

# Amarillo Symphony celebrates pop legends

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*Provided Photo*Jeans 'n Classics will play pop piano hits with Amarillo Symphony.

By **BRAD NEWMAN**  
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The music of two of the biggest pop stars of all time will be celebrated at the Amarillo Symphony's latest pair of concerts.

"The Piano Men: Music of Billy Joel and Elton John" is scheduled at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the Globe-News Center for the Performing Arts, 500 S. Buchanan St.

Members of the Symphony will share the stage with a six-piece rock 'n' roll ensemble for the performance. Jeans 'n Classics, a Canada-based group, will join the orchestra on stage. It will be the second consecutive season for the Symphony to collaborate with Jeans 'n Classics on its pops concerts, after the 2011-12 concerts featuring music of The Beatles.

"Last year, we had two packed houses with the audience clapping and singing along," said Mark Bartley, the Symphony's associate conductor, who'll conduct the concerts. "After such successful concerts, we knew we had to have them back again."

The audience can expect a piano-centric program designed by Jeans 'n Classics. The first half will feature tunes by Billy Joel, followed by a second half of Elton John songs.

"There's so much material between these two artists," said Peter Brennan, who owns Jeans 'n

Classics. “We perform songs that please everyone.”

The first half will include Billy Joel’s “She’s Got A Way,” “Piano Man” and “The Ballad of Billy the Kid,” plus other songs from his catalogue. Concertgoers can expect Elton John’s “I Guess That’s Why They Call It the Blues,” “Don’t Let the Sun Go Down On Me,” and “Circle of Life,” plus more favorites.

Jeans ’n Classics will provide a pianist, bassist, drummer and three vocalists who will support the orchestra.

“This show is a great way to shake off the winter blahs and come party with some good music,” said Sue White, the symphony’s executive director.

For the remaining three concerts of the Symphony’s 88th season, the organization will continue its search for a new music director and conductor.

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