



HOPKINS CENTER  
FOR THE ARTS

presents

## **Pink Martini**

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*Funded in part by a Gift of Kathryn and Richard H. Kimball '78 P'16, the John M. Tiedtke 1930 Visiting Performing Artists Fund, the Patricia S. and Robert A. Levinson 1946 Fund in Support of the Hopkins Center's Visiting Performing Artists Program and the Visiting Performing Artist Fund.*

Tue • October 17, 2017 • 7 pm  
Spaulding Auditorium • Dartmouth College

# Band

Thomas M. Lauderdale, piano  
China Forbes, vocals  
Gavin Bondy, trumpet  
Robert Taylor, trombone  
Nicholas Crosa, violin  
Phil Baker, upright bass  
Dan Faehnle, guitar  
Timothy Nishimoto, vocals and percussion  
Brian Davis, congas and percussion  
Miguel Bernal, congas and percussion  
Reinhardt Melz, drums and percussion

Tonight's performance is presented with an intermission.

## About the Artists

In 1994 in his hometown of Portland, OR, Thomas Lauderdale was working in politics, thinking that one day he would run for mayor. Like other eager politicians-in-training, he went to every political fundraiser under the sun...but was dismayed to find the music at these events underwhelming, lackluster, loud and un-neighborly. Drawing inspiration from music from all over the world—crossing genres of classical, jazz and old-fashioned pop—and hoping to appeal to conservatives and liberals alike, he founded the “little orchestra” **Pink Martini** in 1994 to provide more beautiful and inclusive musical soundtracks for political fundraisers for causes such as civil rights, affordable housing, the environment, libraries, public broadcasting, education and parks.

One year later, Lauderdale called China Forbes, a Harvard classmate who was living in New York City, and asked her to join Pink Martini. They began to write songs together. Their first song *Sympathique* became an overnight sensation in France, was nominated for Song of the Year at France's Victoires de la Musique Awards, and to this day remains a mantra (“Je ne veux pas travailler” or “I don't want to work”) for striking French workers.

Featuring a dozen musicians, Pink Martini performs its multilingual repertoire on concert stages and with symphony orchestras throughout Europe, Asia, Greece, Turkey, the Middle East, Northern Africa, Australia, New Zealand, South America and North America. Pink Martini made its European debut at the Cannes Film Festival in 1997 and its orchestral debut with the Oregon Symphony in 1998 under the direction of Norman Leyden. Since then, the band has gone on to play with more than 50 orchestras around the world, including multiple engagements with the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl, the Boston Pops, the National Symphony at the Kennedy Center, the San Francisco Symphony, the Cleveland Orchestra, and the BBC Concert Orchestra at Royal Albert Hall in London. Other appearances include the grand opening of the Los Angeles Philharmonic's Frank Gehry-designed Walt Disney Concert Hall, with return sold-out engagements for New Year's Eve 2003, 2004, 2008 and 2011; four sold-out concerts at Carnegie Hall; the opening party of the remodeled Museum of Modern Art in New York City; the Governor's Ball at the 80th Annual Academy Awards in 2008; the opening of the 2008 Sydney Festival in Australia; multiple sold-out appearances, and a festival

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opening, at the Montreal Jazz Festival; two sold-out concerts at Paris' legendary L'Olympia Theatre in 2011; and Paris' fashion house Lanvin's 10-year anniversary celebration for designer Alber Elbaz in 2012. In its twentieth year, Pink Martini was inducted into both the Hollywood Bowl Hall of Fame and the Oregon Music Hall of Fame.

Pink Martini's debut album *Symphonique* was released independently in 1997 on the band's own label Heinz Records (named after Lauderdale's dog), and quickly became an international phenomenon, garnering the group nominations for Song of the Year and Best New Artist in France's Victoires de la Musique Awards in 2000. Pink Martini released *Hang On Little Tomato* in 2004, *Hey Eugene!* in 2007 and *Splendor In The Grass* in 2009. In November 2010 the band released *Joy To The World*—a festive, multi-denominational holiday album featuring songs from around the globe. *Joy To The World* received glowing reviews and was carried in Starbucks stores during the 2010 and 2011 holiday seasons. All five albums have gone gold in France, Canada, Greece and Turkey.

In Fall 2011 the band released two albums—*A Retrospective*, a collection of the band's most beloved songs spanning their 18-year career, which includes eight previously unreleased tracks, and *1969*, an album of collaborations with legendary Japanese singer Saori Yuki. *1969* has been certified platinum in Japan, reaching #2 on the Japanese charts. The release of *1969* marked the first time a Japanese artist hit the American Billboard charts since Kyu Sakamoto released *Sukiyaki* in 1963. Pink Martini albums have sold over 3 million copies worldwide.

The band has collaborated and performed with numerous artists, including Jimmy Scott, Carol Channing, Jane Powell, Rufus Wainwright, Martha Wainwright, Henri Salvador, Chavela Vargas, New York performer Joey Arias, puppeteer Basil Twist, Georges Moustaki, Michael Feinstein, filmmaker Gus Van Sant, Courtney Taylor-Taylor of The Dandy Warhols, clarinetist and conductor Leyden,

Japanese legend Hiroshi Wada, Italian actress and songwriter Alba Clemente, DJ Johnny Dynell and Chi Chi Valenti, Faith Prince, Mamie Van Doren, the original cast of *Sesame Street*, the Bonita Vista High School Marching Band of Chula Vista, CA, the Portland Youth Philharmonic, and the Pacific Youth Choir of Portland, OR. Singer Storm Large began performing with Pink Martini in March 2011 when China Forbes took a leave of absence to undergo surgery on her vocal cords. Forbes made full recovery and now both she and Large continue performing with Pink Martini.

Pink Martini has an illustrious roster of regular guest artists: NPR's *All Things Considered* host, Ari Shapiro, Cantor Ida Rae Cahana (who was cantor at the Central Synagogue in NYC for five years), koto player Masumi Timson, harpist Maureen Love, and Kim Hastreiter (the publisher/editor-in-chief of *Paper* magazine).

In January 2012 bandleader Lauderdale began work on Pink Martini's seventh studio album when he recorded the Charlie Chaplin song *Smile* with the legendary Phyllis Diller. The album, titled *Get Happy*, was released in 2013, and features 16 globe-spanning songs in nine languages. Forbes anchors the recording and is joined by Large, recording with Pink Martini for the first time, along with a cavalcade of special guests including Rufus Wainwright, Philippe Katerine, Meow Meow, The von Trapps and Ari Shapiro.

While still in the studio for *Get Happy*, Lauderdale simultaneously began work on the band's eighth studio album, *Dream a Little Dream*, featuring Sofia, Melanie, Amanda and August von Trapp, the actual great-grandchildren of Captain and Maria von Trapp, made famous by the movie *The Sound of Music*. These siblings have been singing together for 12 years and have toured all over the world in concert. Drawn into the magical orbit of Thomas Lauderdale, they now live together in a house in Portland, Oregon and have been frequent guest performers with Pink Martini. The album, released in 2014, traverses the world, from Sweden to Rwanda

# About the Artists continued

to China to Bavaria, and features guest appearances by The Chieftains, Wayne Newton, "Jungle" Jack Hanna and Charmian Carr (who played Liesl in the original *Sound of Music*).

Pink Martini has just released its ninth studio album, *Je dis oui!*, which features vocals from China Forbes, Storm Large, Ari Shapiro, fashion guru Ikram Goldman, civil rights activist Kathleen Saadat and Rufus Wainwright. The album is the band's happiest in years; it features fifteen tracks spanning eight languages (French, Farsi, Armenian, Portuguese, Arabic, Turkish, Xhosa and English), and affirms the band's 22-year history of global inclusivity and collaborative spirit. Pink Martini last performed at the Hopkins Center in 2015.

**Thomas Lauderdale piano** was raised in rural Indiana and began piano lessons at age six. When his family moved to Portland in 1982, he began studying with Sylvia Killman, who remains his coach and mentor today. At the age of 14, he made his first appearance with the Oregon Symphony under the direction of Norman Leyden. Active in Oregon politics since he was student body president at Grant High School, Lauderdale served under Portland Mayor Bud Clark and Oregon Governor Neil Goldschmidt. In 1991, he worked under Portland City Commissioner Gretchen Kafoury on the drafting and passage of the city's civil rights ordinance. He graduated with honors from Harvard with a degree in History and Literature in 1992. He spent most of his collegiate years, however, in cocktail dresses, taking on the role of cruise director, throwing waltzes with live orchestras and ice sculptures, disco masquerades, and operating a Tuesday night coffeehouse called Café Mardi.

Instead of running for political office, Lauderdale founded Pink Martini in 1994 to play political fundraisers for progressive causes such as civil rights, the environment and affordable housing. Now in its 23rd year, Pink Martini and Lauderdale are Oregon's musical ambassadors to the world, performing a multilingual repertoire on concert stages from Carnegie Hall to the Hollywood Bowl to Royal Albert Hall, and with more than 50 symphony

orchestras throughout Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Australia, New Zealand and the Americas. The band has released ten albums on its own label Heinz Records, most recently the exuberate *Je dis oui!*

In November 2016. Lauderdale currently serves on the boards of the Oregon Symphony and Pioneer Courthouse Square in Portland, Oregon.

**China Forbes vocals** was born and raised in Cambridge, MA, where she graduated cum laude from Harvard and was awarded the Jonathan Levy Prize for acting. She appeared in New York regional theater and off-off Broadway productions, earning her Equity card alongside future stars of stage and screen such as Norm Lewis, Peter Jacobson and Rainn Wilson.

In 1994 she put her first band together and played regularly at NYC clubs CBGB's Gallery, Mercury Lounge and Brownies. Her first solo album *Love Handle* was released in 1995 and she was chosen to sing *Ordinary Girl*, the theme song to the TV show *Clueless*.

At that same time she was plucked from New York City by Harvard classmate Thomas Lauderdale to sing with Pink Martini, and has since written many of Pink Martini's most beloved songs with Lauderdale, including *Sympathique*, *Lilly*, *Clementine*, *Let's Never Stop Falling in Love*, *Over the Valley* and most recently *A Snowglobe Christmas*, which can be heard on Pink Martini's holiday album *Joy to the World*. Her original song *Hey Eugene* is the title track of Pink Martini's third album and many of her songs can also be heard on television and film. She sang *Qué Será Será* over the opening and closing credits of Jane Campion's film *In the Cut* and her original song *The Northern Line* appears at the end of sister Maya Forbes' directorial debut *Infinitely Polar Bear*, released in 2015 by Sony Pictures Classics.

With Pink Martini, China has appeared on *The Late Show with David Letterman*, *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*, *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*

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and *Later with Jools Holland*. She has performed songs in over twelve languages and has sung duets with Michael Feinstein, Jimmy Scott, Georges Moustaki, Henri Salvador, Saori Yuki, Faith Prince, Carol Channing and Rufus Wainwright. She has performed in venues from Carnegie Hall to the Hollywood Bowl to the Grand Rex in Paris. She released her second solo album '78 on Heinz

Records in 2008, a collection of autobiographical folk-rock songs.

In the spring of 2011 China took a leave of absence from Pink Martini to undergo surgery on her vocal chords and to spend time with her son. Thankfully all went very well and she is thrilled to be back on stage singing every chance she gets.

## Upcoming Events



### Barbary Coast Jazz Ensemble

Fri • November 3 • 8 pm

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### Roomful of Teeth

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