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FST ADDS PERFORMANCES TO LIMITED ENGAGEMENT RUN OF *UNCHAINED MELODIES*

(Sarasota, FL) —Florida Studio Theatre (FST) announces that it has added an additional week of performances to the special encore run of its runaway hit Cabaret, *Unchained Melodies*. After completing more than 160 performances over the course of 18 weeks in FST's Court Cabaret, an exclusive remount of *Unchained Melodies* will play in FST's Keating Theatre, now through March 23. Written by Richard Hopkins and Rebecca Hopkins with arrangements by Jim Prosser, *Unchained Melodies* features songs from legendary doo-wop and Motown groups like The Drifters and The Temptations. Tickets are now on sale at floridastudiotheatre.org and 941.366.9000.

Unchained Melodies celebrates the male harmony groups of the '50s and '60s, featuring some of doo-wop and Motown's greatest hits. Night after night, audiences were swept away by the rhythms and harmonies of songs like "Blue Moon," "16 Candles," "Save the Last Dance," and "Working My Way Back to You." Audiences have raved about the Cabaret, calling it "Unbelievable," "Extremely entertaining," and that *Unchained Melodies* "Brought up tears and memories from a time gone by."

"I think one of the reasons that the show has resonated with audiences so much is that they're reliving part of their childhood or when they fell in love!" shared David Marmanillo, the bass in FST's quartet of performers. "My favorite part of doing *Unchained Melodies* is watching people fall in love all over again. It's different songs for everybody, but it happens every night. From playful whispers in each other's ears when they hear the beginning of their favorite songs, to holding each other's hands by the end of the song—it's wonderful to watch unfold."

"We couldn't be more thrilled that audiences are connecting with *Unchained Melodies*. We knew when we opened that we had one of those special shows, but have been blown away by the overwhelming response," shared Rebecca Hopkins, Lead Developer of the show. "It is just really powerful music that so many people have an emotional connection to. It is so heartwarming to watch the audience interact with the guys and leave the theater with a pep in their step."

Critics were also caught up in the magic of *Unchained Melodies* during its original production. *The Observer* calls the musical revue "World class" and "Incredible." *Broadway World* calls it "A fast paced jog down memory lane," "Beautiful," and "Deliciously engaging." *Total Theater*

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dubs it “A ‘must’ for those who like music of the eras celebrated,” “Excellent,” and “Impressive.”

This production is made possible thanks to support in part by Culture Builds Florida, Gulf Coast Community Foundation, The Exchange, and Sarasota SCENE Magazine. *Unchained Melodies* will play in FST’s Keating Theatre from March 6-23. Single tickets are now on sale at floridastudiotheatre.org and 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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