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For Immediate Release

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**THE MUSIC OF SAM COOKE COMES TO FORT WORTH'S
BASS PERFORMANCE HALL FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY JANUARY 20**
*Performing Arts Fort Worth and Sheran Goodspeed Keyton to host
A Change is Gonna Come Panel Discussion January 18*

FORT WORTH, Texas (January 10, 2025) – Performing Arts Fort Worth, the non-profit owner and operator of Bass Performance Hall, in partnership with Sheran Goodspeed Keyton, are pleased to announce **A Change is Gonna Come Panel Discussion**. This free community event inspired by **The Music of Sam Cooke** will examine the iconic sound of the King of Soul, the era in which he lived and his cultural impact. Attendees will hear from a panel of creatives, consumers and industry professionals as they discuss the shared experience of music and the different ways it connects us across cultural and social backgrounds. The panel discussion will take place at New Fellowship Church of Fort Worth on Saturday, January 18 at 2pm. This community event is free, however a ticket is required for entry as space is limited. To register, visit www.basshall.com/change.

The Music of Sam Cooke comes to Fort Worth's Bass Performance Hall on Monday, January 20, as part of the **2024-2025 Irwin Steel Popular Entertainment Series** lineup. Tickets start at \$27.50 and may be purchased online at www.basshall.com/samcooke or by calling 817-212-4280. The Performing Arts Fort Worth box office hours are Monday-Friday 9am – 5pm and Saturday 10am – 4pm. For group sales discounts please visit www.basshall.com/groups.

Sam Cooke became the most important Soul singer in history. He was also the inventor of soul music and the most popular and beloved performer of his time. Cooke bridged the gap between black and white audiences and crossed generations. He is commonly known as The King of Soul for his distinctive vocal abilities and influence on the modern world of music. Sam Cooke appealed to everyone. He pioneered soul by melding elements of R&B, Gospel and Pop into a sound that was new and still coalescing at the time. His pioneering contributions to soul music led to the rise of Aretha Franklin, Al Green, Curtis Mayfield, Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye, and popularized the likes of Otis Redding and James Brown.

This world premiere concert features the greatest hits from the Legend of Soul including “You Send Me”, “Only Sixteen”, “Cupid”, “Chain Gang”, “Twistin the Night Away”, “A Change is Gonna Come”, “Wonderful World” to name a few. Beginning with the gospel music that formed the foundation of Sam Cooke’s career, and spanning his success as a pop star, its pure magic from beginning to end. He is “Forever Mr. Soul”.

About Performing Arts Fort Worth

For over 25 years, the Nancy Lee and Perry R. Bass Performance Hall has been a Fort Worth icon and nationally distinguished performing arts venue. Built entirely with private funds, the Hall's mission is to serve as a permanent home to the major performing arts organizations of Fort Worth and as a premier venue for other attractions to enhance the range, quality and accessibility of cultural fare available to the public; to promulgate arts education; and to contribute to the cultural life of Fort Worth, Tarrant County, and the region.

Bass Performance Hall is the permanent home to the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, Texas Ballet Theater, Fort Worth Opera, the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition and the Cliburn. Each resident company operates independently from Performing Arts Fort Worth and manages its own programming schedule at Bass Hall.

Performing Arts Fort Worth, the nonprofit organization that owns and operates Bass Hall, also presents national touring Broadway productions under the Broadway at the Bass Series presented by PNC Bank, as well as intimate concerts, holiday specials and family entertainment in the Irwin Steel Popular Entertainment Series.

The 2,042-seat multipurpose Hall is characteristic of the classic European opera house form. An 80-foot diameter Great Dome tops the Founders Concert Theater while two 48-foot-tall angels grace the Grand Facade. Since the Hall opened in May 1998, the angels have become preeminent cultural icons of the Dallas-Fort Worth community.

About Sheran Goodspeed Keyton

Sheran Goodspeed Keyton has been acting and singing professionally for more than 35 years and has toured nationally and internationally. Performance awards include: the best actress award by the DFW Theatre Critic's Forum for her portrayal of *Bessie Smith: Empress of the Blues* at Jubilee Theatre and awarded a Best Actress Award by the Fort Worth Black Chamber of Commerce Film Festival. In July 2011, after more than 100,000 auditions were held, Sheran was also one of only 160 acts to make it to the Hollywood Boot Camp of *The X Factor*. In 2008, Sheran formed her own nonprofit theater company, DVA Productions, Inc., which produced educational outreach and mainstage shows and in 2010 formed Sheer Heaven Entertainment with a focus on film and television production.

Aside from her work through DVA Productions, as an individual, Sheran Goodspeed Keyton has partnered with many arts organizations in the DFW area to write, direct, and/or produce educational/community outreach programming and original works: YMCA afterschool program, Century 21, Boys and Girls Club, Big Thought, Imagination FW, Jubilee Theater, City of Irving, City of Fort Worth, City of Dallas, Irving ISD, Fort Worth ISD, Aledo ISD, State Fair of Texas, Academy 4, Forest Hill Public Library, Fort Worth Public Library, Fort Worth Botanic Garden, Fort Worth Log Cabin Village, Tarrant County Black Historical and Genealogical Society, and more. Sheran has worked offstage doing voice-over/radio commercial work, television shows, and film. She is also an award-winning actor, writer, director, and producer of films and commercials with numerous IMDb credits to her name.

Sheran serves on the board of directors of Fort Worth Log Cabin Village, is the Director of Entertainment of Tarrant County Harambee Festival, is the former Director of COT Production and Civic Impact at Fort Worth Opera, and current Director of Civic Engagement at Lyric Opera of Chicago in Chicago, IL. Sheran's passion is not only to entertain but also to educate the youth and members of the community (DFW & Chicago). She has dedicated years of her life to that passion and plans to continue doing so.