

## Stockton Performing Arts Center Presents Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Famer John Sebastian

Founder of The Lovin' Spoonful to Perform on April 23

### ***For Immediate Release***

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**Galloway, NJ** - Do you believe in magic? Enjoy musical magic when John Sebastian, founder of The Lovin' Spoonful, performs at the Stockton Performing Arts Center on **Saturday, April 23 at 7:30 p.m.**

Tickets are \$32 and may be ordered online at [stockton.edu/pac](http://stockton.edu/pac) or by calling the Box Office at (609) 652-9000. The Box Office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 90 minutes before the performance. For group sales, call (609) 652-4786.

John Sebastian was the front man for The Lovin' Spoonful, a group that was part of the American musical response to the British Invasion. The group was noted for such folk-flavored hits as "Do You Believe in Magic," "Summer in the City," "Daydream," "Nashville Cats," "Jug Band Music," "Did You Ever Have to Make Up Your Mind," "Six O'Clock," and "Younger Girl." Sebastian's solo career produced a hit with the theme song to the Welcome Back, Kotter television show, which was also a hit for rapper Mase in 2004.

Over four decades, the contributions of John Sebastian have become a permanent part of America's musical fabric. The Lovin' Spoonful played a major role in the mid-'60s rock revolution, but what leader, singer and songwriter Sebastian had in mind was actually a counter-revolution. "We were grateful to the Beatles for reminding us of our rock 'n' roll roots," John explains, "but we wanted to cut out the English middlemen, so to speak, and get down to making this new music as an 'American' band."

The Lovin' Spoonful did just that, as nobody else has before or since, putting their first seven

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singles into the Top 10. That was unprecedented, and utterly unthinkable at the height of Beatlemania. At first they'd taken older material from blues, country, folk and jug band sources—what we now term "roots music"—and made it sound modern. Then, in a series of original songs composed and sung by Sebastian, they did the reverse, creating thoroughly modern music that sounded as though it contained the entire history of American music. Which it did.

The Lovin' Spoonful was not his first act, and it certainly wasn't his last. After leaving the group he founded, he bore witness to another turn of the musical zeitgeist with his performances at massive festivals including Woodstock and its English equivalent, the Isle of Wight. Throughout the decades, he has continued to record and tour, pleasing old fans and winning new ones.

For patrons with special needs, the Stockton Performing Arts Center offers wheelchair accessible seating, large type programs and listening assistive devices. Please identify any needs you may have when making a reservation.

**The Stockton Performing Arts Center**, the Jersey Shore's Center for the Arts, is located on the campus of Stockton University, on Vera King Farris Drive, off Jimmie Leeds Road, in Galloway Township. Just 12 miles west of Atlantic City, the center is easily accessible from the Garden State Parkway and the Atlantic City Expressway.

This program is made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts and by funds from the National Endowment for the Arts.

# **STOCKTON**

## **PAC** STOCKTON UNIVERSITY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

**Stockton University Performing Arts Center, M-Wing at 101 Vera King Farris Drive,  
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