## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PBS’ *A CAPITOL FOURTH* WELCOMES BACK**

**AMERICA’S FAVORITE HOST TOM BERGERON**

**TO LEAD THE NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION**

**LIVE FROM THE U.S. CAPITOL!**

**All-Star Cast Features Musical Performances by Smokey Robinson,**

**Kenny Loggins, Gavin DeGraw, Cassadee Pope, Amber Riley,**

**Jackie Evancho, Sutton Foster and the Broadway cast of *ON YOUR FEET!***

**with the National Symphony Orchestra with Special Performance**

**of National Anthem by *THE VOICE* Season 10 Winner Alisan Porter**

**- Plus Tributes to the 75th Anniversary of the USO and**

**the 100th Anniversary of the National Park Service -**

Washington, D.C., June 9, 2016 – This July 4th, America’s national Independence Day celebration kicks off our country’s 240th birthday, as ***A CAPITOL FOURTH*** on PBS welcomes back Emmy Award-winning television personality **Tom Bergeron** (*DANCING WITH THE STARS*) to host the festivities. Broadcast live on PBS from the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol, the all-star musical extravaganza puts viewers front and center for the greatest display of fireworks anywhere in the nation. ***A CAPITOL FOURTH*** (#July4thPBS) will feature performances by: legendary Grammy Award-winning singer/songwriter **Smokey Robinson**; platinum selling recording star and Grammy Award-winner **Kenny Loggins**; multi-platinum selling singer-songwriter **Gavin DeGraw**; Award-winning country vocalist **Cassadee Pope**; actress and singer **Amber Riley** *(GLEE)*, who is set to star in *DREAMGIRLS THE MUSICAL* on London’s West End; musical prodigy and classical crossover star **Jackie Evancho**; Tony Award-winning Broadway and television star **Sutton Foster** (*YOUNGER, GILMORE GIRLS*); and the cast of the smash hit Broadway musical ***ON YOUR FEET!*** the inspiring true story of Gloria and Emilio Estefan; with the **National Symphony Orchestra** under the direction of top pops conductor **Jack Everly**. **Alisan Porter**, the Season 10 winner of *THE VOICE*, will open the show with a special performance of the “National Anthem.”The concert will also feature special segments in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the USO and the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service (more details to come). The 36th annual broadcast of ***A CAPITOL FOURTH*** airs on PBS **Monday, July 4, 2016 from 8:00 to 9:30 p.m. ET** before a concert audience of hundreds of thousands, millions more at home, as well as to our troops serving around the world on the American Forces Network. The program can also be heard live in stereo over NPR member stations nationwide.

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The top-rated, award-winning program features twenty cameras positioned around the city, including the U.S. Capitol, the White House, the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument. Capping off the show will be a rousing rendition of Tchaikovsky’s “1812 Overture” complete with live cannon fire provided by the United States Army Presidential Salute Battery, an audience favorite and ***A CAPITOL FOURTH*** tradition.

Also participating in the event will be the Choral Arts Society of Washington, Patrick Lundy & The Ministers of Music, the U.S. Army Ceremonial Band, the U.S. Army Herald Trumpets, Members of the Armed Forces carrying the State and Territorial Flags and the Armed Forces Color Guard provided by the Military District of Washington, D.C.

The program is a co-production of Jerry Colbert of Capital Concerts and WETA, Washington, D.C. Executive producers Jerry Colbert and Michael Colbert have assembled an award-winning production team that features the top Hollywood talent behind some of television’s most prestigious entertainment shows including the *GRAMMY AWARDS,* *COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS,* TONY AWARDS, *SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE,* and more.

**About Capital Concerts**

Capital Concerts is the production force behind two of television’s longest-running and highest-rated live programs commemorating America’s most important holidays. ***THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY CONCERT***, the nation’s tribute to our men and women in uniform, and ***A CAPITOL FOURTH***, our country’s biggest birthday party, have become American traditions that have consistently ranked among the highest rated programs on PBS over the past decade. The holiday specials have been honored with over 70 awards including the New York Film Festival Award, the Telly Award, the Golden Cine Award, the Videographer Award, the National Education Association Award, the Aurora Award, the Christopher Award, the Communicator’s Award, the AXIEM Award, the Omni Award and the Writer’s Guild of America Award.

**Underwriters**

***A CAPITOL FOURTH*** is made possible by grants from The Boeing Company, the National Park Service, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the Department of the Army, PBS and public television stations nationwide. Air travel is provided by American Airlines.

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