



## Concordia of Bella Vista Teams Up with Lee University to Bring Virtual Arts Learning to Bella Vista Seniors

Through the university's Encore program, residents at Concordia of Bella Vista are experiencing a health-promoting exposure to music under Maestro Bob Bernhardt

BELLA VISTA, Ar. (October 23, 2020) – In fulfilling the commitment to promote good health, mental stimulation, and social engagement for its residents during the pandemic, Concordia of Bella Vista and its sister facilities across the Southeast have teamed up with Lee University to enroll 250 seniors in a virtual arts learning program hosted by Artist-in-Residence Maestro Bob Bernhardt.

In weekly webinars streamed every Friday in October, Maestro Bernhardt, artist-in-residence at Lee University and Principal Pops Conductor of the Chattanooga Symphony Orchestra, explores and discusses pieces of music from the middle ages to modern-day and dives into how they can ignite emotions in listeners.

Titled “Pandemic Playlist,” these virtual classes feature Maestro Bernhardt talking about and playing excerpts from classical and film music that has helped him navigate these uncharted waters. Each online session features the music of reflection, gratitude, joy, and triumph, the music of all kinds that both soothes and enriches the spirit.

“Before the pandemic, Concordia of Bella Vista residents enjoyed outings and field trips; however, with the increased precautions our facility has taken due to COVID-19, it is important to us to find engaging activities for our residents. We’ve had to really think outside the box to ensure interesting, fulfilling, and safe experiences are available to them. With this joint effort between Lee University and Legacy Senior Living’s network of facilities, Encore has been a home run because it offers fun, creativity, and a true treat for the senses in the form of Maestro Bernhardt’s music discussions,” said Angie Clark, Executive Director for Concordia of Bella Vista.

“Programs like this are much more than a leisure activity for our residents. This type of engagement is a very positive factor in promoting good health for seniors. The social and cognitive engagement help keep their minds working and staying sharp, which is of course essential in the aging process,” said Barry Ray, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Legacy Senior Living, which manages Concordia of Bella Vista.

Of the approximately 500 students enrolled in the Encore program this semester, 250 are residents of Concordia of Bella Vista and its sister facilities across the Legacy Senior Living network in five Southeastern states. Legacy Senior Living has covered the \$25 enrollment fee for each resident who wished to enroll.

“Lee University has done an outstanding job of adapting to virtual programming during the COVID-19 pandemic, and we’re beyond grateful for the opportunity to provide our residents with this enriching experience in the arts,” said Clark.

Each student, including Concordia of Bella Vista enrollees, will have the opportunity to participate in a graduation ceremony in November to celebrate the knowledge gained throughout the course.

***PHOTO CAPTION: Residents from Legacy Village of Cleveland engage through music with Lee University's online Encore program.***



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#### ABOUT CONCORDIA RETIREMENT CENTER - BELLA VISTA, AR

Situated on 26 beautiful acres at 1 Concordia Drive, Concordia Retirement Center is a premier senior living community in Bella Vista, Ark., that offers independent living and assisted living services in a safe, attentive, homelike atmosphere. The facility, which is located in the beautiful Ozarks of Northwest Arkansas, is committed to serving the greatest generation with honor, respect, faith and integrity. More information is available at [concordiaretirement.com](http://concordiaretirement.com) or by calling (479) 855-3714.

Concordia Retirement Center is part of a family of senior living communities throughout the Southeast owned and/or operated by Legacy Senior Living, of Cleveland, Tenn. Legacy Senior Living specializes in offering independent living, assisted living, and Alzheimer's care services. More information is available at [legacysl.net](http://legacysl.net).

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