



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **FST ANNOUNCES SECOND EXTENSION OF *PIANO MEN*: LONGEST RUNNING CABARET SHOW IN FST HISTORY**

(Sarasota, FL) — Due to popular demand, FST announces the second extension of *Piano Men* through April 15 in the Goldstein Cabaret. This hit revue celebrates the virtuosity and elegance of artists such as Elton John, Billy Joel, and Barry Manilow. Tickets may be purchased online at FloridaStudioTheatre.org, by phone at (941) 366-9000, or by visiting the Box Office.

Now extended into in a record-breaking 20<sup>th</sup> week of performances, at its completion *Piano Men* will be the longest running show in FST history just surpassing the beloved Cabaret productions of *American Pie* and *Yesterday*. Audiences show their enthusiasm for this show saying it's, "Phenomenal," a "Fun performance," and "One of the best Cabarets ever."

Critics are also raving about this dynamic evening of dueling pianos. The *Sarasota Herald-Tribune* calls it, "Upbeat" while it "Evokes the hits of an era." *Total Theater* says "*Piano Men* sparkles." *The Observer* describes it as "Poignant," "Stellar work," with "Great musicians."

While audiences are having a great time in their seats, the cast and band are rocking right along with them from on stage. Cast member Brian Walters speaks to keeping the music feeling upbeat and new each night. "The music speaks for itself. I continue exploring and adding my own flavor to the style and story of the songs, which helps keep me on my own toes. The biggest challenge is keeping everything fresh. We have a rewarding yet tiresome performance schedule for two people onstage. I also secretly like trying to make my fellow cast mate, John and the band laugh when they least expect it. That's always fun for everyone."

Cast member John Grieco speaks to this freedom of being able to insert original and in-the-moment adlibs during the show each night. "I grew up listening to Jerry Lee Lewis, Elton John, Billy Joel, and many more," says Grieco. "I started playing piano and organ as a kid and I love doing shows that let me be a part of making the music."

*Piano Men* continues in the Goldstein Cabaret through April 15. Single tickets may be purchased online at FloridaStudioTheatre.org, by phone at (941) 366-9000 or by visiting the Box Office.

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## 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 then acquired the former Woman's Club building, becoming the first permanent venue. Shortly after Producing Artistic Director Richard Hopkins arrived, the building was purchased and 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 Gompertz Theatre, the Parisian style Goldstein Cabaret and 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. 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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