

**The AMRC would like to thank the following people and organizations for their generous support in donations!**

**Gifts Under \$250**

Keith and Marry Brown, Robert Fleisher,  
Glenn Giffin, Arthur Lieb, Robert Lord,  
Ramon McCarus, Mind Body Health Sciences,  
Hal and Elisabeth Naiman, Melody Perkins,  
Lisa and Stephen Reynolds, Lois Schroeder,  
Joyce Shambaugh, Joanne Swenson-Eldridge,  
Barbara Brenton, Christopher Collins,  
Mary and Lloyd Gelman, Oak Thorne,  
and Barbara Zarlengo

**Gifts Over \$250**

David J. Conte Music  
International Harp Therapy Program  
Doree and Jerry Hickman  
James and Donna Klausman  
Chuck and Kathy Arnold  
Colleen and Terry Conant  
Caryl and David Kassoy  
Juli and Pete Steinhauer  
Marilyn Newsom  
Johanna Keller  
Thomas Riis  
Joyce Thurmer

**Gifts Over \$1000**

Thomas Brosh  
Patricia Moon  
Bob and Judy Charles  
Nanette and Marshall Fishman  
Sacha Millstone

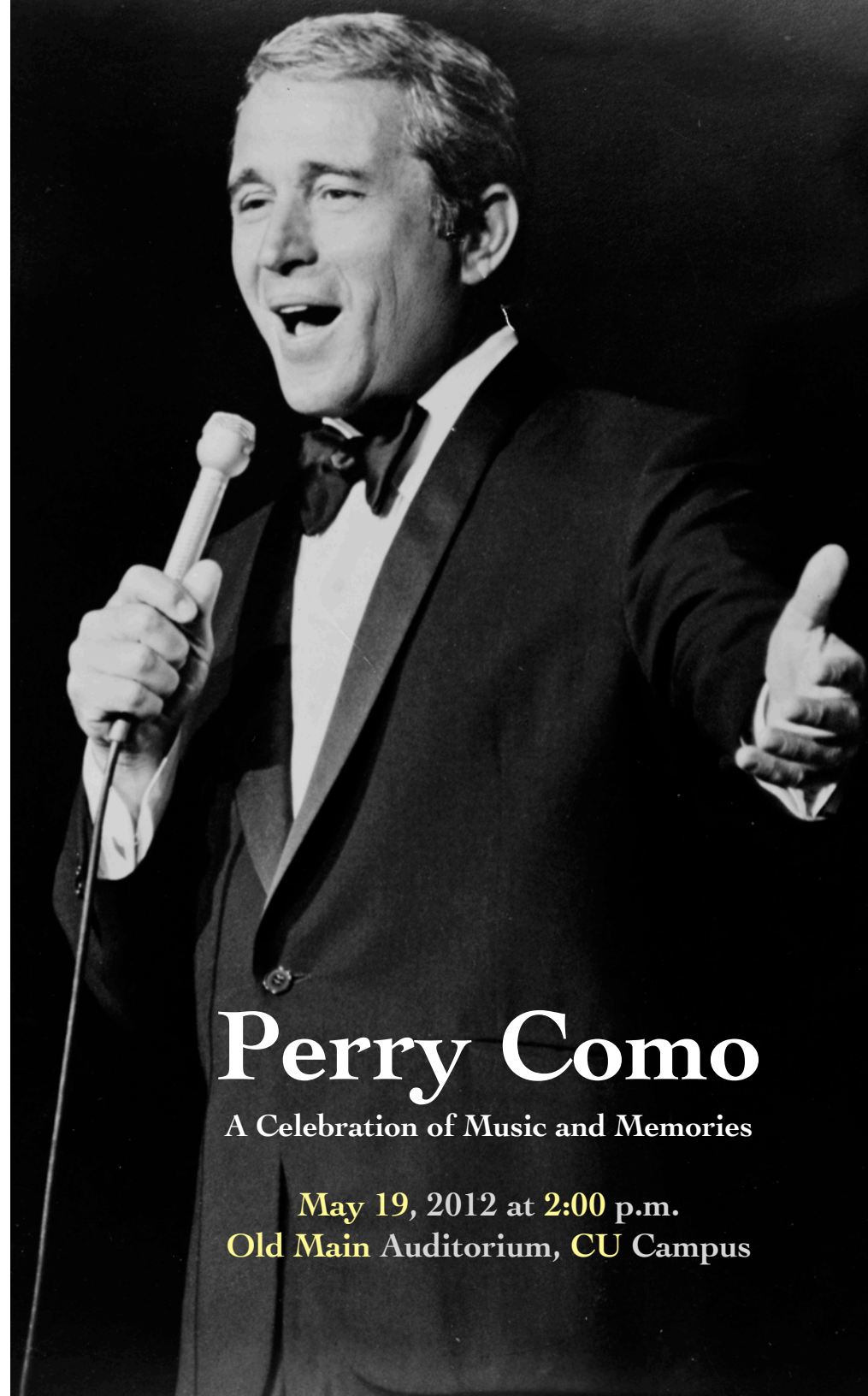
**Gifts Over \$5000**

Don Campbell  
Debbie and Randy Holliday  
Chris and Barbara Christoffersen  
Boulder Community Hospital Foundation  
Harry and Anna Teasley,  
Marty and Al Stormo  
Dennis Spragg  
Ted Manning



American Music Research Center

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER



# Perry Como

A Celebration of Music and Memories

May 19, 2012 at 2:00 p.m.  
Old Main Auditorium, CU Campus



# Perry Como

A Celebration of Music and Memories

## Visual Presentation

Video Clips and Photos of Perry Como

## Take Trip to Cuba with Perry Como

Slide Show by Jinx Riedesel (Ray Charles Singer)

## Interview with Three Ray Charles Singers

Jinx Riedesel, Sara Jane Tallman, and Patti Johnson were all Ray Charles Singers on the Perry Como Show

## Bits and Pieces, Sing to Me Mr. C - Sing to Me

A Musical Performance by Juli Steinhauer (vocals), Fred Peterbark (vocals), Wayne Scott, Professor Emeritus (piano), Dean Ross (bass), and Terry Hannum (flugelhorn)

## Reception in the Heritage Center

Please join us directly after the program for refreshments, a special Perry Como Exhibit, and more Perry Como music.

Perry Como was born in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, on May 18, 1912. He was the seventh of 13 children born to his Italian immigrant parents, Pietro and Lucia Como, and the first to be a citizen of the U.S. by birth. Como began as a barber in Canonsburg at the age of 14 and built a very good business earning \$125 per week net profit.

In 1933, while vacationing in Cleveland, Ohio, with friends, they encouraged him to audition for the Freddy Carlone band. A week later he was offered a job with the band at \$28 per week. His family encouraged him to try the singing business, so he closed his barbershop and went to Cleveland. On July 31, 1933, he married his childhood sweetheart, Roselle Belline. In 1937, he joined the Ted Weems Band where he earned \$50 per week. With the Weems Band he toured, was "vocalist" on records for the Decca label, and made his radio debut. When the Weems Band broke up in 1942, Como returned to Canonsburg expecting to resume his barber business. However, General Artists Corporation contacted him, and he was offered his own radio show for \$100 per week and an RCA Victor recording contract. By 1943, Perry Como was a New York personality and a "star."

Throughout the 1940's and 1950's Como had 42 Top Ten hits, appeared in 4 movies "Something for the Boys," "Doll Face," "If I'm Lucky," and "Words and Music." Chesterfield Cigarettes was Como's first radio sponsor, and sponsored his radio shows on NBC and CBS until 1955. At that time, he began his career in television. He hosted NBC's Saturday night variety show, "Perry Como Show" from 1955 to 1963. The first year he won an Emmy and the Peabody, Christopher, and Golden Mike awards. After 1963, he went into semi-exile, although he continued to record and do Christmas TV specials.

During his career, he hosted and performed on television series from 1948 to 1963; hosted TV specials until 1992; recorded 22 albums and 147 singles. On May 15, 1999, for his 87th birthday, a statue of Perry Como was dedicated in his hometown of Canonsburg, Pennsylvania. Perry Como died at home on May 12, 2001.



**AMERICAN  
MUSIC RESEARCH  
CENTER**