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**July 23, 2009**

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**BACKSTREET BOYS JOIN OLYMPIC HALL-OF-FAMER FOR A NIGHT OF UNFORGETTABLE PERFORMANCE. “KRISTI YAMAGUCHI & FRIENDS STARRING THE BACKSTREET BOYS” LIVE AT US AIRWAYS CENTER!**

***Grammy Nominated Pop Stars Backstreet Boys to Join Cast of Champion Skaters Before Embarking On European Leg of Tour For New Album “This is Us”***

**Phoenix, AZ.** – A stunning spectacle of art and sport will culminate on Friday, October 23, 2009, at the US Airways Center with “Kristi Yamaguchi & Friends Starring the Backstreet Boys.” The seventh year of Figure Skating icon Kristi Yamaguchi’s televised skating special will pull no stops with an amazing cast of Yamaguchi’s close skating friends and live music guests the Backstreet Boys. The show will air on NBC on Sunday, Nov. 1, 2009, from 4:00- 6:00 PM (EST).

**The Cast:** Includes Olympic Hall-of-Fame Inductee, 1992 Olympic Champion, two-time World Champion and “Dancing with the Stars” Season Six winner **Kristi Yamaguchi**, three-time National Champion and two-time World bronze medalist **Michael Weiss**, 1998 and 1994 Olympic Champion **Ekaterina Gordeeva**, four-time World Champion and four-time Canadian National Champion **Kurt Browning**, eight-time British National Champion **Steven Cousins**, 1994 World Champion and two-time Japanese National Champion **Yuka Sato**, two-time World Professional Pairs Champions **Elena Leonova & Andrei Khvalko**, six-time British National Champions **Sinead Kerr & John Kerr** and two-time European Champion and 1984 Olympic bronze medalist **Jozef Sabovcik**.

**The Music:** The Backstreet Boys shot to pop superstardom shortly after forming in 1993, starting the global boy band craze, selling over 100 million albums and having thirteen top forty hits on the Billboard Hot 100 charts, becoming the best selling male pop group of all time. Following the breakthrough success of their 1997 album “*Backstreet’s Back*” which included the major hit “*Quit Playing Games With My Heart*”, Backstreet Boys dropped their Junior album “*Millennium*” in 1999, which premiered on

the Billboard 200 at number one, where it remained for ten non-consecutive weeks. *"Millennium"* included the World-wide hit *"I Want It That Way"*. The album sold 1,134,000 copies in its first week of release, breaking the previous Nielsen SoundScan record held by Garth Brooks for single-week record sales. In November 2000, the group released their next creation, *"Black & Blue"*, which debuted with 1.9 million units sold in the first week in America, making the band the first ever artist to have two albums sell a million or more copies in the first week. The band is slated to release their newest disc *"This is Us"* sometime in 2009, with the European leg of their tour starting on October 30th. Be one of the first to hear live performances of their new tracks at the "Kristi Yamaguchi & Friends Starring the Backstreet Boys" show.

**Tickets:** Tickets go on sale Monday, August 17 and are available to purchase at the US Airways Center Box Office, all Ticketmaster retail outlets, by phone at 800-745-300, or online at Ticketmaster.com. All dates, acts and ticket prices subject to change without notice. A service charge is added to each ticket price. Tickets range from \$19.50-\$70.00 with discounts available for groups, seniors and children.

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