

local news



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TALKING WITH ...

Yvette Kojic

The director and co-producer speaks about the upcoming show, "Hear My Songs: The Music of Jason Robert Brown," at the Studio Theatre at Tierra Del Sol.



By KRISTEN FIORE  
Daily Sun Staff Writer

American theatrical music composer Jason Robert Brown has been celebrated for his scores in popular musicals such as "The Last Five Years," "Parade" and "Songs for a New World."

As part of its summer song cycle, the Studio Theatre at Tierra Del Sol will produce a show that celebrates Brown's work.

"Hear My Songs: The Music of Jason Robert Brown" runs May 25-30. Tickets for the show are \$35, while VIP tickets are \$60 and include first-choice seats and a meet-and-greet with performers after the show. Tickets can be purchased online at thesharonstudio.com or at any Villages Box Office location.

Yvette Kojic, director and co-producer of the show, recently gave the Daily Sun some details about what audiences can expect.

Can you give some background information about this show?

"Hear My Songs: The Music of Jason Robert Brown" is a live concert of some of three-time Tony Award-winner Jason Robert Brown's most notable songs, and maybe even a few you've never heard before. It's a celebration of the work of one of the most talented contemporary writers in American musical theater.

How many people are in the cast?

There are four incredible performers in the cast: Cole Burden ("The Bridges of Madison County," "Les Misérables — 25th Anniversary"), Cameron Anika Hill ("Dear Evan Hansen," "Mamma Mia!"), Vince Oddo ("Amazing Grace," "American Idiot"), and Kalli Siringas ("Les Misérables," "Stronger Together," "Broadway at Birdland").

SEE THE SHOW AT  
STUDIO THEATRE

**What:** "Hear my Songs: The Music of Jason Robert Brown"  
**When:** May 25-30  
**Where:** Studio Theatre at Tierra Del Sol, 806 San Marino Drive

**Cost:** Tickets for the show are \$35, while VIP tickets are \$60 and include first-choice seats and a meet-and-greet with performers after the show.

Are there costumes and props, or is it more about the music?

The music is really the focus of this show. We want to celebrate his body of work in a concert-like setting, but don't want to distract from it by over-producing it with tons of props and costumes. We have four cast members in the show, but we're treating it as if Brown's music is the fifth cast member.

What do you hope people get out of this show?

We hope that people will get a better understanding of one of today's most prolific contemporary musical theater writers and, hopefully, go home and listen to a new cast recording of something they've never heard. We have an amazing lineup of rising Broadway talent and a fantastic band that's going

to really blow the roof off this place! We're even talking about planning a few surprises that I think the audience will be really excited about.

What has it been like to direct and co-produce this show?

Directing and co-producing this show for the Studio Theatre in The Villages has been such an incredible opportunity and really, a dream come true. I've been wanting to develop a show for this theater for a few years, and the stars finally aligned and it's happening. I am co-producing with our music director, Randy Redd, who was in the original Broadway company of Jason Robert Brown's "Parade," so it's been a thrill to work with him on this and learn from

his incredible knowledge of Brown's music.

Anything else you'd like to add?

We are working hard on putting together this incredible evening and are so excited to bring this show to The Villages! We really hope

the audiences will enjoy "Hear My Songs: The Music of Jason Robert Brown."

Kristen Fiore is a staff writer with The Villages Daily Sun. She can be reached at 352-753-1119, ext. 5270, or kristen.fiore@thevillagesmedia.com.

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