



Philip Levine, a Democrat candidate for governor, talks to residents Wednesday at the Hampton Inn & Suites. A crowd of about 100 attended the event.

Gubernatorial Candidate Philip Levine Makes Stop To Speak In The Villages

By KATIE SARTORIS
Daily Sun Associate Managing Editor

If you ask Philip Levine about his political affiliation, he will tell you he is proud to be running as a Democrat. “But I’m not left. I’m not right. I’m forward,” Levine, a Democratic candidate for governor, told local Democrats on Wednesday. “I’m pro-people. I’m pro-business.” Levine visited the Hampton Inn & Suites off County Road 466 on Wednesday afternoon and spoke to about 100 people. In the crowd was voter Barbara Lawrence, vice president of the Marion Oaks Democratic Club, who has

been scouting out her gubernatorial options. “I’m very interested in what he has to say,” she said before Levine spoke. “We have a lot of candidates running for governor. I want to pick the right one.” During the event, Levine talked about his time as Miami Beach mayor from 2013 to 2017. During his tenure, he led a reform of the Miami Beach Police Department, renovated infrastructure to deal with rising sea levels, passed local gun laws and raised the minimum wage — all things he said he would work to implement on a statewide scale. Levine is neck-and-neck in the polls with Gwen Graham, a former U.S. Congresswoman and the daughter of

Bob Graham, former Florida governor. Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum and Winter Park entrepreneur Chris King are following in the polls. All have visited The Villages. In an interview with the Daily Sun, Levine said his reception in The Villages has always been fantastic. “I find that our message resonates from Pensacola to Key West that Floridians want the same thing,” he said. “When I’m here, it’s always been very, very positive.” And that was the case Wednesday — the event was standing-room only. Standing in the corner by the door was Cathy Cirocco, of the Village Rio Ponderosa. Even though she wasn’t able to secure a seat, she said Levine’s message resonated with her. “I really like what he said,” she said. “He was down to earth, explained his politics clearly and it’s what I believe in. His experience as a mayor also goes a long way.”

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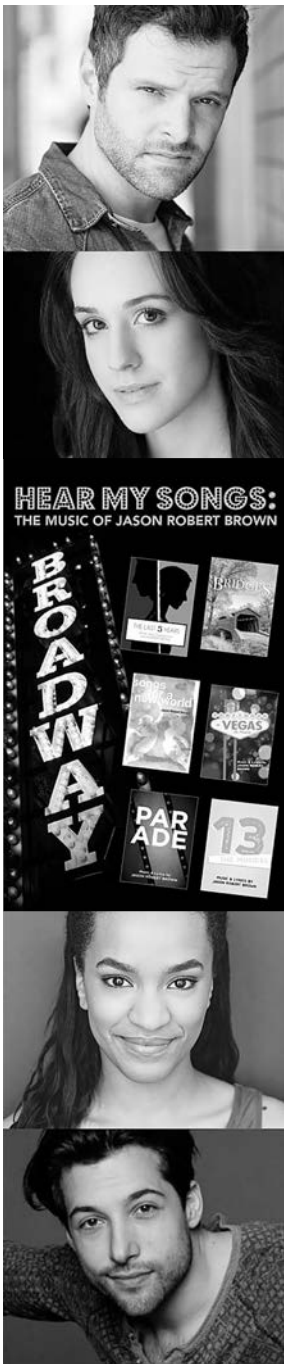
Tickets are still available for the upcoming show, “Hear My Songs: the Songs of Jason Robert Brown” at the Studio Theatre.

By KRISTEN FIORE
Daily Sun Senior Writer

Jason Robert Brown composed the music for highly esteemed shows such as “The Last Five Years,” “Songs for a New World” and “Parade.” This month, the Studio Theatre at Tierra Del Sol will premiere “Hear My Songs: the Songs of Jason Robert Brown,” a show meant to assemble and celebrate Brown’s work. The show will feature talented performers Randy Redd, Cole Burden, Kalli Siringas and Cameron Hill. They have experience on Broadway and in film, touring and production. Many of them entered the theater world because they were positively influenced by Brown’s music. “The audiences at the Studio Theatre are getting a brand-new show,” Redd said. “They will play a major role in the development and the success of ‘Hear My Songs.’” Burden said this is the first time Brown’s music has been assembled for a song-cycle such as this one. “Jason is a complex writer,” Burden said. “His lyrics are poetic. They tell a story.” Brown is similar to Stephen Sondheim in that his writing is incredibly layered and

purposeful, according to Siringas. “This show searches for true human connection and our greatest need of all, to be heard,” Siringas said. “Through stories of love and loss, we hope to leave the audience with moments and memories they can relate to in their own lives.” Hill said “Hear My Songs” will have something for everyone. “There are themes about love, careers, growing up, growing older, having a family and facing adversity,” Hill said. “I would recommend seeing it because it’s such a lovely cast and set list that you can really experience what makes his music so iconic.” The music will be performed in duets, solos and group numbers. “Not only will you hear popular songs from all of Jason’s award-winning Broadway and off-Broadway musicals, but we are also including a few very special songs that aren’t as well-known,” Redd said. “We’ll even be putting a new spin on a couple of fan favorites.” “Hear My Songs” will run from May 25-30 at The Studio. Tickets are \$35, but VIP tickets are also available for \$60. VIP tickets include first-choice seating and a meet-and-greet with the performers after the show. To check the show times and purchase tickets, visit thesharonstudio.com.

Kristen Fiore is a senior 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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