



MELBOURNE RECITAL CENTRE

Media Alert

***Pink Martini with China Forbes* set to intoxicate Melbourne audiences this September.**

'... if the United Nations had a house band in 1962, hopefully we'd be that band!'
Thomas Lauderdale, Pink Martini



Formed in 1994 in Portland, Oregon by pianist **Thomas Lauderdale**, **Pink Martini** has evolved into a 15-piece music ensemble renowned for their quirky and cosmopolitan mix of classical, jazz and old-fashioned pop. Over 20 years later, they've been taking audiences on a rollicking around-the-world musical adventure to sensational reviews, and their next stop is Melbourne Recital Centre.

CONCERT DETAILS

Pink Martini with China Forbes

Friday 9 September

Elisabeth Murdoch Hall 8pm

Premium \$109

A Reserve \$99

B Reserve \$89

C Reserve \$79

Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre

For more information and to book tickets, visit melbournerecital.com.au

ABOUT PINK MARTINI

Part cabaret, part musical and part orchestra, **Pink Martini** has performed on concert stages and with symphony orchestras throughout Europe, Asia, Greece, Turkey, the Middle East, Northern Africa, Australia, New Zealand, South America and North America. The band made their European debut at the Cannes Film Festival in 1997 and their orchestral debut with the Oregon Symphony in 1998. Since then, they have gone on to play with more than 50 orchestras around the world, including engagements with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, 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.



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Pink Martini has collaborated and performed with a swag of popular artists including Jimmy Scott, Carol Channing, Jane Powell, Rufus Wainwright, Martha Wainwright, Henri Salvador, Chavela Vargas, New York performer Joey Arias, puppeteer Basil Twist, Georges Moustaki, Michael Feinstein, filmmaker Gus Van Sant, Courtney Taylor of The Dandy Warhols, clarinetist and conductor Norman Leyden and Japanese legend Hiroshi Wada just to name a few. In 2014, Pink Martini was inducted into the Hollywood Bowl Hall of Fame and the Oregon Music Hall of Fame.

Pink Martini's debut album *Sympathique* was released independently in 1997 on the band's own label Heinz Records (named after Lauderdale's dog), and quickly became an international phenomenon, garnering the group nominations for 'Song of the Year' and 'Best New Artist' in France's **Victoires de la Musique Awards** in 2000.

'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...' says Thomas Lauderdale, the group's bandleader and pianist. *'Pink Martini is like a romantic Hollywood musical of the 1940s or '50s, but with a global perspective which is modern. We bring melodies and rhythms from different parts of the world together to create something which is new and beautiful.'*

ABOUT CHINA FORBES

Thomas Lauderdale met lead vocalist **China Forbes** shortly after forming Pink Martini in 1994. Forbes was a **Harvard University** classmate living in New York City. Since joining the band, Forbes has co-written many of Pink Martini's most-loved songs including 'Sympathique', 'Lilly', 'Clementine', 'Let's Never Stop Falling in Love', 'Over the Valley' and most recently 'A Snowglobe Christmas', which can be heard on Pink Martini's holiday album *Joy to the World*. [Watch: Pink Martini with singer China Forbes perform 'Sympathique'](#)

She has performed songs in over 12 languages and has sung duets with Michael Feinstein, Jimmy Scott, Georges Moustaki, Henri Salvador, Saori Yuki, Faith Prince, Carol Channing and Rufus Wainwright, and has performed in venues from Carnegie Hall and the Hollywood Bowl to the Grand Rex in Paris.

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