

For Immediate Release

**Grand Rapids Pops celebrates Music of Fleetwood Mac with
Landslide, Sept. 22-24**

*Fox Motors Pops series opens with classic rock but continues with
Broadway, comedy, movies and John Williams' film music*

GRAND RAPIDS, MI., September, 8, 2017 – **Fleetwood Mac**, professionally speaking, was poised for great things. Founded in 1967 in London by drummer Mick Fleetwood and bassist John McVie – whose last names supplied the name for the group, the eight-year-old British band got a new lease on life in 1975 with the addition of two Americans, guitarist Lindsey Buckingham and singer Stevie Nicks.

Inspired by the new lineup, Fleetwood Mac's eponymous 10th album, titled *Fleetwood Mac*, was a success in both the United States and the United Kingdom, spawning the group's biggest hit, *Rhiannon*. But the best was yet to come.

Fleetwood Mac's album *Rumors*, released in February 1977, would launch four hit singles, spend 31 weeks on top of the pop charts, and win the 1978 Grammy Award for Album of the Year.

Songs such as *Go Your Own Way*, *Dreams*, *Don't Stop Believing* and *You Make Loving Fun* would go on to sell 40 million copies worldwide and place Fleetwood Mac among the biggest and best acts in the history of pop/rock music.

[Grand Rapids Symphony](#) opens its 2017-18 Fox Motors Pops series with [Landslide: A Tribute to the Music of Fleetwood Mac](#) on September 22-24 in DeVos Performance Hall, 303 Monroe Ave. NW. Shows are at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, September 22-2, and at 3 p.m. Sunday, September 24.

Landslide, a sextet of Los Angeles-based musicians, joins the [Grand Rapids Pops](#) for the concerts that recall the band's glory days of the 1970s and 1980s. **Carter Products** is the Guest Artist Sponsor.

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Principal Pops Conductor Bob Bernhardt, who in the past year has led the Grand Rapids Symphony in salutes to the music of The Beatles, ABBA and Chicago, returns to open the [Fox Motors Pops](#) series. Bernhardt's chair as Principal Pops Conductor is underwritten by Beatrice A. Idema.

In 1976, one year after Fleetwood Mac rebooted and rebranded itself, the lives of all five musicians were in turmoil. McVie and his wife, Christine McVie, the band's keyboardist since 1970s, were ending their marriage of eight years. Buckingham and Nicks, who were romantically involved when they joined the band, were having an on-and-off relationship with frequent fights. Mick Fleetwood faced domestic difficulties of his own after learning his wife and the mother of their two children had had an affair with his best friend.

Despite their personal troubles, Fleetwood Mac entered the recording studio to write and record the album that would become one of the top 10 best-selling albums of all time.

The six-concert **Fox Motors Pops** continues in November with a full-length screening of [An American in Paris](#) starring **Gene Kelly** and **Leslie Caron** with the 1951 film powered by live musical accompaniment. Associate Conductor John Varineau leads performances at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, November 10-11 and at 3 p.m. Sunday, November 12.

In early December, the popular [Wolverine World Wide Holiday Pops](#), featuring the **Grand Rapids Symphony Chorus** and **Grand Rapids Youth Choruses**, welcomes baritone **Leon Williams** back to DeVos Performance Hall along with Grand Rapids' own **Embellish Handbell Choir** for a seasonal celebration of music. Evening shows led by Bob Bernhardt are at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, December 14; and at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, December 15-16. Matinees are at 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, December 16-17.

The 2017-18 season continues in January with [Blockbuster Broadway](#), an evening of Broadway's biggest hits with songs from shows including *Wicked*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *The Sound of Music*, *Chicago*, *A Chorus Line*, and *Cats*. John Varineau leads performances at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, January 26-27, and at 3 p.m. Sunday, January 28.

In conjunction with **Gilda's LaughFest** in Grand Rapids, the Fox Motors Pops season includes a special appearance by **Second City** comedy troupe for a show titled [Second City: Guide to the Symphony](#). John Varineau is on the podium for shows at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, March 16-17, and at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 18.

Back by popular demand, the series concludes with the music of one of the greatest film composers in history with ['Star Wars' and More: The Music of John Williams](#). Bob Bernhardt, a longtime colleague of John Williams, will lead the concerts with music from such legendary film scores as *Jurassic Park*, *Jaws*, the **Indiana Jones films**, and the Star Wars franchise including selections from *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*. The Grand Rapids Symphony Youth Chorus under Sean Ivory will be musical guests.

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Tickets

Single tickets for the [Fox Motors Pops](#) series start at **\$18** and are available at the **GRS ticket office**, weekdays 9 am-5 pm at 300 Ottawa Ave. NW, Suite 100, (located across from the Calder Plaza), or by calling 616.454.9451 x 4. (Phone orders will be charged a \$2 per ticket service fee, with a \$12 maximum.)

Tickets are available at the **DeVos Place box office**, weekdays 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. or on the day of the concert beginning two hours prior to the performance. Tickets also may be purchased online at GRSymphony.org.

Season subscriptions are available at a discount of up to 50 percent off select series and seats for new package orders. Ticket-buying opportunities also include [Create Your Own](#), offering a low ticket price on four programs when you buy all four together; and [Flexpass](#), offering a package of six, eight or 10 vouchers that can be used in any combination on any of 19 programs across three Grand Rapids Symphony series. Go online for more information.

Full-time students of any age are able to purchase tickets for only **\$5** on the night of the concert by enrolling in the [GRS Student Tickets](#) program. This is a [MySymphony360](#) eligible concert.

About the Grand Rapids Symphony

Organized in 1930, the [Grand Rapids Symphony](#) is nationally recognized for the quality of its concerts and educational programs. Led by Music Director Marcelo Lehninger, Principal Pops Conductor Bob Bernhardt and Associate Conductor John Varineau, nine concert series are presented, featuring a wide range of music and performance styles. More than 400 performances are given each year, touching the lives of some 200,000, nearly half of whom are students, senior citizens and people with disabilities all reached through extensive education and community service programs. Affiliated organizations include the Grand Rapids Symphony Chorus; Grand Rapids Youth Symphony and Classical Orchestra; and Grand Rapids Symphony Youth Choruses. GRS provides the orchestra for performances by [Opera Grand Rapids](#) and the [Grand Rapids Ballet](#) and sponsors the biennial [Grand Rapids Bach Festival](#), which was held in March 2017 and returns in 2019.

To learn more about the [Grand Rapids Symphony](#), please visit the website or
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*This activity is supported in part by an award from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs
and the National Endowment for the Arts.*

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