OPENING NICES

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

VERONICA SWIFT

SUMMER 2020-21

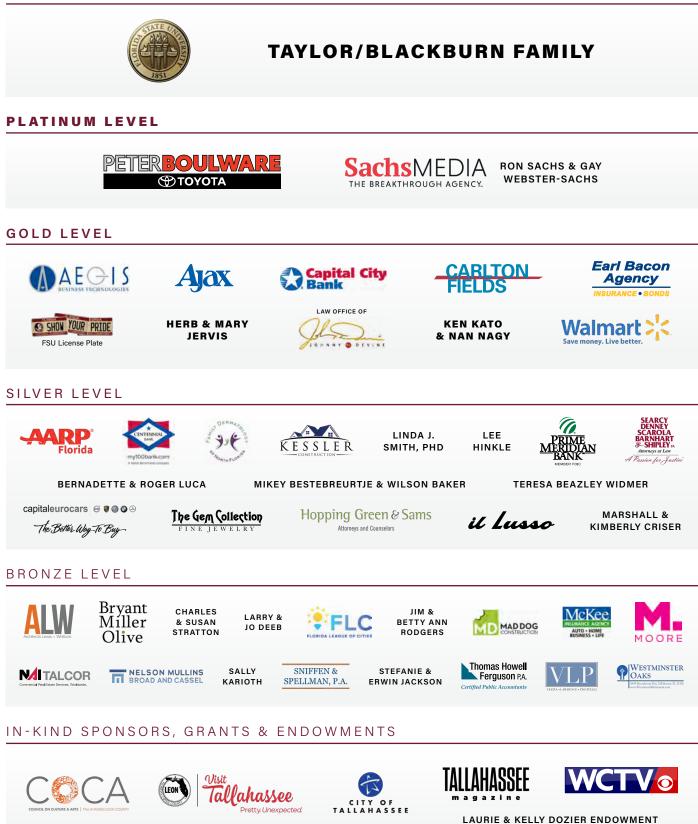


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BEST IN FLORIDA

Florida State University's four-year graduation rate of 72 percent places FSU among the Top 10 public universities in the country and is the best in the state of Florida.



GLOBAL REACH

FSU's commitment to increasing the number of students studying abroad was honored with a 2019 Seal of Excellence from the Institute of International Education. The award specifically recognized FSU's extraordinary global-engagement network.



FSU FRESHMEN FLOURISH

Florida State's freshman retention rate is 93 percent, meaning more freshmen than ever are returning for their second year. That places FSU among the Top 20 public universities in the nation for freshman retention!



THE WORD IS OUT

Prospective students are taking notice of FSU's preeminence. We received a record-breaking 60,555 first-time freshman applications for the 2019 summer and fall semesters.





FSU researchers received a record level of funding from federal, state and private sources in the 2019 fiscal year, bringing \$233.6 million to the university to support investigations into areas such as health sciences, high energy physics and marine biology.

AN OUTSTANDING VALUE

Florida State is ranked No. 9 in the nation among public universities that offer high-quality education at an affordable price, according to Kiplinger's annual list of Best Values in Public Colleges.

Outstanding Performances Continue

his month holds our last two performances of the season: Veronica Swift and An Evening with Billy Dean. For these two amazing events, we are partnering with Visit Tallahassee for their summer Backyard Bucket List Challenge, a fun photo sharing contest. Just snap a picture for Instagram using the hashtag #TallyBucketListSweepstakes to win prizes including a grand prize of a staycation for two!

At just 27, Veronica Swift has already had quite an accomplished career, performing professionally since the age of nine and sharing the stage with artists like Chris Botti and Wynton Marsalis. Veronica is a phenomenal singer whose vocal power has a vintage quality that makes for an unforgettable night of jazz.

Then on June 17, we finish the season with Billy Dean's highly anticipated performance. Local doctors Hugh and Cody VanLandingham will join Billy on stage for a very special performance. Then, Billy will perform updated versions of some of his greatest songs accompanied by members of the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra.

We recently announced One Night of Queen on August 24 and Chris Botti on September 2 as the first two events of the 2021–22 Season. Tickets are now on sale for these two outstanding performances to members and sponsors. We announce the full season on July 8, and I hope you'll tune in to see the over 30 artists coming next season who represent an array of genres.

Thank you for your continued support.

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Michael Blachly Director, Opening Nights at Florida State University



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UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

JUNE

- 10 Veronica Swift jazz, vocal
- **17** An Evening with Billy Dean country, singer-songwriter Sponsored by Ajax Building Company

JULY

8 2021–22 Season Announcement Sponsored by Capital Eurocars

ON SALE DATES

JULY 9	Sponsors
JULY 15	Producer's Circle Members
JULY 19	Partner Members
JULY 22	Friend Members
JULY 26	Associate Members
JULY 28	Debut Members
JULY 30	Solo Members

AUGUST

- **2** GENERAL ON SALE
- 24 One Night of Queen rock n' roll, tribute

Sponsored by Carlton Fields

SEPTEMBER

2 Chris Botti

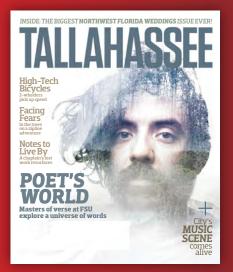
crossover, jazz, instrumental Sponsored by Peter Boulware Toyota

Cover: Veronica Swift









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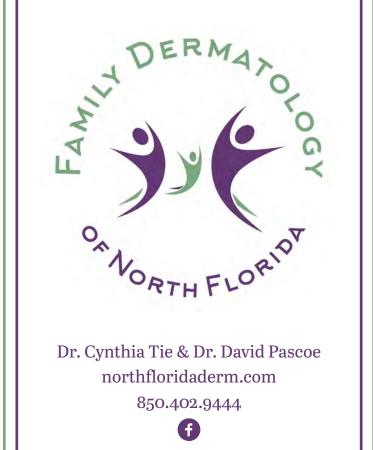
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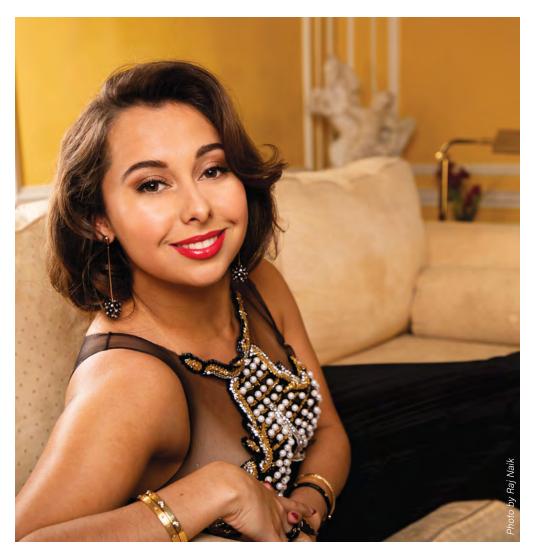
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Veronica Swift

"Her startling command and improbably mature delivery have made her a cause célèbre among fans of traditional jazz, and landed her on stages with some of the music's finest improvisers." — New York Times

Still relatively early in her professional career, Veronica Swift has already developed an impressive repertoire. Raised in Charlottesville, Virginia by her parents, pianist Hod O'Brien and singer Stephanie Nakasian, she recorded her first album, *Veronica's House of Jazz*, when she was only nine years old. Veronica has shared the stage with a host of jazz luminaries, including trumpeters Wynton Marsalis and Chris Botti, and pianists Benny

Green, Michael Feinstein and Emmet Cohen.

Continued on pg. 21

THURSDAY June 10

7:30 P.M.

LOCATION The Moon

GENRE

jazz, vocal

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Veronica Swift

Continued from pg. 17

At age 27, Veronica Swift is recognized as one of the top young jazz singers.

Veronica's first appearance at Jazz at Lincoln Center was at age 11 when she performed at the "Women in Jazz" series at Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola. In the fall of 2015, she won second place at the prestigious Thelonious Monk Jazz Competition. In 2016 she was asked to perform a concert of her own at the Tribeca Performing Arts Center in New York City and headlined the Telluride Jazz Festival. She has been a guest artist at Jazz at Lincoln Center with Michael Feinstein, the Tedd Firth Big Band, Marilyn Maye and Freda Payne.

Veronica finished her Bachelor of Music in Jazz Voice at the Frost School of Music at the University of Miami in December 2016, where she was a full scholarship student. After moving to New York City, she almost immediately started performing every Saturday night at the legendary Birdland Jazz Club, a gig she continues to maintain when she isn't on the road.

Veronica toured with her parents, renowned jazz pianist Hod O'Brien and celebrated jazz singer and educator/author Stephanie Nakasian. She has appeared on stage with Jon Hendricks, Annie Ross, Esperanza Spalding, Joe Lovano, Bob Dorough, Kim Nazarian, Danilo Perez, and others. With her family, she has appeared at The Great Waters Music Festival in New Hampshire, Blues Alley Jazz Club in DC, the Jazz Standard in New York City, the Jazz Cruise, and for the New Jersey and Hilton Head Jazz Societies.

Veronica recorded two albums as a child—one at age nine with Richie Cole, her father's rhythm section and her mother, and a second



Veronica Swift will perform songs from her newest album This Bitter Earth. Photo by Bill Westmoreland

at age 13 with saxophonist Harry Allen. Veronica's latest album *This Bitter Earth* was released this year and features the great pianist Benny Green and his trio, as well as the Emmet Cohen Trio. In addition to performing the Great American Songbook and Bebop and Vocalese classics, Veronica is also a passionate devotee of 20s and 30s music and has sung with Vince Giordano, Terry Waldo, and Drew Nugent.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS... 2021–22 Season Announcement JULY 8



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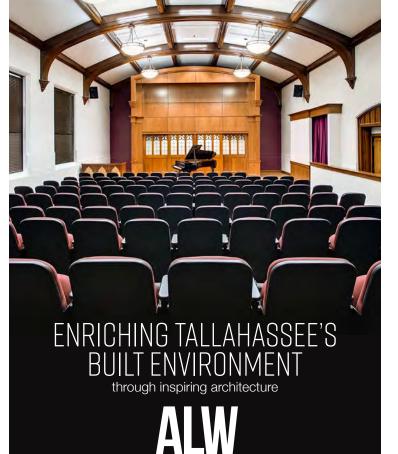




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ONE NIGHT OF QUEEN AUGUST 24

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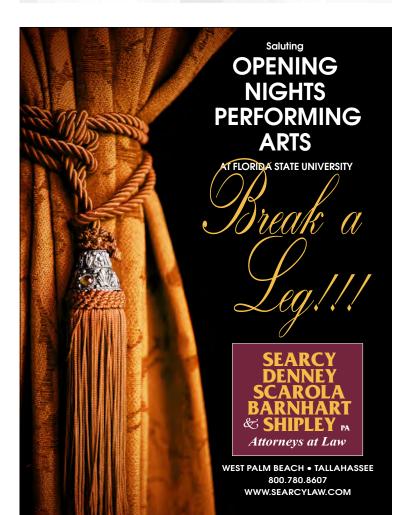


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