



THE CENTER
FOR THE
PERFORMING ARTS
ANNIVERSARY SEASON



The Great American
Songbook Foundation
Michael Feinstein, Founder

AT THE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

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Songbook Academy™ winner sings at Indianapolis Colts game

CARMEL, IN - Lucas DeBard, winner of the 2015 Songbook Academy™ will perform the National Anthem at the October 25 Colts game at Lucas Oil Stadium. The 18-year-old from Lebanon, Indiana, was the winner of the 2015 competition held at the Palladium concert hall in July. DeBard now serves as the Great American Songbook Youth Ambassador, a one year title.

A freshman at Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music, DeBard recently made his national debut at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. He will make his New York City debut at Feinstein's/54 Below this December, performing alongside multi-platinum selling, five-time Grammy-nominated entertainer [Michael Feinstein](#), founder of the Great American Songbook Foundation and artistic director at the Center for the Performing Arts.

"I created the Songbook Academy™ to foster young artists who have an interest in the American Songbook, which includes the music of classic Broadway, Jazz standards, and popular music. We are reaching a new generation to teach the music of the American Songbook and the history that inspired and influenced its composers," said Michael Feinstein, founder of the Songbook Academy™ and the organization called the Great American Songbook Foundation.

DeBard was one of forty high school vocalists who attended the week-long academy, held on the campus of the Center for the Performing Arts in the Indiana city of Carmel. The annual event is sponsored by the Great American Songbook Foundation and is the only U.S. high school program dedicated solely to the music from Broadway, Hollywood musicals and the Tin Pan Alley era of the early to mid-twentieth century.

The Songbook Academy™

Now in its seventh year, the Songbook Academy™ provides high school singers in grades 9-12 with the life-changing opportunity to work with music industry professionals and educators from top college arts programs to experience firsthand the uniquely American and culturally significant music known as the Great American Songbook.

The Songbook Academy™ is designed to be a collaborative, rewarding, and fun experience for all participants. Students will have the opportunity to participate in workshops, one-on-one coaching sessions, and master classes with celebrity performers, music industry professionals, and educators from top college arts programs from across the country. The week's events will culminate in a live show on July 23, 2016, at the Palladium in Carmel, Indiana. For more information, visit www.TheSongbook.org.

The Great American Songbook Foundation

Michael Feinstein founded the Great American Songbook Foundation in 2007 in order to preserve, promote, and perpetuate the music of the Great American Songbook. The mission of the Foundation is to inspire and educate by celebrating the Great American Songbook. The Foundation is housed on the campus of the Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel, Indiana. The work of the Foundation includes:

- High School Songbook Academy™
- Educational programming
- Library, Archives, and Gallery Exhibits
- Great American Songbook Hall of Fame

To learn more, visit: www.TheSongbook.org

About Michael Feinstein

Michael Feinstein, the multi-platinum-selling, two-time Emmy and five-time Grammy Award-nominated entertainer dubbed “The Ambassador of the Great American Songbook,” is considered one of the premier interpreters of American standards. His 200-plus shows a year have included performances at Carnegie Hall, Sydney Opera House and the Hollywood Bowl as well as the White House and Buckingham Palace. Feinstein's work has received national recognition for his commitment to celebrating America's popular song and preserving its legacy for the next generation. He founded the Great American Songbook Foundation in 2007. Feinstein also serves as Artistic Director of the Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel, Indiana, which opened in January 2011.

About The Center for the Performing Arts

The Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel City Center includes the 1,600-seat Palladium concert hall, the Tarkington 500-seat proscenium theater and the 200-seat Studio theater. The Center serves as a permanent fixture on the Central Indiana landscape and provides an extraordinary listening experience for audiences. The concert hall is also home to the Great American Songbook Foundation, acting as a museum and education center by day and a concert venue by night. This world-class performing arts center is under the direction of President/CEO Tania Castroverde Moskalenko. Michael Feinstein serves as Artistic Director.

Media links

Watch highlight reel of Songbook Academy:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-jkUZ8xwgBU>

Watch video of 2015 Winner, Lucas DeBard, Perform at the Songbook Academy™:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c0v9DIRuSxI>

To learn more, visit: www.TheSongbook.org

The mission of the Great American Songbook Foundation is to inspire and educate by celebrating the Great American Songbook.

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