

PORTLAND OVATIONS



2016 | 2017

TICKETS: 207.842.0800 • PORTLANDOVATIONS.ORG



Dear Friends,

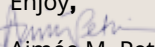
We often ask people to share with us the live performance they will never forget. For some, it's being wowed by the sheer beauty of words in a play that caused them to think differently. For others, it's a word in the music that moved by the virtuosity with which a musician played a particular movement or song. Sometimes it's simply about the time, place or person who shared in the experience that creates that memorable moment.

For me, it was January 1998 at NYC's infamous Studio 54, which had been re-inaugured by the Broadway revival of Cabaret. I went to see Jennifer Jason Leigh in the role of Sally Bowles. But it was another artist's performance that is forever etched in my mind: Alan Cumming as the Emcee. Nearly 20 years later, I still get goose bumps recalling the kick line scene when Cumming emerges in drag from the row of cabaret girls.

This award-winning actor, singer and writer joins a dynamic season of over 30 performances. Our 20th year opens with one of Cumming's besties and fellow Tony-winner from the Great White Way, Kristin Chenoweth, and is capped by the acrobatics-infused revival of Pippin, winner of multiple Tony Awards and directed by one of the great theater minds of our time, Diane Paulus.

Between those bookends of magical musical theater is an array of performances and artists from a world that will move your mind, body and soul — creating memories you too will never forget.

And so, friends: What good is sitting alone in your room? Come hear the music play...

Enjoy,

 Aimée M. Petrin
 Executive Director

WATCH FOR THESE SYMBOLS



Seeking Resonance

Seeking Resonance is a dynamic series celebrating the essential quality of live performance. The word "resonance" speaks in an energetic way to how we feel music, and connect with an idea, an emotion and each other.

Through this series of multidisciplinary projects—A Far Cry featuring David Krakauer's "Dreams and Prayers," The Deacons and the Jones Family Singers, Yuval Ron Ensemble and a new company—we'll explore the richness and interconnectedness found across and within our varied religious and spiritual lives.

Spanning artforms, geographic boundaries, faiths, cultural divides and generations, Seeking Resonance is both serious and contemplative, sometimes quiet and other times energetic. We are grateful for our Circle of Advisors who are helping steward this program and Portland's Downtown Center, his original artwork created especially for the series. Please join us.



Offstage

Activities that integrate the performing arts into everyday community life and promote the enjoyment of the arts for all.



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Student matinees tied to Maine's Common Core State Standards. Call 207.773.3150 for details or to reserve space.

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An Intimate Evening with Kristin Chenoweth

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2016 • 7:30 PM

MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

“Adorable, peppy, ingratiating and fiercely talented...”

— THE NEW YORK TIMES

Emmy and Tony Award-winner Kristin Chenoweth is beloved for talents that span film, television and stage. She is known as the original Glinda in the hit musical *Wicked* and for her Tony Award-winning performance as Sally in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, and has won over TV audiences with a long list of memorable roles, including her Emmy-nominated appearances on *Glee*. This songbird seamlessly incorporates pop, country, gospel, classical and, of course, musical theater numbers into her stage performance.

Revel in what *New York Daily News* calls the “nuclear glow” of this “stick of blond dynamite” when Chenoweth brings her powerful and magnetic personality to the Merrill stage.

TICKETS

\$100 • 75 • \$65

SPONSORED BY:

Puelle Design.

Red Baraat

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2016 • 8 PM

PORT CITY MUSIC HALL, PORTLAND

Co-presented with Port City Music Hall in collaboration with SPACE Gallery.

“Imagine a New Orleans street band playing Indian Bollywood tunes with a go-go beat — you can’t? Then just listen, because your day is about to get better. It’s a crazy blast of fun.”

— NPR, ALL SONGS CONSIDERED

“The best party band in years” (NPR), Red Baraat draws praise worldwide for its singular sound—a merging of hard driving North Indian Bhangra with elements of go-go, rock and jazz—fueled by three master rhythm makers, the muscle of horns, a raucous guitar and a booming sousaphone. They’ve astounded audiences at Bonnaroo, Austin City Limits, Monterey Jazz Festival, Luxembourg Philharmonic and the Bowery Ballroom, and performed at the request of the White House, Peter Gabriel, TED and the Olympic Games. Red Baraat communes with its audience in a joyful, near hedonistic celebration of music and dance.

\$45 tickets include special cabaret seating with table service.

TICKETS
\$45 • \$²³

STUDENT DEAL
\$15

SPONSORED BY:

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MEDIA SPONSOR:

DISPATCH





“Brown Bear, Brown Bear and Other Treasured Stories by Eric Carle”

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2016 • 11 AM

MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

“Even kids unfamiliar with Carle’s canon remain rapt, thanks in large part to the dramatic lighting, those glowing sets and the handiwork of (just) two puppeteers.”

— TIME OUT CHICAGO

Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia’s acclaimed composite of storybook favorites delights both parents and children, bringing together old and new friends from the Eric Carle classics *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, *Papa, Please Get the Moon for Me*, and the titular *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* This hour-long production showcases the imaginative blend of innovative puppetry and striking scenic effects that has won Mermaid Theatre international acclaim and made them a favorite of Ovation’s Family Series.

Additional Information: 60 minutes; geared for ages 3+

TICKETS

\$12



SPONSORED BY:

IDEXX

BalletX

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2016 • 7:30 PM

MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

“Fresh, touching, musical, original.”

— THE NEW YORK TIMES

Philadelphia’s explosive BalletX brings grace, athleticism and emotion to the stage with a 21st century flair that is riveting. Combining distinguished choreography with an outstanding company of world-class dancers, BalletX challenges the boundaries of classical ballet by encouraging formal experimentation yet preserving rigorous technique. In a program featuring an eclectic mix of music including pieces by Ella Fitzgerald and Leonard Cohen, the company portrays a world that is comedic, provocative, stylish and powerful. This is ballet as you never experienced it before.

TICKETS

\$40 • 35 • \$30

STUDENT DEAL

\$15

Members save **10%** off full-priced tickets.



SPONSORED BY:



MEDIA SPONSOR:





Cirque Mechanics: “Pedal Punk”

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2016 • 7 PM

MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

Presented as a special family-friendly time.

“...exceptional, evocative, eye-catching and grossly entertaining...in a word, excellent.”

— THE NEW YORK TIMES

Hailed as “the greatest contribution to the American circus since Cirque du Soleil,” by *Spectacle* magazine, Cirque Mechanics has cemented its place as one of the leading contemporary circus companies in the world. The dazzling troupe of mischievous acrobats is recognized for its unique approach to performance, inspired storytelling and innovative mechanical staging. *Pedal Punk*—set in a steampunk world where cycling is the way to escape a technology-obsessed society—displays the excitement, artistry and thrill that occurs when Cirque Mechanics’ hallmark synergy between man and machine is exposed in a magnificent way.

FREE Valet Bike Parking provided by Bicycle Coalition of Maine.

TICKETS

\$50 • 45 • \$38

STUDENT DEAL

\$15



SPONSORED BY:

Morgan Stanley

SUPPORTED BY:



MEDIA SPONSOR:

DISPATCH

BROADWAY NATIONAL TOUR

“RENT” — 20th Anniversary Tour

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2016 • 2 PM & 8 PM

MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

“...this show restores spontaneity and depth of feeling to a discipline that sorely needs them. People who complain about the demise of the American musical have simply been looking in the wrong places.”

— THE NEW YORK TIMES

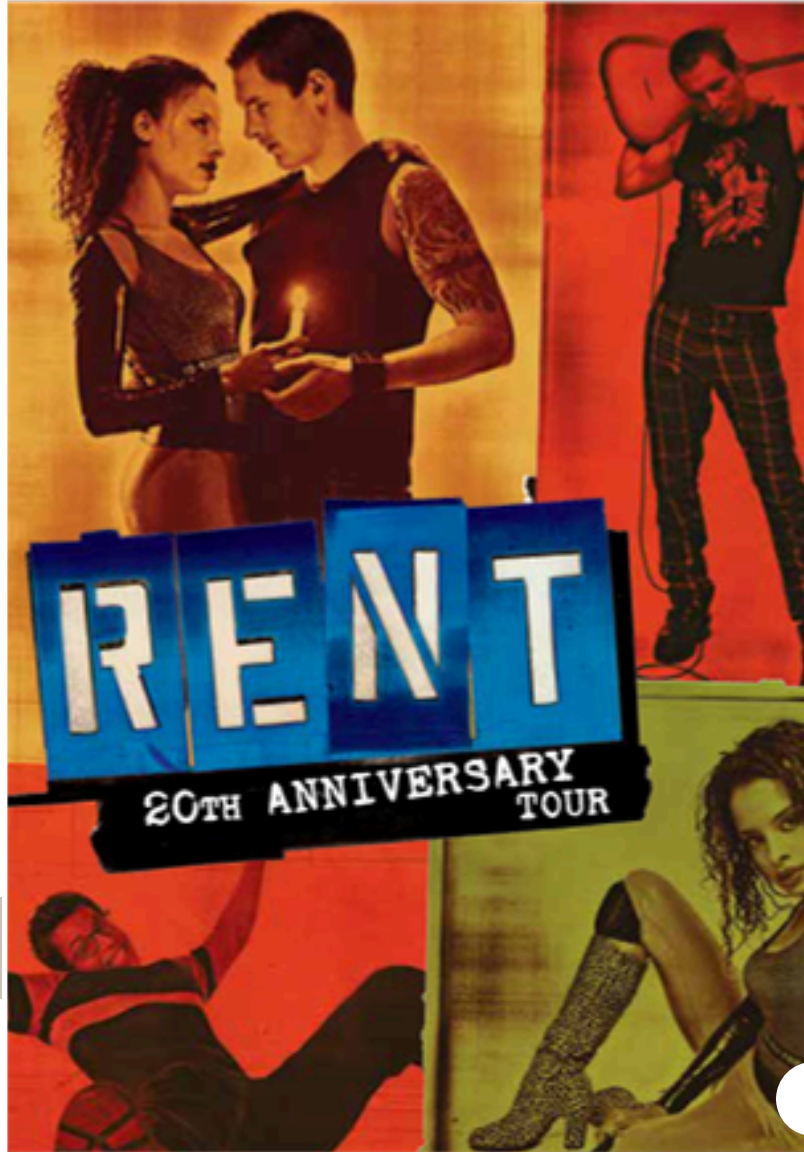
In 1996, an original rock musical by a little-known composer opened on Broadway...and forever changed the landscape of American theater. Two decades later, Jonathan Larson’s *Rent* continues to speak loudly and defiantly to audiences across generations and all over the world. And now, this Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning masterpiece returns to the stage in a vibrant 20th anniversary touring production. A re-imagining of Puccini’s *La Bohème*, *Rent* follows an unforgettable year in the lives of seven artists struggling to follow their dreams without selling out. With its inspiring message of joy and hope in the face of fear, this timeless celebration of friendship and creativity reminds us to measure our lives with the only thing that truly matters—love.

TICKETS

\$70•\$55• \$45

Members save **10%** off full-priced tickets.

MEDIA SPONSOR:





A Far Cry featuring **David Krakauer:** “Dreams & Prayers”

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2016 • 7:30 PM
MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

**“The Criers...truly soar with their guest, the
spectacular clarinetist David Krakauer.”**

— GRAMOPHONE

When brilliant musicians get together to play music, something magical, divine or heavenly happens. This is exactly what audiences can expect when the Grammy-nominated, self-conducted chamber orchestra of 17 musicians is joined by the preeminent clarinetist David Krakauer for *Dreams & Prayers*. Anchored in Osvaldo Golijov’s *Dreams and Prayers of Isaac the Blind*, this evocative program also features works by Hildegard von Bingen, Mehmet Ali Sanlikol, and Ludwig van Beethoven. Four works, three faith traditions, and 1,000 years come together in this stunning and exhilarating evening that celebrates the connection between mysticism and music.

TICKETS
\$44

STUDENT DEAL
\$15

Members save **10%** off
full-priced tickets.



SUPPORTED BY:



MEDIA SPONSOR:



Mike Daisey: “Khan and the Whale: The Wrath of Moby Dick”

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2016 • 8 PM
HANNAFORD HALL, USM CAMPUS, PORTLAND

“The master storyteller—[Mike Daisey is] one of the finest solo performers of his generation.”

— THE NEW YORK TIMES

Compared to a modern-day Mark Twain and a latter-day Orson Welles, Mike Daisey is the preeminent monologist in American theater today. In his latest work, the Maine native takes on Herman Melville’s masterpiece of revenge, fate, and whaling in a hilarious and breathtaking 90 minutes. He does so by weaving together Melville’s epic saga with the “greatest and most perfect” film of the 20th century—*STAR TREK II: The Wrath of Khan*. Ornate nautical slipknots, space worms that crawl into your ears, tattooed harpooners, and Ricardo Montalban’s rich Corinthian leather chest all combine with Melville’s gorgeous language to tell a sweeping story of revenge and at what temperature that dish is best served (spoiler alerts: the answer is “cold” and the whale wins).

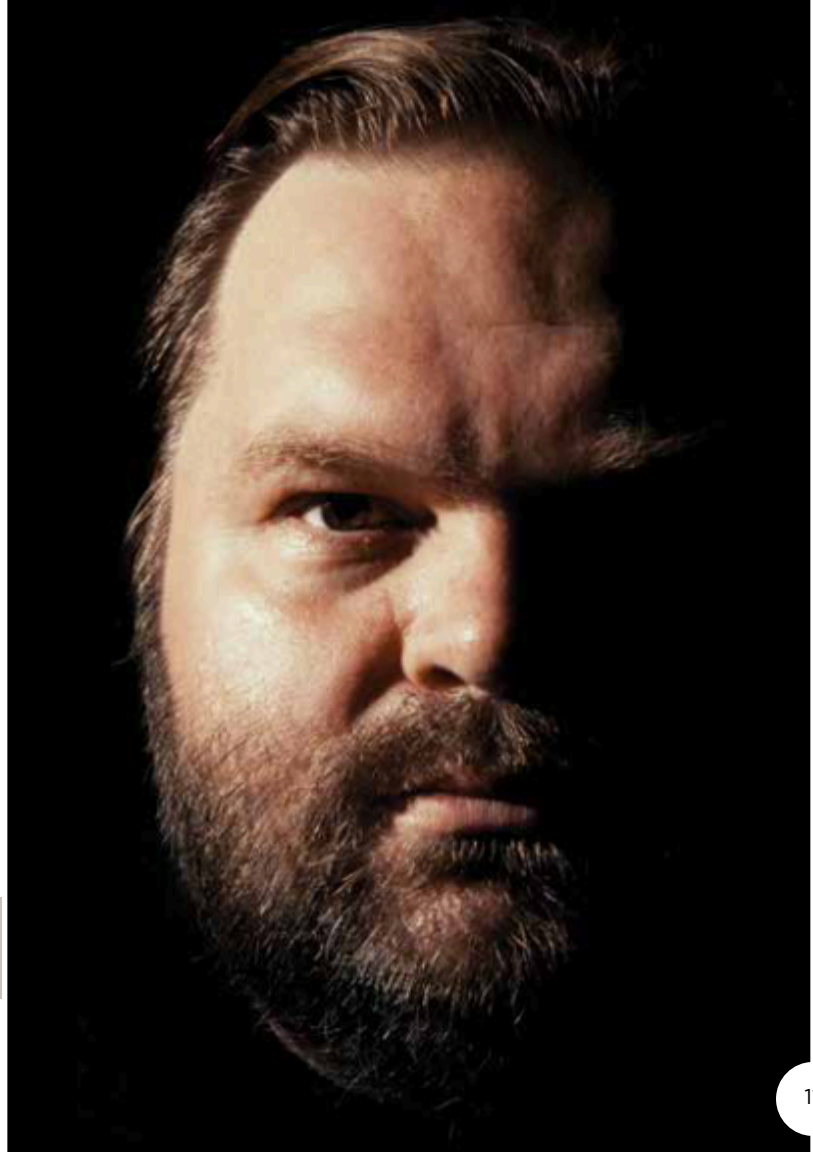
TICKETS

\$36

STUDENT DEAL

\$15

Members save **10%** off full-priced tickets.





The LeeVeEs

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2016 • 3 PM

PORT CITY MUSIC HALL, PORTLAND

“Best holiday recording of the decade.”

—NPR

Can you name four great Hanukkah songs? OK, then how about two good Chanukkah songs? Not easy, huh? Well, Adam Gardner (Guster) and Dave Schneider (The Zambonis) have joined forces and started a band called The LeeVeEs, and they play sweet and rockin' indie-pop songs solely about Channuka. Set amid gorgeous harmonies, funky riffs and distinctive keyboarding are original songs that celebrate the family togetherness (and food) of the Festival of Lights, including “Latke Clan,” “Apple Sauce vs. Sour Cream” and of course, “How do you Spell Channukkahh?” Appearances with Barenaked Ladies and the Boston Pops prove even if you are one of the non-Jewish “Goyim Friends,” you can still rock out to this afternoon of family, food and fun!

TICKETS

\$15 General Admission Standing



SUPPORTED BY:



MEDIA SPONSOR:

DISPATCH

The Jones Family Singers

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 2017 • 8 PM

MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

Presented in collaboration with NAACP Portland.

“It was all joyful praise, brilliantly timed with one crescendo after another. If they hadn’t been playing in Webster Hall’s basement, they might have torn off the roof.”

— THE NEW YORK TIMES

Bishop Fred Jones leads a talented line-up—including five daughters and two sons—that is electrifying churches and festivals alike. Called a “must-see act” at SxSW 2014 by both *Rolling Stone* and NPR, their high-energy performances take gospel to a whole new level, infusing it with vintage soul, funk and R&B that will have audiences shaking their hips, clapping their hands and stomping their feet in a spiritually uplifting workout. With breakout appearances at Lincoln Center, New York City’s globalFEST, and the Kennedy Center—and a critically-acclaimed documentary—the Jones Family Singers are poised to take the world by storm.



TICKETS

\$40 • \$34

STUDENT DEAL

\$15

Members save 10% off full-priced tickets.



SUPPORTED BY:





JCT Trio

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2017 • 4 PM
MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

“Talent that’s off the scale.”

— WASHINGTON POST

Three renowned visionary artists of the next generation combine talents in this eclectic new piano trio, JCT (pronounced ‘junction’). Violinist Stefan Jackiw, an Ovation’s favorite recognized for musicianship that combines poetry and purity with an impeccable technique, returns with pianist Conrad Tao and cellist Jay Campbell. Tao, who appears worldwide as a pianist and composer, has been dubbed a musician of “probing intellect and open-hearted vision” by *The New York Times*. Approaching both old and new works with the same curiosity and emotional commitment, Campbell has been called “electrifying” by *The New York Times*.

DVORÁK Piano Trio, No. 3 in F Minor, Op. 65
IVES Piano Trio, Op. 86
HAYDN Piano Trio, No. 39 in G Major

Program subject to change.

TICKETS
\$40

STUDENT DEAL
\$15

Members save **10%** off
full-priced tickets.



MEDIA SPONSOR:



Vocalosity

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2017 • 7:30 PM

MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

“...the joy, power, connection, and spirituality of vocal harmony is something I want everybody to experience. Part of the brain lights up, and it’s transformative.”

— DEKE SHARON (DIRECTOR, ARRANGER, & ARTISTIC PRODUCER)

The all-new live concert from the creative mind of artistic producer Deke Sharon (*Pitch Perfect*, *The Sing-Off*) takes a cappella to a whole new level. This fast-paced production features an all-star ensemble of diverse young vocalists singing some of today’s chart-topping hits in brand-new arrangements that set a new standard for 12-part harmony. No genre of music is off limits in the world of a cappella and Vocalosity covers them all—from barber shop quartet and bouncing doo-wop all the way to an exploration of the current sound of a cappella with music from The Beatles, Bruno Mars and more. An exhilarating evening of song unlike anything you’ve ever seen or heard, live on stage. It’s the aca-perfect concert experience!

TICKETS

\$50 • 45 • \$38

Members save **10%** off full-priced tickets.

SPONSORED BY:

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COMPANY





Yuval Ron Ensemble featuring Dervish Aziz: “Seeker of Truth”

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2017 • 8 PM

HANNAFORD HALL, USM CAMPUS, PORTLAND

“...an epic experience of sound, story and dance.”

— THE NEW YORK TIMES

Exhilarating and hypnotic, meditative yet ecstatic—and at times otherworldly—the music of award-winning artist Yuval Ron and his multinational ensemble dazzles audiences worldwide from L.A.’s World Festival of Sacred Music to Morocco’s famed Fez Festival. Featuring oud, woodwinds, percussion and vocals—the ensemble draws on many Middle Eastern traditions, uncovering hidden gems and creating a unique mystical, spiritual and inspiring musical celebration. Their groundbreaking program *Seeker of Truth*, featuring Dervish Aziz and Middle Eastern and South Asian vocal musical traditions—represents a new, thrilling synergy of sounds and cultures.

TICKETS

\$38

STUDENT DEAL

\$15

Members save **10%** off full-priced tickets.



SUPPORTED BY:



BROADWAYNATIONAL TOUR
"Once"

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2017 • 7:30 PM
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2017 • 7:30 PM
MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

"Impeccable. A rhapsodic, unique musical that's tender, funny & soaring."

— VARIETY

Winner of eight 2012 Tony Awards including Best Musical, *Once* is a truly original Broadway experience. Featuring an impressive ensemble of actors/musicians who play their own instruments onstage, *Once* tells the enchanting tale of a Dublin street musician who's about to give up on his dream when a beautiful young woman takes a sudden interest in his haunting love songs. As the chemistry between them grows, his music soars to powerful new heights...but their unlikely connection turns out to be deeper and more complex than your everyday romance. Emotionally captivating and theatrically breathtaking, *Once* draws you in from the very first note and never lets go. It's an unforgettable story about going for your dreams...not living in fear...and the power of music to connect all of us.

TICKETS

\$70•55•\$45

Members save **10%** off full-priced tickets.

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MEDIA SPONSOR:



8 TONY AWARDS
INCLUDING
BEST MUSICAL

WINNER!
2013 GRAMMY AWARD
BEST MUSICAL THEATER ALBUM

*his music needed one thing.
her.*



Photo © Joan Marcus



Handel & Haydn Society: “Glories of the Italian Baroque”

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2017 • 3 PM
HANNAFORD HALL, USM CAMPUS, PORTLAND

“[Nosky’s] exploratory account of the solo line had enough charisma and flair to earn the group a spontaneous ovation of an intensity that seemed to surprise even Nosky herself.”

— THE BOSTON GLOBE

Electrifying concertmaster/violinist Aisslinn Nosky leads an ensemble of 15 Handel & Haydn Society musicians in this glorious program featuring works by Pietro Locatelli, Giuseppe Antonio Brescianello, Antonio Vivaldi and Francesco Durante. Acclaimed for its performances of baroque and classical music, Boston-based Handel & Haydn Society embraces historically informed performance, bringing classical music to life with the same immediacy it had the day it was composed.

TICKETS
\$44

STUDENT DEAL
\$15

Members save **10%** off full-priced tickets.



SPONSORED BY:

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A 21st century retirement community

MEDIA SPONSOR:

MPBN
Maine Public Broadcasting Network

“Alan Cumming Sings Sappy Songs”

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2017 • 8 PM

MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

“...humorous, sometimes naughty, always entertaining.”

— THE NEW YORK TIMES

Alan Cumming is a shape-shifting trickster as enthralling and nimble with Shakespeare as he is with show tunes, an irresistible presence in any room. From *Cabaret* to *The Good Wife*, Cumming’s astounding talent has made him a favorite of stage and screen. Named one of the most fun people in show business by *Time* magazine, the Olivier and Tony Award-winning actor, singer and author brings to Portland his raucous one-man show (accompanied by piano and cello) *Alan Cumming Sings Sappy Songs*. Inspired by Cumming’s infamous *Club Cumming*, set in his dressing room during the revival of *Cabaret* on Broadway, and recently scoring rave reviews during a residency at New York’s legendary Carlyle Hotel, this tour-de-force performance is an eclectic, wildly entertaining mix of intimate stories—from the sentimental to the sassy—and witty reinterpretations of pop songs and stage classics.

TICKETS

\$70•60• \$45

Members save **10%** off
full-priced tickets.

SPONSORED BY:



MEDIA SPONSOR:

DISPATCH





Jenny Scheinman: “Kannapolis: A Moving Portrait”

FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2017 • 8 PM

HANNAFORD HALL, USM CAMPUS, PORTLAND

“Scheinman [has] a distinctive vision of American music, suffused with plainspoken beauty and fortified all at once by country, gospel, and melting-pot folk, along with jazz and the blues.”

— THE NEW YORK TIMES

In her new multi-media project, acclaimed composer, singer, and violinist Jenny Scheinman invites us into the captivating visual world of Depression-era filmmaker H. Lee Waters. Scheinman is joined by guitarist Robbie Fulks (who is “so good, it’s scary” according to *The Chicago Tribune*) and banjoist Robbie Gjersoe to create a live soundtrack of new folksongs, fiddle music, and field sounds to accompany this fascinating footage of small town America, masterfully reworked into a new film by director Finn Taylor. The humanity in these songs and images bares a transcendent, universal quality that speaks to any community.

TICKETS

\$38

STUDENT DEAL

\$15

Members save **10%** off full-priced tickets.



SUPPORTED BY:

nefa
NEW ENGLAND FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS

BodyTraffic

SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2017 • 8 PM

WESTBROOKPERFORMINGARTSCENTER, WESTBROOK

“BodyTraffic suggests invention, attitude, and urban edge.”

— THE BOSTON GLOBE

“Limber, expressive and elegant artists. The kind of people you could watch dance anything all night,” raves the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Known for dynamic theatricality and refreshing abandon, BodyTraffic engulfs audiences with their pure joy of dance and highly entertaining programs. Their versatile and ever-growing repertory by today’s most distinctive choreographic voices has landed them on *Dance Magazine*’s sought-after “25 to Watch” list and earned praise from the venerated Joyce Theater as “the dance company of the future.”

TICKETS

\$36 • \$28

STUDENT DEAL

\$15

Members save **10%** off full-priced tickets.



SUPPORTED BY:





Philharmonia Quartett Berlin

SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2017 • 3 PM

HANNAFORD HALL, USM CAMPUS, PORTLAND

“Four of the best.”

— LONDON PRESS

The Philharmonia Quartett Berlin, composed of principal players of the legendary Berlin Philharmonic, enjoys a celebrated and critically acclaimed career, establishing itself among the world's premier string quartets with over two decades of international concerts and a large and diverse discography. Returning to our stage for the first time in nearly 15 years, the quartet's versatile and adventurous repertoire now includes over 100 pieces spanning from the classical period to the 20th century.

MOZART String Quartet, No. 8 in F Major, KV. 168

DMITRI SHOSTAKOVICH String Quartet, No.15 in E flat Minor, Op. 144

BEETHOVEN String Quartet, No. 15 in A Minor, Op. 132

Program subject to change.

TICKETS

\$44

STUDENT DEAL

\$15

Members save **10%** off full-priced tickets.



MEDIA SPONSOR:



Maine Public Broadcasting Network

Ms. Lisa Fischer & Grand Baton

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2017 • 8 PM

STATE THEATRE, PORTLAND

Co-presented with the State Theatre.

“The single best show I’ve seen in the many years I’ve visited Birdland.”

— THE NEW YORK TIMES

The unforgettable voice from the Oscar-winning documentary *20 Feet From Stardom*. After four decades of singing background for the Rolling Stones, Tina Turner, Chaka Khan, and Nine Inch Nails, Ms. Lisa Fischer is stepping into the spotlight at last. Hailed as “transcendental!” by *The Huffington Post*, Fischer’s legendary duet with Mick Jagger on “Gimme Shelter” has become one of the great moments in pop music. Ovations audiences had their first taste of Ms. Fischer when she appeared with trumpeter Chris Botti in 2012. Ms. Fischer is joined by her inventive new trio, Grand Baton, for a concert that draws from an eclectic palette of influences, putting her stamp on Led Zeppelin, Little Willie John and recasting rock anthems from her tours with the Stones and Tina Turner.

TICKETS

\$55 Cabaret Table Service • \$40 • \$30

Members save **10%** off full-priced tickets.



MEDIA SPONSOR:

DISPATCH





BROADWAY NATIONAL TOUR
“Saturday Night Fever”

FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 2017 • 8 PM
 MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

“Hit song after hit song, bright lights and dancing to blow you away.”

—BBC

Saturday Night Fever, the iconic story of Tony—the kid from Brooklyn, USA—who wants to dance his way to a better life is back! And back in an all-new production that shares Tony’s love for dancing in spectacular new ways. Fueled by the vintage Bee Gee hits, this contemporary retelling of the classic story captures the energy, passion and life-changing moments that have thrilled movie audiences since 1977. Now, a new generation of dancers meets a new generation of playgoers to explore the soaring sounds and pulsating rhythms of this coming-of-age disco fantasy.

TICKETS
 \$70•\$55• \$45

Members save **10%** off
 full-priced tickets.

SPONSORED BY:



J.S.McCARTHY PRINTERS

one source one solution



Golden Dragon Acrobats

THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2017 • 7 PM

MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND
Presented as special family-friendly time.

“The spectacle wasn’t created by magic, but through the strength and articulation of the body. And that’s what made it magical.”

— THE NEW YORK TIMES

Returning to the Merrill stage with a **brand new production**, the Golden Dragon Acrobats represent the best of a time-honored tradition that combines award-winning acrobatics, traditional dance, spectacular costumes, ancient and contemporary music and theatrical techniques to create an unforgettable experience of breathtaking skill and spellbinding beauty. “The show speaks to the playful, daredevil nature in all of us. And the array of stunts and skills exhibited by this troupe was nothing short of phenomenal” (*Fayetteville Flyer*).

TICKETS

\$46 • 40 • \$32

STUDENT DEAL

\$15



SPONSORED BY:





Ragamala Dance Company: “Sacred Earth”

THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2017 • 7:30 PM

WESTBROOK PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, WESTBROOK

“...soulful, imaginative and rhythmically contagious.”

— THE NEW YORK TIMES

Known for dancers of impeccable technique and incandescent beauty, Ragamala Dance Company demonstrates “how Indian forms can provide some of the most transcendent experiences that dance has to offer” (*The New York Times*). Performed to live music and set against large-scale projections of exquisite Warli paintings, *Sacred Earth* explores the interconnectedness and fragile relationship between nature and man. Mother and daughter choreographers/dancers, Ranee and Aparna Ramaswamy, create dance landscapes that dwell in opposition—secular and spiritual life, inner and outer worlds, human and natural concerns, rhythm and stillness—to find the transcendence that lies between.

TICKETS

\$40 • \$35

STUDENT DEAL

\$15

Members save **10%** off full-priced tickets.



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National
Endowment
for the Arts
2017-2021

Emanuel Ax

SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 2017 • 3 PM

MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

“Mr. Ax...played with youthful brio, incisive rhythm, bountiful imagination, delicacy when called for and thundering power when the piano fought back.”

— THE NEW YORK TIMES

Master of the concert stage, celebrated statesman of the classical music world and Grammy-winner, all describe one of the most versatile, brilliant, and universally respected pianists on the international concert scene, Emanuel Ax. “His greatness, his overwhelming authority as musician, technician and probing intellect emerges quickly as he plays. Within minutes, we are totally captured by his intensity and pianistic achievement” (*The Los Angeles Times*). This landmark performance of solo works is not to be missed. Mr. Ax makes his triumphant return to the Merrill stage in a landmark performance of solo works by Franz Schubert, Samuel Adams and Frédéric Chopin.

TICKETS

\$55 • \$40

STUDENT DEAL

\$15

Members save **10%** off full-priced tickets.



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The Gloaming

THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2017 • 8 PM

STATE THEATRE, PORTLAND

“At sell-out shows in prestigious venues internationally, audiences have been blown away by The Gloaming’s breathtaking virtuosity and spirited set.”

— REALWORLDRECORDS.COM

Even before this Irish-American supergroup released its debut album, *The Irish Times* hailed them as “one of the great forces in Irish music.” The Gloaming combines traditional Irish tunes and ancient sean-nós song with brave explorations of exhilarating and explosive medleys to create a distinctive new sound. With fiddlers Martin Hayes and Caoimhin Ó Raghallaigh, Dennis Cahill on guitar, Iarla Ó Lionáird on vocals and Thomas Bartlett on piano, the five brilliant musicians deliver an astonishing, combustible and unforgettable listening experience.

TICKETS

\$40•35• \$20

Members save **10%** off full-priced tickets.

BROADWAYNATIONAL TOUR

“Annie”

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2017 • 6 PM

MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

“Overflowing! Big, warm-hearted and funny!”

— NEW YORK POST

Leapin’ Lizards! The world’s best-loved musical returns in time-honored form. Directed by original lyricist and director Martin Charnin and choreographed by Liza Gennaro, this production of *Annie* is a brand new incarnation of the iconic original.

Featuring book and score by Tony Award-winners Thomas Meehan, Charles Strouse and Martin Charnin, *Annie* includes such unforgettable songs as: “It’s the Hard Knock Life,” “Easy Street,” “I Don’t Need Anything But You,” plus the eternal anthem of optimism, “Tomorrow.”

“ONE OF THE BEST FAMILY MUSICALS EVER PENNED”



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TICKETS

\$70•\$55• \$45

Members save **10%** off full-priced tickets.

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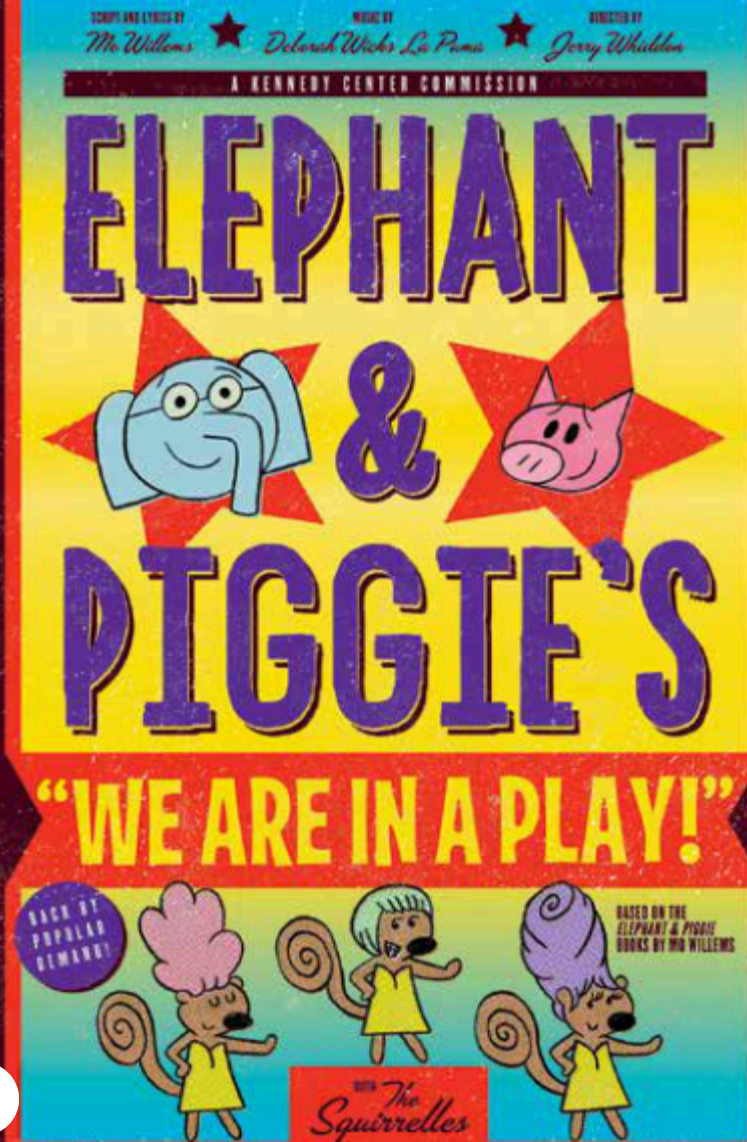


MEDIA SPONSOR:



Annie®

THE TONY AWARD-WINNING PRODUCTION



Elephant & Piggie's "We Are In A Play!"

SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2017 • 1 PM
MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

**"...a fun experience, and a great way
to introduce your child to theater."**

— BROADWAYWORLD.COM

In Mo Willems' beloved books, Elephant Gerald and Piggie are best friends. In *We Are in a Play!*, a brand-new vaudevillian romp of a musical, Gerald and Piggie sing and dance their way through plenty of pachydermal peril and wine suspense. Asking the fundamental questions of childhood—What do you wear to a fancy pool costume party? Should you share your ice cream? And how can two friends play with one toy?—while backed by nutty singers The Squirrelles. The duo even gets the audience involved in the action. The whole family will be doing the "Flippy Floppy Floory" dance all day and night!

Additional Information: 60 minutes; geared for ages 4+

TICKETS

\$15



SPONSORED BY:

IDEXX

BROADWAYNATIONAL TOUR

“Pippin”

SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2017 • 2 PM & 8 PM

MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

**“Astonishing. A ‘Pippin’ for the 21st century.
Dazzling & awe-inspiring.”**

— THE NEW YORK TIMES

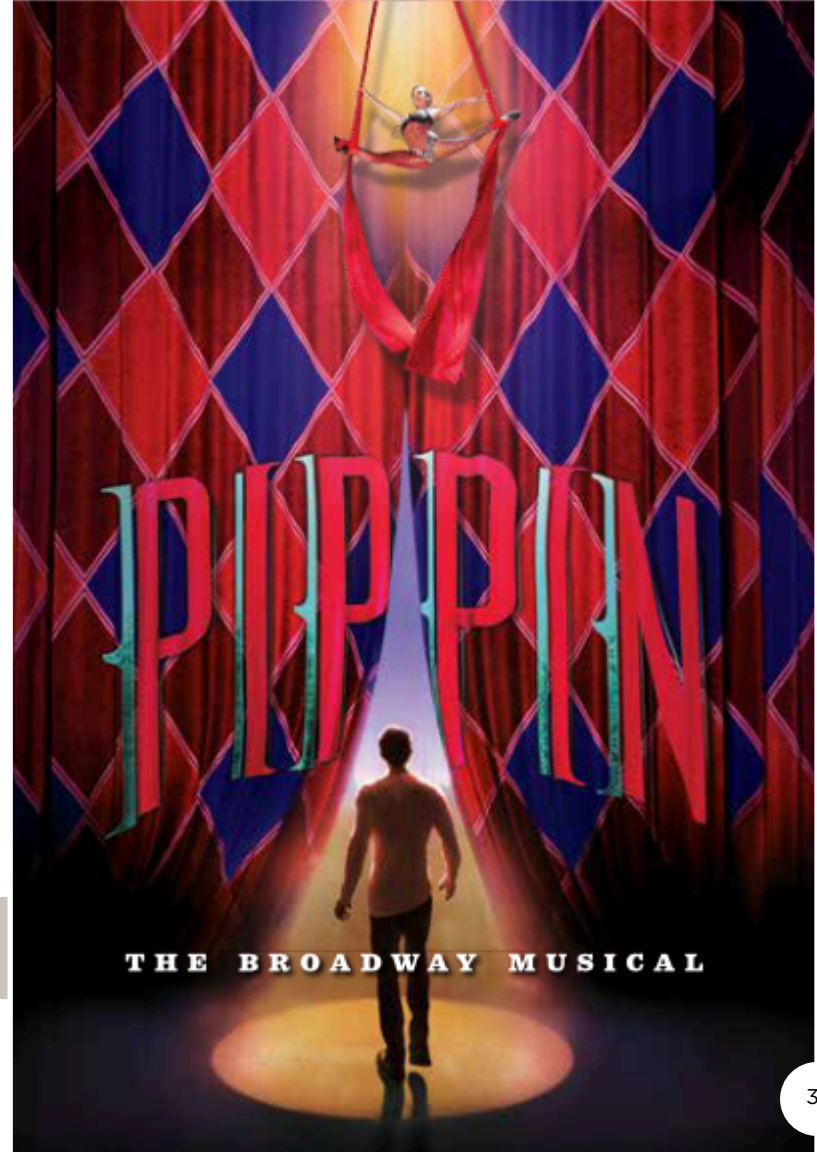
Pippin is a high-flying, death-defying hit Broadway musical! Full of extraordinary acrobatics, wondrous magical feats and soaring songs from the composer of *Wicked*, *Pippin* will lift you up and leave you smiling. This unforgettable new production is the winner of four 2013 Tony Awards including Best Musical Revival. Hailed as “an eye-popping, jaw-dropping extravaganza” (*NY1 News*), it’s unlike anything you have ever seen! This captivating new production comes straight from Broadway, directed by Tony winner Diane Paulus (*Hair* and *The Gershwins’ Porgy & Bess*). It features sizzling choreography in the style of Bob Fosse and breathtaking acrobatics by Les 7 Doigts de la Main, the creative force behind the nationwide sensation *Traces*. *Pippin* is noted for many Broadway standards including “Corner of the Sky,” “Magic To Do,” “Glory,” “No Time at All,” “Morning Glow,” and “Love Song.”

TICKETS

\$70•55• \$45

Members save **10%** off
full-priced tickets.

SPONSORED BY:





Destination Pittsburgh: Take Me Out to the Opera

APRIL 28-30, 2017

PITTSBURGH OPERA • PITTSBURGH, PA

“...judging by the audience response ‘The Summer King’...could become an American classic.”

— THE PORTLAND PRESS HERALD

Hit the road with Portland Oventions for the ultimate “away game” when hometown hero Daniel Sonenberg’s *The Summer King* receives its fully-staged premiere at the esteemed Pittsburgh Opera. Featuring celebratory meals at Pittsburgh’s signature eateries, visits to the Steel City’s most famous cultural institutions, and our very own backstage-at-the-opera event, this Destination Pittsburgh weekend promises something for opera lovers, baseball fans and cultural omnivores alike. As the lead commissioner of *The Summer King*, Oventions is proud to share the evolution of this work as it hits the national stage. Multi-tier travel packages will be available, proceeds of which will benefit Portland Oventions.

For more information, please contact Anna Marie Klein-Christie at 207.773.3150 ext. 245, or anna@portlandovations.org.

Daniel Sonenberg
the SUMMER
KING
THE JOSH GIBSON STORY

A PORTLAND OVATION COMMISSION



On May 9, 2014, *The Summer King* made its concert premiere on the Merrill stage. Featuring an international cast, two Maine-based choirs and an orchestra of professional, Portland-area musicians, this was a watershed moment for Ovations: not only was it our first opera commission, it was our first time moving into the role of producer. Supporting the work of Maine-based composer Daniel Sonenberg was an honor and a thrill. His stirring tale of baseball's tragic hero Josh Gibson resonated with audiences and proved a critical success. Our loftiest hope for *The Summer King* was to launch it onto the national stage. Our dream is coming true.

On April 29, 2017, *The Summer King* finally makes it to the Majors as a fully staged opera under the auspices of Pittsburgh Opera, the very first world premiere in their distinguished 78-year history. Native son Josh

Gibson went from the sandlots of Pittsburgh's North Side to the pinnacle of greatness in the Negro Leagues, before ultimately being enshrined in the National Baseball Hall of Fame. The Pittsburgh cast includes Kenneth Kellogg, who Portland audiences will recognize as Josh's best friend Sam Bankhead; and as Grace, the unparalleled mezzo-soprano Denyce Graves.

Ovations remains grateful for the support of the **National Endowment for the Arts, American Opera Projects, University of Southern Maine School of Music, the Bob Crewe Foundation and the Maine Arts Commission.**

And especially for the faith placed in us by Dan Sonenberg, who trusted us to hit this one out of the park.

TO PURCHASE TICKETS CALL **PORTTIX 207.842.0800**

Pre-Sale Bundle Options: Buy 4 or More and Save!

Pre-Sale Bundle

A pre-sale bundle consists of an initial ticket purchase to four or more qualifying performances during the pre-sale period, from June 1-17. By buying a bundle, you can enjoy a 10% discount off your purchase. No additional discounts can be applied to a pre-sale bundle.

PLEASE NOTE: Student Deals and Family Series tickets do not qualify towards pre-sale bundle purchasing.

Ticketing Fees

During pre-sale period: \$1 per ticket for Members and those purchasing tickets to 4 or more performances, includes all modes of purchase.

After June 17: \$2 per ticket for Members, includes all modes of purchase.

After June 17: \$7 per ticket for all others by phone, mail and internet.

“Brown Bear, Brown Bear and Other Treasured Stories”, Elephant & Piggie’s “We Are in a Play!” and The LeeVeas: \$3 per ticket.

The Broadway Bundle!

Buy tickets to four or more qualifying titles* in our Broadway and Beyond series during our pre-sale period of June 1-17 and save 15% on each Broadway show!

PLEASE NOTE: While Broadway Bundle can contribute towards an overall pre-sale bundle, 15% applies to Broadway titles only.

If you have questions about pre-sale bundle or Broadway Bundle buying please contact PortTIX at 207.842.0800
Pre-sale bundle and Broadway Bundle tickets are not exchangeable or refundable.

Exchanges

Ticket exchanges are only available to Portland Ovarions Members at the Advocate Donor level (\$100) or above. Exchanges must be requested at least 24 hours before the performance. Contact PortTIX with any questions.

How to Order

In Person

PortTIX is located in the lobby of **Merrill Auditorium, 20 Myrtle Street**, Portland. Regular box office hours are Monday to Saturday, 12 pm to 6 pm. Closed on Saturdays, June-September.

By Phone • 207.842.0800

Call PortTIX Monday to Saturday, 12 pm to 6 pm. Closed Saturdays in June-September.

Discounts

(Discounts cannot be combined or retroactively applied.)

Member & Pre-Sale Bundle

Members receive a 10% discount on most performances for all season tickets purchased. Those who purchase a pre-sale bundle receive a 10% discount on their initial order only.

Student Discounts

Any full-time student is eligible to purchase tickets for events at a 10% discount as well as our limited deeply discounted “Student Deal” tickets for select events listed throughout this brochure.

Online • portlandovations.org

Tickets to individual shows may be purchased from our website at any time. Pre-sale bundle, student deals, and other discounts are not available online.

Group Discounts

A Portland Ovarions performance makes for a sensational outing at reduced rates for groups. For group sales contact PortTIX at 207.842.0800 or boxoffice@porttix.com.

Senior Discounts

Patrons over 65 are entitled to purchase tickets at a discounted rate for most performances.

PLEASE NOTE: Discounts cannot be applied to Kristin Chenoweth and the Family Series.

* Qualifying titles are *Rent, Once, Saturday Night Fever, Annie and Pippin*.



Our 2016-17 Venues

Portland Ovarions uses various venues to ensure the best possible experience for our patrons and the artists we bring. The five different and dynamic venues that you can experience as part of Portland Ovarions' 2016-17 season include:

Merrill Auditorium

A beautifully restored 1,900-seat performance venue, this majestic hall is one of the gems of Portland's downtown Arts District and is located at 20 Myrtle Street, near many excellent restaurants.

Hannaford Hall

A warm and welcoming performance space located at 88 Bedford Street on the USM Portland campus, Hannaford Hall is an intimate 520-seat venue with a 130-seat mezzanine. An attached 1,200-car parking garage makes accessing the performances convenient and hassle-free.

Westbrook Performing Arts Center

A truly state-of-the-art 1,000-seat theater that is located at 471 Stroudwater Street in Westbrook, just minutes from downtown Portland, and has free parking available.

State Theatre

The State Theatre is a historic 1,680 seat theater located at 609 Congress Street in downtown Portland, which features a combination of Moorish and Art Deco architecture.

Port City Music Hall

A live music venue with an intimate, club atmosphere located at 504 Congress Street in Portland's downtown arts district. All shows at Port City Music Hall are standing-room only with limited reserved seating complete with table service.

For directions and seating charts, visit portlandovations.org.

TO PURCHASE TICKETS CALL **PORTIX 207.842.0800**



About Us

Annually, Portland Ovations—a Maine-based, not-for-profit performing arts organization—brings innovative and masterful artists from around the world, including Maine, representing classical music, jazz, dance, theater, and Broadway and connects them to our community through both live performances and season-long educational and outreach programs, Ovations Offstage. 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 39)



Look for the O2 symbol throughout the brochure for performances that include Ovations Offstage activities. For more information, visit portlandovations.org/offstage or call us at 207.773.3150.

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School-Time Performance Series

Portland Ovations' School-Time Performance Series connects Maine students and educators with the performing arts in significant ways both on and offstage.

Tickets may be purchased by any public, private, or home school. To request a School-Time Performance brochure with more information about performances and related workshops, please contact Ovations Offstage:

207.773.3150 ext. 3
offstage@portlandovations.org

A wide range of resources for students and educators are available on our website: portlandovations.org/offstage

2016-2017 School-Time Performances

**“Brown Bear, Brown Bear and Other Treasured Stories”
by Eric Carle**

OCTOBER 14, 2016 • 10 AM

**Cirque Mechanics:
“Pedal Punk”**

OCTOBER 27, 2016 • 10 AM

“The New American”

NOVEMBER 8, 2016 • 10 AM & 12 PM

“The Secret Life of Bees”

DECEMBER 8, 2016 • 9:30 AM & 12 PM

**David Gonzalez’s
“Sleeping Beauty”**

MARCH 2, 2017 • 10 AM

Golden Dragon Acrobats

APRIL 6, 2017 • 10 AM

**Elephant & Piggie’s
“We Are in a Play!”**

MAY 8, 2017 • 10 AM





Corporate Sponsorship

Corporate Sponsorship at Portland Ovarions is available to all sizes and types of businesses, with a range of levels to fulfill your marketing goals and philanthropic commitments. Your business will grow community presence, visibility and reach a desired demographic, all while supporting one of Maine's most vibrant and active arts organizations. Other benefits include complimentary tickets, discounted tickets for employees, free advertising in our program book, on-site recognition and more.

For more information about sponsorship, please contact Anna Marie Klein-Christie at 207.773.3150 ext. 245, or anna@portlandovations.org.

We truly appreciate the support from all of our sponsors. Thank you.

Foundation Support & Funding Partners

Portland Ovarions is thankful for funding from local, regional and national foundations that support the presentation of artists and their work in our community including the National Endowment for the Arts, New England Foundation for the Arts, Elmina B. Sewall Foundation, Sam L. Cohen Foundation, Maine Arts Commission, Center for Cultural Exchange Foundation, Roy A. Hunt Foundation, Maine Humanities Council, Maine Community Foundation, National Performance Network, The Bob Crewe Foundation, Portland Education Foundation, Libra Foundation, Horizon Foundation, Rines/Thompson Fund, Margaret E. Burnham Foundation, Onion Foundation, Bank of America Foundation and TD Bank Foundation.

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See *"Become a Portland Ovarions Member,"* page 42.

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SEPTEMBER

**An Intimate Evening
with Kristin Chenoweth**
SEPTEMBER29,2016 • 7:30PM

OCTOBER

Red Baraat
OCTOBER 6, 2016 • 8 PM
**“Brown Bear, Brown Bear and
Other Treasured Stories by Eric Carle”**
OCTOBER 15, 2016 • 11 AM
BalletX
OCTOBER 20, 2016 • 7:30 PM
Cirque Mechanics: “Pedal Punk”
OCTOBER27,2016 • 7PM

NOVEMBER

“RENT” 20th Anniversary Tour
NOVEMBER 5, 2016 • 2 & 8 PM
A Far Cry featuring **David Krakauer**
NOVEMBER 15, 2016 • 7:30 PM
**Mike Daisey: “Khan and the Whale:
The Wrath of Moby Dick”**
NOVEMBER18,2016 • 8PM

DECEMBER

The LeeVeEs
DECEMBER18,2016 • 3 PM

JANUARY

The Jones Family Singers
JANUARY 20, 2017 • 8 PM
JCT Trio
JANUARY 22, 2017 • 4 PM
Vocalosity
JANUARY26,2017 • 7:30PM

FEBRUARY

Yuval Ron Ensemble featuring **Dervish Aziz**
FEBRUARY 4, 2017 • 8 PM
“Once”
FEBRUARY 8 & 9, 2017 • 7:30 PM
Handel & Haydn Society
FEBRUARY 11, 2017 • 3 PM
“Alan Cumming Sings Sappy Songs”
FEBRUARY18,2017 • 8PM

MARCH

Jenny Scheinman:
“Kannapolis: A Moving Portrait”
MARCH10,2017 • 8PM

MARCH

BodyTraffic
MARCH 18, 2017 • 8 PM
Philharmonia Quartett Berlin
MARCH 19, 2017 • 3 PM
Ms. Lisa Fischer & Grand Baton
MARCH 25, 2017 • 8 PM
“Saturday Night Fever”
MARCH31,2017 • 8PM

APRIL

Golden Dragon Acrobats
APRIL 6, 2017 • 7 PM
Ragamala Dance Company: “Sacred Earth”
APRIL 13, 2017 • 7:30 PM
Emanuel Ax
APRIL 15, 2017 • 3 PM
The Gloaming
APRIL 20, 2017 • 8 PM
“Annie”
APRIL27,2017 • 6PM

MAY

Elephant & Piggie’s “We Are in a Play!”
MAY 7, 2017 • 1 PM
“Pippin”
MAY13,2017 • 2&8PM



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