

PORTLAND OVATIONS



2018 | 2019

TICKETS: 207.842.0800
PORTLANDOVATIONS.ORG



Dear Friends,

I've been thinking a lot lately about space. First and foremost, the sacred space we create when we come together to experience live performance is at once intimate yet expansive, personal yet universal. Live performance is a ritual we all partake in and contribute to by our very presence. The artists we present regularly comment on the connection they feel with Ovation audiences and the impact that has on their performances.

I've also been thinking about space on a much more pragmatic level: What is the best venue for this particular project? Is it the right size? Does it afford the audience the best experience? And at its most practical: does it have the right technical specifications? As a presenting organization without our own "home," we carefully choose among Portland's many fine venues the one that best fits the artists we share.

During the 2018–19 season we travel the city, taking advantage of places both intimate and grand, new and old. We return to the Institute of Contemporary Art at MECA and to One Longfellow Square, where we put new twists on longstanding spaces. Port City Music Hall and Hannaford Hall continue to be our homes for global and chamber music. As ever, Merrill Auditorium is host to our most ambitious productions and this year offers the opportunity to experience Merrill in a completely new way, changing forever how we perceive one of Portland's oldest venues. With that, we return to the Aidiemaé oef Mcr.e Paetitnrgn sacred space, together.

Executive & Artistic Director

I invite you to join us in the places and spaces where Ovation, together with you, our cherished community, makes the magic of performance come alive.

Gratefully,

Board of Directors

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INSPIRE. CONNECT. ENTERTAIN.

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NOVEMBER 2, 2018
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TICKETS AVAILABLE:
MEMBERS MAY 30 • GENERAL PUBLIC JUNE 20

WATCH FOR
THESE SYMBOLS:





ICON — A Gala Benefit for Portland Ovation featuring Lady Rizo

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2018 • 5:30 PM
AURA, 121 CENTER STREET, PORTLAND

**“Hold onto your socks or Lady Rizo will
knock them off.”**

— EVENING STANDARD



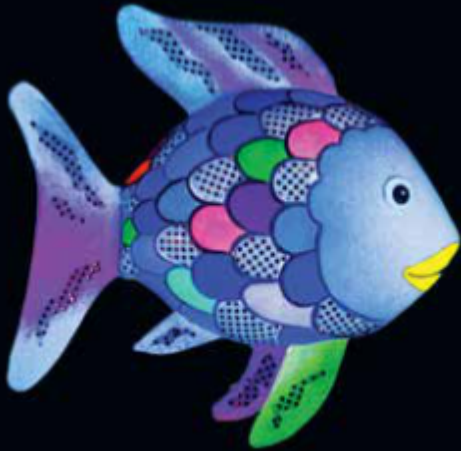
Join Portland Ovation as we welcome the incomparable Lady Rizo in her Maine debut, for a riotous evening of song and celebration supporting Ovation's artistic and education programs.

A provocateur with an electric wit, Grammy Award-winner Lady Rizo transforms cabaret standards and pop hits into soulful, contemporary musical experiences. Called a “formidable belter who can sustain phrases and notes even when sprawled on her back on a piano and scissoring her legs,” by *The New York Times*, Lady Rizo's repertoire stretches from Peggy Lee and Nina Simone to The Pixies and Bjork. Her signature mix of sophistication, brazen banter and luscious vocals leave audiences wanting more.

TICKETS ON SALE JULY 10

\$100–\$150

VIP Packages and Sponsorships available. Call 207.773.3150, ext. 8 for details.



Mermaid Theatre: “The Rainbow Fish”

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2018 • 11 AM
MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

“Simple, beautiful and thoroughly engrossing.”

— CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The Rainbow Fish will enchant even the youngest child with its silver scales and heart of gold in this new adaptation of Marcus Pfizer’s award-winning books about the beautiful fish who learned to share his most prized possession. All-stars of the Ovation Family Series, Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia returns with their latest striking puppetry production, which includes two delightful companion stories, *Rainbow Fish Discovers the Deep Sea* and *Opposites*. Recommended for ages 3-7.



PRICES START AT
\$15

MEMBERS
\$12



Inon Barnatan

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2018 • 2 PM

HANNAFORD HALL, USM CAMPUS, PORTLAND

“A true poet of the keyboard, refined, searching [and] unfailingly communicative.”

— EVENING STANDARD

“One of the most admired pianists of his generation” (*The New York Times*), Israeli native Inon Barnatan is in demand across the globe. Recipient of the Avery Fisher Career Grant, Barnatan is the very first Artist-in-Association of the New York Philharmonic, and the newly named music director of the La Jolla Music Society Summerfest. Barnatan’s superior playing and penetrating musicianship results in regular appearances with the world’s foremost orchestras and conductors, including Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, the Los Angeles Philharmonic under Gustavo Dudamel, and the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra. As *The Pianist* magazine confirms, “Barnatan is one of the finest musicians. You don’t notice his fingerwork, you simply immerse yourself in the sound he produces...and you know that there are no technical limits to what he can do.”

PRICES START AT

\$44

STUDENT DEAL

\$15

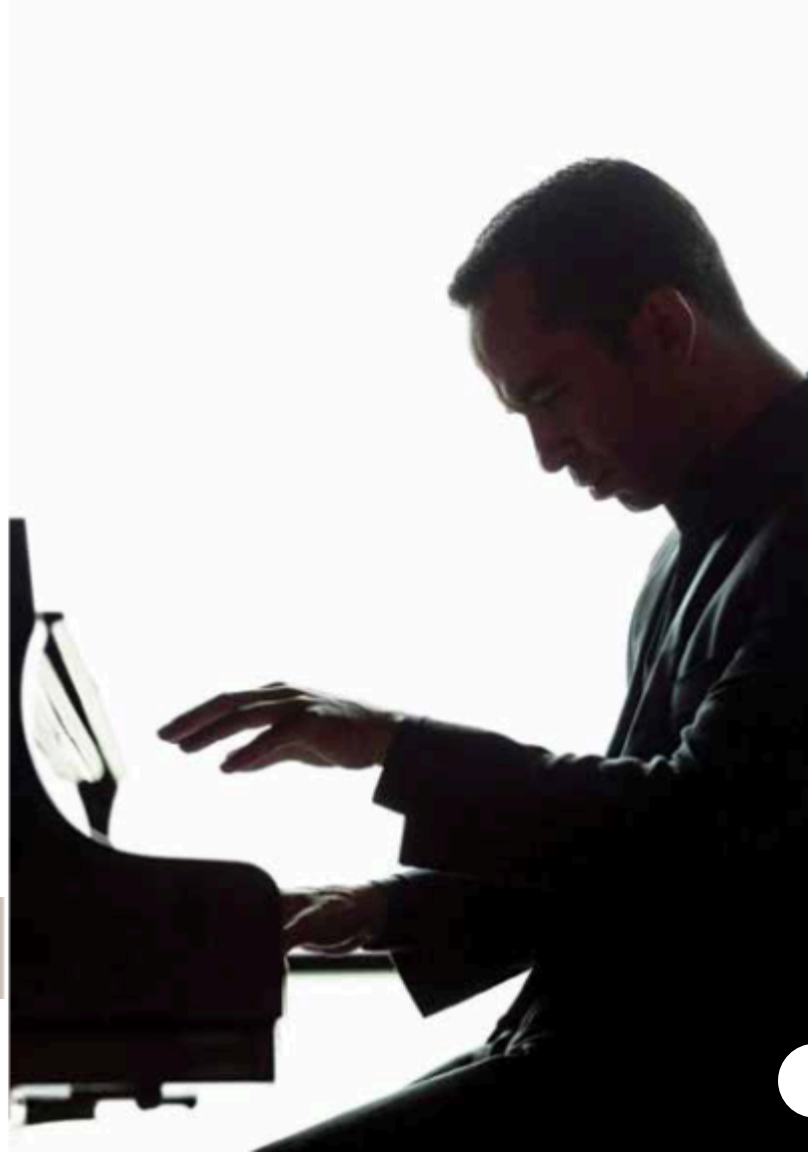
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MEDIA SPONSOR:



**"THE MOST REMARKABLE
BROADWAY EXPERIENCE EVER!"**

VOICE

ROCK AGES

TENTH ANNIVERSARY TOUR

BOOK BY **CHRIS D'ARIENZO**
ARRANGEMENTS AND ORCHESTRATIONS BY
ETHAN POPP

BROADWAY NATIONAL TOUR

"Rock of Ages"

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2018 • 8 PM

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2018 • 8 PM

MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

**"Absurdly enjoyable! About as guilty
as pleasures get!"**

— THE NEW YORK TIMES

Broadway's Best Party is turning up the volume to ten! The *Rock of Ages* Tenth Anniversary Tour is blazing across North America! Nominated for five Tony Awards*, including Best Musical, *Rock of Ages* captures the iconic era that was the big bad 1980s Hollywood. "Know What Love Is", "Feel the Noise", and "Take Your Best Shot" at one of the Sunset Strip's last epic venues, a place where the legendary Stacey Jaxx returns to the stage and rock-n-roll dreamers line up to turn their fantasies into reality. Featuring the music of hit bands such as Styx, Poison, Twisted Sister, and Whitesnake among many others, this epic Tenth Anniversary production features a dynamic new cast revisiting the larger-than-life characters and exhilarating story that turned *Rock of Ages* into a global phenomenon. This is one for the ages that will have you singing "Here I Go Again." *Adult content. May not be suited for young children.*

PRICES START AT

\$70•55•45 \$

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



SPONSORED BY:



MEDIA SPONSOR:



Nicole Wolcott & Larry Keigwin: “Places Please!”

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2018 • 8 PM

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2018 • 8 PM

ONE LONGFELLOW SQUARE, PORTLAND

**“A sophisticated treat for savvy dance fans
and newcomers alike.”**

— SANTA BARBARA INDEPENDENT

In this intimate new production, award-winning dancers Nicole Wolcott and Larry Keigwin invite audiences behind the scenes to experience the anxiety and playfulness inherent in the life of a performer. Co-founders of the celebrated Keigwin + Company — who perform around the world at venerated venues including the Kennedy Center, the Joyce Theater and the Guggenheim — Keigwin and Wolcott draw on decades of collaboration to create this provocative cabaret brimming with satire, personal anecdotes, quick-witted physical comedy, and moments of deep pathos, all centered around their desire to “belong” in the creative world. Special guests from Maine’s own dance scene to be announced.

PRICES START AT

\$36

STUDENT DEAL

\$15

Members save
10% off full-
priced tickets.



SUPPORTED BY:



Discover your inner elf.



The Broadway Musical



BROADWAY NATIONAL TOUR “Elf The Broadway Musical”

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2018 • 8 PM
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2018 • 1 & 7 PM
MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

“Elf is happy enough for families, savvy enough for city kids and plenty smart for adults!”

— VARIETY

Elf The Broadway Musical is the hilarious tale of Buddy, a young orphan child who mistakenly crawls into Santa’s bag of gifts and is transported back to the North Pole. Unaware that he is actually human, Buddy’s enormous size and poor toy-making abilities cause him to face the truth. With Santa’s permission, Buddy embarks on a journey to New York City to find his birth father, discover his true identity, and help New York remember the true meaning of Christmas. This modern day Christmas classic is sure to make everyone embrace their inner *Elf*.

Based on the beloved 2003 New Line Cinema hit, *Elf* features songsby

Tony Award nominees Matthew Sklar and Chad Beguelin (*The Wedding Singer*), with a book by Tony Award winners Thomas Meehan (*Annie*, *The Producers*, *Hairspray*) and Bob Martin (*The Drowsy Chaperone*).

PRICES START AT
\$70 • \$55 • \$45

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



SPONSORED BY:

Puelle Design.



MEDIA SPONSOR:



Vienna Boys Choir: “Christmas in Vienna”

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2018 • 7:30 PM

MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

“A superb musical ensemble...[with] clarion sound.”

— SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER

Audiences and critics worldwide praise the talented singers of the Vienna Boys Choir for their celestial voices, pure tone, and irresistible charm. “Bright, light voices through the centuries” (*The New York Times*), the Choir has been a cultural institution for more than 500 years. Today, the Vienna Boys Choir performs annually for nearly half a million people, visiting virtually all European countries, and are frequent guests in Asia, Australia, and the Americas. In their first appearance with Ovation in 20 years, the choir performs *Christmas in Vienna*, a program to usher in the wonder and magic of the holiday season.

PRICES START AT

\$50 • 45 • 35 \$

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



SPONSORED BY:



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Dover Quartet

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2018 • 7:30 PM
HANNAFORD HALL, USM CAMPUS, PORTLAND

“Lovers of chamber music should put the Dover Quartet on their to-hear list.”

— THE WASHINGTON POST

The Dover Quartet catapulted to international stardom following a stunning sweep of the 2013 Banff Competition, where they were lauded for their “exceptional level of maturity, poise and artistry.” Other achievements quickly amassed in their “practically meteoric” ascent (*Strings*) include winning the Cleveland Quartet Award as well as the coveted Avery Fisher Career Grant. Formed at the Curtis Institute of Music only a decade ago, the quartet has built up an enviable résumé and reputation through rigorous touring: more than 100 concerts around North America and Europe in the last year alone. Collaborations with superlative artists like Marc-André Hamelin, Peter Serkin, and the Escher Quartet cement Dover’s place as “the young American string quartet of the moment” (*The New Yorker*). Program to include works by Tchaikovsky, Mason Bates and Antonin Dvořák.
Program subject to change.

PRICES START AT
\$44

STUDENT DEAL
\$15

Members save
10% off full-
priced tickets.



MEDIA SPONSOR:



Alsarah & the Nubatones

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 2019 • 8 PM

PORT CITY MUSIC HALL, PORTLAND

“Deep rhythms, fluttering vocals and serious grooves.”

— NPR

“The new princess of Nubian pop” (*The Guardian*), Alsarah first graced Ovation’s series in 2015 as part of the pan-African music extravaganza, the Nile Project. In 2019, the stunning Sudanese-born singer, songwriter, bandleader and ethnomusicologist returns with her band, the Nubatones. With percussionist Rami El-Aasser, bassist Mawuena Kodjovi, oudist Brandon Terzic, and her sister Nahid on backing vocals, their music “pulses, breathes, and comes alive with a mix of tradition and contemporary influences” (*NPR*). Together, they’ve brought their alluring brand of East African Retro Pop to prestigious festivals and stages around the world, most recently 2018’s SXSW, where they were named to *NPR*’s “Austin 100.”

PRICES START AT

\$45 VIPS seating • \$35 GA seating • \$25 Standing

Members save
10% off full-
priced tickets.



SPONSORED BY:



SUPPORTED BY:



The Orlando Consort: “Voices Appeared”

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 2019 • 7:30 PM
HANNAFORD HALL, USM CAMPUS, PORTLAND

“This is an exceptional achievement that reminds us just how potent the combination of silent film and live music can be.”

— THE GUARDIAN

Voices Appeared is a live multimedia performance and historical reconstruction of Carl Theodor Dreyer’s 1928 film *La Passion de Jeanne d’Arc*. Curated and performed by the UK’s celebrated Orlando Consort, the project uses vocal works from the early part of the 15th century — coinciding with Joan of Arc’s lifetime — to accompany the classic silent film. Cited as “simultaneously ravishing and reverential” by the *Los Angeles Times* and “enthraling” by *The London Evening Standard*, the Orlando Consort is one of Europe’s most expert groups performing early music, successfully combining captivating entertainment with fresh scholarly insight. The unique imagination and originality of their programming, together with their superb vocal skills, establishes the Consort as outstanding leaders of their field.

PRICES START AT
\$44

STUDENT DEAL
\$15

Members save
10% off full-
priced tickets.



MEDIA SPONSOR:



Voctave

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2019 • 7 PM

MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

“Giving us something to swoon about.”

— USA TODAY

Sophisticated arrangements marked by impeccable harmonies set this 11-member ensemble apart from the a cappella field. Group members honed their vocal chops as part of Disney World’s famed a cappella group, Voices of Liberty, while performing all over the globe and on countless recordings. And the world has taken notice of their musical pyrotechnics — their videos routinely go viral, racking up more than 100 million hits on Youtube and Facebook, while several of their songs have reached #1 on iTunes, Amazon and Spotify. Bask in the glow of their luminous sound as they make their Maine debut on the Merrill stage with their infectious program, “The Corner of Broadway and Main Street,” featuring all your favorite hits from Disney and the Great White Way.

PRICES START AT

\$40 • 30

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





California Guitar Trio & Montreal Guitar Trio

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2019 • 7:30 PM
HANNAFORD HALL, USM CAMPUS, PORTLAND

“...the [California Guitar Trio] show that they’ve only gotten richer with age.”

— ALL ABOUT JAZZ

“MG3 are virtuosos with no apparent limitations to what they can summon from their instruments.”

— CALGARY HERALD

Featuring all six virtuoso guitarists from California Guitar Trio (CGT) and Montreal Guitar Trio (MG3), the musicianship on stage fuses over 40 years of combined performing experience into one unique “phenomensemble.” The bright tones of CGT’s steel strings blend effortlessly with MG3’s mellow nylon-stringed sound, as the trios masterfully come together on each other’s original compositions and new arrangements of progressive rock, world, jazz and classical music. Inspired by a 2010 impromptu studio session in Montreal, the trios continue to tour together from the Iridium in New York City, to Montreal Jazz Festival, to Napa Valley Opera House.

PRICES START AT
\$40

STUDENT DEAL
\$15

Members save
10% off full-
priced tickets.



SPONSORED BY:

PretiFlaherty

BROADWAY NATIONAL TOUR

“Legally Blonde: The Musical”

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2019 • 7:30 PM

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2019 • 7:30 PM

MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

“A high-energy...hymn to the glories of girliness.”

— THE NEW YORK TIMES

Fabulously fun and international award-winning *Legally Blonde — The Musical* is the ultimate Broadway tribute to Girl Power! Based on the beloved movie, the story follows the transformation of Elle Woods as she tackles stereotypes, sexism, snobbery and scandal in pursuit of her dreams, and proves that you can be legally blonde and *still* be the smartest person in the room. This contemporary, sassy musical moves at a breakneck pace driven by memorable songs and explosive dances. *Legally Blonde — The Musical* warms the heart by proving that self-discovery can be way too much fun and hilarious to boot.

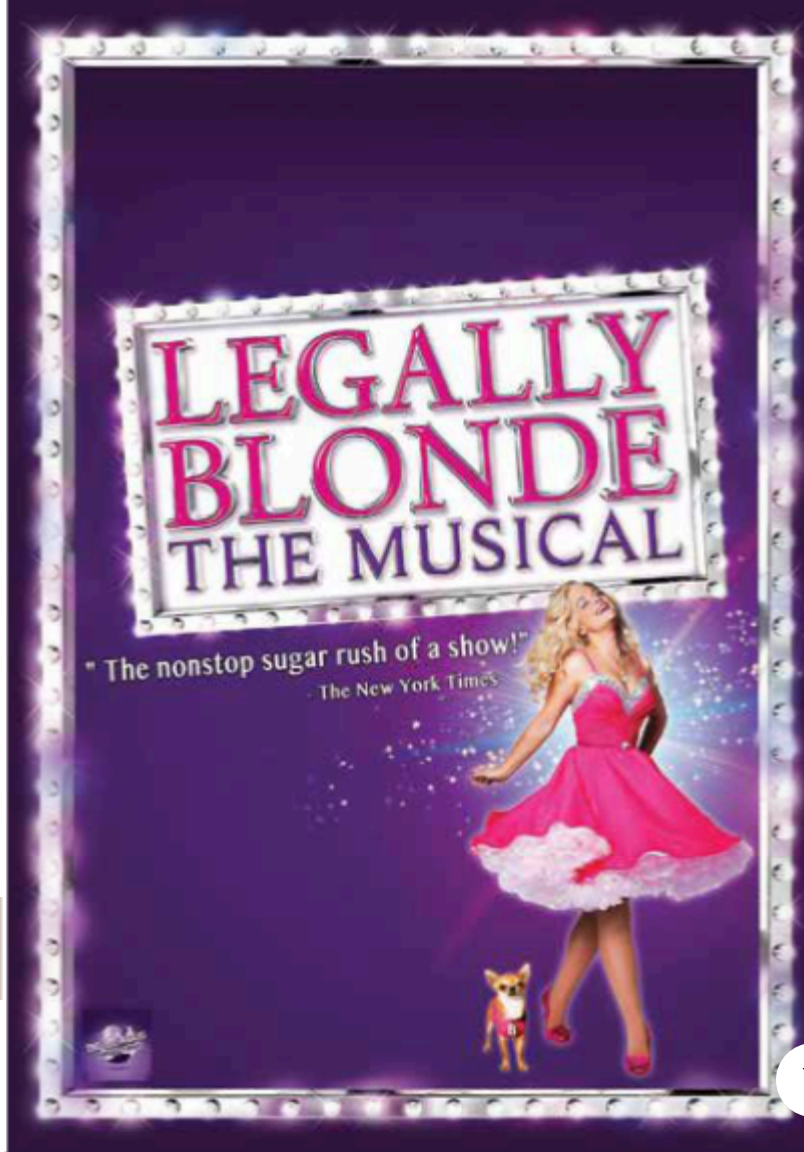
PRICES START AT

\$70•55•45 \$

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



MEDIA SPONSOR:





American Contemporary Music Ensemble: “Strumming Music”

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2019 • 7:30 PM

ICA AT MAINE COLLEGE OF ART, PORTLAND

Presented in collaboration with Institute of Contemporary ART at MECA.

“Such soul, passion, and excellent command.”

—NPR

Described as “vital,” “brilliant,” and “electrifying,” by *The New York Times*, the American Contemporary Music Ensemble (ACME) is a force for new music, dedicated to the outstanding performance of masterworks from the 20th and 21st centuries. The ensemble’s instrumentation is flexible, and includes some of today’s most sought-after composer-musicians such as pianist Timo Andres and Pulitzer-Prize winner Caroline Shaw. From Carnegie Hall to Le Poisson Rouge, their eclectic appeal opens doors to a broad range of the world’s leading venues. For this very special project — sited within and responsive to a contemporary illustration exhibit — audience members are immersed in thrilling music by noted composers Charlemagne Palestine, Philip Glass, Clarice Jensen and Morton Feldman.

PRICES START AT
\$36

STUDENT DEAL
\$15

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10% off full-
priced tickets.



SUPPORTED BY:



MEDIA SPONSOR:



BROADWAY NATIONAL TOUR

“The Sound of Music”

FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2019 • 7 PM

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2019 • 12:30 & 6:30 PM

MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

“The Sound of Music **delivers on its legacy of enchanting each new generation.**”

— THE PATRIOT LEDGER

The hills are alive! A brand new production of *The Sound of Music* is coming to Merrill Auditorium. The beloved musical story of Maria and the von Trapp Family will once again thrill audiences with its Tony[®]-, Grammy[®]-, and Academy Award[®]-winning Best Score, including “My Favorite Things,” “Edelweiss,” and the title song. *The Sound of Music* enjoyed extraordinary success as a live television production when “The Sound of Music Live!” aired on NBC in December 2013, and was seen by over 44 million people. 2015 marked the 50th anniversary of the film version, which continues to be the most successful movie musical in history.

PRICES START AT

\$70•\$55•45 \$

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



SPONSORED BY:



MEDIA SPONSOR:



“SPARKLING, FRESH AND LIVELY.”
MUSIC - A LoLs SA nOge Fles A Tlimes TIME

- The Stage, London

RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S
The
Sound of
Music
Book By
Lindsay
& Crouse

DATES

BROADWAY



Ranky Tanky

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2019 • 8 PM
PORT CITY MUSIC HALL, PORTLAND

“Ranky Tanky proved that exotic music can be both unfamiliar enough to be surprising, and yet familiar enough to provoke swinging hips and nodding heads...it’s the best of both worlds.”

— PASTE MAGAZINE

From playful game songs to ecstatic shouts, from heartbreaking spirituals to delicate lullabies, “[Ranky Tanky] proves that the right musicians can make the past new all over again” (*NPR*). Trumpeter Charlton Singleton, guitarist Clay Ross, bassist Kevin Hamilton, drummer Quentin Baxter, and vocalist Quiana Parler mix the low country traditions with large doses of jazz, gospel, funk, and R&B. The Charleston quintet is exploding onto the music scene with their inspired take on the soulful songs born from Gullah traditions of the Southeastern US’s Sea Islands.

“Gullah” comes from West African language and means “a people blessed by God;” while “Ranky Tanky” translates loosely as “Work It.” And work it they have — following a standout performance at the 2017 GlobalFest, their eponymous debut album soared to the top of the Billboard, iTunes, and Amazon Jazz charts.

PRICES START AT

\$45 V.I.P. Seating, \$35 General Seating, \$25 Standing

Members save
10% off full-
priced tickets.



SPONSORED BY:

PretiFlaherty

SUPPORTED BY:

Center for
Cultural
Exchange
Foundation

Niyaz

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2019 • 8 PM

PORT CITY MUSIC HALL, PORTLAND

Co-presented with Port City Music Hall.

“An evolutionary force in contemporary Middle Eastern music.”

— HUFFINGTON POST

Captivating and ethereal, Niyaz takes folkloric sounds and poetry from their native Iran and modernizes them through contemporary technologies and ideas to create a 21st century global trance tradition that is hypnotic and ecstatic. Led by frontwoman Azam Ali’s “rich and precise voice” (*NPR Music*), Niyaz’s masterful blend of lush acoustic instrumentation with state-of-the-art electronica draws in fans of Middle Eastern, sacred, and alternative music. Four best-selling, critically acclaimed albums are testament to their broad appeal, which is further bolstered by their commitment to creating music that tears down cultural boundaries, connects our past to our present, and unites people through our shared humanity.

PRICES START AT

\$45 VIP Seating • \$35 GA Seating • \$25 Standing

Members save
10% off full-
priced tickets.



SPONSORED BY:



SUPPORTED BY:



600 HIGHWAYMEN: “The Fever”

FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2019 • 8 PM

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2019 • 2 & 8 PM

MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

“I wish to hear anything that
600 HIGHWAYMEN has to say.”

— THE NEW YORKER

“One of New York’s best nontraditional companies” (*The New Yorker*) 600 HIGHWAYMEN makes performances that offer a new way of seeing. Exploring a radical approach to making live art, the company constructs events that create intimacy among a group of strangers. Their latest work, *The Fever* tests the limits of individual and collective responsibility, and our willingness to be there for one another. Performed in complete collaboration with attendees, *The Fever* explores “the age-old relationship between performer and audience with an intensity and focus that is quite unlike anything I ever have seen” (*Chicago Tribune*).
Extremely limited capacity.

PRICES START AT
\$36

Members save 10% off
full-priced tickets.



SUPPORTED BY:



Dreamers' Circus

THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2019 • 7:30 PM
HANNAFORD HALL, USM CAMPUS, PORTLAND

“The watchword here is ‘expansive,’ for the trio crafts remarkably open vistas from humble means...”

— ROOTSWORLD

A chance jam session at a 2009 folk festival in Copenhagen led to the creation of the adventurous and talented Dreamers' Circus. Featuring Rune Tonsgaard Sørensen, violinist for the Danish String Quartet (a frequent collaborator), along with Nikolaj Busk on piano and accordion, and Ale Carr on Nordic cittern, this young trio is a driving force in

Nordic world music. With a repertoire that includes songs from Denmark and Sweden — as well as Iceland and the far reaches of the Faroe Islands and Greenland — the ensemble draws inspiration from the deep traditions of folk music in the region, reshaping them into something bright, shiny and new. Winners of five prestigious Danish Music Awards, they've performed with the Copenhagen Philharmonic and the BBC Scottish Orchestra, while touring throughout Europe and beyond. Their Ovarions' debut is part of their first-ever American tour.

PRICES START AT
\$40

STUDENT DEAL
\$15

Members save
10% off full-
priced tickets.



SUPPORTED BY:





Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo

FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2019 • 8 PM
MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

“The amalgam of ballerina finesse and daft diva antics is brilliant, unsettling, riveting — the epitome of Trocks style!”

— THE NEW YORK TIMES

Drag meets dance when “the Trocks” take the stage. For over 40 years, Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo have turned the dance world on its head with their (mostly) faithful renditions of classical ballet repertoire. “A company of men who dance on pointe with as much panache and style as any prima ballerina” (*Pointe Magazine*), the Trocks have delighted and amazed audiences in over 34 countries and 600 cities since their modest beginnings in an “off-off Broadway” loft. While *Odette* may be a bit burly and *Giselle* may need a shave, the technique is immaculate and the comic timing is impeccable.

PRICES START AT
\$55 • \$45 • \$35

STUDENT DEAL
\$15

Members save
10% off full-
priced tickets.



SPONSORED BY:



SUPPORTED BY:



“Air Play”

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2019 • 7 PM

MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

Presented at a special family-friendly time.

“A performance where your inner child is embraced and allowed to run free for an hour.”

— THE OXFORD TIMES

“A joy from start to finish” (*Sydney Morning Herald*), *Air Play* reveals the adventure of two siblings journeying through a surreal land of air, transforming the ordinary into objects of uncommon beauty. Circus and science collide as fabrics dance in the wind, balloons have a mind of their own, confetti turns into the night sky, and an enormous canopy of hovering silk brings to life the very air we breathe. The creation of Acrobuffos, the husband and wife team of Seth Bloom and Christina Gelsone, *Air Play* merges their circus and street theater performance art with the sculptural artistry of Daniel Wurtzel. Wordless yet wonder-ful, *Air Plays* universal magic enchants audiences of all ages across the globe from China to Chile, the Netherlands to New York.

PRICES START AT

\$40 • 35 • 25 \$

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



SPONSORED BY:

Gorham
SAVINGS BANK





Alexi Kenney with Renana Gutman

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2019 • 2 PM

HANNAFORD HALL, USM CAMPUS, PORTLAND

“Acutely musical and technically unassailable.”

— THE NEW YORK TIMES

The recipient of a 2016 Avery Fisher Career Grant, violinist Alexi Kenney is hailed as “a talent to watch” by *The New York Times*, which also noted his “architect’s eye for structure and space and a tone that ranges from the achingly fragile to full-bodied robustness.” His win at the 2013 Concert Artists Guild Competition at 19 years old led to a critically acclaimed Carnegie Hall debut. His reputation continues to grow through lauded appearances with symphonies across the country, including Detroit, Columbus, California, Santa Fe, and the Las Vegas Philharmonic, as well as recitals at the Kennedy Center and the Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts. Kenney is joined by pianist Renana Gutman, who’s blazed a trail across four continents with her “passionate and insightful playing” (*The New York Times*).

PRICES START AT
\$44

STUDENT DEAL
\$15

Members save
10% off full-
priced tickets.



MEDIA SPONSOR:



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2019 • 7:30 PM

MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

“The texture of their dancing is powerful and juicy, brilliant in speed and marvelous in slowness. You feel as if you’ve always known them.”

— THE NEW YORK TIMES

A company of dancers boasting a “nonchalant virtuosity” that “routinely sends its audience into the rapture zone” (*The Washington Post*). Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater’s (AAADT) diverse, dynamic and timeless repertory evokes a broad range of human emotion and experience: you don’t just see an Ailey performance — you *feel* it. Is it any wonder that after six decades AAADT is “synonymous with contemporary American dance” (*The Toronto Star*)? As part of their 60th Anniversary Tour, the iconic company makes their long-anticipated return to Ovation in a program that promises to be “change-your-life good” (*The Today Show*).

PRICES START AT

\$75 • \$55 • \$35

STUDENT DEAL

\$20

Members save
10% off full-
priced tickets.



SPONSORED BY:

**THE DOWNEAST GROUP AT
Morgan Stanley**





“Me...Jane: The Dreams & Adventures of Young Jane Goodall”

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2019 • 11 AM
MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

“Fantastically entertaining. Me...Jane is a teaching moment for adults, an encouraging story for kids, and a heartening tale of the potential locked within us all, for everyone in between.”

— DC METRO THEATER ARTS

Based on Patrick McDonnell's Caldecott Award-winning book, this brand new musical from the Kennedy Center explores the world of young Jane Goodall and her childhood adventures in the outdoors. With her faithful companion — toy chimpanzee Jubilee — Jane learns all about the miracles of nature around her, inspiring her to spend the rest of her life living with and helping animals. With anecdotes taken directly from the famed primatologist's autobiography, this adaptation makes this very true story accessible for the young — and young at heart. *Recommended for ages 6+.*

PRICES START AT
\$15

MEMBERS
\$12



SPONSORED BY:

IDEXX

BROADWAY NATIONAL TOUR

“Finding Neverland”

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2019 • 8 PM

THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2019 • 8 PM

MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

“Far and away the best musical of the year!”

—NPR

The winner of Broadway.com’s Audience Choice Award for Best Musical, this breathtaking smash “captures the kid-at-heart,” says *Time* magazine. *Vogue* cheers, “It’s a must-see you’ll remember for years to come!” Directed by visionary Tony® winner Diane Paulus and based on the critically-acclaimed Academy Award®-winning film, *Finding Neverland* tells the incredible story behind one of the world’s most beloved characters: Peter Pan. Playwright J.M. Barrie struggles to find inspiration until he meets four young brothers and their beautiful widowed mother. Spellbound by the boys’ enchanting make-believe adventures, he sets out to write a play that will astound London theatergoers. With a little bit of pixie dust and a lot of faith, Barrie takes this monumental leap, leaving his old world behind for Neverland, where nothing is impossible and the wonder of childhood lasts forever. The magic of Barrie’s classic tale springs spectacularly to life in this heartwarming theatrical event.

PRICES START AT

\$70•55•45 \$

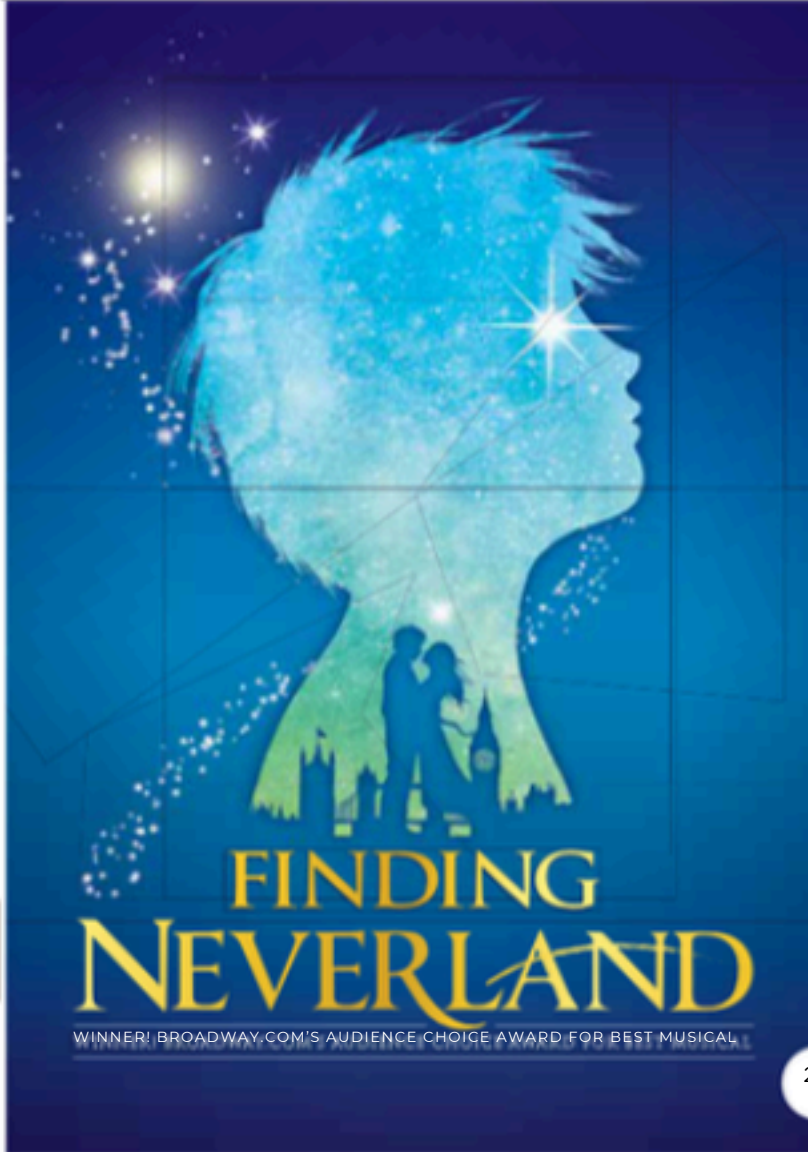
Members save **10%** off full-priced tickets.



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FINDING NEVERLAND

WINNER! BROADWAY.COM'S AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD FOR BEST MUSICAL


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Informative. Entertaining. Awe-inspiring. Visually stunning. National Geographic is synonymous with excellence in photojournalism and adventure, opening up new worlds, insights and perspectives to generations. For over 130 years, it has harnessed the power of science, exploration and storytelling to change the world, bringing us closer to the stories that matter. *National Geographic Live's* highly acclaimed and dynamic series takes to the stage with the world's foremost scientists, explorers, authors, photographers, and filmmakers, creating through stories and images long-lasting connections with audiences. Come explore with us!

INDIVIDUAL PRICING

\$40 • 35

BUY ALL 3

\$99 Includes all fees

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



Image © ROBBIE SHONE
Mark Synnott Portrait © JARED OGDEN

“Life on the Vertical”**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2018 • 7 PM**

MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND



Mark Synnott is a man ever on the brink of new discovery. A big wall rock-climber of the highest order, he's made legendary first ascents of some of the world's tallest, most forbidding walls, from Baffin Island to Pakistan. Today, he uses his skills to break scientific ground, reaching incredibly inaccessible environments in search of rare species. It's all in the spirit of adventure and exploration in order to educate about these sites of strange, remote beauty.

SPONSORED BY:





“Stranger in a Strange Land”

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 2019 • 7 PM
MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND



Join veteran National Geographic photographer Jodi Cobb on a whirlwind retrospective of a distinguished career spanning four decades. Known for breaking through barriers and going undercover to reveal hidden societies, Cobb captures fascinating glimpses of worlds such as Japan’s secret Geisha culture and the cloistered lives of Saudi Arabian women. Her landmark story “21st Century Slavery” exposed a wide range of human trafficking, generating more reader accolades than any other story up to that point in the Geographic’s 130-year history. Travel with this inspiring woman as she chronicles her public — and private — path from young photojournalist to world-renowned photographer.



“Wild Seas, Secret Shores”

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2019 • 7 PM
MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND



To Thomas Peschak, sharks aren’t a reason to get out of the water. They’re a reason to get in. Following his lifelong obsession, he’s found himself paddling kayaks alongside great white sharks in South Africa, swimming among hundreds of one-ton manta rays in the Maldives, and keeping pace with massive whale sharks in the Arabian Sea. In this presentation, the marine biologist-turned-National Geographic photographer takes audiences around the world with his award-winning images and his engaging take on the ocean’s most charismatic creatures.

BUY YOUR TICKETS

Packages: Buy More and Save!

Portland Ovations offers many different packages that allow you to save on ticket purchases:

CHOOSE 4 PACKAGE

A Choose 4 Package consists of purchasing four or more qualifying performances in one transaction during the season. By buying a Choose 4 Package, you can enjoy a 10% discount off your purchase.

CLASSICAL SERIES PACKAGE

A Classical Series Package consists of purchasing four or more qualifying classical performances in one transaction during the season. By buying a Classical Series Package, you can enjoy a 10% discount off your purchase of classical performances.

BROADWAY PACKAGE

Buy tickets to four or more titles within our Broadway and Beyond Series in one transaction during the season and save 15% on those Broadway tickets.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PACKAGE

Buy all 3 National Geographic Live performances for the discounted price of \$99 (fees included). This package can only be purchased up until the first performance date of Friday, November 2, 2018.

If you have questions about buying packages please contact PortTIX at 207.842.0800. Packages are available through all modes of sale. **Package tickets are not exchangeable or refundable. Discounts cannot be combined or retroactively applied.**

Exchanges

Ticket exchanges are available to Portland Ovations 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.

IN ORDER TO ORDER

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. By phone, PortTIX is available Monday through Saturday, 12 pm to 6 pm. Closed Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. Tickets to our performances may be purchased from our website at any time. Some discounts may not be available online.

Discounts

Discounts cannot be combined or retroactively applied.

MEMBERS

Members receive a 10% discount on most performances for all season tickets, unless otherwise noted. Some student is eligible to purchase tickets for most events at a 10% discount, as well as our limited deeply discounted "Student Deal" tickets for select events listed throughout this brochure.

Student Deal tickets are available over the phone and in person only.

Group Sales and Ovations performance makes for a sensational outing at reduced rates for groups. For group sales contact PortTIX at 207.842.0800, ext. 223, or groups@porttix.com.

S

Senior and Senior Over 65 are entitled to a 10% discount on most performances.

Ticketing Fees

Single Tickets: 7 fee per ticket phone, mail and online.

Groups: \$4 fee per ticket for reservations and phone sales.

Family & Student Deal Tickets: \$3 fee per ticket, phone, mail and online.

Packages: \$3 fee per ticket phone, mail and online.

Members: \$3 fee per ticket phone, mail and online.

Ticket prices subject to change.



Portland Ovations is committed to providing accessible facilities and programs. For information about accessibility services, please contact PortTIX, the box office at Merrill Auditorium.



PHOTO CREDITS

COVER • ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER | Andrew Eccles **AIMÉE PETRIN** | Sarah Prak

LADY RIZO | Kevin Kauer (left) & Shervin Lainez (right) **VIENNA BOYS CHOIR** Lukas Beck **DOVER**

QUARTET | Carlin Ma **ALSARAH & THE NUBATONES** | Nousha Salimi **MONTREAL GUITAR TRIO** | Nancy

Angermeyer **ACME** | Ryuhei Shindo **RANKY TANKY** | Reese Moore **NIYAZ** | Fourth Light

Maria Baranova **DREAMERS' CIRCUS** | Roskilde **LES BALLETS TROCKADERO DES MONTE CARLO** | Marcello

Orselli **"AIR PLAY"** | Florence Montmare **ALEXI KINNEY** | Yang Bao **RENANA GUTMAN** | Carlin Ma **ALVIN**

AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER | Paul Kolnik **ME...JANE** | Teresa Wood **NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE!**

Jodi Cobb (Pg. 30 Top Left Pg. 31 Top Left), Robbie Shore (Pg. 30 Top Right), Jared Ogden Mark Synott

Portrait), Rebecca Hale (Jodi Cobb Portrait), Thomas Peschak (Pg. 31 Top Right, Self Portrait) **OUR VENUES** | visit portlandovations.org.

Bethany Roberge **STAFF PORTRAITS** | Sarah Prak **SARAH PRAK** | Sean Sullivan Thomas **BACK COVER** |

Sascha Vaughan (Les Ballets Trockadero des Monte Carlo) | Carlos Ramirez (AlSarah & the Nubatones) |

Matthew Murphy (Sound of Music)

2018–19 Venues

Portland Ovations uses various venues to ensure the best possible experience for our patrons and the artists we bring. The five different and dynamic venues that feature Portland Ovations' 2018–19 season include:

MERRILL AUDITORIUM

A beautifully restored 1900-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 130-seat mezzanine. An attached 1200-car parking garage makes

accessing the performances convenient and hassle-free.

ONE LONGFELLOW SQUARE

One Longfellow Square is a 175-seat venue offering a warm and intimate atmosphere located in

PORT CITY MUSIC HALL

A live music venue located in the heart of Portland's downtown Arts District at 504 Congress Street. An intimate, club atmosphere lends itself to a variety of patron

experiences, ranging from VIP seating with table service, to general admission floor seating (ideal for dancing). All seated sections are on a first-come, first-serve basis.

INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART

The Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) is comprised of stunning galleries located in the landmark Porteous Building of the Maine College of Art at 522 Congress Street in downtown Portland.

TO PURCHASE TICKETS CALL **PORTTIX 207.842.0800**

About Us

Portland Ovarations is a Maine-based, not-for-profit performing arts organization curating seasons of innovative performances and masterful artists from classical music, dance, theater, global influences and Broadway. Transcending the boundaries of the stage, we connect artists to our community through Ovarations Offstage, our season-long educational and outreach programs. Now in our 88th year, our ever-evolving commitment to uniting our community to the experience of live performance leaves a lasting impression on audiences and inspires the next generation of arts makers and aficionados.

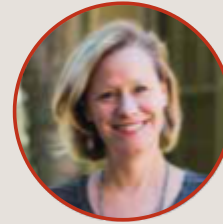
Vision Statement

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

Mission

Portland Ovarations 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.

PRINTED IN MAINE



AIMÉE M. PETRIN
Executive & Artistic
Director



CATHERINE ANDERSON
Director of
Ovarations Offstage



REBECCA BASS
Ovarations Offstage
Associate



MARY C. CAMPBELL
Membership Director



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CHARLES KIBORT
Director of Marketing &
Audience Development



SAMANTHA LAMBERT
Administrative Assistant



LIZ PETTENGILL
Marketing Associate



LAURA A. STAUFFER
Programming &
Grants Manager

Ovations Offstage

Integral to Portland Ovations' live performances is our vibrant, community-based arts education and outreach, Ovations Offstage (O2). O2 delivers dynamic activities that integrate the performing arts into everyday community and promotes enjoyment of the arts for all. Some of the many ways this happens all year long include:

- Pre-performance lectures
- In-school artists workshops
- Masterclasses with visiting artists
- Unexpected "art happenings"
- Community discussions
- Film screenings
- Post-performance Q & A's
- Public sound checks
- Meet-the-Artist events
- Literary-based arts activities
- Performance-themed birthday parties
- Book circles and dialogues
- School-Time Performances



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.

Thank you to our School-Time Performance Series sponsors & funders



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

2018–2019 School-Time Performances

“The Rainbow Fish”

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2018 • 10 AM

“Beautiful Blackbird”:

An Adaptation of the Story by Ashley Bryan
 THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2018 • 10 AM

“Sweet Potato Pie and Such”

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2019
 10 AM & 12 PM

Living Voices:

“The Right to Dream”

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2019
 10 AM & 12 PM

“Call of the Wild:

Mattie and the Dog
 THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2019 • 10 AM

“Wild Seas, Secret Shores”

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2019 • 10 AM

“Air Play”

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2019 • 10 AM

“Me...Jane: The Dreams & Adventures of Young Jane Goodall”

FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2019 • 10 AM

TO PURCHASE TICKETS CALL **PORTTIX 207.842.0800**



LES BALLETS TROCKADERO DE MONTE CARLO



ALSARAH AND THE NUBATONES



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