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## PORTLAND'S PINK MARTINI TO PERFORM AT GAY SOFTBALL WORLD SERIES

Opening Ceremonies Celebration Adds Band to Incredible Lineup

**PORTLAND, OR (AUGUST 22, 2017)** – Today, the Rose City Softball Association (RCSA) announced that Portland-based band “Pink Martini” will perform at the Opening Ceremonies celebration, kicking off the international “Gay Softball World Series” (GSWS) in Portland next month.

“This is going to be a huge show,” said an clearly excited Tim Bias, Events Director of the GSWS committee and Master of Ceremonies for the event. “Pink Martini is an amazing attraction, adding them makes the GSWS Opening Ceremonies the biggest ever, and it’s right here in Portland!” Pink Martini adds to the exciting lineup, which includes performers Brian Justin Crum and members of Circ du Soleil.

Pink Martini crosses musical genres in their own unique mix of classical, pop, latin and jazz. “Pink Martini is a rollicking around-the-world musical adventure... if the United Nations had a house band in 1962, hopefully we’d be that band,” as described by Thomas Lauderdale, who founded the band in 1994, originally to play political fundraisers for progressive causes such as civil rights and affordable housing. China Forbes, Pink Martini’s key lead vocalist, will be joining Lauderdale for the performance on September 4th.



Pink Martini’s debut album *Symphonique* was released independently in 1997 on the band’s own label Heinz Records (named after Lauderdale’s dog), and quickly became an international phenomenon, garnering the group nominations for ‘Song of the Year’ and ‘Best New Artist’ in France’s Victoires de la Musique Awards in 2000. Pink Martini released *Hang On Little Tomato* in 2004, *Hey Eugene!* in 2007 and *Splendor In The Grass* in 2009. In November of 2016, they released *Je dis oui!*—the band’s ninth studio album. The LP’s 15 tracks, many of which are original, span eight languages: French, Farsi, Armenian, Portuguese, Arabic, Turkish, Xhosa and English. Lauderdale notes, “This is the happiest album we’ve made in years. And it affirms the band’s 23-year history of global inclusivity and collaborative spirit.” In that spirit, the band is thrilled to play an event which celebrates **Progress, Pride and Play!**



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The Rose City Softball Association (RCSA) burst onto the gay social scene in 1995. Host city for the international Gay Softball World Series in 2002, Portland embraced 76 teams and 1500 participants. This year, the RCSA will show off their city by hosting GSWS a second time, with 186 teams in four divisions with their 3500 players and supporters from around the US and Canada Labor Day week, celebrating community and friendship in 2017 through “*Progress, Pride and Play!*”

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