

Charlotte Symphony

BERNADETTE PETERS: STILL COMING UP ROSES

"You've got to be original, because if you're like someone else, what do they need you for?"

—Bernadette Peters

Since she began performing at the age of three, Bernadette Peters has spent a lifetime creating a distinctive persona in American entertainment. Born Bernadette Lazzara in Queens, New York in 1948, the daughter of a bread truck driver, Peters had her Actors Equity card at age nine and over the course of the next decades established her unique presence in television, film, and – above all – on the stage. “As an actress, singer, comedienne, and all-around warming presence, Bernadette Peters has no peer in the musical theater right now,” the longtime New York theatre critic Frank Rich proclaims.

Bernadette Peters comes to Charlotte this month to perform with the Charlotte Symphony at Belk Theater.

Her more than 30 film and TV movies include the musicals *Annie* and *Pennies from Heaven* (for which she earned a Golden Globe Award) and comedies like *The Jerk*, a film in which she co-starred with her then lover, Steve Martin. (Peters was married in 1996 to investment banker Michael Wittenburg, who died in a plane crash in 2005.) But it is perhaps on Broadway that she has had her greatest artistic triumphs.



Considered by some to be the consummate Steven Sondheim interpreter, Peters originated roles in *Sunday in the Park with George* and *Into the Woods*. “Bernadette is flawless as far as I’m concerned,” Sondheim once said. “I can’t think of anything negative.” Nominated for seven Tony® Awards, she won two – for Andrew Lloyd-Webber’s *Song and Dance* and a revival of Irving Berlin’s *Annie Get Your Gun*. Off the stage, her ample vocal and musical talents can be heard in six solo albums, for which she has received three Grammy®

nominations.

Expect a mix of American standards and Broadway showstoppers when Peters joins the Symphony on October 30 – “Let Me Entertain You” from *Gypsy*, the show in which Peters astounded critics and audiences alike as Rose in the 2003 Broadway revival; the sassy pop hit “Fever,” and some classic Sondheim, such as “Being Alive,” from *Company*.

When Peters is not wowing audiences on stage and screen, she devotes much of her time to Broadway Barks, the charity that she and actress Mary Tyler Moore founded a decade ago to promote the adoption of shelter animals. The proud owner of two pups (Kramer and Stella), Peters wrote a children’s book, also called *Broadway Barks*, and a lullaby to help support the charity’s mission. A second book is in the works.

Ticket Info

Charlotte Symphony Pops: Bernadette Peters

Fri. Oct. 30 • 8PM • Belk Theater

704.972.2000 • www.charlottesymphony.org