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Nation's largest family festival to celebrate 20th anniversary with "greatest hits"

Flint Hills Family Festival to kick off summer in downtown Saint Paul, May 29-30

SAINT PAUL, Minn. – The Flint Hills Family Festival will return to the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts for its 20th anniversary on May 29-30. The nation's largest children's festival, it welcomes families to experience regional and international artists for little to no cost. The event features many performances and activities, art-making, and more.

The Flint Hills Family Festival has attracted nearly one million visitors to downtown Saint Paul since its inception in 2001. The Festival is made possible by a 20-year partnership between the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts and Flint Hills Resources.

"The Flint Hills Family Festival makes high-quality arts and entertainment accessible for families across our region," said Heather Rein, director of community affairs at the Flint Hills Resources Pine Bend refinery in Rosemount. "Thanks to the talented staff at the Ordway, this world-class event inspires and amazes audiences year after year. Flint Hills is proud to support this important cultural event."

This year's festival will feature nearly 70 indoor and outdoor performances, highlighting 145 artists representing 10 different countries. To celebrate the festival's milestone anniversary, the event will showcase some of the most popular artists and companies from years past, such as Salsa del Soul, Jarrelle Barton and others to be announced in the coming months.

Tickets are on sale now for Sons of Mystro, Polkadots: The Cool Kids Musical, Cirque Mechanics presents 42ft: A Menagerie of Mechanical Marvels, and NOOMA, an opera created especially for toddlers and babies. Tickets for shows range from \$8 to \$15 and can be purchased at Ordway.org/festival or by calling the Ordway box office at 651-224-4222.

"This Festival and the tremendous impact it has on our local community is one of the reasons I wanted to lead the Ordway," said Jamie Grant, president and CEO of the Ordway. "Between never-before-seen performances and fan favorites, this year's Festival is going to be our best one yet. I can't think of a better way to ring in the 20th year of this beloved event."

In addition to public performances, the Festival will also welcome more than 20,000 students and educators for "School Week" programming, beginning May 26-29. More than 300,000 students and teachers from Minnesota and Wisconsin have attended in the past 19 years.

About Ordway Center for the Performing Arts

Recognized as one of the country's leading not-for-profit performing arts centers, the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts presents and produces a wide variety of live performances throughout the year that encompass the finest in Broadway musicals, concerts, comedy, dance and vocal artists. The Ordway serves over 60,000 children each year through its education programs and presents the annual Flint Hills Family Festival. The performing arts center houses a 1,900-seat Music Theater, a 1,100-seat Concert Hall and magnificent lobbies. The Ordway is a proud member of the Arts Partnership, a collaboration comprising the Ordway, Minnesota Opera, The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and Schubert Club.

About Flint Hills Resources

Flint Hills Resources Pine Bend refinery produces transportation fuels used throughout the Midwest, including most of Minnesota's gasoline, diesel fuel and jet fuel, as well as other products people rely on such as propane and asphalt. Located 17 miles southeast of Minneapolis, Pine Bend has a capacity of 345,000 barrels per day and is among the cleanest, most efficient and safest oil refineries in the country. Flint Hills Resources directly and indirectly supports more than 4,000 Minnesota jobs and has invested nearly \$1.7 billion on upgrades and improvements to its Minnesota facilities since 2010. With more than 1,000 full-time employees, the Flint Hills Resources Pine Bend refinery is one of the largest employers in Dakota County. More information about the company is available at pinebendrefinery.com.

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