and From Enemies to Allies, June 12-15 – bringing together leaders in cyber security and scholars from the U.K, Canada and the U.S. Events will culminate with Star-Spangled Spectacular, September 10-16, 2014, celebrating the 200th anniversary of the National Anthem. Star-Spangled 200 is supported by its Presenting Sponsor AT&T with Founding Partner support from Constellation and Papa John's. For more information, please visit [www.StarSpangled200.com](http://www.StarSpangled200.com) or [www.StarSpangled200.org](http://www.StarSpangled200.org).

### **About Maryland Public Television**

Launched in 1969 and headquartered in Owings Mills, MD, Maryland Public Television is a nonprofit, state-licensed public television network and member of the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS). MPT's six transmitters cover Maryland plus portions of contiguous states and the District of Columbia. Frequent winner of regional Emmy® awards, MPT creates local, regional, and national television shows. Beyond broadcast, MPT's commitment to professional educators, parents, caregivers, and learners of all ages is manifest in its year-round instructional events and super-website Thinkport which garners in excess of 19 million page views annually. MPT's community engagement activities connect viewers with local resources on significant health, education, and public interest topics through year-round outreach events, viewer forums, program screenings, and phone bank call-in opportunities. For additional information, please visit [www.mpt.org](http://www.mpt.org).

### **About WNET**

As New York's flagship public media provider and the parent company of THIRTEEN and WLIW21 and operator of NJTV, WNET brings quality arts, education and public affairs programming to more than 5 million viewers each week. WNET produces and presents such acclaimed PBS series as Nature, Great Performances, American Masters, PBS NewsHour Weekend, Charlie Rose and a range of documentaries, children's programs,

and local news and cultural offerings available on air and online. Pioneers in educational programming, WNET has created such groundbreaking series as Get the Math, Oh Noah! and Cyberchase and provides tools for educators that bring compelling content to life in the classroom and at home. WNET highlights the tri-state's unique culture and diverse communities through NYC-ARTS, Reel 13, NJTV News with Mike Schneider and MetroFocus, the multi-platform news magazine focusing on the New York region. WNET is also a leader in connecting with viewers on emerging platforms, including the THIRTEEN Explore iPad App where users can stream PBS content for free. Great Performances is a production of THIRTEEN Productions LLC for WNET. For more information, please visit: [www.thirteen.org](http://www.thirteen.org).

### **About dick clark productions**

dick clark productions (dcp) is among the world's largest producers and proprietors of televised live event programming. dcp produces perennial hits such as the "American Music Awards," "Golden Globe Awards," "Academy of Country Music Awards," "Billboard Music Awards," and "Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve with Ryan Seacrest." Weekly television programming, includes "So You Think You Can Dance" from 19 Entertainment, a division of CORE Media Group, and dick clark productions; and "Rising Star" from Keshet DCP, the joint venture between Keshet International (KI), the global distribution and production arm of Keshet Media Group, and DC Media, the parent company of dick clark productions (dcp). In 2014, dcp will debut the "American Country Countdown Awards" (FOX), "Boom!" (FOX), "Hollywood Film Awards (CBS) and "The PEOPLE MAGAZINE Awards" (NBC). Dcp also owns one of the world's most unique and extensive entertainment archive libraries with more than 55 years of dcp's award-winning shows, historic programs, specials, performances, and legendary programming. For additional information, visit [www.dickclark.com](http://www.dickclark.com).