

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 23, 2014

**KAUFFMAN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS ANNOUNCES
TWO BACK-TO-BACK PERFORMANCES TO KICK OFF THE
2014-2015 KAUFFMAN CENTER PRESENTS SEASON**

Michael Feinstein and Paquita La Del Barrio will perform in Muriel Kauffman Theatre in July

Kansas City, MO – Today, the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts announced that five-time GRAMMY Award-nominated entertainer dubbed “The Ambassador of the Great American Songbook” Michael Feinstein will perform the *Gershwins and Me* on Friday, July 11th in Muriel Kauffman Theatre. Ticket prices range from \$39 to \$109 and will go on sale Friday, May 9.

Renowned Mexican singer Paquita La Del Barrio will perform on Saturday, July 12th in Muriel Kauffman Theatre. Ticket prices range from \$49 to \$99 and will go on sale Friday, May 2.

Tickets will be available through the Kauffman Center Box Office at (816) 994-7222, the Kauffman Center’s mobile app or online at www.kauffmancenter.org.

ABOUT MICHAEL FEINSTEIN

Michael Feinstein, the multi-platinum-selling, two-time Emmy and five-time Grammy Award-nominated entertainer is considered one of the premier interpreters of American standards. His 200-plus shows a year have included performances at Carnegie Hall, Sydney Opera House and the Hollywood Bowl as well as the White House and Buckingham Palace.

More than simply a performer, Feinstein has received national recognition for his commitment to celebrating America’s popular song and preserving its legacy for the next generation. Most recently, in April 2013 Michael released a new CD, *Change Of Heart: The Songs of Andre Previn*, (Concord) in collaboration with legendary composer-conductor-pianist Andre Previn, with an album celebrating Previn’s repertoire from his catalog of pop songs that have most commonly been featured in motion pictures. The album opens with “(You’ve Had) A Change of Heart.” Previn’s work is highlighted with four Oscars and 11 GRAMMY Awards.

Feinstein’s earned his fifth GRAMMY Award nomination in 2009 for *The Sinatra Project*, celebrating the music of “Ol’ Blue Eyes.” His Emmy nominated TV special, *Michael Feinstein – The Sinatra Legacy*, which was taped live at the Palladium in Carmel, IN, is currently airing across the country. Last year’s PBS series “Michael Feinstein’s American Songbook” was the recipient of the ASCAP Deems-Taylor Television Broadcast Award. For his nationally-syndicated public radio program “Song Travels,” Michael interviews and performs alongside of music luminaries such as Bette Midler, Neil Sedaka, Liza Minnelli, Rickie Lee Jones, David Hyde Pierce and others.

His new book, *The Gershwins and Me*, is combined with a new CD of Gershwin standards. Recently, he released the CDs *The Power of Two* – collaborating with “Glee” and “30 Rock” star Cheyenne Jackson – and *Cheek To Cheek*, recorded with Broadway legend Barbara Cook.

Through his live performances, recordings, film and television appearances, and his songwriting (in collaboration with Alan and Marilyn Bergman, Lindy Robbins and Carole Bayer Sager), Feinstein is an all-star force in American music.

ABOUT PAQUITA LA DEL BARRIO

Francisca Viveros Barradas, better known as 'Paquita La Del Barrio' (rough English translation: "Frannie from the neighborhood") is a popular Mexican singer of rancheras and other Mexican styles most famous for being a bit aggressive against her male counterparts in the industry. She was born in Alto Lucero, Veracruz on April 2nd, 1947.

This renowned singer has gained prestige due partly to her advocacy against Mexico's sexist male culture, which has made her popular especially with female audiences. She is known for her common song themes of women empowerment and man bashing; her signature phrase, with which she often teases male spectators in her shows, is "¿Me estás oyendo, inútil?" ("Are you listening, good-for-nothing?").

In 1970 Paquita traveled to Mexico City to try her luck with the name which eventually would make her famous as she belted many tunes of pride and courage against men. In fact, she shined, not only due to her anti-machismo slurs, but also thanks to her initiative to end the social stigma of dating, encouraging women to pursue the relationship. She won a "Premio Los Nuestro" and a "Premio de la Gente" and was nominated for a GRAMMY in 2008.

ABOUT THE KAUFFMAN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

The Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts – a major not-for-profit center for music, opera, theater and dance designed by Moshe Safdie – opened in 2011. Serving as a cultural cornerstone for Kansas City and the region, the Kauffman Center delivers extraordinary and diverse performing arts experiences. Honored as one of the World's 15 Most Beautiful Concert Halls, the Kauffman Center attracts some of the world's most renowned performers and entertainers.

Through educational outreach programs and community enrichment, the Kauffman Center supports Kansas City as a cultural destination. More information on the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts is available at kauffmancenter.org.