

For immediate release:



BRIAN WILSON SET TO EMBARK ON FIRST-EVER CROSS-CANADA TOUR IN JUNE 2011

May 9, 2011 ~ Vancouver, BC: Legendary artist Brian Wilson will embark on his first-ever cross-Canada tour in June of 2011. For many Canadians, the tour represents their first opportunity to directly experience and pay homage to this unrivaled mainstay of the cultural soundtrack. Audiences can look forward to a musical tour de force as Wilson performs his latest critically acclaimed album *Brian Wilson Re-imagines Gershwin* in its entirety, along with a selection of classics from both the Brian Wilson and Beach Boys back-catalogues.

Brian Wilson Re-imagines Gershwin (released by Disney Pearl in August 2010) is an album of George and Ira Gershwin classics that has already garnered rave reviews. With imaginative arrangements of some of the most widely known and recorded music in history, it includes an a cappella arrangement of "Rhapsody in Blue", songs from *Porgy and Bess* such as "Summertime" and "It Ain't Necessarily So" as well as classic Gershwin compositions including "They Can't Take That Away From Me" and "I Got Rhythm".

"He turns "Summertime" into a doo-wop ballad, tricks out "They Can't Take That Away From Me" with brass and lush harmonies, and teleports "Someone to Watch Over Me" from Broadway to sun splashed California. The result is Porgy and Bess-meets-Pet Sounds." - Rolling Stone Magazine

"I've always tried to make music that entertained people," Wilson said. "I also wanted my music to last, to be able to speak to any generation. Thankfully, nearly 50 years since the Beach Boys were born, that seems to have come true. Now, with this album a new musical chapter begins for me, and it's going to be a chapter to remember. I promise."

Like Gershwin, Brian Wilson is one of the great composers of the last 100 years. The Southern California native, along with his brothers, a cousin and a friend, formed the Beach Boys while still in his teens. With Wilson as chief songwriter and arranger, the band not only enjoyed dozens of hits, but changed music forever thanks to Brian's innovative melodies and harmonies. Songs like "I Get Around," "Help Me, Rhonda," "California Girls," "Wouldn't It Be Nice," and the #1 smash "Good Vibrations" remain indispensable staples in the rock 'n' roll canon. The band's *Pet Sounds* (1966) is regarded as one of the greatest albums of all time.

In a true class of his own, Wilson has received outstanding acclaim from some of the biggest names in the business...

"It may be going overboard to say it's the classic of the century ... but to me, it certainly is a total, classic record that is unbeatable in many ways ... I've often played Pet Sounds and cried." - **Paul McCartney**

"I love Brian. There are not many people I would say that about. I think he's a truly, truly, truly great genius." - **Pete Townshend**

In addition, Brian Wilson has continued to influence some of today's most accomplished indie artists...

"The modern pop song was basically invented by Brian Wilson. Almost everybody that uses melody and harmony owes him a debt, a long list that goes from Animal Collective back to The Beatles."

- **A.C. Newman (New Pornographers)**

"Without Brian Wilson I suspect there would be no Animal Collective, Fleet Foxes, Spoon, New Pornographers, or The Shins. Considering these are some of the biggest acts in the 'indie-rock world', it's a testament to the lasting cultural impact that Pet Sounds and Smile have had on popular music."

- **Brendan Canning (Broken Social Scene)**

As Brian puts it himself: "I am thrilled to have this opportunity to tour Canada. I always love visiting and it will be nice to play for my fans across the entire country and to visit places I've never been!"

Brian Wilson
The Gershwin-Wilson Songbook Canada Tour 2011

June 15	Kitchener, ON	The Centre In The Square
June 17	Montreal, QC	Place des Arts
June 18	Toronto, ON	Massey Hall
June 20	Ottawa, ON	National Arts Centre
June 22	Winnipeg, MB	Pantages Playhouse Theatre
June 23	Regina, SK	Conexus Arts Centre
June 25	Calgary, AB	Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium
June 26	Edmonton, AB	Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium
June 28	Vancouver, BC	Queen Elizabeth Theatre

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About Paul Mercs Concerts:

Paul Mercs Concerts has over 35 years of in-depth industry experience in various aspects of the entertainment business: artist management, large-scale event production, and concert promotion. With concert promotion as the primary business, Paul Mercs Concerts is the only independent concert promoter to operate Canada-wide, coast to coast. Artists associated with Paul Mercs Concerts include Tom Jones, Willie Nelson, Bill Cosby, Chris Botti, Diana Krall, George Jones, John Prine, Merle Haggard and Pearl Jam. From artists to media partners to audience members, Paul Mercs Concerts takes pride in its business and firmly believes in the true value of music.
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