



Richard Hopkins
Producing Artistic Director

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**COME TOGETHER OPENS FST'S
2019 SUMMER CABARET SERIES**

(Sarasota, FL) — Florida Studio Theatre kicks off its 6th Summer Cabaret Series with *Come Together: When the 60s Met the 70s*, a rockin' revue that explores the changing musical landscape from 1965-1975. Created by audience favorite Carole J. Bufford, *Come Together* examines one of the most exciting, controversial, and impactful decades in American history. With musical arrangements by Bufford and Ian Herman, *Come Together* starts June 11 in FST's Court Cabaret. Tickets can be purchased at floridastudiotheatre.org or at (941) 366-9000.

According to *Cabaret Scenes*, "Carole J. Bufford and her knockout band offer an evening of tensile strength, [and] infectious and free radical fun!" With songs like "Dream a Little Dream of Me," "The Night the Light Went Out in Georgia," and "Killing Me Softly," this music revue gives audiences a glimpse behind the inspiration for each song. As Bufford pieced together the Cabaret, she chose songs by artists who inspire her, like Cher, The Beatles, and Simon & Garfunkel. With Bufford's high-octane vocals and ability to put her own spin on beloved music, audiences will hear music they know and love in an entirely new way.

The music that was produced between 1965 and 1975 reflected the change and chaos that was taking place in the United States at the time. "The 60s were, in many ways, about chasing freedom, and it is reflected in the music," shared Bufford. "Some songs covertly suggest the case for freedom, while others demand it outright. In this music, there is a sense of urgency to everything. As an actress, nothing is more invigorating than high stakes."

Over the past few years, Bufford has become one of the leading artists in New York's cabaret and jazz scene, and frequently performs to sold out houses. Her recent shows, *speak easy*, and *Body & Soul*, received rave reviews from *The New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal*.

Bufford is looking forward to returning to FST, where she performed her box office hit, *Roar! The Music of the 1920s and Beyond*. "During the decade that *Come Together* explores, musical genres collided—jazz fused with soul, soul fused with folk, and pop singers reached back to the Great American Songbook for chart-topping hits," said Bufford. "The show is a natural follow up to *Roar!*, because in both the '20s and '60s, the youth were leading the conversation."

Performing alongside Bufford are Tony Bruno (Drums), Chuck Davis (Guitar), Assaf Gleizner (Pianist/Music Director), and Kroy Presley (Bass). Bruno has worked with FST for over 30

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years, playing for FST's productions of *Always...Patsy Cline*, *Burt & Me*, and *Piano Men*. Davis started his career playing guitar in rock bands, Top 40 cover bands, and show bands, and, in recent years, has played guitar in FST's productions of *Always...Patsy Cline* and *Piano Men*.

Gleizner has worked as a composer, music director, orchestrator, and arranger around the world for the past ten years. He has worked on productions on and off Broadway, and was the composer/orchestrator for *The Office! A Musical Parody*, one of the past season's most successful Off-Broadway productions. Presley has played Jay Perkins in productions of *Million Dollar Quartet* throughout the country, and played bass in *The Blue Eyed Bettys* and *Roar! The Music of the 1920s and Beyond* at FST (Summer 2017).

Come Together: When the 60s Met the 70s opens FST's 6th Summer Cabaret Series, and begins June 11 in FST's Court Cabaret. Tickets can be purchased at floridastudiotheatre.org or at (941) 366-9000.

ABOUT FLORIDA STUDIO THEATRE

Known as Sarasota's Contemporary Theatre, Florida Studio Theatre was founded in 1973 by Artist, Jon Spelman. Starting out as a small touring company, FST traveled to places such as migrant camps and prisons. The company eventually settled down into a permanent home, acquiring the former Woman's Club building – now renamed the Keating Theatre. In the years that followed, Florida Studio Theatre established itself as a major force in American Theatre, presenting contemporary theatre in its five theatre venues: the Keating Theatre, the Goldstein Cabaret, the renovated Gompertz Theatre, the John C. Court Cabaret and Bowne's Lab Theatre.

Even with its growth, Florida Studio Theatre remains firmly committed to making the arts accessible and affordable to a broad-based audience. Under Producing Artistic Director and CEO, Richard Hopkins, FST develops theatre that speaks to our living, evolving, and dynamically changing world. As FST grows and expands, it continues to provide audiences with challenging, contemporary drama and innovative programs.

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