

# ***Spotlight: Entertainment Icon Plays With Symphony "Hooked On John Tesh"***

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*John Tesh , former TV host of "Entertainment Tonight," will perform Friday with the Indian Wells Desert Symphony.*



**John Tesh** , former television host of "Entertainment Tonight," knows some people are skeptical of his musical abilities. "It's part of the game. If we weren't selling 7 million records ...I'd maybe do something else," Tesh said in a recent telephone interview.

Tesh , 53, will perform at 8 p.m. Friday with the Indian Wells Desert Symphony at the McCallum Theatre in Palm Desert. Tesh sings and composes, primarily Christian and instrumental music, and has three gold albums, six Emmy awards and two Grammy award nominations.

He hosts a syndicated radio show, and he worked on the Hollywood tabloid TV show "Entertainment Tonight" from 1986 to 1996. "I have every celebrity birthday memorized," he said. For the two-hour Indian Wells Desert Symphony show, "Hooked on Keyboard," Tesh said he will perform within a fairly structured format with less musical ad-libbing.

"The sound is pretty amazing. A lot of the stuff I've written, it's written with the symphony in mind." Rehearsals will be Friday, the day of the show. He and the group will spend a couple of hours preparing. The Indian Wells Desert Symphony already has the music, he added. During the performance, Tesh also will tell stories about his family, many of them humorous, he said. "I got a 100 on the A.D.D. (Attention Deficit Disorder) test," he said.

Tesh met his wife, actress Connie Sellecca, in Palm Desert almost 13 years ago. He said he's been a part-time resident of La Quinta for about five years. His marriage to Sellecca has lasted because they've made a point to "stay as far away from Hollywood as possible," he said. "We don't allow that stuff in our house. We watch some 'Entertainment Tonight.' But People magazine is not in our house - you start to get sucked into that. We don't get Hollywood Reporter or Variety."

***-Wes Woods II***