



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MATTIE KELLY ARTS FOUNDATION'S KICKS OFF
21ST SEASON WITH MUSIC CONCERT BENEFIT**

***ABBAFAB Makes Northwest Florida Debut Performing a
Stunning Multi-Media Tribute to the
Iconic '70s-era Dancing Band, ABBA,
Saturday, April 9 at 7 p.m.***

DESTIN, FLA. — (March 15, 2016) Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation (MKAF) is calling all dancing queens (and kings) to kick up their heels in support of a great cause this spring. In partnership with Ocean Reef Vacation Rentals & Real Estate, Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation kicks off its 21st season with a special performance by critically acclaimed ABBAFAB, a talented, high-energy tribute band for the Swedish pop group sensation, ABBA.

The concert is set for Saturday, April 9 at 7 p.m. in the Dugas Pavilion located in the Mattie Kelly Cultural Arts Village, located at 4323 Commons Drive West in Destin.

Making its Northwest Florida debut, ABBAFAB will present a high-energy two-hour, multi-media tribute performance that includes ABBA's popular chart-topping hits from the '70s and '80s such as "Mama Mia," "Dancing Queen," "SOS," "Waterloo," "Honey Honey," "Fernando" among others. Core band members: Anne Davies, Chelsea Faulds, Nick Davies and Scotty Pearson have traveled the globe earning praise and accolades for their "intoxicating" talent and spot-on ABBA performance. In addition to many memorable ABBA hits, this "Technicolor journey" features choreographed dancing, colorful costumes and plenty of audience participation.

“There’s really nothing like it,” says ABBAFAB singer Anne Davies who formed the band in 2008. “We’ve had audiences from ages 5 to 95 and they all get into dancing and singing. This music is so upbeat and uplifting ... who doesn’t like to feel happy?”

ABBA was a Scandinavian sensation nearly from the start. The four-member Swedish band from Stockholm skyrocketed up the music charts with their hit “Waterloo” in 1974 and continued to dominate the charts with catchy, dance hits until 1982. One of the most commercially successful acts in the history of popular music, ABBA was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in March 2010. With the staging of the Broadway hit “Mama Mia” later made into a star-studded film starring Meryl Streep, ABBA’s intoxicating music danced into the hearts and heels of yet another generation.

Bring a chair, blanket and picnic or purchase dinner prepared onsite from food trucks and local restaurants serving up delicious dinner menu options. Bring your own beverages or purchase water and soft drinks at the event.

“We couldn’t think of a better way to kick off our 21st season than with this sensational show by ABBAFAB,” said Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation CEO Marcia Hull. “There’s no generation gap with this awesome music act, so be sure to bring your dancing shoes!”

Presented by Ocean Reef Vacation Rentals and Real Estate, ABBAFAB will have audiences dancing and singing to the sensational sounds of the ‘70s. Tickets for this benefit concert are \$25 for adults or \$20 for MKAF members. Children (under 12) are free. Purchase concert tickets online at mattiekellyartsfoundation.org or pay at the gate, which opens at 6 p.m.

VIP Tables, seating up to eight, are available for purchase \$250 (non-members) and \$225 (MKAF members). VIP Tables are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Purchase VIP Tables by calling MKAF at (850) 650-2226.

Proceeds from the event will benefit MKAF’s mission to support cultural events and education programs for all ages.

“MKAF’s cultural events go a long way towards funding empowering arts programming for children, youth and adults with special needs, and emerging therapeutic programs for our local disabled veterans populations,” said Hull. “Our one-of-a kind outreach program, All Kinds of

Art, is truly dedicated to serving all kinds of populations with impactful arts experiences.”

Other signature events slated for MKAF’s 2016 season will include the 21st Annual Concerts in the Village, 8th Annual Labor Day Weekend Concert (Sept. 4); the 21st Annual Festival of the Arts (Oct. 29-30) and the 21st Annual holiday offering Sounds of the Season (Dec. 2) at Village Baptist Church in Destin.

ABBAFAB is made possible by the generous support of local individuals, businesses and media partners. For more information on how you can become a member of MKAF, gain benefits as an event sponsor, provide a donation or explore opportunities to get involved on a committee of the Board of Directors, call (850) 650-2226 or visit www.mattiekellyartsfoundation.org. Follow us on Facebook at MattieKellyArtsFoundation and on Twitter at MattieKellyArtsFound.

CALENDAR LISTING FORMAT

Saturday, April 9, 7 p.m.

ABBAFAB, MKAF 21st Annual Concerts in the Village Kick Off Concert

ABBAFAB — this thrilling tribute to ABBA will have you dancing and singing along to the sensational sounds of the ‘70s and ‘80s

Dugas Pavilion in the Mattie Kelly Cultural Arts Village, 4323 Commons Drive West in Destin.

\$25/adult; \$20 MKAF members; Free for children (12 and under)

Purchase tickets at the gate or online at: www.MattieKellyArtsFoundation.org

PHOTOGRAPHY

Click [here](#) for a link to ABBAFAB photos and MKAF promo materials.

ABOUT MATTIE KELLY ARTS FOUNDATION

Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation (MKAF), a 501-c-3 not-for-profit charitable arts organization, was founded in 1995 on the cultural, educational and spiritual beliefs of the late Destin Matriarch, Mattie Kelly. The champion of cultural arts and education in Northwest Florida, MKAF's vision is to impact lives through art and culture.

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