



**Celebrity Series** of Boston  
Engaging • Entertaining • Enriching

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**For Immediate Release**

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High-resolution photos:

**Celebrity Series of Boston**  
Martha H. Jones, President and Executive Director  
**Presents**  
***Rob Kapilow's What Makes It Great?***  
**The Music of Cole Porter**  
**on Saturday, January 23 at 8 pm**  
**at NEC's Jordan Hall**

(Boston) Celebrity Series of Boston will present **classical music commentator Rob Kapilow, tenor Michael Winther, and soprano Sally Wilfert** in an examination of The Music of Cole Porter as part of the **What Makes It Great?** series on Saturday, January 23 at 8pm at NEC's Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough Street, Boston. This performance is sponsored by Joshua and Amy Boger.

The **Celebrity Series of Boston** has presented Rob Kapilow's What Makes It Great? series 18 times since its debut in 1997.

**Rob Kapilow's What Makes it Great?** made its debut on National Public Radio's "Performance Today" more than a decade ago, and with its accessible and digestible 10-minute format, quickly attracted a wide base of fans. It soon developed into a full-evening concert program regularly booked by presenters seeking to build new audiences. During each "What Makes It Great?" program, Mr. Kapilow dissects a selection of music in a listener-friendly way—pulling themes apart, demonstrating how melodies might sound in lesser hands, guiding listeners through the maze of themes, and finishing with a complete performance of the work.

**Rob Kapilow** is a graduate of the Yale School of Music and the Eastman School of Music, and is an accomplished pianist. He has brought the joy and wonder of classical music to audiences of all ages and backgrounds, opening their ears to musical experiences and helping them to listen actively. The reach and diversity of his interactive events is considerable, both geographically and culturally: from Native American tribal communities to inner-city high school students, and from children barely out of diapers to musicologists long out of Ivy League programs. Mr. Kapilow's popularity and appeal are reflected in notable engagements: on NBC's "Today Show" in conversation with Katie Couric; in a program for broadcast on PBS's "Live From Lincoln Center" in January 2008; and in his new book, *All You Have To Do Is Listen*, published by Wiley.

**Michael Winther** made his Broadway debut in 1987 and went on to roles in *Damn Yankees, 1776*, and *The Crucible*. He has also appeared in the show *Berlin to Broadway with Kurt Weill*, and produced a solo concert in New York in 2002.

**Sally Wilfert** has appeared in Broadway productions of *Assassins* and the *Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. Off-Broadway she has appeared in *The Mistress Cycle* and *The Prince & The Pauper*. Wilfert is also featured in the original cast recordings of *Assassins, King David, The Prince & the Pauper, A Christmas Survival Guide*, and *Sondheim: A Tribute*.

(more)

**Cole Porter** was born in Indiana in 1891. He studied the violin and piano as a child and wrote his first operetta at age 10. Porter studied at Yale University where he wrote 300 songs, including the still-popular football fight songs "Bulldog Bulldog" and "Bingo Eli Yale" (aka "Bingo, That's The Lingo!"). He was also a member of the Glee Club and the Whiffenpoofs, as well as the Scroll and Key society. Porter also studied at Harvard University School of Music.

After writing for several failed Broadway revues, Porter moved to Paris where he worked as a songwriter and completed his education at the Schola Cantorum in Paris. When World War I broke out, Porter enlisted in the French Foreign Legion. He served in North Africa before being transferred to the French Officers School at Fontainebleau where he taught gunnery to American soldiers. During the war, Porter maintained an apartment in Paris and lived a bohemian lifestyle that put him in touch with the leading celebrities and artists of his day. In 1918, Porter married Linda Lee Thomas, a wealthy American divorcee, and continued to live abroad in Paris and Venice.

In 1928, Porter had his first successful Broadway production with *Paris*, and followed it up with another successful French-themed musical, *Fifty Million Frenchmen* in 1929. Porter continued writing for Broadway throughout the 1930s, including one of his most enduring musicals, *Anything Goes*, in 1934. He also wrote for Hollywood, including songs for Fred Astaire, Bing Crosby, and Gene Kelly.

Cole Porter's high society lifestyle was curtailed in 1937 when he suffered permanent injuries in a riding accident. Although he continued to write successful shows and movie tunes, Porter's musical output suffered and he had few spectacular hit songs. In 1948 Porter returned to his earlier prowess with the hit musical *Kiss Me Kate*. Porter continued to write for the stage and film until 1958, when, after the death of his mother and his wife, complications from his injuries became overwhelming. Until his death in 1964, Cole Porter lived in seclusion and ceased composing.

Many of Cole Porter's songs remain popular today and are considered standards, including *Night and Day*, *Don't Fence Me In*, *Ev'ry Time We Say Goodbye*, *You're the Top*, and *Too Darn Hot*. His two most successful musicals, *Anything Goes* and *Kiss Me Kate*, continue to be performed.

#### **TICKETING INFORMATION**

Tickets for Rob Kapilow's What Makes It Great? are SOLD OUT.

#### **About Celebrity Series of Boston**

The Celebrity Series of Boston is New England's leading presenter of music, dance, and the performing arts from around the world. Now in its 71<sup>st</sup> season, the Celebrity Series brings performances by instrumental and vocal soloists, orchestras and chamber ensembles, dance companies, jazz, folk and ethnic artists and ensembles to Boston's major concert halls, reaching an audience of some 100,000 each year. Through the Arts, Education and Community Program the Celebrity Series reaches thousands of youngsters annually with opportunities to experience and participate in the performing arts through concerts, workshops and the award-winning AileyCamp Boston, an intensive six-week summer dance program for Boston middle school students. For more information on Celebrity Series of Boston, call (617) 482-2595 or visit us online at [www.celebrityseries.org](http://www.celebrityseries.org).

The Celebrity Series receives generous support from; The Little Family Foundation; Tufts Health Plan; Foley & Lardner LLP; Charlesbank Capital Partners; Comcast; PTC; Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center; Massachusetts Cultural Council; New England Foundation for the Arts.

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