

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: January 30, 2012

Contact: Peggy Dineen, Omaha Performing Arts

Tel: (402) 661-8442; (402) 312-7276

Email: pdineen@omahaperformingarts.org



DOC SEVERINSEN BRINGS HIS BIG BAND TO OMAHA'S HOLLAND CENTER IN FEBRUARY

Former Tonight Show Bandleader Performs at Holland Center on Saturday, February 25

OMAHA, NEBRASKA –January 30, 2012 – [Omaha Performing Arts](#) presents jazz trumpeter and former *Tonight Show* bandleader [Doc Severinsen and his Big Band](#) at the Holland Performing Arts Center on Saturday, February 25, 2012 at 8:00 p.m. This night of Big Band classics is part of Omaha Performing Arts' 2011-2012 Season Extras.

Tickets for Doc Severinsen and his Big Band start at just \$19 and can be purchased at the Ticket Omaha office in the Holland Performing Arts Center, 13th and Douglas streets; online at [TicketOmaha.com](#); or by calling 402.345.0606.

"Heeeeere's Johnny!" That lead-in, followed by a Big Band trumpet blast, was the landmark of late night television for three decades. The "Johnny" was none other than Johnny Carson, the announcer was Ed McMahon and the bandleader was Doc Severinsen. From October of 1962 to May of 1992, *The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson* ruled the night air, and Severinsen was a part of it all.

Doc Severinsen and his Big Band hit the road shortly after the final broadcast of *The Tonight Show* with a repertoire that included Ellington and Basie standards, pop, jazz, ballads, Big Band classics and, of course, *The Tonight Show* theme. The group is back on the road for the first time in many seasons and audiences are finally able to hear the depth of talent belonging to a band that rarely played a whole tune on the air. Severinsen is not the only accomplished soloist in the group; many of his band members get their well-deserved turns in the spotlight as well.

As a young boy, Severinsen wanted to play the trombone, but his father—a gifted amateur violinist—urged him to study the violin. The younger Severinsen insisted on the trombone, but had to settle for the only horn available in the small music store in his hometown

of Arlington, Ore. – the trumpet. Within a week, the seven-year-old was so good that he was invited to join the high school band. At the age of 12, “Little Doc,” nicknamed after his father who was a dentist, won the Music Educator’s National Contest and, while still in high school, was hired to go on the road with the famous Ted Fio Rito Orchestra. His tour with this band was cut short when Severinsen was drafted by the Army during World War II.

After his discharge from the Army, Severinsen toured with several bands in the late 1940s. He arrived in New York City in 1949 and became a staff musician for NBC. In 1962, he was asked to join *The Tonight Show Band* as first trumpet, and five years later, took over as Music Director for *The Tonight Show* and stayed with the show until Johnny Carson retired from late night television in 1992.

Severinsen has made more than 30 albums—from Big Band to jazz-fusion to classical. Two critically acclaimed CDs with the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra showcase his multifaceted talents from Bach to ballads. Severinsen received a Grammy Award® for “Best Jazz Instrumental Performance – Big Band” for his recording of *Doc Severinsen and The Tonight Show Band-Volume I* and he is still regarded as one of the most technically proficient trumpeters of our time.

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About Omaha Performing Arts

Omaha Performing Arts is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing world-class performances to the Omaha metropolitan area. Omaha Performing Arts’ commitment to the arts extends into its own series, Omaha Performing Arts *Presents*, as well as education and community involvement programs that help ensure the arts have a far-reaching impact. In partnership with Broadway Across America, Omaha Performing Arts also brings the finest in touring Broadway productions to Omaha.

Core to its mission, Omaha Performing Arts manages two landmark venues, the Holland Performing Arts Center and the Orpheum Theater – the former, which includes the acoustically acclaimed Kiewit Concert Hall and Scott Recital Hall and the latter, which includes Slosburg Hall, a proscenium theater. Omaha Performing Arts also provides comprehensive ticketing services for cultural and performing arts within the region through Ticket Omaha (www.TicketOmaha.com).

Omaha Performing Arts’ performances are supported in part by the Nebraska Arts Council, Nebraska Cultural Endowment, the Mid-America Arts Alliance, National Endowment for the Arts, the City of Omaha and the Douglas County Visitor Improvement Fund. For more information on Omaha Performing Arts visit www.OmahaPerformingArts.org.