

**MEDIA CONTACT**

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**Hermitage Artist Retreat Presents**

**Fridays @ 5**

**“Musical Theater in the Making”**

**With Composer and Lyricist Adam Gwon**

**Friday, May 17, 5 p.m.**

*Gwon’s prolific output includes such acclaimed musicals as “Old Jews Telling Jokes,” “Cake Off,” “The Boy Detective Fails,” and “Bernice Bobs Her Hair.” His songs have been performed by such musical greats as Audra McDonald,*

*Kelli O’Hara, and Brian d’Arcy James.*

(Sarasota County) The Hermitage’s Fridays @ 5 series continues with composer and lyricist Adam Gwon, who will tell the stories and sing the songs of musicals he has written—and take us behind the scenes of those yet to be born. Engaging and unpretentious, Gwon has had his music performed at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and the Kennedy Center. The program is Friday, May 17, 5 p.m., in the Palm House at the Hermitage Artist Retreat. *Reservations for this free series are required and can be requested at www.HermitageArtistRetreat.org. For more information about the Hermitage, visit www.HermitageArtistRetreat.org.*

 “Adam will be working on a commission from Philadelphia’s Kimmel Center to write a musical about William Penn while he’s at the Hermitage,” says Patricia Caswell, Hermitage co-founder and program director. “In the future, two ‘must visit’ stops in Philly will be the Liberty Bell and Adam’s musical. But area residents and visitors can experience it here first!”

Gwon is a composer and lyricist whose Off-Broadway musicals include *Ordinary Days* (Roundabout Theatre), and *Old Jews Telling Jokes* (Westside Theatre). Regional credits: *String* (Village Theatre), *Cake Off* (Signature Theatre, Helen Hayes Award nomination; Bucks County Playhouse), *Cloudlands* (South Coast Repertory), *The Boy Detective Fails* (Signature Theatre*),* and *Bernice Bobs Her Hair* (Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma). His songs have been performed at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, and more, by such musical greats as Audra McDonald, Kelli O’Hara, and Brian d’Arcy James. Honors include the Kleban Award, Fred Ebb Award, Richard Rodgers Award, Second Stage Theatre’s Donna Perret Rosen Award, ASCAP Harold Adamson Award, and the MAC John Wallowitch Award. His commissions include the Roundabout Theatre Company, Playwrights Horizons, South Coast Repertory, Signature Theatre, and Broadway Across America.

Award-winning creators of all artistic disciplines are invited to live and work at the Hermitage Artist Retreat in Englewood. During their residencies, they share their talents with the community. Some programs are in the Palm House, and others are on the beach at the Hermitage. Whether a program is indoors or outdoors, attendees are invited to stay and enjoy the beach afterwards.

Executive director Bruce Rodgers explains that these cultural gatherings exist to give the community the rare opportunity to interact with celebrated authors, poets, artists, composers and performers from around the world. “Artists who are invited to be at the Hermitage are asked to give free programs for the community during their stay with us.” He adds that, in addition to programs at the Hermitage, many artists also participate in free outreach programs at area schools, colleges, and in collaboration with regional cultural organizations

All programs are subject to change. Please check the Hermitage website or Facebook page for updated program status. The Hermitage Artist Retreat is located at 6630 Manasota Key Road in Englewood. For more information about Fridays @ 5 or the Hermitage, visit www.HermitageArtistRetreat.org.

**About the Hermitage Artist Retreat:**

The Hermitage is a nonprofit artist retreat located in Englewood, Sarasota County, Florida. It invites accomplished artists in all disciplines for residencies on its beachfront campus which is on the National Register of Historic Places. Its artists, who are asked to interact with the community, touch thousands of Gulf Coast residents and visitors with unique and inspiring programs. Hermitage fellows have included Pulitzer, Tony, Emmy, Grammy and MacArthur Fellowship award winners. The Hermitage awards the $30,000 Greenfield Prize for a new work of art, and the Aspen Music Festival awards the annual Hermitage Prize in Composition. For more information about The Hermitage Artist Retreat, visit www.HermitageArtistRetreat.org.

**The Hermitage is supported by:**

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