

**10 MOSS
ARTS
CENTER**
10TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON



**VT VIRGINIA
TECH**

PINK MARTINI FEATURING CHINA FORBES

Friday, October 27, 2023, 7:30 PM

Street and Davis Performance Hall, Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre

PINK MARTINI FEATURING CHINA FORBES

Program to be announced from the stage.
There will be one 15-minute intermission.

This performance is supported in part by a gift from
Mrs. Tamara N. Hodsdon.

Additional funding is provided by the
Timothy and Michelle Bendel Center for the Arts Excellence Fund.

PINK MARTINI

THOMAS M. LAUDERDALE, piano

CHINA FORBES, lead vocals

EDNA VAZQUEZ, guest vocals

JIMMIE HERROD, guest vocals

THOMAS BARBER, trumpet

ANTONIS ANDREOU, trombone

NICHOLAS CROSA, violin

PHIL BAKER, upright bass

DAN FAEHNLE, guitar

TIMOTHY NISHIMOTO, backing vocals and percussion

REINHARDT MELZ, congas and percussion

MIGUEL BERNAL, congas and percussion

ANDREW BORGER, drums and percussion

Pink Martini first performed at the Moss Arts Center in 2021, and Lauderdale and Forbes streamed an evening of music and conversation in the center's fall 2020 HomeStage series.



BIOGRAPHIES

PINK MARTINI

“Pink Martini is a rollicking around-the-world musical adventure... if the United Nations had a house band in 1962, hopefully we’d be that band.”

— *Thomas Lauderdale, bandleader/pianist*

In 1994 in his hometown of Portland, Oregon, Thomas Lauderdale was working in politics, thinking that one day he would run for mayor. Like other eager politicians-in-training, he went to every political fundraiser under the sun... but was dismayed to find the music at these events underwhelming, lackluster, loud, and unneighborly. Drawing inspiration from music from all over the world — crossing genres of classical, jazz, and old-fashioned pop — and hoping to appeal to conservatives and liberals alike, he founded the “little orchestra” Pink Martini in 1994 to provide more beautiful and inclusive musical soundtracks for political fundraisers for causes such

BIOGRAPHIES, cont.

as civil rights, affordable housing, the environment, libraries, public broadcasting, education, and parks.

One year later, Lauderdale called China Forbes, a Harvard classmate who was living in New York City, and asked her to join Pink Martini. They began to write songs together. Their first song, *Sympathique (Je ne veux pas travailler)*, became an overnight sensation in France, was nominated for Song of the Year at France's Victoires de la Musique Awards, and to this day remains a mantra (*Je ne veux pas travailler* means "I don't want to work") for striking French workers. Says Lauderdale, "We're very much an American band, but we spend a lot of time abroad and therefore have the incredible diplomatic opportunity to represent a broader, more inclusive America... the America which remains the most heterogeneously populated country in the world... composed of people of every country, every language, every religion."

Featuring a dozen musicians, with songs in 25 languages, Pink Martini performs its multilingual repertoire on concert stages on six continents. After making its European debut at the Cannes Film Festival in 1997 and its orchestral debut with the Oregon Symphony in 1998, the band has gone on to play with more than 50 orchestras around the world, including multiple engagements with the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl, the Boston Pops, the National Symphony at the Kennedy Center, the San Francisco Symphony, the Cleveland Orchestra, and the BBC Concert Orchestra at Royal Albert Hall in London. In 2014 Pink Martini was inducted into both the Hollywood Bowl Hall of Fame and the Oregon Music Hall of Fame.

Pink Martini has released 11 studio albums on its own independent label, Heinz Records (named after Lauderdale's dog), selling over 3 million albums worldwide. In 2019 the band released two EPs featuring the vocals of Pink Martini's newest members, Jimmie Herrod

and Edna Vazquez. Both vocalists have toured with the band for the past year and are officially part of the group with the release of Herrod's EP *Tomorrow* and Vaquez's *Besame Mucho*, both of which were co-produced by Thomas Lauderdale and China Forbes.

THOMAS LAUDERDALE, BANDLEADER AND PIANIST

Raised on a plant nursery in rural Indiana, Pink Martini bandleader Thomas M. Lauderdale began piano lessons at age six with Patricia Garrison. When Lauderdale's family moved to Portland in 1982, he began studying with Sylvia Killman, who to this day continues to serve as his coach and mentor. He has appeared as soloist with numerous orchestras and ensembles, including the Oregon and Seattle symphonies, Portland Youth Philharmonic, Chamber Music Northwest, and several collaborations with Oregon Ballet Theatre. In 2008 he played Gershwin's Piano Concerto in F with the Oregon Symphony under the direction of Christoph Campestrini.

Active in Oregon politics since a student at U.S. Grant High School (where he was student body president), Lauderdale served under Portland mayor Bud Clark and Oregon governor Neil Goldschmidt. In 1991, he worked under Portland City Commissioner Gretchen Kafoury on the drafting and passage of the city's civil rights ordinance. He graduated with honors from Harvard with a degree in history and literature in 1992. He spent most of his collegiate years, however, in cocktail dresses, taking on the role of "cruise director," throwing waltzes with live orchestras and ice sculptures, disco masquerades with gigantic pineapples on wheels, midnight swimming parties, and a salon where he often accompanied friend and future bandmate China Forbes on piano.

Instead of running for political office, Lauderdale founded Pink Martini in 1994 to play political fundraisers for progressive causes such as civil rights, the environment, affordable housing, and public broadcasting.

BIOGRAPHIES, cont.

Most recently, Lauderdale completed a decades-long in-the-making collaboration with longtime friends in an iconic surf music band that he first heard in Portland in 1993. The album, *Thomas Lauderdale Meets the Pilgrims*, was released in summer 2023 and features Lauderdale's sparkling piano and surf rock takes on everything from Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* to *Girls on the Beach* and *Bali Hai*.

Lauderdale currently serves on the boards of the Oregon Symphony, Pioneer Courthouse Square, the Oregon Historical Society, Confluence Project with Maya Lin, and the Derek Rieth Foundation. He lives in Portland with his partner, pianist Hunter Noack, and their loveable Bernadoodle, Gonzo.

CHINA FORBES, LEAD VOCALS

China Forbes was born and raised in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and graduated cum laude from Harvard, majoring in visual arts and English literature with a minor in theatre. After winning the Jonathan Levy Prize at Harvard for most promising actor, Forbes earned her Equity card, appearing in New York regional theatre and off-Broadway productions while also performing regularly as a singer/songwriter in New York City clubs. Her first album, *Love Handle* (November Records) was released in 1995, and she was chosen to sing *Ordinary Girl*, the theme song to the TV show *Clueless* (ABC/UPN).

Also in 1995 Harvard friend and classmate Thomas Lauderdale invited her to sing with Portland, Oregon band Pink Martini, and she has fronted the little orchestra ever since. Co-writing many of Pink Martini's most beloved songs with Lauderdale, beginning with *Sympathique* (*Je ne veux pas travailler*), the duo also composed *Lilly*, *Hang on Little Tomato*, *Una Notte a Napoli*, and *Let's Never Stop Falling in Love*, among many others. In 2000 *Sympathique* was nominated for song of the year at (the French Grammy awards) Les Victoires de la Musique.

Forbes's original song, *Hey Eugene*, is the title track of Pink Martini's third album and also appears on her second solo album, *78* (Heinz Records), a collection of autobiographical folk-rock songs. Her voice and songs have been featured prominently on acclaimed film and television soundtracks such as *Mr. and Mrs. Smith*, *The Weekend Away*, *Hitch*, *Emily in Paris*, *Parks and Rec*, *Money Heist*, *Sherlock*, and season two of *The White Lotus*. She sings *Que Sera, Sera* over the credits of Jane Campion's film, *In the Cut*, and her original song, *The Northern Line*, plays over the end credits of sister Maya Forbes' directorial debut, *Infinitely Polar Bear* (Sony Pictures Classics).

With Pink Martini, Forbes has appeared on *The Late Show with David Letterman*, *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*, *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*, and *Later with Jools Holland*. She has dueted with legendary artists, including Rufus Wainwright, Michael Feinstein, Carol Channing, and Little Jimmy Scott. Singing in over 20 languages on nine Pink Martini studio albums, Forbes and Pink Martini have graced the stages of Carnegie Hall, Red Rocks, the Hollywood Bowl, Paris's l'Olympia, the Sydney Opera House, and Royal Albert Hall.

China Forbes recently released her post-pandemic anthem, *Full Circle*, followed by her suicide prevention anthem, *Rise*. Both are singles from her forthcoming solo album, slated for release next year. Forbes is the recipient of the 2022 Ella Fitzgerald Award at the Montreal International Jazz Festival; previous winners include Diana Ross, Etta James, Liza Minelli, Diana Krall and Aretha Franklin.



TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!



We'd love your feedback on this performance. If you complete the short survey, you can enter for a chance to win two tickets to Invoke on Thursday, November 16, 2023. bit.ly/pink-martini-forbes-feedback



artscenter.vt.edu

10TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

A black and white photograph of an orchestra performing on a stage in a large concert hall. The musicians are seated in rows, and a conductor is visible in the center. The stage is illuminated, and the audience seating is visible in the foreground.

10 YEARS

is just the opening act.

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IN THE GALLERIES

THROUGH SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17



william cordova

can't stop, won't stop: tenets of southern alchemy

Ruth C. Horton Gallery

william cordova examines the visual aspects of transition and displacement, studying the evolution and adaptation of objects and perception across time and space. Constructing artworks composed of reclaimed elements, paint, gold leaf, and collage, cordova presents encoded representations of social systems and the material histories of objects and images.

THROUGH SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17



Laurie Steelink

Spirit Is Alive, Magic Is Afoot

Miles C. Horton Jr. Gallery and Sherwood Payne Quillen '71
Reception Gallery

Multidisciplinary artist Laurie Steelink is a citizen of the Akimel O'otham Nation and a member of the Gila River Indian Community. Exploring connections to her Native American roots, Steelink creates assemblages of found objects and reassembled paintings to question authenticity and consider spirituality. Using her creativity to reconnect with and to reference her ancestors, culture, and community, Steelink defines her work as an expression of her personal identities.

K-12 PROGRAMS AT THE MOSS ARTS CENTER

At the Moss Arts Center, we believe that arts experiences are a crucial part of a child's education. We've been dedicated to providing opportunities for children at no cost since we opened in 2013. A wide array of Moss programming and experiences to inspire, engage, and empower students of all ages and backgrounds. This season, we're offering five school-day matinee programs, in-school workshops and performances, and gallery tours with professional artists for learners of all ages.

Learn more at bit.ly/moss-K12.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Moss Arts Center marked its public opening with a week of special activities, beginning with the official opening of its visual arts galleries on October 28, 2013. The inaugural exhibitions featured an inspiring blend of tradition and innovation, showcasing the pioneering work of technology-based artists Jennifer Steinkamp and Leo Villareal. Also opening was *This edge I have to jump*, a piece from Joan Grossman commissioned by the Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology (ICAT) for the center's experimental performance space, the Cube.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Virginia Tech acknowledges that we live and work on the Tutelo / Monacan People's homeland, and we recognize their continued relationships with their lands and waterways. We further acknowledge that the Morrill Land-Grant College Act (1862) enabled the commonwealth of Virginia to finance and found Virginia Tech through the forced removal of Native Nations from their lands in California and other areas in the West.

LABOR RECOGNITION

Virginia Tech acknowledges that its Blacksburg campus sits partly on land that was previously the site of the Smithfield and Solitude Plantations, owned by members of the Preston family. Between the 1770s and the 1860s, the Prestons and other local White families that owned parcels of what became Virginia Tech also owned hundreds of enslaved people. Enslaved Black people generated resources that financed Virginia Tech's predecessor institution, the Preston and Olin Institute, and they also worked on the construction of its building.

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We are grateful for the generosity of our patrons and donors who sustain the Moss Arts Center with their annual gifts. The impact of all contributions, no matter the amount, is significant in helping us transform lives through exploration and engagement with the arts and the creative process. We are honored to have received cash donations during the period of July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, from the following:

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The Moss Arts Center extends its appreciation to those donors who have established endowments in support of the arts.

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VETERANS EVENT

The YMCA at Virginia Tech invites local veterans to attend this special celebration.

NOVEMBER 6th, 11am til 2pm
At The Y Center, 1000 N. Main St.
Blacksburg

www.vtymca.org

Meals
4 Vets

with November Company
Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets

Resources
4 Vets

Visit the 54th annual YMCA Craft Fair

Nov 10- Nov 11, 2023

at Christiansburg Recreation Center
1600 N. Franklin St, Christiansburg



Nov 10 - 10am-7pm
Nov 11-9am-5pm



GIVING TUESDAY

**GivingTuesday is a global
day of generosity that
will take place on
November 28, 2023.**

**Do you know what the YMCA at
Virginia Tech does for our community?**

- **Food Insecurity Initiatives**- since April 2020 we distributed more than 70,000 meals to local children, and we are still going strong through our Meals On Main program!
- Our after school programs offer VT students opportunities to provide mentorship and tutoring to participants.
- **Sustainability**- the Y-toss initiative and our recycling program at the Thrift Shop work towards our efforts for greener environment!
- and so much more!

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