

NEWS RELEASE

Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau



Feed Your Cultural Cravings in Rockford, Illinois

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ROCKFORD, IL —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 Coronado also presents 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. Coronado claimed the title of the "Top Wonder of the United States" in a 2010 online contest by AOL and the U.S. Travel Association. For show and ticket information, call the box office at 815.968.0595 or visit www.coronadopac.org.

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](#), 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

Rockford Dance Company

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. For show and ticket information, call 815.963.3341 or by visit www.rockforddancecompany.com.

Rockford Symphony Orchestra

The [Rockford Symphony Orchestra](http://www.rockfordsymphonyorchestra.com) has a strong tradition of presenting classical and contemporary orchestral music of the highest caliber. Nationally-known guest artists frequently serve as soloists, adding tremendous variety of diversity to each season.

Mendelssohn Performing Arts Center

For 125 years, [Mendelssohn Performing Arts Center](http://www.mendelssohnpac.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. For show and ticket information, call 815.964.9713 or by visit www.mendelssohnpac.org.

Artists' Ensemble Theatre

While [Starlight Theatre](http://www.starlighttheatre.com) offers musical productions during the summer months, [Artists' Ensemble Theatre](http://www.artistsensemble.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.artistsensemble.org) reinforces the Rockford Region's dedication to arts and culture. For show and ticket information, 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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