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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Aspire Announces Special Concert Event

*Aspire of WNY proudly presents “Songs From The Heart”, a special concert event on May 7, 2015, featuring celebrated American composer Tim Janis, accompanied by Buffalo Chamber Players.*

Buffalo, NY – Aspire of WNY, a service leader for children and adults with developmental and other disabilities, is announcing a special concert event to benefit Aspire’s *iXpress* Arts Program and the telemedicine initiative for the Aspire Health Clinic. Made possible with support from WNED/WBFO, Aspire is welcoming American composer, Tim Janis, who will perform his original music from the movie “The Button Girl”, to be released on PBS in December 2015. In addition, Buffalo Chamber Players will perform music created by members of Aspire’s *iXpress* Arts Program. The concert event will be held at the University at Buffalo Center For The Arts, located at 103 Center For The Arts, Buffalo, NY 14260, on Thursday, May 7, 2015 at 7:00 pm.

Aspire’s *iXpress Program* is an innovative, expressive arts program for individuals with a full range of disabilities. Songwriting has become an important part of the *iXpress* Program. In 2013, their original compositions were featured at Burchfield Penney Art Center as part of a mixed-media exhibit, titled “Odyssey”, celebrating the experiences of each *iXpress* artist’s journey through life. Mr. Janis, a celebrated American composer and Songwriter has released 15 solo compositions and sold more than 1 million albums, in addition to the score for “The Button Girl”, starring Dick Van Dyke, Jane Seymour, and Rita Wilson.

“Tim Janis has supported many important causes over the years with his philanthropic efforts, including the American Cancer Society and education programs for school age children” said Honor Martin, Vice-President of Clinical Services, Aspire of WNY. “We are thrilled that he has chosen to support Aspire on his first trip to Western New York.”

Tickets for this concert event at the UB Center For The Arts are \$25 and will be available through Tickets.com beginning April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

For more information about this event, contact Michael Holley, VP of Development at 716-505-5512, or via email: [michael.holley@aspirewny.org](mailto:michael.holley@aspirewny.org)

For more information about Tim Janis, visit his website at [www.timjanis.com](http://www.timjanis.com). Information about Buffalo Chamber Players can be found at [www.buffalochamberplayers.org](http://www.buffalochamberplayers.org)

*Aspire of WNY has been a leader in providing innovative, person-centered programs and services for children and adults with developmental and other disabilities for more than 65 years. Visit [www.aspirewny.org](http://www.aspirewny.org) to learn more about our individualized assistance empowering individuals to achieve their full potential and live as independently as possible.*

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