



PORTLAND
OVATIONS

2024 | 2025



PORTIX: 207.842.0800
PORTLANDOVATIONS.ORG



Dear Friends,

We are thrilled to welcome you to Ovation's 94th season. And, oh, what a season it is!

Join us in welcoming dancers, musicians, storytellers, choreographers, puppeteers, acrobats, performers and composers coming from Benin, Ukraine, Guinea, plus artists from across the U.S. with familial ties to Haiti, Eastern Europe, Mexico and Latin America, and the Arab world.

Together we'll share in the cultural traditions, artistic expressions, beauty and contemplation that can only be found when we gather together to experience the power of live performance.

From the classics to the classical, the traditional to the boldly contemporary, solo performance to large-scale productions, celebrated artists to brave new voices, there is truly something for everyone; including five Broadway titles, three dance performances, seven shows especially for the young (and the young at heart), nine concerts across chamber, pop, global and jazz, and several performances that defy categorization.

With thirty-six performances across at least nine venues in and around Portland, alongside myriad Ovation's Offstage activities that deepen connections with the many artists, themes and performances ahead of us—Ovation's is everywhere.

Thank you to the many corporate sponsors, foundations, community partners and Ovation's Members that make seasons like this as dynamic and wide-ranging as possible.

We look forward to seeing you again and again this season.

With gratitude,

Aimée M. Petrin
Executive & Artistic Director

SEASON MEDIA SPONSORS:



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About Us

Portland Ovations is a nonprofit cultural organization based in Southern Maine dedicated to gathering communities to share in the power of live performance. Ovations connects artists and audiences both onstage and off—making the arts an integral part of community life.

Our unique array of live performances for public and school audiences are curated to delight, inspire and educate. Venues used throughout greater Portland include historic and modern theaters, clubs, parks, galleries, and classrooms — chosen carefully to ensure the best possible experience for both audiences and artists.

Please join us for a season of performances that span the traditional to the contemporary, the intimate to the spectacular, the popular to the unexpected.

Our Vision

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

Our Mission

Portland Ovations propels the artistic, social, educational and economic wellbeing of communities through the power of the performing arts.

Core Values

- Celebrates the power and brilliance of the performing arts.
- Commits to being anti-racist.
- Continues to evolve governance, operations, finances and programs to embody inclusivity, diversity, equity and access.
- Nurtures a staff, board and collective culture that is compassionate, committed and enthusiastic.
- Collaborates with other arts organizations, nonprofits, education systems and the business sector to promote lifelong learning through the arts.

Our Team



AIMÉE M. PETRIN
Executive & Artistic Director



CASEY OAKES
Associate Director



MARY C. CAMPBELL
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KATIE DAY
Director of
Communications



KATELYN MANFRE
Director of Community
Programs & Partnerships



LIZ SCHILDKRET
Director of School &
Family Programs



ERIC HAGER
Production Manager

Portland Ovations Membership

WHY JOIN?

Ovations' Membership gives you greater access to live performances. As an Ovations Member, you'll have access to advanced ticketing for all performances, enjoy a \$5 savings on each ticket, and gain entry to Members-only events, artist receptions, and our annual Season Announcement party. Plus, benefit from unlimited ticket exchanges, complimentary tickets to select performances, and receive sell-out warnings to tailor your experience. Beyond these perks, your Membership directly supports our community enrichment initiatives, including School-Time Performances for 10,000 students annually, free books for students, new work commissions, support for emerging artists, family-friendly programming, and ASL interpretation at performances. By joining us, you contribute to our mission of fostering artistic, social, educational, and economic well-being through the performing arts.

MEMBERSHIP STARTS AT JUST \$25!

How to Become a Member

Online: Go to portlandovations.org and look for the "support" tab.

By Phone:
Call us at 207.773.3150, ext. 1

In Person:

Visit the PortTIX Box Office
Monday–Friday, 11 AM–3 PM

When purchasing by phone or in person, tell the customer service representative at PortTIX that you'd like to join before placing your ticket order. Your benefits will begin immediately.





YOUR MEMBER BENEFITS

- Advanced ticketing for performances
- Complimentary tickets to select performances
- Reduced ticketing fees through PortTIX
- Artist receptions and meet-and-greets
- Unlimited ticket exchanges
- Members-only events
- Access to Members-only Newsletter
- Sell-out warnings
- Invite to Season Announcement Party
- Member ticket discount: \$5 off each ticket
- A tax-deductible donation

YOUR MEMBERSHIP SUPPORTS

- School-Time Performances for 10,000+ students
- Free books at select School-Time Performances
- Contemporary dance and chamber music
- Bussing students to School-Time Performances
- Commissioning of new works & emerging artists
- Family-friendly programming
- Complimentary tickets for community partners
- Ovations Offstage community programming
- Professional development for educators
- ASL interpretation at performances
- Free public performances

Popular giving levels include \$50, \$100, \$250, \$500 and \$1,000.

2024-25 PERFORMANCE VENUES

PORTLAND OVATIONS USES VARIOUS VENUES TO ENSURE THE BEST POSSIBLE EXPERIENCE FOR AUDIENCES AND THE ARTISTS WE PRESENT

Merrill Auditorium

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

One Longfellow Square

A charming and versatile, non-profit performing arts and concert venue, offering a warm and intimate atmosphere and setting the stage for unforgettable live music, performing arts, and community events.

State Theatre

An iconic 1,870-seat concert venue located at 609 Congress Street in downtown Portland, featuring a combination of Moorish and Art Deco architecture and state-of-the-art audio and lighting systems.

Congress Square Park

Congress Square Park has long been a hub of outdoor arts activities ever since its inception. As Portland's only park with a landscaped amphitheater-performance stage and its location directly across from the Portland Museum of Art, Congress Square Park proudly bears the distinction as The Heart of the Arts District.

Maine Jewish Museum

A stunning and intimate venue housed within the restored Etz Chaim Synagogue.

First Parish Church

A beautiful and historic building in downtown Portland housing the Meeting House, Parish Hall, Memorial Garden and more.

AURA

Located in the center of downtown Portland, AURA is home to concerts, comedy, benefits, gatherings, parties and more. Featuring a VIP lounge and state-of-the-art lights and sound, AURA brings people together for entertainment and gatherings unlike anywhere else.

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.

Westbrook Performing Arts Center

A truly state-of-the-art 1,000-seat theater located at Westbrook Middle School at 471 Stroudwater Street in Westbrook, just minutes from downtown Portland, with free parking.

WATCH FOR
THESE SYMBOLS



Member
Opportunities



Seeking
Resonance



Ovations
Offstage



School-Time
Performance



ASL Interpreted
Performance

FREE COMMUNITY CONCERT
Gather Hear Portland

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2024 • 2 PM
CONGRESS SQUARE PARK, PORTLAND

“The classical concerts that made me fall in love with live music again.”

— THE BOSTON GLOBE

Pianist Miki Sawada, whose performance made *The Boston Globe's* Best of Arts 2021 list, is a fearless musician taking classical music where others have not. Through her signature project Gather Hear, Sawada travels the country with a piano in a van to perform in community gathering spaces, forgoing the expected concert hall. Sawada's mission is to connect people across socioeconomic and political boundaries through music, foster human connection and dialogue, while capturing an honest, intimate, and ultimately hopeful portrait of America. Gather Hear Portland is rooted in a multi-day residency with Sawada performing and collaborating with community partners and artists. The free community concert in Congress Square Park features a classical program tailored specifically to Portland and its rich musical history with additional community musicians to be announced.

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT



SUPPORTED BY



Cirque Kalabanté: *Afrique en Cirque*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2024 • 7 PM
MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

“Explosive drumming and dance routines, the group delivered mind-blowing acrobatic sequences with extraordinary precision.”

— VICE MAGAZINE

Gravity-defying acrobatics. Astonishing human pyramids. Live Afro-jazz, percussion and kora. Welcome to the universe of Cirque Kalabanté. Created by Guinean artist Yamoussa Bangoura—an alum of Cirque Éloize and Cirque Baobab—who has also performed with Cirque du Soleil, *Afrique en Cirque* shares the beauty, youth and artistry of African culture inspired by daily life in Guinea. The theater vibrates with the energy, strength, agility and joy of young African performers through the merging of cirque with West African dance and music. Prepare for an unforgettable journey.

TICKETS • \$25 • \$35 • \$45 • \$60

STUDENT DEAL • \$20

Members save
\$5 per ticket on
full-priced tickets.



SPONSORED BY



BROADWAY NATIONAL TOUR

Hadestown

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2024 • 8 PM

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2024 • 1 PM & 7 PM

MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

“An epic celebration of music, togetherness and hope.”

— FORBES

COME SEE HOW THE WORLD COULD BE.

Welcome to *Hadestown*, where a song can change your fate. Winner of eight 2019 Tony Awards[®] including Best Musical and the 2020 Grammy[®] Award for Best Musical Theater Album, this acclaimed new show from celebrated singer-songwriter Anaïs Mitchell and innovative director Rachel Chavkin (*Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812*) is a love story for today...and always. Intertwining two mythic tales—that of young dreamers Orpheus and Eurydice, and that of King Hades and his wife Persephone—*Hadestown* is a haunting and hopeful theatrical experience that grabs you and never lets go.

TICKETS

\$55 • \$95 • \$115 • \$125

Members save
\$5 per ticket on
full-priced tickets.



SPONSORED BY



HADESTOWN

BROADWAY'S TONY AND GRAMMY-WINNING BEST MUSICAL

MUSIC, LYRICS & BOOK BY
ANAÏS MITCHELL

DEVELOPED WITH & ORIGINALLY DIRECTED BY
RACHEL CHAVKIN



The Nightingale's Sonata

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2024 • 2 PM

MAINE JEWISH MUSEUM, PORTLAND

“A sensitive, perceptive biography. A captivating story of passion and music.”

— KIRKUS REVIEWS

Part storytelling, part live music, *The Nightingale's Sonata* is a wholly unique narrated concert experience. Accompanied by two acclaimed musicians and the projection of over 100 historical photographs, author Thomas Wolf recounts the life of Lea Luboshutz, the first internationally known female violinist, her incomparable Stradivarius violin (the “Nightingale”), and her multi-generational musical family, of which he is a member. The fascinating narrative tells the story behind his award-winning book, *The Nightingale's Sonata*, revealing the family's personal stories while sketching the history of classical music in the 20th century. Against the odds of pogroms, the Russian Revolution, and the Holocaust, this Jewish family triumphed again and again. Through this adversity, family members were linked by a remarkable piece of music, César Franck's sonata for violin and piano, which is performed during the concert by Boston Symphony violinist Lucia Lin and Russian pianist Sergey Schepkin.

TICKETS • \$60

Members save
\$5 per ticket on
full-priced tickets.



Sugar Skull! A Día De Muertos Musical Adventure

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2024 • 10 AM
MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

“Equal parts artistic and educational...re-defines the interactive entertaining experience, engaging and captivating audiences of all ages. A pure delight to watch!”

— NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

Twelve-year-old Vita Flores thinks her family has gone loco planning a celebration for deceased loved ones. Why throw a party for the dead? But when a spirited candy skeleton suddenly springs to life, Vita finds herself on a magical, musical journey to unravel the true meaning of Día de Muertos. Meet Sugar Skull, a charismatic skeleton with a secret or two. With her skeletal new friend, Vita dances with ancient ancestors, sings with a sorrowful sorceress, escapes the trickster Chanéques, and even meets the famous Catrina Calavera. But can this clever youth gather the missing pieces needed for her family *ofrenda* before it's too late? Developed by Rhythm of the Arts, Gregory Van Acker, Sinuhé Padilla, and Elena Aráoz, with Mexico Beyond Mariachi, *SUGAR SKULL!* is a joyous, heartfelt bilingual adventure that delves into the rich, tuneful traditions of Día de Muertos with regional music and dance from Mexico.

TICKETS • \$20

Members save
\$5 per ticket on
full-priced tickets.



SPONSORED BY





Angélique Kidjo

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2024 • 7 PM

STATE THEATRE, PORTLAND

Co-Presented with State Theatre

“Africa’s most widely respected international vocalist, and one of its hungriest synthesizers of culture of ideas.”

— THE NEW YORK TIMES

Five-time Grammy Award winner Angélique Kidjo is one of the greatest artists in international music today, a creative force with fourteen albums and innumerable accolades to her name. *Time Magazine* calls her “Africa’s premier diva” and named her one of the most influential people in the world. Kidjo cross-pollinates the West African traditional sounds of her childhood in Benin with elements of American R&B, funk and jazz, as well as influences from Europe and Latin America. Her striking voice, stage presence and fluency in multiple cultures and languages have won respect from her peers and expanded her following across national borders. An internationally recognized humanitarian, the BBC, *Forbes*, and *The Guardian* have all highlighted her importance to the people of the African continent and beyond.

TICKETS • \$35 • \$55 • \$65 • \$75

Members save
\$5 per ticket on
full-priced tickets.



SPONSORED BY



SUPPORTED BY



BROADWAY NATIONAL TOUR
Dear Evan Hansen

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2024 • 7 PM

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2024 • 7 PM

MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

“A deeply universal show that connects and enlightens us all”

— NY1

Declared “one of the most remarkable shows in musical theater history” by *The Washington Post*, *Dear Evan Hansen* is the first musical to take a groundbreaking look—from the point of view of both the parents and young people—at our complex, interconnected, and social media-filled lives. Evan Hansen is a high school student who always feels like he’s on the outside looking in. Evan finally gets what so many of us are searching for—the chance to finally fit in. What follows is a poignant, funny, and powerful musical about how even though it can be hard, we can find each other—and ourselves—along the way. Including some of the most iconic musical theatre songs from the last decade, including “You Will Be Found,” “Waving Through A Window,” and “For Forever,” *Dear Evan Hansen* features an uplifting score by the Tony®, Grammy®, and Oscar® winning team behind *The Greatest Showman* and *La La Land*, Benj Pasek and Justin Paul, and a book by Tony Award-winner Steven Levenson.

Dear Evan Hansen is recommended for ages 12 and up as it contains adult themes, including discussions of suicide.

TICKETS

\$55 • \$95 • \$115 • \$125

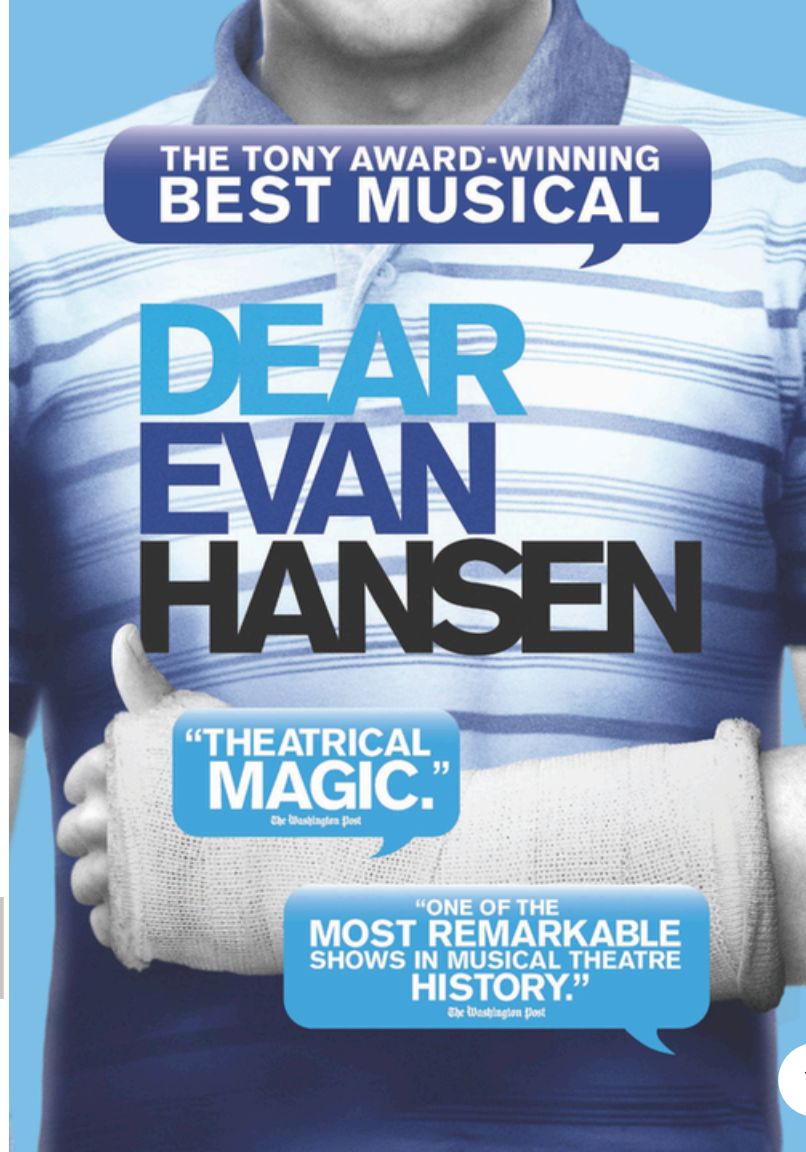
Members save
\$5 per ticket on
full-priced tickets.



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THE TONY AWARD-WINNING
BEST MUSICAL

DEAR EVAN HANSEN

“THEATRICAL
MAGIC.”

The Washington Post

“ONE OF THE
**MOST REMARKABLE
SHOWS IN MUSICAL THEATRE
HISTORY.”**

The Washington Post



Beautiful Blackbird Live!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2024 • 11 AM
WESTBROOK PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

“It’s hard to describe just how unforgettably lively Russell’s music is. A colorful combination of reggae, jazz, musical theatre, funk, and Motown.”

— *BROADWAY WORLD*

Ashley Bryan’s artful children’s book comes to life in this joyful concert for young audiences created by Georgia’s Alliance Theatre. Join Blackbird and his fantastic feathered band for a high energy concert of funk and soul music based on the beloved Maine author’s Coretta Scott King Award-winning book, *Beautiful Blackbird*. Featuring original music composed by Eugene H. Russell IV and stunning costumes designed by Lex Liang, the Beautiful Blackbirds will have you on your feet clapping along with their funky rhythms as they celebrate the uniqueness in each of us. Shake your tailfeathers and dance to the music!

Beautiful Blackbird Live! is presented in partnership with the Beautiful Blackbird Children’s Book Festival, Indigo Arts Alliance, and the Children’s Museum & Theatre of Maine.

TICKETS • \$20

Members save
\$5 per ticket on
full-priced tickets.



SPONSORED BY



Kayla Farrish

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2024 • 7 PM
WESTBROOK PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

“A powerful choreographer with a versatile and loyal band of collaborators in her corner; all of Farrish’s work has left an imprint on my mind, even years later.”

— DANCE ENTHUSIAST

The recipient of the 2023 Ellis-Beauregard Foundation Choreographer Award, Kayla Farrish is a Black interdisciplinary artist merging dance, theater, filmmaking, narrative, and sound score. Her work captures the ranging identity, mythical dualities of history and present survival of Black and Brown lineages, and powerful dreaming leading to liberation. Embracing radical movements of freedom and humanity, Farrish works in collaboration with musicians and other artists to create live performance, films, and site-specific/immersive experiences. Inspired by jazz musicians, poets and writers, and community, she reflects our stories as we together imagine new futures. Farrish has been commissioned by Limon Dance Company, ODC Theater, Louis Armstrong House Museum, and Harlem Stage. Her work has been featured at Lincoln Center, Park Avenue Armory, Symphony Space, and National Sawdust, and has received support from Baryshnikov Arts Center, La Mama Theater, Watermill Center for the Arts, and others.

TICKETS • \$35

STUDENT DEAL • \$20

Members save
\$5 per ticket on
full-priced tickets.



SPONSORED BY





POP

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2024
OCEAN GATEWAY, PORTLAND

Get ready to be dazzled at Portland Ovations' highly anticipated annual fundraiser, POP, returning to the beautiful Ocean Gateway overlooking Casco Bay. Tickets are on sale now! Immerse yourself in a night of gourmet delights and electrifying performances by some of Maine's most talented artists. This event always sells out, so don't wait to secure your spot. By attending, you'll not only enjoy an evening of unforgettable entertainment but also help support our mission to enrich the lives of over 10,000 students through our vital school programming. Lock in your tickets today for a night of culinary and artistic brilliance!

TICKETS • \$100

SPONSORED BY



ESPRESSIVO! Piano Quartet

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 2025 • 2 PM

HANNAFORD HALL, USM CAMPUS, PORTLAND

“...with sweep, color and authority, the entire performance was vibrant and exciting.”

— THE NEW YORK TIMES

Four celebrated musicians, the lauded Sharon Robinson (cello), Jaime Laredo (violin), stellar violist Milena Pájaro-van de Stadt (formerly of the Dover Quartet) and award-winning pianist Anna Polonsky come together to form a new quartet that showcases their wonderfully expressive playing, musicality, virtuosity and joy of performing. Considered among the treasures of chamber music literature are the quartets for piano and strings by Johannes Brahms, Antonín Leopold Dvořák, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and Gabriel Fauré. These works, along with possible pairings of fascinating duos, or the addition of double bass for Franz Schubert's glorious "Trout" inspire this vibrant ensemble's programs. Included in the program is a dynamic brand-new work, co-commissioned by Ovations, created especially for the quartet by composer Nokuthula Ngwenyama.

TICKETS • \$60

STUDENT DEAL • \$20

Members save
\$5 per ticket on
full-priced tickets.





PORTLAND OVATIONS AND OBSESSED PRESENTS

Life Be Lifin' Starring Monét X Change

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 2025 • 8 PM

STATE THEATRE, PORTLAND

“Monet is an effervescent storyteller, and every sentence she uttered was bursting with personality.”

— THEATRE TRAVELS

Monét X Change never wanted to be a drag queen. She never wanted to be an opera singer either. Now an R&B singing, theatre writing, comedic triple threat, Monét explains on stage with just herself and a mic how she became those exact things. With the ability to make audiences cry as quickly as she makes them laugh, Monét X Change guides her audiences through a poignant, darkly humorous coming-of-age story in her newest one woman show, “*Life Be Lifin'.*”

Please be advised, this program may contain explicit language, images and/or mature subject matter.

TICKETS • \$38 • \$48

VIP UPGRADE AVAILABLE

Members save
\$5 per ticket on
full-priced tickets.



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Puelle **Design**

CONTRA-TIEMPO: *joyUS justUS*

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2025 • 7 PM

MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

“More than a hip isolating dance ensemble...
CONTRA-TIEMPO pushes boundaries.”

— THE WASHINGTON POST

The exciting Los Angeles-based CONTRA-TIEMPO draws on salsa, Afro-Cuban, hip-hop, and contemporary dance combined with text and original music to create a physical, visual and sonic vocabulary. A bold, multilingual, activist dance theater company, CONTRA-TIEMPO inspires and embraces communities where all people are awakened to a sense of themselves as artists and social change agents who move through the world with compassion, confidence and optimism. In their exuberant full evening work, *joyUS justUS*, the expressive dancers take on joy as the ultimate expression of resistance. Embodying stories of hope, faith, family, strength, and of course, *joy—joyUS justUS*—creates a space of both jubilation and healing, allowing the collective “us” to feel more connected, loved, powerful, and alive.

TICKETS • \$30 • \$45 • \$55 • \$65

Members save
\$5 per ticket on
full-priced tickets.



SPONSORED BY





BROADWAY NATIONAL TOUR

The Cher Show

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2025 • 7 PM

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2025 • 7 PM

MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

“**The Cher Show** is a theatrical blast of nitrous oxide just when you need it the most.”

— BROADWAY WORLD

Superstars come and go. Cher is forever. For six straight decades, only one unstoppable force has flat-out dominated popular culture—breaking down barriers, pushing boundaries and letting nothing and no one stand in her way. *The Cher Show* is the Tony Award®-winning musical of her story, and it’s packed with so much Cher that it takes three women to play her: the kid starting out, the glam pop star, and the icon. The *Cher Show* is thirty-five smash hits, six decades of stardom, two rock-star husbands, a Grammy®, an Oscar®, an Emmy®, and enough Tony Award-winning Bob Mackie gowns to cause a sequin shortage in New York City, all in one unabashedly fabulous new musical that will have audiences dancing in the aisles!

TICKETS • \$55 • \$85 • \$105 • \$115 • \$125

Members save
\$5 per ticket on
full-priced tickets.



SPONSORED BY



Maryna Krut, bandura

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2025 • 7 PM

FIRST PARISH CHURCH, PORTLAND

“[Her music] represents the DNA of Ukrainian culture, in all its styles, classic and very modern.”

— QUEST FRANCE

Ukrainian singer-songwriter Maryna Krut, aka KRUTb, is a virtuoso of the bandura, a stringed instrument unique to Ukraine that looks and sounds like a lute and harp hybrid, resulting in a harpsichord-like effect that is both delicate and assertive. With her atmospheric voice and extraordinary musical elegance, Krut’s compelling, soulful performances evoke both folk and modern sensibilities, with pop and jazz flourishes. A favorite of festivals around the globe and a finalist on Eurovision, Krut is among a corps of musicians spurring a renaissance of Ukrainian culture, celebrating both tradition and contemporary life.

TICKETS • \$35

STUDENT DEAL • \$20

Members save
\$5 per ticket on
full-priced tickets.



SPONSORED BY





Conrad Tao, piano

SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 2025 • 2 PM

HANNAFORD HALL, USM CAMPUS, PORTLAND

“The kind of musician who is shaping the future of classical music.”

— *NEW YORK MAGAZINE*

Conrad Tao has, “the chops to play anything and the ideas to make it compelling,” says *New York Classical Review*. Dubbed an artist of “probing intellect and open-hearted vision” by *The New York Times*, pianist and composer Conrad Tao has appeared worldwide in riveting recitals and as a soloist with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, and Boston Symphony. He is the recipient of the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant and was named a Gilmore Young Artist—an honor awarded every two years highlighting the most promising American pianists of the new generation. Tao first appeared with Ovation as part of the exciting JCT Trio in the 2016-17 season.

TICKETS • \$55

STUDENT DEAL • \$20

Members save
\$5 per ticket on
full-priced tickets.



SPONSORED BY



Champions of Magic

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2025 • 7 PM

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2025 • 7 PM

MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

“Dazzles audiences with a show like no other!”

— BROADWAY WORLD

Following a decade touring the world as one of the most successful magic shows in history, the Champions of Magic team is back with an explosive brand-new production featuring thrilling mind-bending illusions, mind reading, escapology, and ground-breaking magic. Fusing their skills in grand scale magic, a flair for spectacle, and undeniable showmanship—along with their signature humor—this interactive, high-energy show entertains audiences of all ages. They’ve sold out shows across the globe, been featured on every major US TV network and racked up over 50 million views online. But there is only one way to truly appreciate the magic—live.

Champions of Magic is recommended for ages 5 and up as it contains moments of darkness and loud noises.

TICKETS • \$45 • \$55 • \$70 • \$80

Members save
\$5 per ticket on
full-priced tickets.





A Year with Frog and Toad

SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 2025 • 3 PM

MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

“A fun evening, sure to entertain children and adults alike.”

— THEATERMANIA

Part vaudeville, part make believe, all charm—*A Year With Frog And Toad* is an inventive, joyful, and enchanting experience for the whole family. Based on the books by Arnold Lobel, this whimsical musical featuring a jazzy, upbeat score follows two great friends—the cheerful, popular Frog and the curmudgeonly Toad—through four, fun-filled seasons. Waking from hibernation into the spring, Frog and Toad plant gardens, swim, rake leaves, and go sledding. Meeting new friends and learning life lessons along the way, the besties celebrate and rejoice in their differences that make them unique and special, revelling in a friendship that endures, weathering all seasons.

TICKETS • \$20

Members save
\$5 per ticket on
full-priced tickets.



BROADWAY NATIONAL TOUR

The Addams Family

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2025 • 7 PM

THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2025 • 7 PM

MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

“Classic, full-tilt, fast-paced, old-fashioned musical comedy!”

— CHICAGO TRIBUNE

A comical feast that embraces the wackiness in every family, *The Addams Family* is the magnificently macabre hit musical featuring everyone’s favorite creepy, kooky characters. Wednesday Addams, the ultimate princess of darkness, has grown up and fallen in love with a sweet, smart young man from a respectable family. A man her parents have never met. And if that weren’t upsetting enough, she confides in her father and begs him not to tell her mother. Now, Gomez Addams must do something he’s never done before—keep a secret from his beloved wife, Morticia. Everything will change for the whole family on the fateful night they host a dinner for Wednesday’s “normal” boyfriend and his parents. On the heels of “*Wednesday*”, the third most-watched show on Netflix of all time, Big League Productions, Inc. presents *The Addams Family*, a devilishly delightful musical comedy based on the bizarre and beloved characters by legendary cartoonist Charles Addams.

TICKETS • \$55 • \$85 • \$105 • \$115 • \$125

Members save
\$5 per ticket on
full-priced tickets.



SPONSORED BY

Residence INN
BY MARRIOTT



The Addams Family

A MUSICAL COMEDY

The first-ever
Fraggle adventure
live on stage!

Jim Henson's
**FRAGGLE
ROCK**
BACK TO THE ROCK
LIVE

THE JIM HENSON COMPANY

***Fraggle Rock:
Back to the Rock LIVE!***

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2025 • 1 PM • 4:30 PM
MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

Join Red, Gobo, Mokey, Wembley, Boober and all your friends from the iconic series *Fraggle Rock*, on a brand-new exciting, interactive, live, musical adventure perfect for fans of all ages. Gobo Fraggle discovers a legend about a lost Fraggle treasure: the Song Stone. Legend says the Song Stone can provide a special treasure—the greatest song ever heard in *Fraggle* history! But the location of the Song Stone has been lost and forgotten over time, so the Fraggles set out to find it. Fresh from Jim Henson's Creature Shop: gorgeous new walk-around versions of the Fraggles; puppet-sized and mechanized Doozers; giant, inflatable Gorg puppets and exclusive new magical puppets—this all-new musical stage adventure invites audiences to join along and venture into the incredible world of *Fraggle Rock*. Original songs, fantastic immersive special effects, exciting physical staging and magic, endearing new characters, and much more lead the way as the Fraggles find the Song Stone, and celebrate the greatest treasure of all, something beyond what they could have ever imagined.

VIP Tickets—Enjoy premium seating plus an opportunity to meet, take photos with two Fraggles and receive an exclusive signed photo!

TICKETS • \$35 • \$45 • \$55
VIP • \$75

Members save
\$5 per ticket on
full-priced tickets.



Complexions Contemporary Ballet

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2025 • 7 PM
MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

“Companies like Complexions are game-changing: they’re forging a path for what ballet can be instead of what it historically has been.”

THE GUARDIAN

Rooted in a rich Alvin Ailey lineage with a cadre of sixteen stunning dancers, Complexions Contemporary Ballet is hailed as a “matchless American dance company” by the *Philadelphia Inquirer* and “game changing” by London’s *The Guardian*. Led by dance icons Dwight Rhoden and Desmond Richardson, Complexions awakens audiences worldwide to a new, exciting genre with their singular approach to reinventing contemporary ballet. Along with signature repertoire, the gorgeous and athletic company shares their 2019 work *Woke*, a potent and moving ballet that employs the music of Kendrick Lamar, Logic, Drake, and others to convey a message of social consciousness.

TICKETS • \$30 • \$45 • \$55 • \$65

STUDENT DEAL • \$20

Members save
\$5 per ticket on
full-priced tickets.



SUPPORTED BY
FRANCESCA GALLUCCIO-STEELE & PHIL STEELE



Coast to Coast: An Evening of Hip-Hop, Arabic Poetry & Maqam Music

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2025 • 7 PM

THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2025 • 7 PM

ONE LONGFELLOW SQUARE, PORTLAND

“Omar Offendum’s storytelling, rapping, and singing weave together past and present in a closely observed whole.”

— SAN FRANCISCO CLASSICAL VOICE

Syrian-American hip-hop artist and poet Omar Offendum and Palestinian-American multi-instrumentalist, maestro Ronnie Malley, weave stories of the past, present, and future. These versatile artists offer a unique perspective on Arab-American artistic expression as they trace the influence of Al-Andalus and Arabic-speaking peoples on music and culture from New York City’s “Little Syria” neighborhood to the birth of California Surf Rock. A Kennedy Center Citizen Artist Fellow, gifted educator, and humanitarian, Offendum has been featured around the globe on prominent world news outlets, at academic institutions, museums and stages. Malley’s work as an actor, composer, sound designer, producer, playwright, and educator appears regularly in film, on Broadway, and in music and theater festivals.

TICKETS • \$35

STUDENT DEAL • \$20

Members save
\$5 per ticket on
full-priced tickets.



Nathalie Joachim

THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025 • 7 PM

AURA, PORTLAND

“A fresh and invigorating cross-cultural voice.”

— THE NATION

Grammy-nominated musician and composer Nathalie Joachim—hailed as “powerful and unpretentious” by *The New York Times*—is breathing new life into music inspired by her classical training, contemporary music practice and Haitian heritage. Performing with her trio, Joachim brings to Ovations a dynamic live interpretation of her latest recording *Ki moun ou ye*. Weaving together voice, bass, percussion, textured vocal samples, somber flute tones, and longing melodies, this immersive musical experience examines the richness of one’s voice—an instrument that brings with it DNA, ancestry, and identity. Joachim is co-founder of the critically acclaimed duo Flutronix; recent commissions include new works for St. Louis Symphony, Yale University’s Schwarzman Center, So Percussion, Roomful of Teeth, Imani Winds, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and the Spoleto Festival.

TICKETS • \$35

STUDENT DEAL • \$20

Members save
\$5 per ticket on
full-priced tickets.





The Legendary Count Basie Orchestra

THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2025 • 7 PM
MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

“The show was a testament to an era of jazz that shaped the sound of America in the 20th century, and faithfully reaffirmed the legacy of the orchestra’s original bandleader, jazz legend Count Basie.”

— DAILY SUNDIAL

In the history of jazz music, there is only one bandleader that has the distinction of having his orchestra still performing sold-out concerts all over the world, and nearly 40 years after his passing, by musicians personally chosen by him. Pianist and bandleader William James “Count” Basie was and still is an American institution that personifies the grandeur and excellence of jazz. The Count Basie Orchestra, today directed by Scotty Barnhart, has won every respected jazz poll in the world at least once, garnered 18 Grammy Awards, performed for kings, queens, and other royalty, and appeared in several movies, television shows, at every major jazz festival and concert hall in the world.

TICKETS • \$35 • \$45 • \$55 • \$70
STUDENT DEAL • \$20

Members save
\$5 per ticket on
full-priced tickets.



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A 21st century retirement community™

BROADWAY NATIONAL TOUR

Ain't Too Proud—The Life and Times of The Temptations

TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2025 • 7 PM
WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 2025 • 7 PM
MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

“An electrifying thrill-a-minute new musical!”

— THE WASHINGTON POST

Ain't Too Proud—The Life and Times of The Temptations is the electrifying smash-hit Broadway musical that follows The Temptations' extraordinary journey from the streets of Detroit to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. Nominated for 12 Tony Awards and the winner of the 2019 Tony Award for Best Choreography, it's a thrilling story of brotherhood, family, loyalty, and betrayal during a decade of civil unrest in America. Set to the beat of the group's treasured hits, including “My Girl,” “Just My Imagination,” “Get Ready,” and “Papa Was a Rolling Stone,” *Ain't Too Proud* tells the unforgettable story of the legendary quintet that *Billboard Magazine* named the greatest R&B group of all time.

TICKETS • \$55 • \$85 • \$105 • \$115 • \$125

Members save
\$5 per ticket on
full-priced tickets.



SPONSORED BY



Ovarions Offstage

A key part of Portland Ovarions is bringing performing arts and artists off our stages and into the vibrant, daily lives of our communities. Ovarions Offstage (O2) is where artists and audiences connect, creating magical moments that last a lifetime. Through in-school and public programs focused on three “pillars”—skills-based instruction, arts integration, and cultural competence—all are invited to join us in celebrating the power of live performance.

In collaboration with and grateful for our many community partners, O2 hosts a wide variety of events each season, geared to audience members at all ages and all stages of their performing arts exploration. These include:

- Pre-performance talks
- Masterclasses and public workshops with visiting artists
- Unexpected “art happenings”
- Community conversations
- Film screenings
- Post-performance Q&A’s
- Open rehearsals
- Meet-the-Artist events

To keep up with events as they are announced, visit portlandovations.org/community-events.





School-Time Performance Series

Portland Ovarations' School-Time Performance Series presents innovative and engaging performances from all over the world in venues such as Merrill Auditorium, Westbrook Performing Arts Center and in schools for Pre-K to 12th grade students. These performances are intentionally crafted for students to promote existing curriculum and arts integration, as well as provide students access to both international and Maine-based art and artists. Each School-Time Performance includes an Educator Guide with curriculum connections, activities, and questions to extend learning beyond the theater, and pre- and post-performance workshops are available to deepen the experience for students. A wide range of resources for students and educators is available at portlandovations.org/school-programs

2024-25 School-Time Performances

Cirque Kalabanté: Afrique en Cirque
Sugar Skull: A Día De Muertos Musical Adventure

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2024 • 10 AM



Beautiful Blackbird Live!
Hero: The Boy From Troy
CONTRA TEMPO: JAYUS JUSTUS
A Year with Frog and Toad

Russell Kaback: 25044-The Story of Szyjek Magier,
Jewish Holocaust Survivor

AVAILABLE TO BOOK IN SCHOOL FEBRUARY 1-MAY 2, 2025



Tickets

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

207.773.3150 ext. 3

Offstage@portlandovations.org

Thank you to our School-Time Performance Series and Ovarations Offstage sponsors and funders.



TO PURCHASE TICKETS CALL **PORTTIX 207.842.0800**

How to Order Tickets

Visit PortTIX in person in Portland. Regular box office hours are Monday–Friday, 11 AM–3 PM and 90 minutes before each performance.

BY PHONE • 207.842.0800

Call PortTIX Monday–Friday, 11 AM–3 PM

ONLINE • portlandovations.org

Tickets to individual performances may be purchased from our website at any time. Some discounts may not be available online.



PortTIX is our trusted ticket seller

Discounts

Ovations' Members receive a \$5 discount per ticket, unless otherwise noted.

STUDENTS

Any full-time student is eligible to purchase tickets for most events at a \$5 discount per ticket, as well as our deeply discounted "Student Deal" tickets for select events listed throughout this brochure. A Portland Ovations performance makes for a sensational outing at reduced rates for groups.

For group sales contact PortTIX at 207.842.0800, ext. 231, or jwhitley@porttix.com.

SENIORS

Patrons over 65 are entitled to purchase tickets at a discounted rate for most performances. **Discounts cannot be combined or retroactively applied.**

Fees

Tickets are subject to a per ticket service fee varying from \$2–\$16 depending on the price of the performance. Fees apply at all modes of sale.

Exchanges

Ticket exchanges are available to Portland Ovations' Members exclusively. Exchange requests must be made prior to the performance date of the original tickets.

If you have questions about buying packages or tickets please contact PortTIX at 207.842.0800. Packages are available through all modes of sale.

Ticket prices are subject to change.

Accessibility



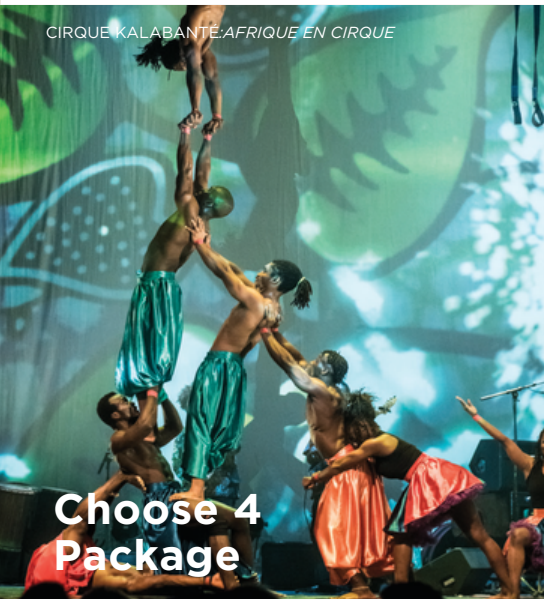
Portland Ovations is committed to providing accessible facilities and programs. For information about event specific accessibility services, please visit the individual event pages at portlandovations.org.



ASL interpreted performances feature interpreters who translate what is said and expressed onstage. Select performances in Ovations 2024–25 season will have ASL interpretation as indicated throughout this brochure. ASL interpretation available upon request for all other events.

GET MORE OF WHAT YOU LOVE: PACKAGE AND SAVE!

CIRQUE KALABANTÉ:AFRIQUE EN CIRQUE



Choose 4 Package

Purchase tickets to four different performances in the season through a single transaction and enjoy a \$5 discount per ticket. Some titles do not qualify for sale price.

THE CHER SHOW



Broadway & Beyond Package

Buy tickets to four Portland Ovation's "Broadway & Beyond" performances and save 10%.

- *Hadestown* Broadway National Tour
- *Dear Evan Hansen* Broadway National Tour
- *The Cher Show* Broadway National Tour
- *Champions of Magic*
- *The Addams Family* Broadway National Tour
- *Fraggle Rock: Back to the Rock LIVE*

MARYNA KRUT, BANDURA



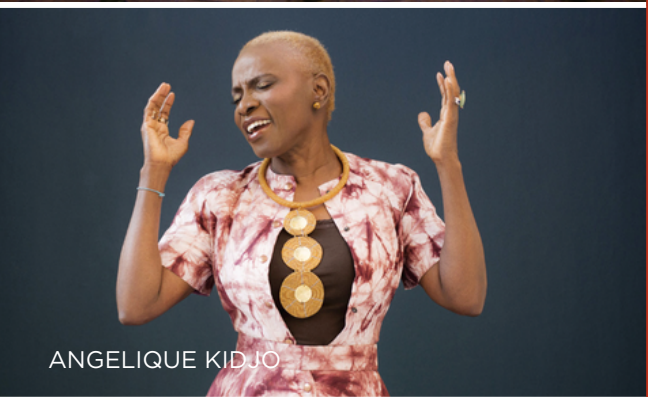
Take 5

Experience the diversity of Ovation's season with this specially curated package. Buy all five of the following curated Portland Ovation's performances for only \$100 plus fees.

- *Cirque Kalabanté*
- *Kayla Farrish*
- *Maryna Krut, bandura*
- *Coast to Coast*
- *Nathalie Joachim*



HADESTOWN



ANGELIQUE KIDJO



CONTRA-TIEMPO: JOYUS JUSTUS



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Portland, Maine 04101

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