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FST'S HIT CABARET, *UNCHAINED MELODIES*, RETURNS FOR SPECIAL LIMITED ENGAGEMENT RUN

(Sarasota, FL) —Florida Studio Theatre (FST) proudly presents a special encore run of its wildly popular Cabaret celebrating male harmony groups, *Unchained Melodies*. After playing nine shows a week for 18 weeks, the Cabaret was forced to close in FST's Court Cabaret, with a new Cabaret loading into the same space. Due to high audience demand, FST sent the performers home for a month, only to bring cast members back for the encore production of *Unchained Melodies* in FST's Keating Theatre, where it will play March 6 -17. Written by Richard Hopkins and Rebecca Hopkins with arrangements by Jim Prosser, *Unchained Melodies* features songs from legendary 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 songs by doo-wop and Motown's top artists. Every night, audience members danced in their seats and sang along with the cast to 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," "Perfection," and "A memorable and thoroughly engaging evening."

Over 18,000 people have already been charmed by the smooth harmonies and heartwarming lyrics of *Unchained Melodies*. "Any excuse to come back here, I'll always jump on because FST is like a second home to me at this point," shared Nick Anastasia. "I love the people, the audiences, and I just love being here. I'm looking forward to more *Melodies*."

"Every once in a while we are fortunate enough to get a runaway hit like *Unchained Melodies*," explained Rebecca Hopkins, Lead Developer of the show. "Of course, we want as many people as possible to get to experience these productions, so we are thrilled we could make this extension possible by moving this hit production across the street to our Keating Theatre in March."

Critics were also caught up in the magic of *Unchained Melodies* during its original production. *The Observer* calls the musical revue "World class" and "Great fun." *Broadway World* calls it "A fast paced jog down memory lane," "Delightful," and "Deliciously engaging." *Total Theater* dubs it "A great audience pleaser," "Impressive," and "Energetic."

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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 6-17. 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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