FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE SINGING ANCHORS’**

**FINAL WEEKEND IN SALEM**

SALEM, NY – This final weekend of the celebrity summer season in Salem comes to a close this weekend, August 1-2, with three performances of *The Singing Anchors: From San José to Broadway and Bacharach,* starring Benita Zahn, Jessica Layton, and Jerry Gretzinger, Saturday at 2 PM and 8 PM and Sunday at 2 PM.

 “Reducing Bacharach’s lifework to ninety minutes, no intermission, is a daunting task,” notes Fort artistic director, who writes and arranges for the anchors. “The man had several notable phases in his life, from writing pop hits in the days of rock and roll, to creating an easily identifiable sound in the sixties and seventies (“What the World Needs Now is Love” and “Raindrops Keep Fallin’ on My Head”) to writing with his then-wife Carole Bayer Sager (“That’s What Friends Are For” and the Oscar winning theme from *Arthur*), and a collaboration in the 1990’s with Elvis Costello. Everyone of any age knows some his music, even if they don’t know who he is.”

Fort Salem has hosted one, two or three of the area’s most accomplished news reporter/anchors since 2007, when the current management assumed the reins at the renovated Salem theater, a former church built on the site of a revolutionary war fort. Over the years, Ms. Zahn has starred in *Getting My Act Together* and *They’re Playing My Song,* as well as in *No Boundaries,* with Ms. Layton. Gretzinger has played in *Forever Plaid* and, last year, originated a role in *Women in My Life.* The Bacharach show is the trio’s third Mainstage production, following musical salutes to Hollywood in 2011 and Broadway in 2012.

Benita Zahn has been broadcasting in Albany for over thirty years, garnering Emmy nominations as her station’s health reporter and easily most recognizable news anchor. She holds a doctorate in Bioethics and, when not singing, acting, or anchoring, produces and hosts *HealthLink* on WMHT. Miss Layton has reported from Haiti to Hollywood, most recently the logical choice to follow the exploits of Sawyer Fredericks on *The Voice.* She and CBS sportscaster Andrew Catalon are the proud parents of a one-year-old son.Gretzinger came to Albany television from stints in Providence and Springfield (MA) to co-anchor with Liz Bishop for four years, until 2014 when he took a post as vice president for Strategic Communications and Public Relations at the SUNY Polytechnic Institute Colleges of Nanoscale Science and Engineering.

From time to time, the group performs on the road at venues throughout the Capital Region, including MacHaydn Theatre, Saratoga’s First Night, and Vapor at the Racino. The Singing Anchors sing in Salem this weekend for only three more shows, two on Saturday and one on Sunday. For more information, visit the Fort online (fortsalemtheater.com) or call the box office, (518) 854-9200.