

NEWS RELEASE

Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau



Feed Your Cultural Cravings in Rockford, Illinois

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ROCKFORD, IL — A hush falls over the audience as the house lights go down and the curtain goes up. A surge of excitement rushes over you as the stage lights burst to life and the performance begins. Performance arts lovers know the feeling – that thrill of seeing, hearing and feeling a performance in every tingling synapse. In Rockford, Illinois, the opportunity to experience a high-quality performing arts show is never in short supply. From dance to symphony orchestra to plays, Rockford has something for every cultural craving.

World-class Performance Arts Venues

Coronado Performing Arts Center

You don't have to travel to big cities like Chicago or New York to find unique performance arts venues. At the [Coronado Performing Arts Center](#) in downtown Rockford, your experience begins the moment you walk into the lobby of this ornate movie palace and vaudeville hall. Built in 1927 for \$1.5 million and restored and renovated in 2000 for \$18.5 million, the Coronado is a delightful example of an "atmospheric-style" theater with gilded Spanish castles, Italian villas and Chinese dragons in relief on the sides of a starry false sky.

While worth seeing for just its opulent interior, the [Coronado](#) is also host to high quality shows throughout the year, including an annual line-up of performances presented by the [Rockford Symphony Orchestra](#), the [Rockford Dance Company](#) and the [Rockford Coronado Concert Association](#). The new Coronado Presents series features a wide variety of musical and entertainment shows, from comedians like Jerry Seinfeld to entertainers like famous illusionist David Copperfield. Event parking is available across from the theater in the ramp on the east side of North Main Street for just \$5 or for free in nearby city parking lots. Located at 314 N. Main St., the [Coronado Performing Arts Center](#) has been named one of Illinois' 150 Great Places by the American Institute of Architects, Illinois Council. This prestigious award is given to places that have been identified by leading architects as contributing to their communities' quality of life. For show and ticket information, call the box office at 815.968.0595 or visit www.coronadopac.org.

Don't miss the [Rockford Symphony Orchestra](#) 75th Anniversary Concert: **Beethoven's 9th Symphony at 7 p.m. Saturday, May 8, 2010, at the Coronado Performing Arts Center.** The Rockford Symphony Orchestra (RSO) is one of the leading cultural institutions in northern Illinois, performing more than 20 classical and pops concerts annually. The highlight of the RSO season is a magnificent performance of this "joy-filled" immortal classic, performed by a hundred-voice chorus, world-class soloists and a full symphony orchestra. The RSO will be joined by the [Mendelssohn Chorale](#) in a celebration of Rockford's music community. Following the performance, audience members may choose to extend their experience by attending the 75th Anniversary Gala Dinner at Rockford Country Club. Join other RSO concert-goers for a delightful post-concert dinner celebrating the final moments of this historic

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season. Concert tickets are \$30-\$55, and the dinner is \$100/person. For more information, call the Rockford Symphony Orchestra at 815.965.0049 or visit www.rockfordsymphony.com.

Starlight Theatre at Rock Valley College

Rockford's unique theatre-going experiences don't end with the opulent Coronado Performing Arts Center. On warm, clear summer nights, theatre-goers can experience performances beneath a starry night sky at [Starlight Theatre](http://www.rvcstarlight.com), Rockford's oldest outdoor summer theatre. Starlight Theatre features more than a thousand seats, new seating, improved stage, and its most-famous architectural element: a stunningly artistic retractable roof that opens up like a blooming flower. Located at 3301 N. Mulford Road, Starlight Theatre offers four different musical productions in June and July. Like the Coronado Performing Arts Center, Starlight Theatre has been named one of Illinois' 150 Great Places by the American Institute of Architects, Illinois Council. For show and ticket information, call 815.921.2160 or visit www.rvcstarlight.com.

First-rate Performance Groups

From its inception in 1973, the [Rockford Dance Company](http://www.rockforddancecompany.com) has been committed to the promotion of the art of dance through quality performances, education and outreach programming. From classic dance performances like the *Nutcracker* to dance adaptations of *Cinderella* or *Peter and the Wolf*, the Rockford Dance Company offers a variety of performances throughout the year. Don't miss Rockford Dance Company's presentation of ***A Midsummer Night's Dream* at 2 & 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 17, 2010, and 3 p.m. Sunday, April 18, 2010, at the Sullivan Center, 118 N. Main St., Rockford.** Lighten your heart and share a laugh with this famous Shakespearean story of sprightly movements filled with mirth, mistaken identity and a successful love story. Fairies, imps, and foolish mortals make this ballet a pure delight! Tickets are \$20 and \$32 and can be purchased by calling 815.963.3341 or by visiting www.rockforddancecompany.com.

The [Rockford Symphony Orchestra](http://www.rockfordsymphonyorchestra.org) isn't the only organization in Rockford offering first-rate musical performances. For 125 years, [Mendelssohn Performing Arts Center](http://www.mendelssohnperformingartscenter.org) has provided quality music through live performances by local and world-renowned artists. Outstanding guest artists who have performed at Mendelssohn through the years include the Vienna Boys Choir, Chanticleer, the ENSO String Quartet, Yuja Wang, Chris Brubeck's Triple Play, and Sharon Isbin. Mendelssohn's 125th anniversary season will come to a close with the **Jazz Matazz!** concert, featuring "hot" performances by icons of the Rockford jazz scene. The concert will take place at **4 p.m. Sunday, May 2, 2010, at Court Street United Methodist Church, Rockford.** Tickets are \$15-\$20 and can be purchased by calling 815.964.9713 or by visiting www.mendelssohnpac.org.

While [Starlight Theatre](http://www.rvcstarlight.com) offers musical productions during the summer months, [Artists' Ensemble Theatre](http://www.artistsensembletheatre.org) offers a wide variety of world-premiere and well-known plays September through May. An Equity Theater that performs in residence at Rockford College, 5050 E. State St., Rockford, [Artists' Ensemble Theatre](http://www.artistsensembletheatre.org) reinforces the Rockford Region's dedication to arts and culture. Don't miss the final production in their 2009-2010 season, "**Italian American Reconciliation**," with performances presented at various times Fridays through Sundays, **May 14-30, 2010.** The cast and crew of Artists' Ensemble Theater brings to life the work of acclaimed American playwright, screenwriter and director John Patrick Shanley, who also wrote and directed the Academy Award-nominated film "Doubt" starring Meryl Streep and Amy Adams. Single tickets are \$10-\$26. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 815.394.5004 or visit www.artistsensemble.org.

Rockford, IL, is located approximately 60 minutes west of Chicago's O'Hare International Airport off Interstate 90. For information on accommodations and things to do, visit www.gorockford.com. RACVB is a private, non-profit organization established in 1984 to champion efforts to promote the Rockford Region as an overnight visitor destination. The RACVB generates positive economic impact for our community through investments in tourism.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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