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## **Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Arts presents its spring musical, Evita!**

BETHLEHEM, PA--( )--- The Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Arts (Charter Arts) presents its spring musical: *Evita*, April 13-17 at the Charter Arts Theatre, 321 East 3rd Street, Bethlehem.

*Evita*, with music by Andrew Lloyd Webber and lyrics by Tim Rice, chronicles the life and times of Eva Peron, who rose from poverty to become a famous actress and eventually the wife of Argentinian president Juan Peron. Her charitable spirit made her a saint among the poor, but her political influence incited hatred among the upper class. Through this epic musical, the story of *Evita* lives on, not just in the hearts and minds of the Argentinian people, but all over the globe.

This production is directed by Kelly Bickert with musical direction by Neil Chaban. Bickert also choreographs the show, along with Charter Arts alum, Christopher Ryland. The technical director is Peter Wrenn-Meleck.

There are thirty-six cast members and twenty orchestra musicians, which is one of the largest cast and crew rosters for a musical produced by the school in its thirteen year history. A larger production such as *Evita* was made possible due to the school's new facility in South Bethlehem, which opened in September of this year. The new 360-seat state of the art Charter Arts Theatre can accommodate a production of this size.

"I have not directed this musical since 2009 but came back to it because we had this fabulous new space that could handle this grand show," says Bickert. "I found the perfect partner in Neil Chaban who loves the show as much as I do and that's key when directing a rock opera to have a phenomenal musical director. I also had 2007 alumni Chris Ryland come back to work with me on choreography. The fates aligned this year for it all to come together!"

Audiences are sure to enjoy this stunning production of *Evita*, with outstanding performances and the show's iconic and beloved songs, such as: "Don't Cry for Me Argentina", "High Flying Adored", "Buenos Aires", "Art of the Possible", "You Must Love Me" and "A New Argentina".

Evening performances, April 13-16 at 7pm. Matinee performance on April 17 at 2pm.

Tickets are \$12 Adults, \$10 Senior/Student and are available online at [www.CharterArts.org](http://www.CharterArts.org).

THE  
LEHIGH VALLEY  
**CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL**  
FOR THE **ARTS**

321 East 3rd Street, Bethlehem, PA 18015  
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[www.CharterArts.org](http://www.CharterArts.org)

**ABOUT THE LEHIGH VALLEY CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS (Charter Arts):**

**The Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Arts** is an audition-based, tuition-free, public charter school that provides a comprehensive curriculum for high school students, grades 9-12, who have a passion for the arts. Students major in one of seven artistic areas: dance, theater, vocal music, instrumental music, literary arts, figure skating or visual art.

The Charter Arts regional model enables students from a wide geographic area to maximize their special talents in the arts, while building a strong, developmental foundation for post-secondary education and the work force. The school offers a full complement of core courses at the College Preparatory (CP), Honors, and Advanced Placement (AP) levels. The course catalog consists of more than 150 courses ranging from traditional core courses to pre-professional courses in the arts.

Charter Arts' rigorous curriculum fosters both academic and artistic excellence. The school's impressive PA School Performance Profile (SPP) Academic Score, AP and Keystone exam statistics, student SAT scores, prestigious artistic accolades, and graduation rate are a testament to the outstanding education Charter Arts provides.

For more information about Charter Arts, visit the school's website at [www.CharterArts.org](http://www.CharterArts.org) or call [610-868-2971](tel:610-868-2971). Charter Arts is located at 321 East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Bethlehem PA 18015.

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Media Note: Photo attached. CAPTION: