



Richard Hopkins  
Producing Artistic Director

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**FST'S WINTER CABARET SERIES OPENS WITH ORIGINAL MUSIC  
REVUE, *UP ON THE ROOF***

(Sarasota, FL) — Florida Studio Theatre (FST) kicks off its 2023-2024 Winter Cabaret Series with *Up on the Roof*, an energetic music revue celebrating the legendary songwriters who churned out hit after hit in Midtown Manhattan, creating what became known as the "Brill Sound." Featuring more than two dozen hits from the '50s and '60s, *Up on the Roof* explores the lasting contributions of such songwriting teams as Carole King and Gerry Goffin, Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller, and Burt Bacharach and Hal David. Created by Rebecca Hopkins and Richard Hopkins with musical arrangements by Jim Prosser, *Up on the Roof* begins playing September 27 in FST's Court Cabaret.

*Up on the Roof* is part of a three-show subscription package. Also included in the Cabaret subscription package is *Take it to the Limit*, a tribute to the music of 1970s Rock & Roll rebels, along with *The Flip Side*, an offbeat Cabaret celebrating some of the best comic songwriters of the 20th Century. Subscriptions for all three Winter Cabaret shows can be purchased for as little as \$49. Subscriptions and single tickets are now on sale at 941.366.9000 or [FloridaStudioTheatre.org](http://FloridaStudioTheatre.org).

"Songs featuring the 'Brill Sound' were crafted by young but incredibly talented songwriters who intrinsically captured universal emotions and experiences in their lyrics," said show director Catherine Randazzo. "But their songs also had memorable melodies and catchy hooks. This combination gave the songs mass appeal, shooting them to the top of the charts."

From the late '50s to the early '60s, there were several buildings in Midtown Manhattan, including the Brill Building, that had staffs of young songwriters who crafted numerous hits for such artists as The Drifters, Elvis Presley, Dionne Warwick, and The Monkees. Featuring songs like "A Teenager in Love," "One Fine Day," "Walk on By," and "River Deep Mountain High," *Up on the Roof* examines how these legendary writers helped create what is now considered modern pop music.

Bringing this distinctive sound to life in FST's Court Cabaret is a four-person ensemble: **Jannie Jones** (*The 70s: More Than A Decade*, 2023), **Jacquelyne Paige** (FST debut), **Joey Panek** (*The God Committee*, 2023 Summer New Play Festival) and **Brandon Wardell** (*Reel Music*, 2023). FST's Resident Pianist, **Jim Prosser**, will provide musical accompaniment on the piano.

The production's creative team includes **Catherine Randazzo** (Director), **Darren Server** (Music Direction), **Ben Liebert** (Choreography), **Daniel Ciba** (Costume Design), **Andrew**

**Gray** (Lighting & Scenic Design), **Nicholas Christensen** (Sound Design), and **Sarah Durham** (Projections Design).

FST's presentation of *Up on the Roof* is sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture, and the National Endowment for the Arts. The production is also supported by Gulf Coast Community Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, Sarasota County Tourist Development Tax Revenues, and The Exchange. Thank you to our media sponsor, *Sarasota SCENE Magazine*.

### **ABOUT FLORIDA STUDIO THEATRE**

Florida Studio Theatre (FST) is Sarasota's contemporary theatre. Founded in 1973, FST has grown to a village of five theatres located in the heart of downtown Sarasota. Each theatre is small in size and large in impact— providing intimate and engaging settings for high-quality, professional performances.

Today, FST has established itself as a major force in American Theatre. FST is the largest subscription theatre in the state of Florida and among the largest in the country, serving more than 200,000 live attendees each year across its diverse programs: Mainstage, Cabaret, Stage III, Children's Theatre, The FST School, and New Play Development.

Even with its growth, Florida Studio Theatre remains firmly committed to making the arts accessible and affordable to as many people as possible. Under the leadership of Producing Artistic Director Richard Hopkins, FST develops theatre that speaks to our living, evolving, and dynamically changing world. Hip and historical, entertaining and challenging, we are where everyone is welcome to engage in the art of theatre.

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