

AMPLIFYING LGBTQ+ VOICES SINCE 1978

# Q VEGAS

JANUARY 8-14, 2025



# THE UNSTOPPABLE GROWTH OF SIN CITY CLASSIC





Whether you're a local or tourist, we always feature our favorite spots along with all the new and exciting things our city has to offer.

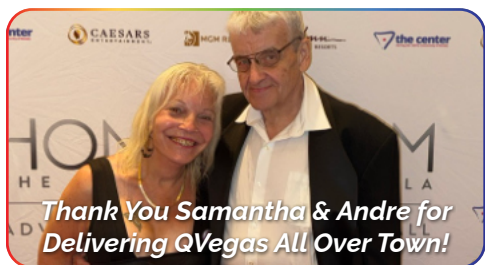
**The Sin City Classic, the world's largest LGBTQIA+ multi-sport festival, is back MLK week, celebrating inclusivity and community through sports, social events, and charity, bringing thousands to Las Vegas for an unforgettable experience.**

**Violinist Yevgeny Kutik debuts with the Las Vegas Philharmonic, performing Philip Glass's 'American Four Seasons', blending passion and artistry.**

**Creating Change 2025 is just a few weeks away and though registration is closed, there will be live streams of plenaries on YouTube.**



**Russ White & Garrett Pattiani**  
Publishers, QVegas & QLife Media



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View this week's horoscopes at [qvegas.com/horoscopes-are-a-drag](https://qvegas.com/horoscopes-are-a-drag).



## GEMINI

**JANUARY 2025**

Honey, let me tell you all about January 2025 for all you fabulous Geminis out there. It's a month when you're going to shine, sparkle, and slay, darling! The stars are aligning to bring you a whole lot of drama, but the good kind, where you emerge as the shining star. You're going to be serving up fierce looks and even fiercer accomplishments. Remember, you've got the power to turn every challenge into your runway. So, throw on that glitter, pump up the volume, and strut into 2025 like the fabulous diva you were born to be, because this month is all about embracing the limelight and living your most fabulous life. Yasss, Gemini!"



**CAESARS ENTERTAINMENT**



**LUXOR**



**MGM RESORTS INTERNATIONAL**



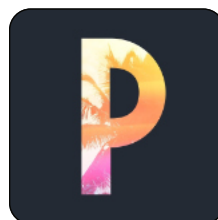
**WYNN RESORTS**



**VIRGIN HOTELS LAS VEGAS**



**THE VENETIAN RESORT LAS VEGAS**



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## Hotels

**These hotels have a current HRC Corporate Equality Index score of 100.**

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Paris  
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**These hotels have actively demonstrated support for the LGBTQ+ community but do not have a current HRC CEI of 100**

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WITH  
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PRESENTS  
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HOSTED BY  
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SHOWTIME AT 1:00 AM  
BOTTLES BY DJ VARIO

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SEASON 17 VIEWING PARTY

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THE WEEK

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PRESENTS

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Harrah's LAS VEGAS

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**CARLOS MENCIA**

**JANUARY 17-18**

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|                             |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| STEVE BYRNE<br>DECEMBER 4-5 | JASON HARRIS<br>DECEMBER 5  |
| JAY REID<br>DECEMBER 5      | JAY PHAROAH<br>DECEMBER 6-7 |
| TRIXX<br>DECEMBER 11        | MICHAEL YO<br>DECEMBER 12   |

UP LATE WITH HEATHER PASTERNAK  
DECEMBER 12

JESSIMAE PELUSO  
DECEMBER 13-14

COMEDY NIGHTLY

|                                             |                                               |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| JOSH WOLF<br>7:30 PM MONDAYS                | VICKI BARBOLAK<br>7:00 PM TUESDAYS            |
| JOHN CAPARULO<br>9:00 PM THURSDAYS          | MICHAEL YO<br>8:30 PM WEDNESDAYS              |
| FARRELL DILLON<br>4 PM THURSDAYS • TUESDAYS | SKILLZ HUDSON<br>11:00 PM FRIDAYS             |
| L8NITE<br>11:00 PM SATURDAYS                | BRET ERNST & BUTCH BRADLEY<br>7:30 PM SUNDAYS |

LUNELL  
9:30 PM SUNDAYS & MONDAYS

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# BOX OFFICE



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DRAG RACE LIVE



DRAG BRUNCH



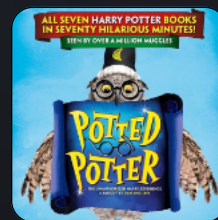
FRANK MARINO



AUSSIE HEAT



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MAVERICKS



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DIVA ROYALE



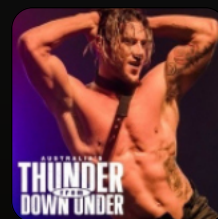
WOW - THE VEGAS  
SPECTACULAR



ROUGE



CHIPPENDALES



THUNDER FROM DOWN  
UNDER



RAIDING THE ROCK  
VAULT



PENN & TELLER



DISCO SHOW



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THE SPHERE  
EXPERIENCE



LADY LIKE





**Ground yourself in the largest  
community space for LGBTQ  
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**REGISTRATION IS NOW CLOSED.**

**LIVE STREAMING OF PLENARIES WILL BE AVAILABLE  
THROUGHOUT THE WEEK ON YOUTUBE**

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UPDATES AND MORE INFO**

**ROOTED IN RESISTANCE  
POWER & LOVE**  
CREATING CHANGE 2025

**January 22-26, 2025**  
Rio Hotel & Casino Las Vegas | Las Vegas, NV  
[creatingchange.org](https://creatingchange.org) #WeAreCreatingChange

**NATIONAL  
LGBTQ  
TASK FORCE**



# Creating Change 2025 Updates

**C**reating Change takes place just days after the presidential inauguration, and we've already seen a surge in registrations. It's clear our people are looking for a space to strategize, build community, and find joy as we gear up for the road ahead- and that's exactly what Creating Change is all about!

In this pivotal moment, we recognize the uncertainty surrounding access to vital community resources. Alongside over 250 social change workshops and offerings, we are providing direct access to essential legal, medical, and safety tools. Our goal is to deepen our commitment to community care, ensuring that everyone attending Creating Change has access to the knowledge, networks, and support services they need to care for themselves and the communities they hold dear.

## Health & Wellness Space

We're excited to introduce Creating Change's Health & Wellness Space, a collaborative expression of community care created with the help of local partners in the Las Vegas community and our conference ambassadors. This space offers free, confidential, and in person support to meet the needs of our people, including:

- STI/STD testing
- Safer sex kits
- Harm reduction tools
- Mental health support
- Sobriety support services
- Mental health and crisis counseling
- Legal and Advocacy Resources

In partnership with Oasis Legal Services, the Transgender Law Center (TLC), and the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR), we're also providing in-person legal and advocacy support. Our advocacy partners will lead key sessions offering updates from the administration's first week, answering community questions, and providing essential resources and referrals.

**Oasis:** Immigration law guidance, including how to respond to enforcement actions and navigate forms as a TGNC individual.

**NCLR:** Family law support, such as ensuring legal recognition of parentage and creating advance planning documents to protect your family.

**TLC:** Assistance with trans-specific legal needs, including access to healthcare and updating ID documents.

## ***LIGHT OF PRIDE: AN INTERFAITH EVENING OF HOPE AND INCLUSION***

**Jan 23, 2025 from 6:30 - 8:30pm  
The Interfaith Contemplative Center  
4770 Harrison Drive, Las Vegas, NV (Paradise Park)**

Join us for an evening celebrating hope, inclusion, and community at the Interfaith Contemplative Center on January 23rd, from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. This special event features presentations from interfaith leaders dedicated to fostering compassion and understanding in the greater Las Vegas area. Enjoy refreshments, networking opportunities, and the chance to connect with others passionate about creating a more inclusive and compassionate world.



Our friends at the Interfaith Council of Southern Nevada and the National LGBTQ Task Force invite all to gather at The Interfaith Contemplative Center for an evening celebrating hope, inclusion, and community on January 23rd, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM.

This special event features presentations from #interfaith leaders dedicated to fostering compassion and understanding in the greater Las Vegas area.

Enjoy refreshments, networking opportunities, and the chance to connect with others passionate about creating a more inclusive and compassionate world.

## **A Call to Action**

Creating Change 2025 is more than just a conference; it's a call to action for all who believe in a future where everyone can thrive. Whether attending workshops on grassroots organizing, engaging with plenary speakers charting the path forward, or networking with like-minded individuals, participants will leave equipped to make meaningful change in their communities.

As the LGBTQ+ movement faces unprecedented challenges, events like Creating Change remind us of the power of collective action and the necessity of hope. Las Vegas will undoubtedly serve as a fitting backdrop for this pivotal moment, a city known for reinvention and resilience.

For more information about workshops, plenaries, and registration, visit the official Creating Change website. Together, we can shape a future rooted in equality, inclusion, and love.





# From Sports to Socials: The Unstoppable Growth of Sin City Classic

**T**he Sin City Classic, a hallmark event for the LGBTQIA+ community, is returning to Las Vegas for its 18th year, bringing with it a vibrant celebration of sports, community, and inclusivity. Over nearly two decades, the festival has grown exponentially, transforming from a small softball tournament, originally known as the Tournament of the Stars, into the world's largest annual LGBTQIA+ multi-sport event. With 24 to 30 sports featured this year, the Sin City Classic promises an unforgettable experience for athletes, allies, and attendees alike.

This year's event introduces several exciting new additions, including competitions in mixed martial arts, a women's basketball division, and even an event hosted by the International Gay Rodeo Association. The inclusion of these new activities highlights the festival's dedication to evolving and meeting the diverse interests of its participants. In light of the recent rise in women's basketball prominence across the country, the addition of this division is particularly fitting. The festival's expansion reflects not only the growing popularity of the event but also its commitment to creating spaces where all individuals can feel included and celebrated.

The Sin City Classic's core mission remains steadfast: to provide a safe and inclusive space for competition while fostering an environment where participants can be their authentic selves. For many, the festival serves as more than just a sporting event; it's a sanctuary where individuals from

around the world can connect, celebrate, and thrive in a community that embraces them fully. Participants are encouraged to register in the divisions that align with their identities, ensuring that everyone—regardless of how they identify—feels welcomed and respected. This level of inclusivity is particularly meaningful in today's sociopolitical climate, where issues surrounding identity and representation are at the forefront of national conversations.

The festival also offers a robust lineup of social activities, providing a dynamic mix of traditions and new experiences. One of the most anticipated events is the opening registration party at the Flamingo Hotel. This high-energy gathering brings together athletes from all sports for an evening of celebration, entertainment, and camaraderie. The ballroom buzzes with activity as participants mingle, sponsors showcase their activations, and excitement for the weekend ahead builds. Preceding the registration party is the annual cornhole tournament, which raises funds for a scholarship honoring former director Ken Scarce. This tradition exemplifies the festival's dedication to giving back and supporting the next generation of LGBTQIA+ leaders.

For those seeking a more relaxed atmosphere, this year's festival will also host a RuPaul's Drag Race viewing party on Friday night. This new addition provides attendees with a quieter, more intimate space to enjoy, underscoring the festival's efforts to cater to a variety of preferences and needs. The weekend's activities

continue with social events on Saturday and Sunday, culminating in a spectacular closing party at Brooklyn Bowl, where top-tier talent takes center stage alongside stunning performances from local drag queens and go-go dancers.

The scale of the Sin City Classic is truly remarkable, with events spread across the Las Vegas Valley. Competitions take place at venues ranging from UNLV and local high schools to parks and softball complexes in Las Vegas, Henderson, and Clark County. Unique settings, such as a rooftop pickleball venue surrounded by the neon lights of downtown Las Vegas, add to the festival's allure. The diversity of venues not only accommodates the wide range of sports but also showcases the city's versatility and charm as a host.

As much as the Sin City Classic celebrates sports and community, it also emphasizes giving back to Las Vegas. The festival generates a significant economic impact, with participants booking over 9,000 room nights at the Flamingo Hotel alone last year. Beyond the economic boost, many of the festival's events support charitable initiatives. Sports like darts, soccer, and cornhole host fundraisers that benefit local nonprofits. The cornhole tournament's scholarship fund, for example, directly supports LGBTQIA+ students pursuing leadership roles.

Inclusivity is a guiding principle of the Sin City Classic, and organizers have taken steps to ensure that all attendees feel welcome, including those in the sober







community. Recognizing that not everyone is comfortable in traditional nightlife settings, the festival has expanded its programming to include sober-friendly events. This commitment to inclusivity extends to all aspects of the festival, from the registration process to the wide array of social activities available.

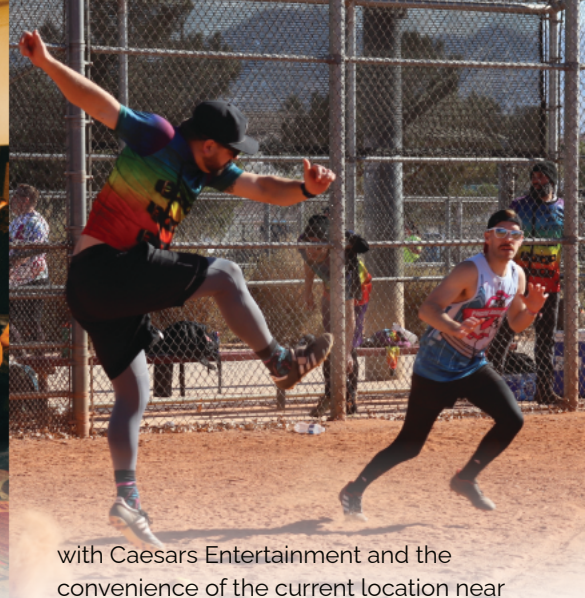
The Sin City Classic's success would not be possible without its dedicated organizers, sponsors, and volunteers. Executive directors Jason Peplinski and Larry Ruiz have played pivotal roles in guiding the festival over the past five years, building on the legacy of former director Ken Scarce. Their leadership, combined with the efforts of a committed executive group and a larger committee of 30 volunteers, ensures that every detail of the festival runs smoothly. From stuffing 10,000 welcome bags to coordinating logistics across dozens of venues, the team's hard work is evident in the seamless execution of the event.

Sponsors play a crucial role in the festival's growth and success. This year's presenting sponsor is Lexus, joined by longtime supporters like Tito's Handmade Vodka, Celsius, and healthcare organizations. Local establishments such as Gypsy and Piranha nightclubs also contribute significantly, hosting shuttle services and performances that enhance the festival experience. The partnerships with these sponsors not only provide vital resources but also demonstrate the broad appeal and significance of the Sin City Classic.

The festival's closing party at Brooklyn Bowl is a highlight of the weekend, featuring performances from renowned artists and local talent. Past headliners have included JoJo, Natasha Bedingfield, and Sasha Colby, with each artist delivering memorable performances that leave attendees in awe. This year's talent lineup is eagerly anticipated, with an announcement expected soon. The collaboration between national performers and local drag queens and go-go dancers showcases the rich talent within the LGBTQIA+ community and creates a uniquely Vegas experience.

Local venues like Gypsy and Piranha play an essential role in the festival's success, hosting events that bring together locals and visitors. The production numbers performed by local drag queens and dancers at the closing party are often as popular as the headlining acts, highlighting the incredible talent and creativity of Las Vegas' LGBTQIA+ community. These performances not only entertain but also reinforce the festival's mission to celebrate and uplift local voices.

Looking ahead, the Sin City Classic continues to grow and evolve. As more sports and participants join the festival each year, organizers are exploring ways to accommodate the increasing demand. From expanding venues to introducing new events, the festival remains committed to providing an exceptional experience for all attendees. The current contract with the Flamingo Hotel runs through 2026, and while organizers are open to exploring new options, they value their strong partnership



with Caesars Entertainment and the convenience of the current location near the LINQ Promenade.

For first-time attendees, the Sin City Classic offers a wealth of opportunities to connect, explore, and celebrate. Whether cheering on athletes, participating in social events, or exploring the city's vibrant nightlife, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Locals are encouraged to attend and experience the festival's unique atmosphere, while allies are reminded of the importance of supporting the nonprofit organizations that make the event possible. Athletes are urged to bring their friends and families, as the festival provides a rare chance to showcase their talents in a supportive and inclusive environment.

As Las Vegas continues to solidify its reputation as a premier destination for LGBTQIA+ events, the Sin City Classic stands out as a shining example of what's possible when sports, community, and inclusivity come together. The festival's impact extends far beyond the playing fields, creating a space where individuals can thrive, connect, and celebrate their authentic selves. For 18 years, the Sin City Classic has been a beacon of progress and pride, and it shows no signs of slowing down. This January, the spotlight shines once again on Las Vegas, welcoming thousands of participants and spectators to join in the magic of this extraordinary event.





# NEW WORLD

## DVOŘÁK

### SYMPHONY



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**SATURDAY,  
JANUARY 18, 2025  
7:30PM**

**Michelle Merrill**  
conductor

**ROSSINI**  
*William Tell Overture*

**PHILIP GLASS**  
Violin Concerto No. 2  
"The American Four Seasons"

**DVOŘÁK**  
Symphony No. 9, "New World"

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*Yevgeny Kutik, violin*



# Yevgeny Kutik Brings Philip Glass to Life with Las Vegas Philharmonic Debut

**I**n just a few weeks, acclaimed violinist Yevgeny Kutik will make his debut with the Las Vegas Philharmonic, performing Philip Glass's "Violin Concerto No. 2, "The American Four Seasons"" at the Smith Center. Known for his evocative interpretations and passion for contemporary music, Kutik's performance promises to be a highlight of the season. In an exclusive interview, Kutik shares his musical journey, inspirations, and thoughts on visiting Las Vegas for the first time.

## The Beginning of a Lifelong Love Affair with Music

"My parents claim I asked to play the violin when I was two or three, though I started at five," Kutik says with a laugh. Born into a musical family—his mother a violinist and his father a trumpet player in the Belarus National Symphony—music was always part of his world.

The family emigrated from Belarus when Kutik was just four and a half, eventually settling in the Berkshires of Massachusetts. Surrounded by music from an early age, the violin became his voice, his way of understanding the world. "Growing up playing the violin shaped how I hear music—from melody first, rather than the bassline or other textures," he explains. "It influenced the composers I connect with and the music I've come to love."

## Philip Glass and "The American Four Seasons"

For his Las Vegas debut, Kutik is bringing one of his favorite pieces: Philip Glass's "Violin Concerto No. 2, "The American Four Seasons." Known for his hypnotic, minimalist style, Glass has been a major influence on Kutik. "I first discovered him through film scores," Kutik says, "but his orchestral music is just as captivating—mesmerizing, really."

The concerto, inspired by Vivaldi's "Four Seasons," offers a modern take on the timeless interplay of seasons and emotions. "It's such a unique piece," Kutik says. "It's like walking into a soundscape where every note has this incredible intensity. It's a privilege to bring this work to life."

## The Composers Who Inspire

When asked about the composers who have influenced him the most, Kutik's passion for music is palpable. "It changes daily," he admits. "Some days it's Bach, whose genius opens a window into the soul. Other days, it's Beethoven, Debussy, or even Philip Glass. Each composer speaks to me differently depending on the day or piece."

Growing up in a Soviet household, Kutik was also deeply influenced by the titans of Russian classical music. "Rostropovich,

Kogan, Richter—they were larger-than-life figures whose sound and passion stayed with me. Their recordings shaped how I approach music."

## Adding a Personal Touch

Every musician brings something unique to their performances, and for Kutik, it's about blending authenticity with individuality. "You can't play a piece without putting a part of yourself into it," he explains. "Your life experiences, emotions, and story all come through. That's what makes live music so compelling—it's the same piece, but different every time because of who's performing it."

This philosophy is why Kutik loves performing new works. One standout moment in his career was premiering Joseph Schwanter's "Violin Concerto" with the Detroit Symphony. "Being the first to perform a piece—bringing it to life when the ink is barely dry—feels like a tremendous privilege," he says. "It's a mix of responsibility and creativity, and I love that challenge."

## Advice for Aspiring Musicians

Kutik is no stranger to hard work, a trait he emphasizes to young musicians. "You have to love what you're doing," he says. "It's not enough to be good—you need to wake up every day excited to play, create, and share your art."

But he also advises not to take the journey too seriously. "You're going to make mistakes—everyone does. Some performances will be great, others less so, and that's okay. Music is about storytelling, and it's your job to make it inspiring, not perfect."

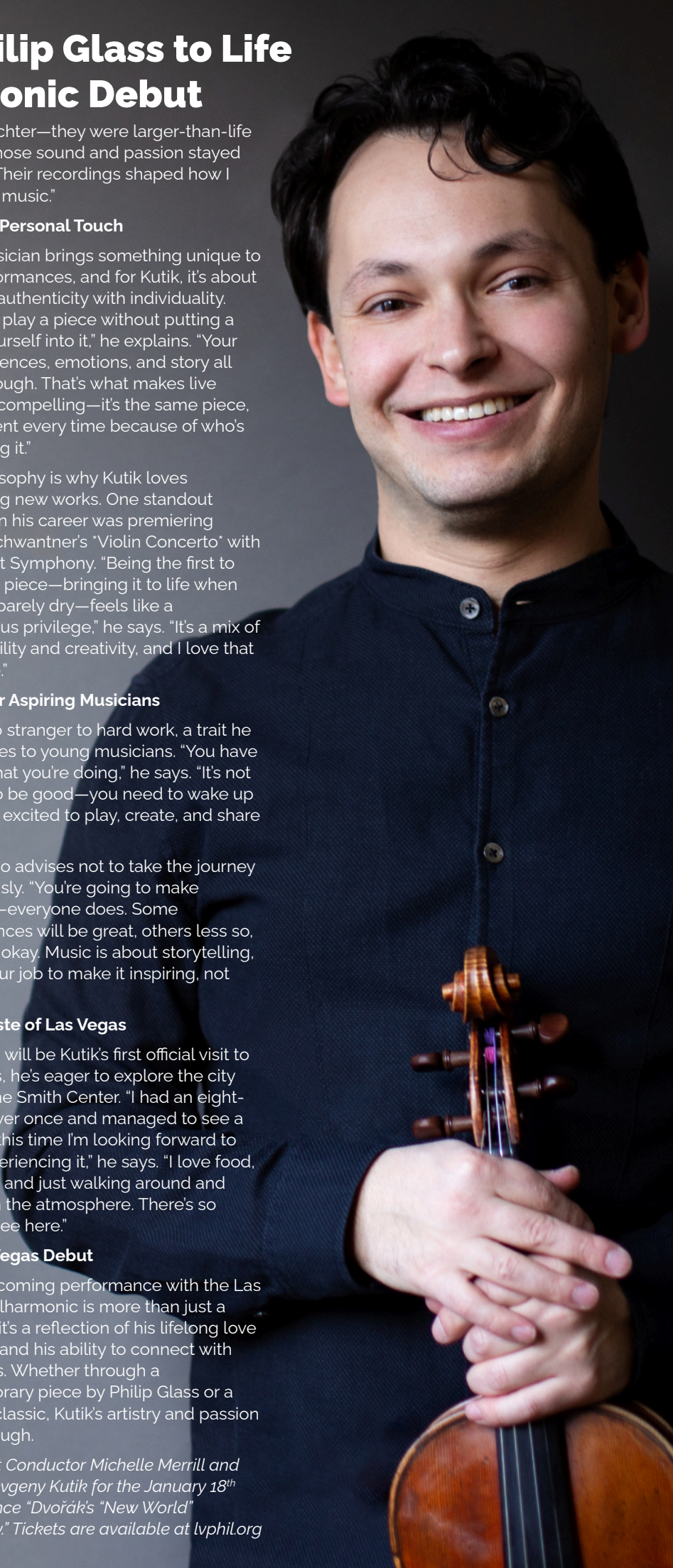
## A First Taste of Las Vegas

While this will be Kutik's first official visit to Las Vegas, he's eager to explore the city beyond the Smith Center. "I had an eight-hour layover once and managed to see a little, but this time I'm looking forward to really experiencing it," he says. "I love food, shopping, and just walking around and soaking in the atmosphere. There's so much to see here."

## The Las Vegas Debut

Kutik's upcoming performance with the Las Vegas Philharmonic is more than just a concert—it's a reflection of his lifelong love for music and his ability to connect with audiences. Whether through a contemporary piece by Philip Glass or a timeless classic, Kutik's artistry and passion shine through.

*Join Guest Conductor Michelle Merrill and violinist Yevgeny Kutik for the January 18<sup>th</sup> performance "Dvořák's "New World" Symphony." Tickets are available at [lvphil.org](http://lvphil.org)*







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## GREEK ISLES CRUISE

August 31 thru September 7, 2025

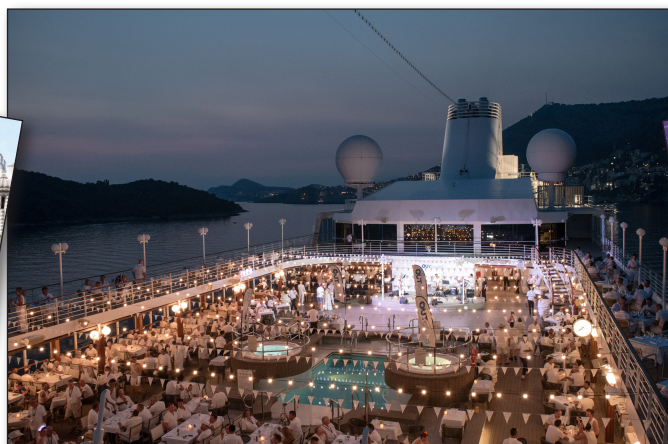


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At Orizn, we are more than just a brand. We are visionaries, unconventional thinkers, and trailblazers. Our mission is to defy norms and inspire change in the fashion industry by crafting fabrics and garments that cater to every unique shape and size.



# Do you know what **PrEP** is?

It's a once-a-day pill that reduces your risk of HIV by up to 99%. You can get it at the Arlene Cooper Community Health Center inside The Center!

Walk in or schedule an appointment today.

**[thecenterlv.org/  
health-center](http://thecenterlv.org/health-center)**

401 S Maryland Pkwy  
702-802-5432



 **THE ARLENE COOPER**  
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

 **the center**  
Serving the LGBTQ Community of Nevada







## LGBTQ+ Resources

### THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY CENTER OF SOUTHERN NEVADA

thecenterlv.org

### ACLU

aclunv.org

### ADL

lasvegas.adl.org

### ALCOHOLICS TOGETHER

alcoholicstogetherlasvegas.com

### BEARS LAS VEGAS

bearslv.org

### COMMUNITY COUNSELING CENTER OF SOUTHERN NEVADA

cccfsn.org

### HENDERSON PRIDE

hhendersonpride.org

### HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

hrc.org

### IMPERIAL ROYALE SOVEREIGN COURT OF THE DESERT EMPIRE

desertempire.org

### LAMBDA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

lambdalv.com

### LAS VEGAS MEN'S CHORUS

lvmenschorus.org

### LAS VEGAS PRIME TIMERS

lasvegasprimetimers.com

### LEATHER UNIFORM CLUB OF LAS VEGAS (LUC OF LV)

lucoflv.com

### LEGACY COUNSELING

legacycounselingandworkforceconnections.com

### MAMA DRAGONS

mamadragons.org

### NEVADA GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION

ngra.com

### THE PRIDE TREE

thepridetree.lv.com

### SILVER STATE EQUALITY

silverstateequality.org

### SOUTHERN NEVADA ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER QUEER SOCIETY

snapiqs.org

### YOUNG: EQUAL

youngequal.org



## HIV Resources

### AID FOR AIDS OF NEVADA (AFAN)

afanlv.org

### AIDS HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION (AHF)

aidshealth.org

### FARABI WELLNESS CENTER

hplv.com

### GOLDEN RAINBOW

goldenrainbow.org

### HORIZON RIDGE WELLNESS CLINIC

hrc.lv

### SIN SITY SISTERS OF PERPETUAL INDULGENCE

sinsitysisters.org



## STI Testing

### THE ARLENE COOPER COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

thecenterlv.org

### AIDS HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION (AHF)

aidshealth.org

### HUNTRIDGE FAMILY CLINIC

huntridgefamilyclinic.org

### SOUTHERN NEVADA HEALTH DISTRICT

southernnevadahealthdistrict.org

### UMC

umcsn.com

Email [info@qvegas.com](mailto:info@qvegas.com) to add your organization to our directory.

# COMMUNITY EVENTS

**DUST LAS VEGAS**

PRESENTED BY

EVERY 2ND SUNDAY

**LEATHER CHURCH**

4PM - 8PM

855 E Twain Ave UNIT 114, Las Vegas, NV 89169

**BEARS ROAM the Ranch**

**DOUBLE BEER BUST!**

\$12 DOMESTIC  
\$15 PREMIUM

**Fri Jan 10<sup>th</sup>**  
10pm - 1am

495 E TWAIN AVE



## Blood Drive at



401 S Maryland Pkwy  
Las Vegas, NV 89101

**Wednesday, January 15, 2025**  
**11:00am - 5:00pm**

To schedule your appointment or for more information, please log on to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and enter the Sponsor Code: THECENTER or call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767)

If you have questions regarding eligibility to donate blood, please call 1-866-236-3276.

[RedCrossBlood.org/LGBTQ](http://RedCrossBlood.org/LGBTQ) | 1-800-RED-CROSS | Download the Blood Donor App



# Q VEGAS BAR & NIGHTCLUB GUIDE

Download on the  
App Store

