Dear Friends,

When thinking about the 2015-16 season (our 85th!), our thoughts go immediately to the expansive community residency with Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company (See page 8 for details).

This dynamic project is emblematic of what Ovations can accomplish when our community invests in a vision. Welcoming an internationally acclaimed, award-winning ensemble like the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company into our community is always a feat. But we set our sights higher.

The program we chose, Play and Play, calls for at least a dozen community dancers and eight professional musicians. We knew Maine—the vibrant, creative state it is—could respond in spades. It wasn’t only the nine dedicated dancers and musicians that made Play and Play soar, it was the ongoing collaborations with Portland Ballet; Colby, Bates and Bowdoin Colleges; and P.A.T.H.S.

Funding from the absolutely vital National Endowment of the Arts and National Performance Network, along with local support from the Center for Cultural Exchange Foundation and longtime sponsor The Downeast Group at Morgan Stanley, provided the essential funding that makes a project like this a reality. But most importantly are our Members, whose support each season inspires us to even imagine the possibility of such projects. Thank you.

Together, with each passing year, we dream a little bigger. Together, we make these dreams come true.

Gratefully,

Each year, Portland Ovations—a Maine-based, not-for-profit cultural organization—brings innovative and masterful performing artists from around the world, including Maine, to connect with Maine audiences. Founded in 1931, with each passing year Ovations’ programs reach further, make a stronger impact, and leave a more lasting impression on those who experience the performing arts.

### About Us

Each year, Portland Ovations—a Maine-based, not-for-profit cultural organization—brings innovative and masterful performing artists from around the world, including Maine, to connect with Maine audiences. Founded in 1931, with each passing year Ovations’ programs reach further, make a stronger impact, and leave a more lasting impression on those who experience the performing arts.

### Vision Statement

To inspire a curious and imaginative community where the experience of the performing arts is a vital part of every day life.

### Mission

Portland Ovations contributes to the cultural, social, and economic well-being of our community by presenting an array of high quality performing artists from around the world and creating diverse educational experiences that bring the enjoyment, energy and enrichment of the arts to all.

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**Ovations Offstage**

Ovations Offstage integrates the performing arts into community, school and family life by creating resonating moments when artists and audiences connect. Providing inspirational access to the performing arts, Ovations Offstage contributes to the development of the generations who comprise the Maine of today and tomorrow through:

- Pre-performance lectures
- In-school artist workshops
- Masterclasses with visiting artists
- Unexpected “art happenings”
- Lively community discussions
- Meet-the-Artist events
- School-Time Performances (see page 10)

Look for the O2 symbol throughout the annual report for performances that include Ovations Offstage activities.

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**Staff**

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  Executive & Artistic Director
- **Felicia K. Knight**  
  President, Board of Directors
- **Catherine Anderson**  
  Director of Ovations Offstage
- **Vanessa Romanoff**  
  Ovations Offstage Associate
- **Mary C. Campbell**  
  Membership Director
- **Laura A. Stauffer**  
  Programming & Grants Manager
- **Charles Kibort**  
  Director of Marketing & Audience Development
- **Sarah Prak**  
  Marketing Associate
- **Marlene Dye**  
  Bookkeeper
- **Jeremy Nantes**  
  Production Manager
- **Faith York**  
  Usher Coordinator
ON THE COVER: TAO: “Seventeen Samurai,” dance masterclass with Janet Wong of Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane company, USM Jazz Combo at POP!, audience members awaiting the performance of Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company, Companhia Urbana de Dança workshop at Breakwater School, and meet and greet with Rafal Blechacz (pianist).

“Being a part of this experience heightened the way I view my potential as a dancer. Being in a company such as BTJ/AZ has been something I have recently aspired too, and now that I have had the opportunity to perform improvisationally with the dancers, watch how the company members interact with each other, and learn choreography from Janet, I have begun to believe that it will be possible for me to be a part of a touring company like this one day. Thank you for facilitating such an incredible experience!”

—STUDENT, COLBY COLLEGE ON BILL T. JONES/ARNIE ZANE COMPANY
BY THE NUMBERS

25,513 Attendees

27 Mainstage Performances

13,347 People Served by Ovations Offstage

88 Ovations Offstage Activities

320 Performing Artists

6 Venues

7 School-Time Performances

14 Free Lectures

38,860 People served by Portland Ovations made possible through...

11 Sponsors

13 Foundations
“Portland Ovations’ place in the city’s musical ecology is predicated on its ability to bring nationally and internationally prominent soloists and ensembles to town, and this season it has done a superb job by putting its spotlight mainly on ensembles that have taken a few steps off the beaten path.”—ALLAN KOZINN, PORTLAND PRESS HERALD
2015 | 2016 PERFORMANCES + EVENTS

OCTOBER

Hot Sardines
OCTOBER 1, 2015
STATE THEATRE

Rafał Blechacz
OCTOBER 4, 2015
MERRILL AUDITORIUM

• Pre-Performance Lecture with Laura Kargul

POP! Auction
OCTOBER 7, 2015
PORTLAND COMPANY
• 11 Restaurants
• 18 Local Business Underwriters
• 2 Portland Performance Groups
• Approximately $30,000 raised to support Ovations Offstage.

Shaping Sound
NOVEMBER 13, 2015
MERRILL AUDITORIUM

• Private reception at Grace with WEX (sponsor)
• Members-Only Lounge
• Shaping Sound spoke about the project and tour to Members with special guest: Artist’s Agent: Evelyn Zilberman

• Masterclass at Avant Dance and Event Center

Big Band Holidays: Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis
DECEMBER 2, 2015
MERRILL AUDITORIUM

• Open sound-check and Q&A

JANUARY

2015 | 2016 PERFORMANCES + EVENTS
“42nd Street”
OCTOBER 17, 2015
MERRILL AUDITORIUM

Debo Band
OCTOBER 22, 2015
SPACE GALLERY

“Caps for Sale”
NOVEMBER 1, 2015
MERRILL AUDITORIUM
- Family Workshop at Portland Public Library
- School-Time Performance

Trinity Irish Dance Company
JANUARY 28-29, 2016
MERRILL AUDITORIUM
- Progressive Irish Dance Masterclass at Stillson School of Irish Dance
- Pre-Performance Lecture with Carlene Stillson
- Pre-Performance Presentation by Stillson School of Irish Dance

Matt Haimovitz & VOICE
FEBRUARY 4-5, 2016
HANNAFORD HALL
- Salon with Matt Haimovitz
- Composer Masterclass with Matt Haimovitz at USM
- Pre-Performance Lecture with Bruce Fithian
- Art Happening: VOICE at Whole Foods Market

TAO:
“Seventeen Samurai”
FEBRUARY 2, 2016
MERRILL AUDITORIUM

DakhaBrakha
FEBRUARY 6, 2016
PORT CITY MUSIC HALL
- Pre-Performance Lecture with Anthony Antolini
2015 | 2016 PERFORMANCES + EVENTS

**FEBRUARY**

**Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance**  
FEBRUARY 22–25, 2016  
MERRILL AUDITORIUM

1. Meet the Maine dancers and musicians  
2. Masterclass with the company  
3. Pre-Performance Lecture with Annie Kloppenberg  
4. Post-Performance Q&A/Discussion  
5. Post-Performance Community Gathering/Wrap Party  
6. Community Movement Workshop for Health Care and Social Service Professionals (Not pictured)

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**March**

**Salzburg Marionette Theatre**  
“Sound of Music”  
MARCH 2, 2016  
MERRILL AUDITORIUM

• Family Workshop on stage at Merrill Auditorium  
• School-Time Performance

**Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center**  
APRIL 9, 2016  
HANNAFORD HALL

• Pre-Performance Lecture with Anthony Antonini
**Capi tol Steps**

The Lightning Thief
MAY 21, 2016
MERRILL AUDITORIUM

- Family Workshop at Portland Public Library
- School-Time Performance

**Wu Man with Shanghai Quartet**
MARCH 31, 2016
HANNAFORD HALL

- Pre-Performance Lecture with Jie Zhao
- Salon/Yaji at MECA
- Masterclass with Shanghai Quartet at Bowdoin College
- In-School Workshop with Wu Man at Waynflete School

**Ying Quartet with Zuill Bailey**
MAY 7, 2016
HANNAFORD HALL

- Artist Masterclass at USM
- Pre-Performance Lecture with Mary K. Hunter

**The Capitol Steps**
APRIL 1, 2016
MERRILL AUDITORIUM

**True Blues and The Campbell Brothers**
MARCH 25, 2016
MERRILL AUDITORIUM

- In-School Visit & Workshop at Deering High School

**The Illusionists**
APRIL 15-16, 2016
MERRILL AUDITORIUM

**The Lightning Thief**
MAY 21, 2016
MERRILL AUDITORIUM

- Family Workshop at Portland Public Library
- School-Time Performance
SCHOOL-TIME PERFORMANCES

NOVEMBER 2, 2015
MERRILL AUDITORIUM

• YFO/MECA/Ovations Collaboration: Pre-K Movement Workshops at Youth & Families Outreach
• MECA Teaching Artist Student Workshop at Youth & Families Outreach
• Pre-K and Family Night at Merrill Auditorium

DECEMBER 8, 2015
2 PERFORMANCES AT HANNAFORD HALL

• In-School Workshops (13 total) at Scarborough Middle School
• Pre-performance workshops at St. John’s Catholic School

MARCH 3, 2016
MERRILL AUDITORIUM

• Pre-Show Backstage tour with Salzburg Marionette Theater with students and teachers from St. John’s Catholic School
• Pre-K and Homeschool Workshop at Mayo Street Arts

MARCH 30, 2016
MERRILL AUDITORIUM

• 12 In-School Workshops with 7th Graders from Scarborough Middle School

MAY 20, 2016
MERRILL AUDITORIUM
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Maine Media Collective
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National Performance Network (NPN)
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WGME-13

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For more information, please contact Mary Campbell at 207.773.3150 ext. 5, or mcampbell@portlandovations.org.