

NEWS RELEASE

Contact:
Kelly Blithe
Director of Communications
732-247-7200, ext. 542
kblithe@STNJ.org



15 Livingston Ave | New Brunswick, NJ 08901
732-246-SHOW (7469) | STNJ.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATE THEATRE NEW JERSEY CLASSICAL SEASON CELEBRATION HONORS SENATOR BOB SMITH

New Brunswick, NJ (September 24, 2018)—On September 16, 2018, State Theatre New Jersey honored **Senator Bob Smith** at the annual Classical Season Celebration event. This year’s Classical Season Celebration featured a performance by renowned violinist **Itzhak Perlman** with accompaniment by pianist **Rohan De Silva**, and featured pieces by Leclair, Franck, and Stravinsky. This concert marked the beginning of State Theatre New Jersey’s 2018-2019 classical season.

“It was a privilege to serve as Co-Chairs of this year’s Celebration and to recognize the tremendous impact that Senator Bob Smith has had on strengthening community life across the region,” commented **State Theatre New Jersey Classical Season Co-Chairs Wendy Wiebalk and Steve Cahn**. “Senator Smith’s dedication to State Theatre New Jersey’s nonprofit mission, and to the advancement of the performing arts as a significant driver of cultural and economic vitality, has made him an irreplaceable advocate.”

“The State Theatre hosts more than 200,000 people a year, including 20,000 school children at Performances for Schools, who in many instances would not be normally exposed to cultural and artistic performances,” said **Senator Bob Smith**. “And for this reason, the State Theatre is a game changer. It not only provides great events of culture, it really changes our lives and improves the quality of our lives.”

About the Honoree

New Jersey State Senator Bob Smith proudly represents the rights and interests of the citizens of the 17th Legislative District, a dynamic and ever-changing community, which includes parts of Middlesex and Somerset Counties.

Having served in the New Jersey State Legislature since 1986, first as a State Assemblyman and in 2002 as State Senator, Bob Smith is considered one of the State’s leading environmental lawmakers. Currently, Senator Smith is the Chairman of the Senate Environment and Energy

Committee and a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee as well as a member of the State House Commission.

Senator Smith's legislative accomplishments include the Highlands Preservation Act, Site Remediation Reform (LSRP), Barnegat Bay cleanup, including the most stringent fertilizer law in the United States, the Recycling Enhancement Act, Electronic Waste Management Act, and a host of legislation stimulating solar and alternative energy in New Jersey. Senator Smith was also the driving force behind the recently approved ballot question to ensure funding for open space preservation in the Garden State in perpetuity.

The **State Theatre 2018 Classical Season Celebration committee** included Co-Chairs Wendy Wiebalk and Steve Cahn, Frankie Busch, Andrea Cunnell, Susan Darien, Alice DeVoe, William Downey, Mary Ellen Dundon, Christian & Christine Jensen, Jean McDonnell, Steve Reichman, Robin Suydam, and The Honorable Blanquita B. Valenti.

The Classical Season Honorary Committee included: Middlesex County Freeholder Kenneth Armwood, Senator Christopher "Kip" Bateman & Sue Bateman, Mayor James M. Cahill & Laura Cahill, Robert & Nadine DiLeo, Jonathan & Beth Frieder, Theodore H. Light, Jeff & Judy Milanaik, Jack Morris & Sheryl Weingarten Morris, Tony & Liliane Nader, Derrick Scenna, Sheriff Mildred Scott & Richard Scott, Ellen Smith, Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, and Mayor Brian C. Wahler & Paulette Crabiel Wahler.

The Lead Sponsor for the Classical Season Celebration was PSEG.

About State Theatre New Jersey

The theater exists to enrich people's lives, contribute to a vital urban environment, and build future audiences by presenting the finest performing artists and entertainers and fostering lifetime appreciation for the performing arts through arts education. State Theatre New Jersey's programs are made possible by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. Grant funding has been provided by the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders through a grant award from the Middlesex County Cultural and Arts Trust Fund. United is the official airline of the State Theatre.

STATE THEATRE NEW JERSEY

Creating Extraordinary Experiences Through the Power of Live Performance

15 Livingston Ave

New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Guest Services - 732-246-SHOW (7469)

Online - STNJ.org

PHOTOS FURNISHED UPON REQUEST

Please contact Kelly Blithe at

732-247-7200, ext. 542 or by email at kblithe@stnj.org.

Information in this release is current as of September 24, 2018.

Up-to-the-minute information on events and State Theatre news,
online at STNJ.org.

#