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**FORGOTTEN SONG FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES
SECOND ANNUAL VIVA AWARDS - MAY 21ST
Honoring Ken Hanlon and Keith Thompson, “Activists for the Arts”**

LAS VEGAS – April 12, 2016 – Forgotten Song Foundation, a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization, announces their second annual VIVA Awards (Vegas Icon Visionary Awards) will be hosted by Clint Holmes and Kelly Clinton-Holmes and takes place on Saturday, May 21, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. at the Historic Fifth Street School.

Honoring two arts activists, Ken Hanlon and Keith Thompson, the event will also feature the work of local visual artists and musicians and will showcase fashion and couture. Proceeds from the VIVA Awards will benefit Forgotten Song Foundation, Inc., dedicated to recognizing, remembering, and sustaining the visual artists and performance artistry of live music for future generations.

More details about the art-filled evening follow:

- More than 15 visual artists display their work.
- Three scholarships awarded to local college students.
- Kasey Carmody on guitar at the reception.
- Rick Vittalto and Cook County play in the main room: (Rick V (guitar and vocals); Gary Anderson (sax); Bill Callahan (B3 organ); Paul Testa (drums).
- Surprise celebrity vocalists.
- Catering by Wild Truffles.
- Barefoot Wine sponsors champagne and wine.
- Raffle prizes, silent auction, hors d’oeuvres and bar round out the evening.

Attendees may choose from three admission types for individual tickets:

- \$75 General Admission
- \$100 Premier Admission (includes premium seating and 5 raffle tickets)
- \$150 VIP Admission (includes VIP seating and 10 raffle tickets)

Table Packages are also available. To purchase tickets: <http://forgottensongfoundation.org/viva-awards/>.

ABOUT THE HONOREES

Ken Hanlon, director of the Arnold Shaw Popular Music Research Center at UNLV as well as Professor of Music, is a native Baltimorean who began his musical studies at the age of ten as a percussionist. He took up trombone at the age of thirteen and began playing in dance bands a year later.

- 1968: Hanlon moved to Las Vegas where he began working as a showroom musician in the "Strip" hotels.
- 1970 UNLV Faculty: he joined the music faculty at UNLV in September 1970 and became the chair of the Music Department during his second week on campus.
- 1972 Nevada Dance Theater: in cooperation with dancer/choreographer Vasilli Sulich and prominent Las Vegas Nancy Houssels and Morry Soss, Hanlon helped to found the Nevada Dance Theater (now Nevada Ballet Theatre), serving as its orchestral conductor and executive director during the company's formative years.
- 1980: he was also instrumental, along with Maestro Virko Bailey, in founding the Nevada Symphony Orchestra to fill the void left by the then-bankrupt Las Vegas Symphony.
- Other arts organizations: Hanlon was also instrumental in the development of the Nevada School for the Arts, New World Brass Quintet, Sierra Winds, Las Vegas Opera Association, Las Vegas Chamber Players, Las Vegas Jazz Society and more.
- 1984 Nevada Governor's Arts Awards: Hanlon was chosen to receive the award as an arts educator.
- 2002 KUNV Jazz Las Vegas radio series: The Nevada Humanities Committee (NHC) awarded Hanlon a grant to produce a series of thirteen one-hour radio programs on jazz artists who live, or have lived, in Las Vegas. The shows aired the summer of 2002, and re-aired in the fall of the same year.

Keith Thompson,

Composer Keith Thompson's most recent list of professional credits include musical director and conductor for the San Francisco and Las Vegas companies of Jersey Boys, The Producers at Paris, Las Vegas, Hairspray at the Luxor Theater in Las Vegas and the North American premiere of the hit musical, We Will Rock You, which ran at the Paris, Las Vegas.

- 2000 Dora Award: for musical direction of the first national tour of Cabaret (he also supervised the music for the Australian production of Cabaret in Sydney).
- His original comedy/novelty song revue Kooky Tunes has received wide critical acclaim in New York and Sydney.
- As conductor and musical director for the first national tours of Mamma Mia! and Cabaret, Keith directed stars such as Teri Hatcher, Lea Thompson, and Tony Award Winner, Norbert Leo Butz in lead roles.
- Other national tours Keith has conducted include Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, with Donny Osmond; Peter Pan, with Cathy Rigby; Jesus Christ Superstar, with Carl Anderson and Ted Neeley; and concert tours for Sarah Brightman and Jenifer Lewis. In addition, his New York credits include Les Miserables, When Pigs Fly, and Little Shop of Horrors.
- Other original collaborated theatrical compositions: IDAHO! (comedy-musical) coming soon to The Smith Center and God Lives in Glass.
- He organizes and hosts the Las Vegas Composers Showcase which began in spring 2006. Now, thanks to the hospitality of Smith Center CEO Myron Martin and COO Paul Beard, the beautiful 250-seat Cabaret Jazz showroom was made available to the Showcase. Check the Smith Center website or TheComposersShowcase.com for updates.

About Forgotten Song Foundation

Founded in November 2014, Forgotten Song Foundation, Inc., a registered 501c3 organization, is dedicated to recognizing, remembering and sustaining the visual artists and performance artistry of live music for future generations. We believe in supporting the art and music community by showcasing local Las Vegas artists and musicians, as well as collaborating with the Forgotten Song Music, LLC's projects: Midnight Muse and Nomadic Nocturne. This goal is achieved by holding monthly events that showcase the talent of Las Vegas while raising funds for our scholarship program. The recipients of the annual scholarships are art and jazz students chosen from The College of Southern Nevada (CSN) and The University of Nevada – Las Vegas (UNLV) with the prizes presented at our annual VIVA Awards event. Currently we are collaborating with Forgotten Song Music, LLC and beginning the Nomadic Nocturne series which will showcase international musicians and artists in addition to several more local talents. This project will continue through 2016 and 2017 until completion.