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## Say “I Do” to **THE WEDDING SINGER** July 24-August 2 Relive the totally “Awesome” decade that was the ‘80s at the Benedum Center

**Pittsburgh, PA · July 10, 2015** – Party like it’s 1985 with Pittsburgh CLO’s production of *THE WEDDING SINGER* July 24-August 2 at the Benedum Center. This musical romantic comedy brings the cult hit film to life with iconic dance moves and infectious beats that will have you leaving the theater feeling “rad.”

Meet New Jersey’s favorite wedding singer/rock-star wannabe, Robbie Hart. He’s the life of the party, until his fiancée leaves him heartbroken at the altar. “Shot through the heart,” Robbie turns every wedding into a disaster. Enter Julia, a winsome waitress who wins his affection with her innocent charm. Robbie falls hard, only to learn that Julia is about to be married to a narcissistic Wall Street shark. Can he can pull off the performance of a decade or will the girl of his dreams be gone forever? Nominated for five Tony Awards® *THE WEDDING SINGER* is packed with enough music and dancing to leave you longing once more for “the decade of excess!”

### ABOUT THE CAST

**Jenna Ushkowitz (Julia)** is known for her role as Tina Cohen-Chang in the three-time Emmy nominated, FOX television series, “Glee.” Most recently, Jenna served as Executive Producer of *Twinsters*, a film documentary that premiered at SXSW in Austin. Last summer, she starred in the Hollywood Bowl special production of *Hair*. Prior to becoming a Glee, she was on Broadway in the Tony Award®-winning production of *Spring Awakening* where she performed the roles of Ilse, Martha, Anna and Thea. Jenna released her first memoir, “Choosing Glee” in May 2013, which is a heartfelt, practical guide for teens on how to be your true self. Baseball fans may know her as the first host of *Yankees on Deck*, which is a behind-the-scenes sports show geared towards young audiences on the YES! Network. Jenna made her Broadway debut at the age of nine in the 1996 revival of *The King and I*, and performed with the original cast in an appearance at the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade that year. Her television credits include “Sesame Street,” “Reading Rainbow,” “As the World Turns” and the pilot “The Imagination Movers” for Playhouse Disney.

**Brandon Andrus (Glen)** last appeared in Pittsburgh as Nick Massi in *Jersey Boys* at the Benedum Center. Other favorite roles: Terry & Buddy covers in *Side Show* (Broadway), Mr. Darcy in *Jane Austen’s Pride & Prejudice* (World Premiere), Curly in *Oklahoma!* (1st National Tour), Sonny in *Xanadu*, Chad in *All Shook Up* and King Arthur in *Camelot*.

**Jackie Burns (Linda)** returns to Pittsburgh CLO after recently appearing as Aldonza in *Man of La Mancha*. Broadway: *If/Then*, *Wicked*, *Hair*; Off-Broadway: *Rock of Ages* (original cast), *Hair* (original revival cast), *Unlock’d* (NYMF), *Ripper*. National Tour: *Wicked* (IRNE Award nomination). Regional: *A Grand Night for Singing* (Connecticut Critics Circle Award), *The Full Monty*, *Singin’ in the Rain*, *Joseph.*, *Sweeney Todd*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *Candide* and *Smokey Joe’s Café*. TV: “All My Children.” Concept Albums: “Swept Away” (Disney), “Tears from Heaven” and “Excalibur” (Frank Wildhorn).

**Greg Kamp (George)** returns to Pittsburgh CLO after appearing as Willard in *Footloose* last season. Theater: *Catch Me If You Can* (National Tour), *Barry Manilow’s Harmony* (Ahmanson), *Power Plays* (Dramatist Guild), & *Saturday Night* (York Theatre). TV: “Wronged Man” (Lifetime), “Past Life” (Fox) and “Solving Charlie” (ABC). A CCM grad, Mr. Kamp also serves as an Artistic Associate with Hook & Eye Theater and on staff with the Broadway Dreams Foundation.

**Susan Cella (Angie)** returns to Pittsburgh CLO after appearing in *Mary Poppins*, *Man of La Mancha* and *Gypsy* this season. Broadway: *The Graduate*, *Crazy He Calls Me*, *Me and My Girl*, *Evita*, *On the Twentieth Century*, *Allegro*, *Lady in the Dark*. National tours: *Fiddler*, *Hairspray*, *42<sup>nd</sup> Street*, *La Cage Aux Folles*, *Me and My Girl*, *Can-Can*. Off-Broadway: *Hello Muddah...*, *Mayor*, *Jacques Brel*. Regional: over 35 productions. Film/TV: "Person of Interest," "Law and Order," "The Sopranos," "All my Children," "Hi Honey I'm Home," "The Tavern," "The Astronaut's Wife," "Follies" and "A Sondheim Celebration."

**Brandon Espinoza (Sammy)** appeared in Pittsburgh CLO's production of *Footloose* last season. Broadway: *Gypsy*, *Big*, *Les Misérables*, *Will Rogers Follies*. Off-Broadway: *Tea and Sympathy* (Keen Company), *Scarcity* (Atlantic Theater Company), *Substitution* (Playwrights Realm), *Not Waving* (The Kirk at Theater Row). Regional: *Grease* (MUNY), *West Side Story* (Stratford Shakespeare Festival). TV: "I Love You...But I Lied" (LMN), "The Following" (Fox), "The Leftovers" (HBO), "It Could Be Worse" (HULU), "Elementary" (CBS) and "The Carrie Diaries" (CW).

**Jeffrey Howell (Father of the Bride, Priest)** recently performed with Virginia Musical Theatre in *Gypsy* and with the REP in *Souvenir*. Some favorite Pittsburgh CLO shows include *42<sup>nd</sup> Street*, *Singin' in the Rain*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Jekyll and Hyde*, *A Musical Christmas Carol* (Bob Cratchit) *Beauty and the Beast*, *Bells are Ringing*, *Pajama Game*, *The Most Happy Fella*. Other credits include *Candide*, *Tigers Be Still*, *Chicago*, and *Tribute to Lerner and Loewe* with Marvin Hamlisch and the PSO.

**Kirsten Scott (Holly)** was last seen at Pittsburgh CLO as Bambi in *Curtains*. Broadway credits include originating the role of Jenny Hill in the musical *Big Fish*, originating the role of Young Phyllis in the 2012 revival of *Follies*, Lorraine in *Jersey Boys* and Amber von Tussle in *Hairspray*. Select Regional: *Big Fish* (Chicago Oriental Theater), *Follies* (Kennedy Center/Ahmanson), *Marvelous Wonderettes* (Westside Theater), *Grease* (Sacramento Music Circus), *Chaplin* (La Jolla Playhouse), *Minsky's* (Ahmanson) TV: "All My Children," "Steve Harvey Show." She is a Carnegie Mellon University graduate.

**Sandy Rosenberg (Rosie)** is making her Pittsburgh CLO debut. Most recently, she appeared as Jeanette in *The Fully Monty* at Maine State Music Theatre and Fulton Theatre. Broadway: *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *Mamma Mia!*, NYC Opera's *Candide*. National tours: *Les Misérables*, *Jekyll And Hyde*, *Menopause The Musical*. Off-Broadway and Regional: *The Golden Land*, *Mary Poppins*, *Young Frankenstein*, *Nunsense*, *Mame*, *Phantom*, *Lend Me A Tenor* and *The Odd Couple-Female Version* with JoAnne Worley and Cindy Williams.

**J. Michael Zygo (Robbie)** is making his Pittsburgh CLO debut. Most recently an original cast member/musician of Tony Award®-winning *Once* on Broadway (Emcee, u/s Guy/Billy, Dance Capt., Assoc. Cond.) featured on the Grammy Award winning Cast Album. Off-Broadway: *Once* (NYTW), *Man of Rock* (NYMF) Tours: *Rock Of Ages -1<sup>st</sup> Nat.* (Swing, u/s Drew/Stacey Jaxx/Franz/Dennis/Hertz), *The Wedding Singer* (Robbie Hart), *Annie* (Rooster), and *Oklahoma! -1st Nat.* (Will Parker). Film/TV: *Unforgettable*, *Rock Of Ages* (featured dancer), *Tony Awards 2012, 2013 (opening line!)* He is also a singer/songwriter.

## **ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM**

**Barry Ivan (Director & Choreographer)** returns to Pittsburgh CLO with national and international credits that range from directing at the German State Opera to directing at Yale. Highlighted Pittsburgh CLO credits: *Sunset Boulevard*, *Company*, *A Little Night Music*, *The Full Monty*, *Miss Saigon*, *West Side Story* and *Les Misérables*. Mr. Ivan's productions of *The Full Monty* and *Hairspray* received IRNE awards for Best Musical, and he received Best Director IRNE nominations for *Nine* and *Les Misérables*. Mr. Ivan directed the US Premiere of *Dracula: A Chamber Musical*, and will be directing the world premiere of playwright Jeff Stolzer's new play *Scenes From the Life Of An American Male*, a comedy-drama with music. Mr. Ivan is currently under contract developing and executive producing Web TV programming.

**Tom Helm (Music Director)** returns to Pittsburgh CLO for his 20<sup>th</sup> CLO season, having conducted more than 60 productions. His other adventures include conducting the Broadway productions of the *Brigadoon* revival, *Cats*, *Me and My Girl*, *Les Misérables*, and *Souvenir*. Tom was musical director of the first national tour of *Cats*, Radio City's *5-6-7-8 Dance!*, and television productions of *Mornings at Seven* and *Crazy For You*. Mr. Helm supervised touring productions of *Me and My Girl*, *Dora the Explorer*, *Diego Live*, *Rugrats*, and

*Madagascar*. He has also been music director of some 50 Paper Mill Playhouse productions, among other regional and national theatres.

**Andrew David Ostrowski (Lighting Designer)** recently contributed to Pittsburgh CLO's *Man of La Mancha* this season. National credits: The National High School Musical Theater Awards in NYC, The Asolo, NSMT, George Street Playhouse, TheatreWorks, Philadelphia Theatre Company, New York Theater Institute, The Blumenthal Center, Spoleto Festival USA, Madison Opera, DSM, TOTS. Local credits include productions for PPT, City Theatre, Pittsburgh CLO, CLO Cabaret, Pittsburgh Opera, PSO, PBT, PICT, THE REP, Barebones Productions, as well as others.

## **HISTORY OF THE SHOW**

Based on the popular 1998 romantic comedy starring Adam Sandler and Drew Barrymore, *THE WEDDING SINGER*, follows the unpredictable tale of young entertainers finding love in the colorful and lively era of the '80s. Following the film's release, the original writer started a musical collaboration with Chad Beguelin, bringing the comedy to life on stage.

On April 27, 2006, *THE WEDDING SINGER* opened on Broadway at the Al Hirschfeld Theatre starring Stephen Lynch as Robbie Hart and Laura Benanti as Julia Sullivan.

The production launched its first National Tour in September 2007, entertaining audiences in 31 cities. *THE WEDDING SINGER* went on to premiere internationally in cities such as Madrid, Tokyo, Australia and Germany.

## **ABOUT THE ORIGINAL CREATIVE TEAM**

**Chad Beguelin (Book and Lyrics)** is a four-time Tony Award® nominee for his contributions to *The Wedding Singer* and *Aladdin*. Along with two Tony® nominations for *The Wedding Singer*, Best Original Score and Best Book of a Musical, in which he shared with Tim Herlihy, Beguelin received a Drama Desk Award nomination for Outstanding Lyrics. Beguelin also wrote the lyrics to the 2010 stage adaptation, *Elf: The Musical*. Beguelin's writing credits also include screen writing for Disney's live action film department in California. His other credits include: *The Rhythm Club*, *Wicked City* and *On the Record*.

**Tim Herlihy (Book)** is an actor, producer and screenwriter who wrote the 1998 original film, "The Wedding Singer." After the success of the movie, Herlihy made his Broadway debut by co-writing the book with Beguelin for the film's 2006 stage adaptation. He wrote and produced for "Saturday Night Live" from 1993 until 2000 and is known to frequently collaborate with Adam Sandler. His screen writing credits include: "Billy Madison," "Happy Gilmore," "The Waterboy," "Big Daddy," "Mr. Deeds," "Bedtime Stories" and "Grown Ups 2." His production credits include: "Anger Management," "The Longest Yard," "Click" and "Grown Ups."

**Matthew Sklar (Music)** composed the musical score for *The Wedding Singer*, in which he received a 2006 Tony Award® nomination for Best Original Score. Sklar started composing at the young age of 14, with his first song later recorded for the Mickey Mouse Club. Sklar composed for *Elf: The Musical*, which broke box office records during its run at the Al Hirschfeld Theatre in 2010. He has written his own original musicals which include *The Rhythm Club*, *Judas and Me* and *Wicked City*. Sklar's other contributions include: *Shrek: The Musical*, *42<sup>nd</sup> Street*, *Miss Saigon*, *Les Misérables* and *Caroline, or Change*.

## **Performance Schedule for THE WEDDING SINGER**

Friday	July 24	8 p.m.
Saturday	July 25	2 p.m. & 8 p.m.
Sunday	July 26	2 p.m. & 7 p.m.
Tuesday	July 28	8 p.m.
Wednesday	July 29	8 p.m.
Thursday	July 30	8 p.m.
Friday	July 31	8 p.m.
Saturday	August 1	2 p.m. & 8 p.m.
Sunday	August 2	2 p.m.

## **TICKETS**

Tickets start at \$20 and are available online at [pittsburghCLO.org](http://pittsburghCLO.org), by calling **412-456-6666** or at the Box Office at Theater Square. Tickets start at \$35. Groups of 10 or more enjoy exclusive discounts and specialty packages. Call our [Group Sales](#) Hotline at **412-325-1582** for more information. Visit [pittsburghCLO.org](http://pittsburghCLO.org) for further information.

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*Since 1946, the Pittsburgh CLO has been the driving force behind live musical theater in Pittsburgh and the entire Southwestern Pennsylvania region. Under the direction of Van Kaplan since 1997, this not-for-profit arts organization appreciates the support of nearly 200,000 patrons each year and produces a subscription series, educational programs, national tours and develops and invests in new works, including 20 Broadway shows (25 Tony Awards®) featuring the current productions of Cinderella, Kinky Boots and Matilda. Its dedication to the musical theater art form extends to include such programs as the CLO Academy, the CLO Mini Stars, the Gene Kelly Awards, the Richard Rodgers Award the National High School Musical Theater Awards, the Construction Center for the Arts and the CLO Cabaret.*

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