



HOPKINS CENTER
FOR THE ARTS

presents

STEVE MARTIN AND THE STEEP CANYON RANGERS

AN EVENING OF BLUEGRASS AND COMEDY

This performance is made possible in part by generous support by the Visiting Performing Artist Fund.

Cosponsored by  JMH Wealth Management, LLC

Tuesday, May 22, 2012 | 7 pm
Spaulding Auditorium | Dartmouth College

STEVE MARTIN AND THE STEEP CANYON RANGERS

Steve Martin *banjo, vocals*
Mike Guggino *mandolin, vocals*
Charles Humphrey III *bass, vocals*
Woody Platt *guitar, vocals*
Nicky Sanders *fiddle, vocals*
Graham Sharp *banjo, vocals*

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Steve Martin *banjo*, one of the most diversified performers in the motion picture industry today—actor, comedian, author, playwright, producer, musician—has been successful as a writer of and performer in some of the most popular movies of recent film history including *The Big Year*, *It's Complicated*, *Housesitter*, *The Pink Panther*, *Father of the Bride*, *The Spanish Prisoner*, *Parenthood*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *Roxanne*, *Pennies From Heaven*, *Bowfinger*, and such classic comedies as *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Planes*, *Trains and Automobiles* and *The Three Amigos*. Mr. Martin's first film project, *The Absent-Minded Waiter*, was nominated for a 1977 Academy Award. In 1979, he moved into feature films and has since co-wrote and starred in *The Jerk*, *Dead Men Don't Wear Plaid* and *The Man With Two Brains*.

Born in Waco, Texas and raised in Southern California, Mr. Martin became a television writer in the late 1960's, winning an Emmy Award for his work on the hit series *The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour*. By the end of the decade he was performing his own material in clubs and on television.

Launched by frequent appearances on Johnny Carson's *Tonight Show*, Mr. Martin went on to host several shows in the innovative *Saturday Night Live* series and to star in and co-write four highly rated television specials. He won Grammy Awards for his two comedy albums, *Let's Get Small* and *A Wild and Crazy Guy*, and had a gold record with his single *King Tut*. Martin also won

a Grammy Award in 2003 for Best Country instrumentalist for playing on Earl Scruggs 75th Anniversary album and one in 2010 for his banjo album *The Crow/New Songs for the Five-String Banjo*.

Since becoming involved in the modern bluegrass scene, Martin has been impressed with the overall level of musicianship that exists in the world of the professional and semi-professional player. As such, in 2010, Martin established The Steve Martin Prize for Excellence in Banjo and Bluegrass, an annual award which brings recognition to an individual or group for outstanding accomplishment in the field of five-string banjo or bluegrass music. In its inaugural year, the award was presented to Noam Pikelny.

In the roughly three years since Steve Martin and The Steep Canyon Rangers have been touring together they have delighted audiences at Bonnaroo, New Orleans' Jazzfest and The Newport Folk Festival to name a few. They've embarked on four widely acclaimed tours with critics such as *The Orange County Register* noting "what's so heartening and wonderful to see is Steve Martin back on stage, doing both things he does best—playing banjo and being funny."

Steve Martin and The Steep Canyon Rangers' latest album *Rare Bird Alert* debuted at #1 on Billboard's Bluegrass Chart and at #43 on the Billboard Top 200. The album was nominated for

ABOUT THE ARTISTS CONTINUED

a Grammy® for “Best Bluegrass Album” and features 13 new Martin-penned tracks, including a live version of *King Tut*, and special guest vocals from Paul McCartney and the Dixie Chicks. Martin co-wrote two songs from the album with the Steep Canyon Rangers. *Rare Bird Alert* was produced by Tony Trischka and released on Rounder Records. Steve Martin and The Steep Canyon Rangers were named ‘Entertainer of the Year’ at the 2011 International Bluegrass Association Awards.

The Steep Canyon Rangers (SCR) met and began playing bluegrass during their college days in Chapel Hill, NC. Ten years later, the band has only deepened their commitment to roots music performing with fierce instrumental prowess, but also providing deeply moving songwriting and harmonies, infusing traditional bluegrass with contemporary themes and arrangements.

SCR played in front of more people in 2010/2011 than any other bluegrass band. Together with iconic comedian and banjo player Steve Martin, they performed 90% of their shows for sold-out crowds and headlined venues such as Bonnaroo, Merlefest and New Orleans Jazzfest. These shows, along with numerous national TV appearances, helped introduce their beloved bluegrass and roots music to brand new audiences. SCR is not slowing down anytime soon. The 2011 IBMA Entertainers of the Year just completed a nationwide tour with Martin to support their new record *Rare Bird Alert* featuring guest artists Paul McCartney and the Dixie Chicks.

Also, in 2005 SCR established the Mountain Song Festival, for which they serve as hosts and co-promoters, in Brevard, NC. Proceeds from the festival benefit the Boys and Girls Club of Transylvania County, NC, and to date they have raised more than \$190,000. The festival proudly showcases a broad and varied range of music talents, such as Sam Bush, Doc Watson, Tim

O’Brien, Shannon Whitworth, Tony Rice, Peter Rowan, Illrd Tyme Out, Steve Martin, David Grisman, Del McCoury and David Holt, just to name a few. For more information visit steepcanyon.com.

Woody Platt guitar, vocals began his musical career in the third grade when he sang in the Brevard, North Carolina Boys Choir. He played trumpet and baritone in his middle school band, then became interested in bluegrass and guitar as a student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He, Charles Humphrey, and Graham Sharp started playing together as students, eventually forming the Rangers. Woody founded the Mountain Song Festival as a fundraiser for the Boys and Girls Club of Transylvania County in 2006, and continues to co-produce it. He lives in Brevard, North Carolina with his wife, the singer and songwriter Shannon Whitworth, and spends much of his time off the road in a trout stream.

Graham Sharp banjo, vocals began playing banjo in college and almost immediately fell into playing with Charles and Woody. Originally introduced to bluegrass by his high school Latin teacher, Graham was drawn to the sounds of John Hartford and JD Crowe. Through the years he has penned more than thirty Steep Canyon Rangers songs including one, *The Mountain’s Gonna Sing*, that one selected as a Top Ten Folk Song of 2009 by National Public Radio. He lives in Asheville, North Carolina and most enjoys spending time with his wife and two children, Wade and Rosalie.

Mike Guggino mandolin, vocals grew up in the mountains of western North Carolina, where he learned to play piano, saxophone and guitar. He didn’t encounter bluegrass until college, though, when friends from Kentucky introduced him to the sounds of Hot Rize, the Seldom Scene, Tony Rice, New Grass Revival, and John Hartford. From there, he found his way to the music of

ABOUT THE ARTISTS CONTINUED

Bill Monroe, and the mandolin, an instrument that also harkened back to his Italian great-grandparents. Mike immediately began to immerse himself in the bluegrass tradition and write original songs of his own. Over the past decade, his unique compositions have become signature Rangers tunes. Mike is proud to play Kimble mandolins and mandolas.

Nicky Sanders fiddle, vocals, originally from California, began training as a classical violinist at age 5. After serving as concertmaster of the Young People's Symphony Orchestra, he moved to Boston, MA to attend Berklee College of Music where he studied Jazz, Bluegrass and Composition. In 2004, Nicky moved to North Carolina to join Steep Canyon Rangers, first appearing on the album *One Dime at a Time* and three more records since. In 2010, the IBMA nominated the Rangers' recording of Nicky's fiddle tune *Mourning Dove* as Instrumental Performance of the Year. The song appears on the band's CD *Deep in the Shade*. Nicky also

enjoys solving *The New York Times* crossword puzzles and drinking fresh-squeezed orange juice.

Charles R. Humphrey III bass, vocals was born under the sign of Capricorn on Christmas Day 1976 in Greenville, North Carolina. He has been playing upright bass since middle school and also studied classically at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, where the Steep Canyon Rangers was formed. Charles has released two side projects of original compositions, *Songs from the Road Band* and *Songs from the Road Band: As The Crow Flies*. Twice selected by the IBMA as a showcase songwriter, his songs have been recorded by the Steep Canyon Rangers, Steve Martin, Town Mountain, Mark Schimick, Jed Fisher, Sav Sankaran, The Canucky Bluegrass Boys, and Songs from the Road Band. He's proud to call Asheville, North Carolina home.

This is Steve Martin and the Steep Canyon Rangers first engagement at the Hopkins Center.



MOMIX

The internationally-acclaimed dance company returns with *Botanica*, a fantastical ode to the natural world.

Hop Members enjoy an exclusive advance purchase opportunity for the MOMIX performances on June 22 & 23. General ticket sales begin May 29.

Become a new Hop Member before May 25 and take advantage of the Members-only pre-sale.

Contact Membership Coordinator Linda Lewis at 603.646.2006 or hop.members@dartmouth.edu.

MOMIX TYPICALLY SELLS OUT— DON'T MISS THIS DANCE THEATER SENSATION!!

HOPKINS CENTER MANAGEMENT STAFF

Jeffrey H. James Howard Gilman Director

Marga Rahmann Associate Director/General Manager

Jay Cary Business and Administrative Officer

Margaret Lawrence Director of Programming

Joseph Clifford Director of Audience Engagement

Bill Pence Director of Hopkins Center Film

Joshua Price Kol Director of Student Performance Programs



Please turn off your cell phone inside the theater.



Assistive Listening Devices available in the lobby.



DARTMOUTH RECYCLES

If you do not wish to keep your playbill, please discard it in the recycling bin provided in the lobby. Thank you.