

BILLINGS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA & CHORALE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 21, 2019

The Billings Symphony Orchestra & Chorale Presents **Motown Magic**

BILLINGS MT- The Billings Symphony Orchestra & Chorale (BSO&C) presents **Motown Magic**, Saturday, February 2. **Motown Magic** features Broadway stars *Sydney Morton* and *Jarran Muse* along with the Skyview Chorale and the Skyview Chamber Choir, performing hits from esteemed Motown performers such as: Stevie Wonder, The Supremes, Marvin Gaye and Aretha Franklin. **Motown Magic** showtime is 7:30 p.m. Concert Cues with Tom Singer begins at 6:45 p.m. at the Alberta Bair Theater. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Motown Records was founded on January 12, 1959 by Berry Gordy. During the 1960's, Motown exploded on the music scene with acts like: Smokey Robinson and the Miracles (first act to be signed), The Supremes (the most successful group to be signed), Stevie Wonder, The Temptations, Marvin Gaye, the Jackson 5, and many more. With more than 180 number one hits, and the development of the Motown sound, Gordy "reached across the racial divide with music that could touch all people, regardless of the color of their skin." (Gordy's induction to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame)



Originally hailing from Cincinnati, Ohio, Sydney Morton started training in ballet at four years old. Growing up in a musical family (her grandfather was a Broadway performer and music teacher), she also sang in school choirs and played piano from a young age. Her interest in the performing arts grew, and eventually included other styles of dance and acting. Sydney went on to receive a BFA in Musical Theatre from the University of Michigan (go blue!), as well as studying Shakespeare in London at The Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts. Upon graduating, Sydney moved to New York and began performing in professional theatre, first landing the role of "Gabriella" in *High School Musical* at Paper Mill Playhouse. From there, she joined the Chicago company of the hit, *Jersey Boys*, playing the role of "Francine." Broadway soon followed, as she had the honor of performing in four Original Broadway Casts: *Memphis*, *Evita*, *American Psycho*, and *Motown*, where she worked closely with Berry Gordy himself and played the controversial member of the Supremes, "Florence Ballard."



Jarran Muse recently performed the role of Marvin Gaye on Broadway and in the National Touring productions of *Motown the Musical*. Some of his other Broadway/International Tours include Green Day's *American Idiot*, Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*, *Dreamgirls*, *Hairspray*, *42nd Street*, and the newly Broadway bound inspirational musical *Born for This*.



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This Jersey boy studied at The University of the Arts in Philadelphia, and at various Acting Studios in Los Angeles and New York City. He is currently finishing his degree with Full Sail University in Florida.

Sydney Morton and Jarran Muse will be participating in several outreaches through our Explore Music! program. These include: the Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch, Senior High School, St. Charles Indian Mission, Montana State Women's prison, and Riverside Middle School. These outreaches are due to a grant received by the National Endowments of the Arts (NEA).

The Skyview Chorale and Chamber Choir are two of the five curricular choirs offered at Skyview High School. In a choral program of nearly 300 students, these two choirs represent the top level of vocal music at the high school. Chorale is a mixed choir of 60 students and Chamber Choir is a treble choir of about 30. These two ensembles, along with several extra-curricular groups at Skyview, represent the school in various ways throughout the school year. They participate in numerous festivals, sing the National anthem at games and assemblies and perform at events within the school and in the community, particularly throughout the Heights. Their director, Amy Logan, is in her 13th year at Skyview and is proud to have these fantastic students perform with the Billings Symphony Orchestra.

Motown Magic is proudly sponsored by: Diane Boyer Jerhoff, USBank, & Underriner Motors. The 2018-2019 Host Hotel is The Northern Hotel. The 2018-2019 Media Sponsor is KTVQ-2. The 2018-2019 season is proudly sponsored by The Oakland Companies.

Tickets for **Motown Magic** are available by calling 406-252-3610, online at billingsymphony.org, or at 2721 2nd Ave N. Ste. 350.

For more information about **Motown Magic**, please visit:
<https://billingsymphony.org/motown-magic>

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