



PORTLAND  
OVATIONS

2025 | 2026



PORTTIX: 207.842.0800  
PORTLANDOVATIONS.ORG



Dear Friends,

Welcome to Ovation's 95th season! This robust and dynamic season offers 32 performances across music, dance, and theater including Broadway National Tours, performance that defy gravity and expectations, music that spans genres from chamber to folk to jazz and blues with a little punk and surf rock thrown in, and dance that showcases grace and athleticism, celebrating artforms from the street to the studio to the stage. Global in scale and perspective, artists in the 2025-26 season hail from or connect to such places as Ukraine, Shanghai, Cuba, South Africa, Quebec, India, Guinea, the U.K. Cape Breton, and of course across the U.S. and right here in Maine.

Live performance remains one of the most vital ways we feel and express our humanity, gather in community, and lift each other up. As always, artists lead the way in nurturing a more beautiful, reflective, and just society. Lectures, films, masterclasses and workshops, book groups, artist talks and more — offered through Ovation's Offstage — create deeper connections and context. Please join us as we experience perspectives, traditions, and stories that broaden our world view — celebrating what we have in common and honoring our differences as only the arts can.

We look forward to gathering with you again and again this season to experience the singular power of live performance with Ovation, where all are welcome.

With gratitude and kindness,



Aimée M. Petrin  
Executive & Artistic Director

SEASON MEDIA SPONSORS:



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## About Us

Portland Ovation is a nonprofit cultural organization based in Southern Maine dedicated to gathering communities to share in the power of live performance. Ovation 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 performing arts is a vital part of everyday life.

## Our Mission

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

## Our Team



AIMEE M. PETRIN  
Executive & Artistic Director



CASEY OAKES  
Associate Director



MARY C. CAMPBELL  
Office Administrator



KATIE DAY  
Director of Communications



KATELYN MANFRE  
Director of Community Programs & Partnerships



LIZ SCHILDKRET  
Director of School & Family Programs



ERIC HAGER  
Production Manager



NICOLE BYRNE  
Foundations & Major Gifts Manager



CLARISSA SHIRLEY  
Development Manager



CIARA NEIDLINGER  
Artist Services & Production Coordinator

## 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



## 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, discounted parking near Merrill Auditorium, 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 accessibility services at performances. By joining us, you contribute to our mission of fostering artistic, social, educational, and economic wellbeing through the performing arts.

### MEMBERSHIP STARTS AT JUST \$35!

#### How to Become a Member

**Online:** Go to [portlandovations.org](http://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  
400 Congress Street, Suite A,  
Portland, ME 04101

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 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 and emerging artists
- Family-friendly programming
- Complimentary tickets through Community Seats program
- Ovations Offstage community programming
- Professional development for educators
- ASL interpretation at performances
- Free public performances

### 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
- NEW! Discounted parking near Merrill Auditorium

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

## 2025-2026 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.

### 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 including a 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.

### 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.

### Mechanics’ Hall

Designed by famed Maine architect John Calvin Stevens, the Mechanics’ Hall Ballroom was closed to the public for nearly half a century. However, recent restoration and renovations have made this beautiful and elegant space once again available for public use. With its high ceilings and arched sunlit windows, The Ballroom at Mechanics’ Hall is an unforgettable gem.

### First Parish Church

A beautiful and historic 19th century building in downtown Portland housing the Meeting House, Parish Hall, Memorial Garden and more.

### Maine Jewish Museum

A stunning venue housed within the restored Etz Chaim Synagogue, a turn-of-the-century house of worship.

### Riverton Community Center

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

SHOW SERIES

- BROADWAY
- DANCE
- FAMILY
- MUSIC
- CLASSICAL
- THEATER

WATCH FOR THESE SYMBOLS

-  Member Opportunities
-  Seeking Resonance
-  Ovations Offstage
-  School-Time Performance
-  ASL Interpreted Performance
-  Audio Described Performance

## We Are Water: A Northeast Celebration Yo-Yo Ma, Jeremy Dutcher, Mali Obomsawin, and Chris Newell

With AndriSnaer Magnason and special guests Ida Mae Specker, Lauren Stevens, and Roger Paul

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2025 • 7 PM**  
MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

“An example of music’s ability to speak to the awe-inspiring power of landscape and humanity living together in harmony.”

— CLASSICS FM

Yo-Yo Ma and friends present an evening of songs and stories to ask how the waters of the North — from Kwenitekw (the Connecticut River) to Supeq (the ocean) and Punkik (the Arctic North) — connect us to each other and to our past, present, and future. This special event, rooted in wisdom and inspired by a dream for the future, invites us to come together as a community and find hope for a changing planet.

TICKETS • SOLD OUT



SPONSORED BY



## Leonardo! A Wonderful Show About a Terrible Monster

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2025 • 4 PM  
WESTBROOK PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

“Filled with wonder, humor and oodles of warmth, you are sure to be charmed by this real gem of a show.”

— EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FOR KIDS

Leonardo is a terrible monster. He tries so hard to be scary, but he just... isn't. Then Leonardo finds Sam, the most scaredy-cat kid in the world. Will Leonardo finally get to scare the tuna salad out of someone? Or will it be the start of an unlikely friendship? The plot thickens when this pair meets Kerry and Frankenthaler, an even scaredier-cat and her monster friend. Kerry and Sam need to make a big decision: will they just be scaredy cats or can they become friends? *Leonardo! A Wonderful Show About a Terrible Monster* uses hundreds of illustrated paper puppets, book pages, two-dimensional props, furry monster puppets, and songs to bring Mo Willems' books to life. Like all Manual Cinema productions, you're invited to watch the big screen like a movie, or watch the artists below as they create the story in real time. There is no wrong way to experience the show!

Created by Manual Cinema  
Based on the books by Mo Willems

ALL TICKETS • \$25

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



TICKETS •

\$55 • \$85 • \$115 • \$105 • \$125

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



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BROADWAY NATIONAL TOUR

## TINA — The Tina Turner Musical

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2025 • 7 PM  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2025 • 7 PM   
MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

“Sheer out-of-your-seat excitement!”

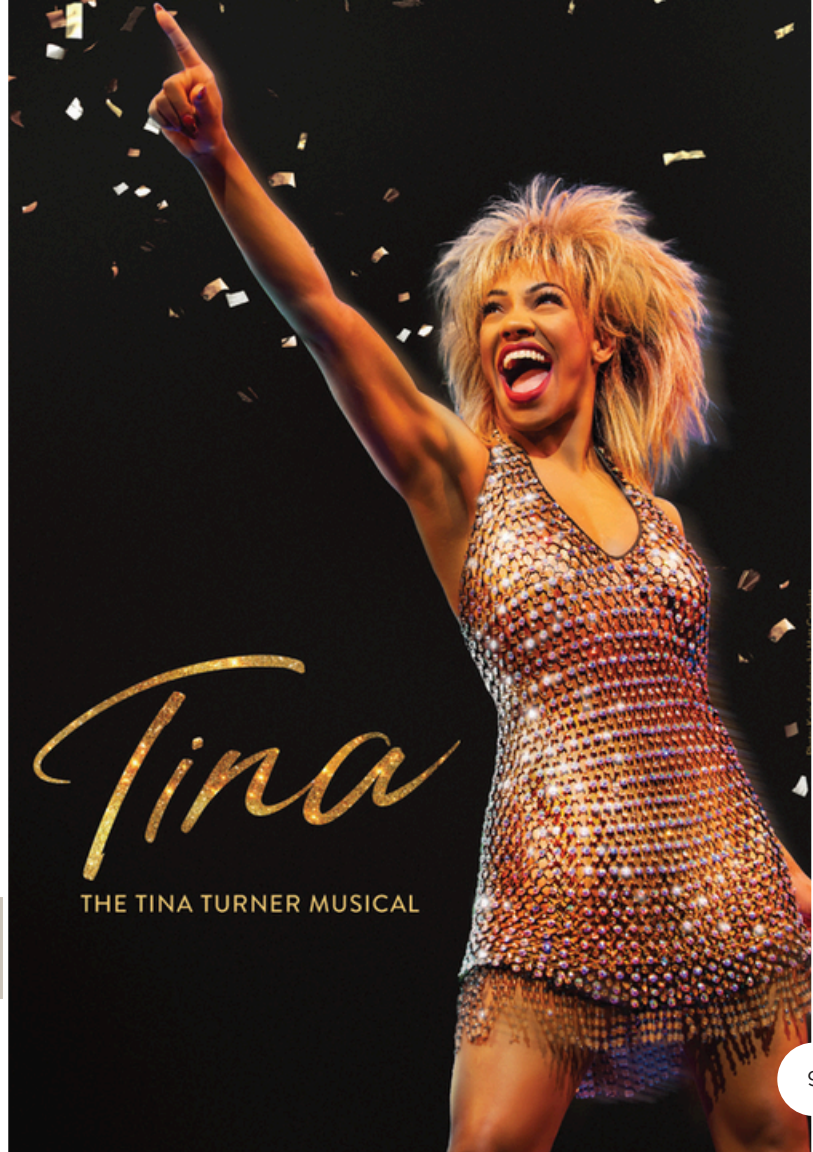
— DEADLINE

An uplifting comeback story like no other, *TINA—The Tina Turner Musical* is the inspiring journey of a woman who broke barriers and became the Queen of Rock 'n' Roll. Set to the pulse-pounding soundtrack of Turner's most beloved hits, this electrifying sensation will send you soaring to the rafters. One of the world's best-selling artists of all time, Tina Turner won 12 Grammy Awards and her live shows were seen by millions, with more concert tickets sold than any other solo performer in music history. Featuring her much loved songs, *TINA — The Tina Turner Musical* is written by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Katori Hall.

*Content warning: The production includes scenes depicting domestic violence and strong language.*

# Tina

THE TINA TURNER MUSICAL





## Rennie Harris Puremovement: *Nuttin' but a Word*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2025 • 7 PM  
WESTBROOK PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

“The Basquiat of the U.S. contemporary dance scene, Rennie Harris has literally embodied the history of hip-hop dance.”

— LONDON TIMES

Celebrated choreographer and the pioneer of bringing hip-hop dance from the street to the stage, Rennie Harris lays down his three laws of hip-hop: individuality, creativity, innovation. With a mixtape of moves from b-boying to Campbell locking to house — set to an unexpected soundscore — the indefatigable company showcases the power of hip-hop in all its flips, headspins, and lightning-fast footwork glory. Leave what you think you know about hip-hop at the door: this evening of pure movement challenges popular perceptions of street dance where every step tells a story in sync with the rhythm, honoring hip-hop's roots while taking it to new heights.

*You can try to shout 'em down, but you ain't said Nuttin' but a Word.*

TICKETS • \$45 • \$55

STUDENT DEAL • \$25

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



## DakhaBrakha

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2025 • 7 PM  
STATE THEATRE, PORTLAND  
Co-Presented with State Theatre

“The group mixes everything from punk-pop to traditional Ukrainian songs in cool yet beguiling textures...but it's really the live shows that take DakhaBrakha beyond mere curiosity to utter brilliance.”

— NPR

Direct from Kyiv, DakhaBrakha returns to Ovation with its self-described “ethno chaos” of folk-pop punk. Reflecting fundamental elements of sound and soul, DakhaBrakha creates a world of unexpected new music. At the crossroads of Ukrainian folklore and theater, their musical spectrum is at first intimate then riotous, plumbing the depths of contemporary roots and rhythms, inspiring “cultural and artistic liberation.” Experimenting with Ukrainian folk music accompanied by Indian, Arabic, African, and Ukrainian traditional instrumentation, the quartet's astonishingly powerful and uncompromising vocal range creates a transnational sound rooted in Ukrainian culture. The unparalleled DakhaBrakha is an Ovation audience favorite not to be missed.

TICKETS • \$35 • \$50 • \$65

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





## Soweto Gospel Choir: *Peace*

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2025 • 7 PM  
MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

“Through their music and dance, the troupe testify to the human spirit, bringing undeniable energy and optimism to the audience during times of global uncertainty and tension.”

— ARTS HUB

Heralded by Nelson Mandela, Barack Obama, and Oprah Winfrey, Soweto Gospel Choir excites audiences worldwide, uplifting the soul and spreading joy through its earth-bound rhythms, rich harmonies, brilliant costumes, and infectious spirit. Delightful for the entire family, the multi-Grammy® and Emmy Award®-winning Soweto Gospel Choir performs a joyful program of South African freedom songs, traditional spirituals and classics interspersed with the spirited music of Aretha Franklin, Harry Belafonte, Peter Gabriel, Kate Bush, Leon Cohen, and more. “Undeniably synchronized, appears unshakable, and simultaneously expresses universality and individuality” (*San Francisco Classical Voice*), the Choir celebrates the unique power and global love of African gospel music.

TICKETS • \$35 • \$45 • \$60 • \$75  
STUDENT DEAL • \$25

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



# POP

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2025 • 6:30 PM  
ANNUAL FUNDRAISER OCEAN GATEWAY, PORTLAND

Join us for POP, Portland Ovarations' annual fundraising event supporting School-Time Performance programming that reaches over 10,000 local students each year. Emceed by Blake and Kelly from Coast 93.1, this unforgettable evening features performances by the Portland Jazz Orchestra with vocalist Jaimie Appel, dancers from Thornton Academy Dance, and the sensational drag queen Chartreuse Money.

Savor mouthwatering bites from Black Betty's Bistro, Niyat Catering, Empanada Club, Hellenic Kitchen, TAJ, and Pulutan Contemporary Filipino Cuisine. Raise a glass with a selection of beer and wine, bid on exclusive auction items, and soak up the energy of a vibrant, art-filled evening. POP always sells out — secure your spot today and celebrate with us!

By supporting Portland Ovarations, you play a vital role in nurturing a love for the arts among young learners, promoting creative thinking, and providing access to diverse performances. Your participation contributes to a vibrant and inclusive arts community, fostering lifelong connections to the transformative power of the performing arts.

TICKETS • \$125

SPONSORED BY



# Clue

## LIVE ON STAGE!

### Clue LIVE ON STAGE!

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2026 • 7 PM  
 THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2026 • 7 PM   
 MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

“A very fun whodunit that strikes contemporary parallels on the way to its grand reveal.”

— THE NEW YORK TIMES

A mansion. A murder. A mystery.

Murder and blackmail are on the menu when six mysterious guests assemble at Boddy Manor for a night they'll never forget! Was it Mrs. Peacock in the study with the knife? Or was it Colonel Mustard in the library with the wrench? Based on the fan-favorite 1985 Paramount Pictures movie and inspired by the classic Hasbro board game, *Clue* is the ultimate whodunit that will leave you dying of laughter and keep you guessing until the final twist.

©2025 Hasbro. All rights reserved.

#### TICKETS

\$55 • \$85 • \$105 • \$115 • \$125

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



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### Recycled Percussion

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2026 • 7 PM  
 MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

“If the phrase ‘family show’ usually makes us think of younger children, here’s one for tweeners, teens and even parents who remember Rock’em Sock’em Robots and what a cassette tape looks like.”

— LAS VEGAS REVIEW JOURNAL

Explosive. High-energy. Creative chaos. From interactive elements to jaw-dropping visual moments, Recycled Percussion is a playground of music and comedy you won't find anywhere else. After gaining national fame with their ground-breaking performances on “America’s Got Talent”, Recycled Percussion has performed more than 7,000 times worldwide and appeared at the Super Bowl, The Grammy Awards, “China’s Got Talent,” MTV Reality Awards, Comedy Central’s “The Gong Show,” broken six world records, earned 15 Emmy Awards, and garnered acclaim as the “best family show on the strip” for their 10-year Las Vegas residency. Underlying their musical mayhem, the troupe promotes kindness, positivity, and mental health awareness. If you’re into smiling, laughing, rocking out, and being absolutely amazed, Recycled Percussion is the place to be. No two performances are ever the same.

TICKETS • \$30 • \$45 • \$55 • \$65

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





## ***Haint Blue: A Night of Songs, Stories, and Traditions* featuring Samuel James & Michael Kebede**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2026 • 7 PM**  
FIRST PARISH CHURCH, PORTLAND

“Samuel James plays rough-hewn acoustic blues, sings with a raspy tenor a la Tom Waits, and approaches his instrument with the fierce attitude of a rocker.”

— CONTEMPORARY ACOUSTIC ROOTS & COUNTRY BLUES

In their debut duo performance, musicians Samuel James and Michael Kebede bring forward their individual virtuosity, sounds, and cultures to create a new sound within the dynamic landscape of Black American folk. Born in the U.S. of Ethiopian parents and raised in Ethiopia, Michael Kebede draws from American banjo traditions and East African music to create a sound and style uniquely his own. Multi-instrumentalist, historian, writer Samuel James is widely known for his command of blues, Americana and other folk forms. Through banjo, guitar, voice, and storytelling, James and Kebede weave together both traditional and original compositions that celebrate the music created when different sounds, voices, and cultures come together across time and place.

**TICKETS • \$45**

**STUDENT DEAL • \$25**

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



## **FLIP Fabrique: *Blizzard***

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2026 • 7 PM**  
MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

“FLIP Fabrique brings all the magic of a snow day to young and old alike.”

— EDINBURGH FESTIVAL MAGAZINE

FLIP Fabrique’s *Blizzard* is the magical story of a group of friends, each one different from the other, like snowflakes, exploring the awe and wonder of winter. Taking the stage by storm, FLIP Fabrique brings audiences on a wacky, fun, poetic, and tender journey through the season, and invites one to get lost in a moment of white wonder. *Blizzard* is a feast of artistry, imagery, personality, and humanity set to original music performed live. Hailing from Québec City, FLIP Fabrique fascinates audiences worldwide with performances that are equally as fun and accessible for everyone as visually stunning. “After watching them perform, you may suspect that they hail from a different planet” (*The New YorkTimes*).

**TICKETS • \$30 • \$40 • \$50 • \$65**

**STUDENT DEAL • \$25**

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



SPONSORED BY  
**Puelle Design**





## Sunny Jain's *Wild Wild East*

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2026 • 7 PM  
STATE THEATRE, PORTLAND

"Bollywood meets New Orleans, new age, rock and whatever else it takes to make this track hurtle forward with a new fusion at every junction."

— THEATRE TRAVELS

Sunny Jain, of Red Baraat fame, returns with *Wild Wild East*, a sonic exploration of the mythology of the romanticized American "cowboy," newly realized through the eyes and experiences of modern-day immigrants. *Wild Wild East* delves into the courage to leave behind a homeland and head west; to boldly step into a new place, declare it home, and try to find your place in it. Along with these complex ideas comes Jain's amazing ability to draw on myriad musical inspiration: jazz, indie rock, Indian folk, surf, East Coast rap, the music of Enio Morricone, and Bollywood composer R.D. Burman. As Jain and his bandmates tumble purposefully through these music stylings, we're forced to reconsider our surroundings. At heart, Jain is an alchemist — blending and bringing forth cultures, traditions, music forms, and ideologies into something raucous, electrifying, jubilant, and mesmerizing.

TICKETS • \$30 • \$40 • \$50  
STUDENT DEAL • \$25

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



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## Les Ballets Africains

TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026 • 7 PM  
MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

"...sheer physical energy and beauty..."

— THE NEW YORK TIMES

The cultural ambassadors to the Republic of Guinea, celebrating Africa's rich tradition of music and dance

Pulsing rhythms from ancient tribal instruments build the excitement as the dynamic artists of Les Ballets Africains burst onto the stage in an explosion of dance, and song. Les Ballets Africains is recognized in its role of cultural ambassador, carrying with them the moves and music of their culture, the pride and aspirations of their people, and the stories of their homeland. Following Guinea's independence from France in 1958, the dance company became the country's national ensemble. Whether in Sydney, Paris, London, Rio, Berlin, Tokyo, Moscow, New York, Chicago, or Los Angeles, their high-energy performances always receive tumultuous applause.

TICKETS • \$30 • \$40 • \$50 • \$65  
STUDENT DEAL • \$25

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



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FRANCESCA GALLUCCIO-STEELE & PHIL STEELE





BROADWAY NATIONAL TOUR  
**Kinky Boots**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2026 • 7 PM  
 THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2026 • 7 PM   
 MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

“A BIG-HEARTED, HIGH-KICKING HIT!”

— CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Everybody say “Yeah!” and let *Kinky Boots* lift your spirits to high-heeled heights! Winner of every Best Musical award, including the Tony®, Grammy®, and London’s Olivier Award, *Kinky Boots* captivates and entertains audiences around the world with a Tony®-winning score by Cyndi Lauper, book by four-time Tony Award®-winner Harvey Fierstein, and original direction and Tony®-winning choreography by Jerry Mitchell. Based on true events, *Kinky Boots* follows the journey of two people with nothing in common — or so they think. The unlikely pair find that they have more in common than they realized ... and discover that you change the world when you change your mind.

*Content Warning: This performance contains mature themes and language.*

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

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

SPONSORED BY



**Natalie MacMaster, Donnell Leahy & The Celtic All-Stars**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026 • 7 PM  
 MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

“MacMaster’s playing astonishes by its simultaneous warmth and killer edge.”

— TAHOE ON STAGE

Cape Breton’s beloved Natalie MacMaster and fiddle virtuoso Donnell Leahy, along with their daughter Mary Frances, invite some of the world’s top Celtic musicians to join them for an incredible concert experience. Through dancing, singing, and merry music-making, the evening highlights the unique talents, influences, and stories of the “first family of traditional fiddlers.” This musical journey features true all-stars of the Celtic world from Ireland, England, Scotland, and beyond. Together MacMaster, Leahy and guests explore the connections between Celtic styles across globe, taking the audience from the music’s ancient roots to its modern trends.

TICKETS • \$35 • \$45 • \$60 • \$75

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



## Mali Obomsawin: *Sugarcane*

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026 • 7 PM

STATE THEATRE, PORTLAND

Co-Presented with State Theatre

“Obomsawin reminds listeners constantly that folk music shouldn’t be about pliant, pretty subservience, and that Abenaki culture is loudly, proudly living and expanding.”

— THE GUARDIAN

Bassist Mali Obomsawin, a member of the Odanak First Nation, brings forth her exceptional musicality as the composer of the Oscar-nominated film, *Sugarcane*. The 2024 documentary, an investigation into abuse and missing children at an Indian residential school, shines a spotlight on the Sugarcane Reserve. A stunning tribute to the resilience of Native people and their way of life, *Sugarcane* is an epic cinematic portrait of a community during a moment of international reckoning, illuminating the beauty of a community breaking cycles of intergenerational trauma and finding the strength to persevere. In this powerful evening of music and film, Obomsawin and her band perform live to the backdrop of the film.

*Content Warning: This performance contains references to trauma and violence.*

TICKETS • \$30 • \$45 • \$55

STUDENT DEAL • \$25

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

## *The Nightingale’s Encores* with Thomas Wolf

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2026 • 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 Encores* is a wholly entertaining, multimedia narrated concert experience building on last year’s sold-out *Nightingale’s Sonata* performance. Accompanied by two acclaimed musicians and the projection of dozens of historical photographs, author Thomas Wolf recounts an entirely new set of fascinating and amusing stories involving his multi-generational musical family. Stretching from the Jewish ghetto on the Black Sea to the palaces of European royalty to Carnegie Hall and the White House and beyond, each story is accompanied by a musical encore that family members helped make famous. This second program based on Wolf’s award-winning book, *The Nightingale’s Sonata* reveals family triumphs and tragedies while sketching the history of classical music in the 20th century. Wolf is joined by international prize-winning violinist, Blake Pouliot and Lincoln Center’s 2019 Avery Fisher Career Award pianist, Henry Kramer.

TICKETS • \$65

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

SUPPORTED BY  
HIRSHON FAMILY CHARITABLE FOUNDATION





## The Peking Acrobats

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2026 • 7 PM  
MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

“In their graceful efforts these brightly costumed tumblers, acrobats, cyclists, jugglers and clever clowns provide 90 minutes of family fun that infuses [life] with an extra measure of joy”

— THE NEW YORK TIMES

Trick cycling, maneuvers atop a precarious pagoda of chairs, gorgeous silk work, precision tumbling, thrilling juggling, unbelievable contortionism, gymnastics, and more. The Peking Acrobats redefine audiences' perception of the ancient art of Chinese acrobatics. A truly spectacular show for all ages, the grace and precision of the acrobats are the triumph of years of dedicated training and discipline. Chinese acrobatics are, in fact, more than just a series of stunts. These acts clearly demonstrate the achievement of perfection through finding harmony between mind and body.

TICKETS • \$30 • \$40 • \$55 • \$65  
STUDENT DEAL • \$25

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



SPONSORED BY



## Wabanaki Stories

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026 • 3 PM  
MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND  
Co-Commissioned with Akomawt Educational Initiative

“Stories are more than words. They are tools to build community, teach values, and pass on knowledge to future generations.”

— CHRIS NEWELL (PASSAMAQUODDY)

The land and waters known as Maine have been home to Wabanaki People for over 12,000 years. This vibrant production of Wabanaki stories and music spotlights six Wabanaki artists coming from several different nations and traditions. Musician Tania Morey (Tobique) sings of the Wolastoq; Jennifer Pictou (Mi'kmaq) regales with spirit stories told in the company of a large puppet; Dwayne Tomah (Passamaquoddy) shares stories that showcase his native language, Passamaquoddy; Ashton Altvater aka Undeniable the Native (Passamaquoddy) delights with original rap and hip-hop; and Jason Brown aka Firefly (Penobscot) electrifies with cutting-edge technology blended with ancient frequencies. Director, artist, and author Chris Newell (Passamaquoddy) intersperses each with music and narration. Together, they demonstrate the depth and breadth of Wabanaki artistry.

ALL TICKETS • \$25

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



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## Sophia Liu, piano

SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2026 • 2 PM  
HANNAFORD HALL, USM CAMPUS, PORTLAND

“[Sophia Liu] is a true phenomenon. As soon as she puts her hands on the keyboard, she captivates with a fluid and natural musicality.”

— CRESCENDO MAGAZINE

Canadian pianist Sophia Liu is quickly emerging among most compelling pianist of her generation. Liu’s “phenomenal virtuosity” (*Bachtrack*), coupled with her “poise and authority” (*Boston Musical Intelligence*) and dynamic interpretations captivate and mesmerize audiences worldwide. Born in Shanghai, raised in Japan, and studying in Montreal—Liu is an international prize winner, sought-after soloist, and festival standout. Liu’s program for Ovation audiences includes works by Pyotr Tchaikovsky, Franz Schubert, and Frédéric Chopin.

TICKETS • \$55

STUDENT DEAL • \$25

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



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A 21st century retirement community™

## The Academy of St Martin in the Fields Wind Ensemble

TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2026 • 7 PM  
MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

“Impressive sophistication and complexity of phrasing, elegant articulation and an impeccable sense of balance... What sets the Academy apart from other ensembles is its exceptional musical intelligence”

— SEEN AND HEARD INTERNATIONAL

Featuring principals Fiona Cross on clarinet, John Roberts on oboe, Julie Price on bassoon, Stephen Stirling on horn, and Caroline Palmer on piano, the wind ensemble of the acclaimed Academy of St Martin in the Fields is recognized as “an ensemble of first-rate musicians, technically superb, generously expressive, and obviously enjoying themselves” (*Dallas Morning News*). Rooted in unsurpassed musicianship and a commitment to maintaining a large-scale chamber ensemble, the Academy of St Martin in the Fields was founded by Sir Neville Marriner in 1958 and is currently led by Music Director Joshua Bell. The wind ensemble’s Ovation program includes works by J.S. Bach, Claude Debussy, Amy Beach, Amadeus Mozart, Erwin Schuloff, and others along with a newly commissioned work especially for the ensemble.

TICKETS • \$40 • \$55 • \$65

STUDENT DEAL • \$25

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





## Seven Things I've Learned: An Evening with Ira Glass

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2026 • 7 PM

STATE THEATRE, PORTLAND

Co-Presented with State Theatre & In Partnership with Maine Public

“You will be fierce. You will be fearless. And you will make work you know in your heart is not as good as you want it to be.”

— IRA GLASS

Ira Glass—the creator, producer, and host of *This American Life*, the iconic weekly public radio program with millions of listeners around the world — returns. Using audio clips, music, and video, Glass shares lessons from his life and career: What inspires him to create? What drives his passion? How have failures and successes informed his decisions? During his unique talk, Glass mixes stories live onstage, bringing audiences into the creative process of one of our foremost storytellers and revered radio personalities.

VIP ticket includes entry to reception with special guest Ira Glass.

TICKETS • \$40 • \$65

VIP • \$85

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

## Chucho Valdés Royal Quartet

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2026 • 7 PM

MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

“Valdés’ every dancing intro, incisive fill and storming chordal eruption on piano is always irresistible.”

— THE GUARDIAN

Pianist, composer, arranger Chucho Valdés belongs to that singular and often untouchable elite of Cuba’s prolific geniuses — all at once monstrously talented and endlessly creative, with a fondness for reinvention in each subsequent work. Over a career spanning more than 60 years as a musician and bandleader, Valdés has distilled elements of Afro-Cuban musical tradition, jazz, classical, and rock into a deeply personal style. Winner of seven Grammy<sup>®</sup> and six Latin Grammy<sup>®</sup> awards, Valdés is a giant among jazz giants. The elder statesman of jazz is joined by a fabulous band of musicians of equal measure (and tempo): José Armando Gola on bass; Horacio “El Negro” Hernández on drums and percussionist Roberto Jr. Vizcaino.

TICKETS • \$35 • \$45 • \$60 • \$75

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



SPONSORED BY





BROADWAY NATIONAL TOUR  
**Meredith Willson's *The Music Man***

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2026 • 7 PM  
 THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2026 • 7 PM   
 MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

“A joyous, blissful Broadway event!”

— THE TELEGRAPH

There's trouble in River City when a fast-talking salesman gets his heart stolen by the town librarian. Meredith Willson's six-time, Tony Award-winning musical comedy *The Music Man* follows fast-talking traveling salesman, Harold Hill, as he cons the people of River City, Iowa, into buying instruments and uniforms for a boys' band that he vows to organize — this, despite the fact that he doesn't know a trombone from a treble clef. His plans to skip town with the cash are foiled when he falls for Marian, the librarian, who transforms him into a respectable citizen by curtain's fall. Featuring songs such as “Seventy-Six Trombones,” “Trouble,” “’Til There Was You,” “Pickalittle”, and “Gary, Indiana,” *The Music Man* is a family-friendly story to be shared with every generation.

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

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



**TALAGA: Jay Carlon & Micaela Tobin**

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026 • 7 PM  
 MECHANICS' HALL, PORTLAND

“If you want to be utterly transported, look to choreographer Jay Carlon. His work is so theatrical, so absorbing that you forget where you are.”

— DANCE MAGAZINE

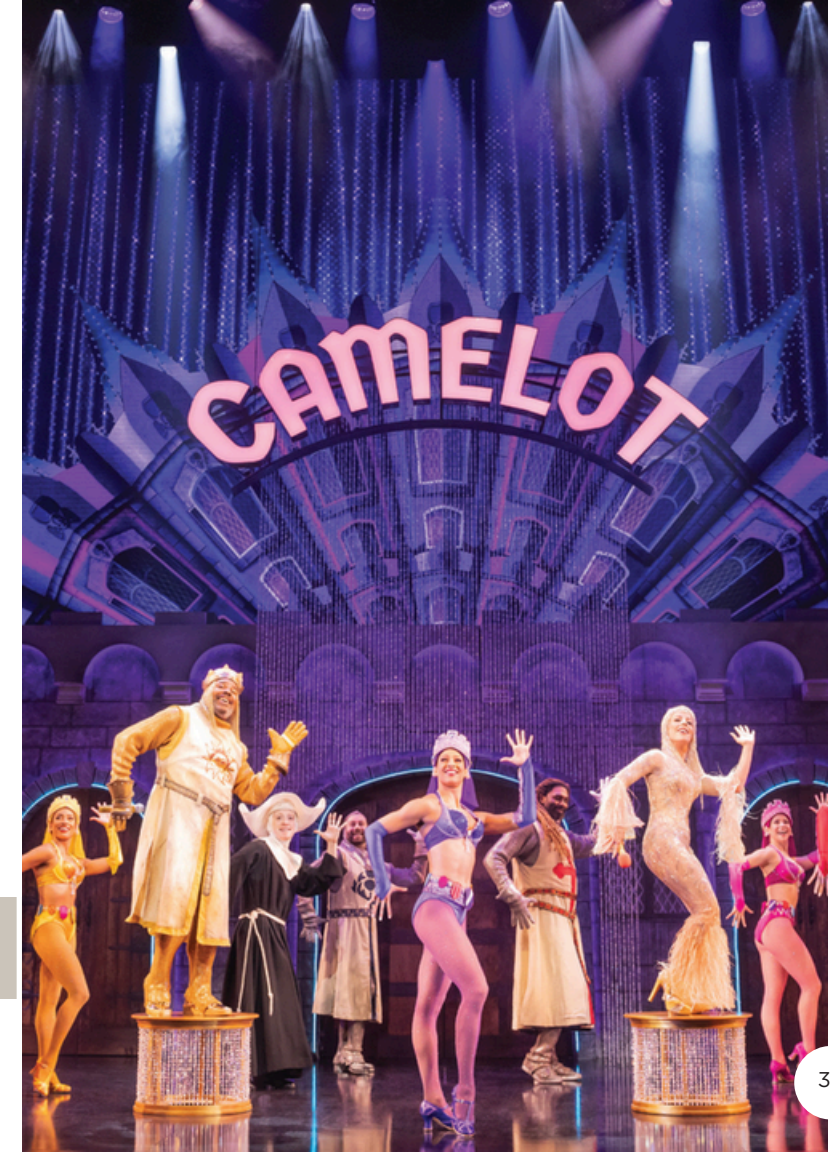
Dancer/choreographer/community organizer Jay Carlon and composer/sound artist/vocalist Micaela Tobin bring people together in their performance practice known as *TALAGA*. This intimate and relaxed gathering combines performance, conversation, and food in the spirit of sharing and learning about unique cultural perspectives and lived experiences. Each iteration of *TALAGA* is tailored to our present moment and is a platform for the collaborating artists' research and respective practices of experimental movement, music, and decolonization. The most recent recipient of the Ellis-Beauregard Foundation's Choreographer Award, Carlon's work facilitates shared healing and the exploration of post-colonial identity, ancestry, and the complex queer and Filipinx experience in relationship to site and space.

TICKETS • \$45

STUDENT DEAL • \$25

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





BROADWAY NATIONAL TOUR  
**Monty Python's Spamalot**

**TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2026 • 7 PM**  
**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2026 • 7 PM** Ⓜ  
**THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2026 • 7 PM**  
 MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

“A hilarious funfest filled with true Broadway razzle dazzle!”

— ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

SPAMALOT, which first galloped onto Broadway in 2005, features a book and lyrics by Eric Idle and music by John Du Prez and Eric Idle. The original Broadway production was nominated for fourteen Tony Awards and won three, including best musical. The musical comedy lovingly ripped off from the film classic, *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, SPAMALOT features well-known song titles such as “Always Look on the Bright Side of Life,” “The Song That Goes Like Like This,” “Find Your Grail,” and more that have become beloved classics in the musical theatre canon.

*Content Warning: This performance contains adult humor and themes.*

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

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

SPONSORED BY  


**Dig Up! A Dinosaur Expedition**  
**STEMmersive**

**SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2026 • 11 AM & 2 PM**  
 RIVERTON COMMUNITY CENTER, PORTLAND

Get ready to go back in time on a prehistoric adventure! *Dig Up! A Dinosaur Expedition* is an immersive, interactive theatrical experience designed for children ages 3-10 and their families. Explore the work of geologists and paleontologists through a series of hands-on activity stations. Then, embark on an imaginative underground journey that catapults you back to the age of the dinosaurs — all taking place inside a 25-foot inflatable dome with 360-degree projections, original music, and puppetry! Brought to you by the interactive theatre company STEMmersive, *Dig Up!* is an experience that aims to increase the visibility of women in earth sciences, while also emphasizing the importance of conservation and issues relevant to the local community.

**ALL TICKETS • \$25**  
*This is a low-capacity event, purchase tickets before it sells out!*

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



## O<sub>2</sub> Ovations Offstage

A key part of Portland Ovations' mission is not only presenting exceptional performances on stage, but also enriching lives by bringing the performing arts directly into the heart of our communities. This vision comes to life through Ovations Offstage (O<sub>2</sub>), where artists and audiences meet beyond the spotlight — fostering meaningful connections and creating magical, lasting moments. O<sub>2</sub> is designed to extend the reach of live performance into classrooms, community centers, and public spaces, making the arts a vibrant part of everyday life.

At the core of Ovations Offstage are three guiding pillars: skills-based instruction, which offers hands-on learning experiences with professional artists; arts integration, where the arts are woven into educational and civic contexts to enhance understanding and engagement; and cultural competence, which invites participants to explore diverse perspectives, traditions, and creative expressions. These programs are open to all — students, educators, families, and curious individuals of every age — inviting everyone to join in celebrating the transformative power of live performance and the joy of shared artistic discovery.

## Seeking Resonance

This season's Seeking Resonance series continues an exploration of borders — geopolitical, superimposed, and self-defined — and the role the arts can play in bringing peoples together while holding culture. Artists, scholars, and local leaders share their experiences and insights through thematically linked performances and Ovations Offstage events.



## O<sub>2</sub> OPPORTUNITIES

In collaboration with and grateful for our many community partners, O<sub>2</sub> hosts a wide variety of events each season, geared to audience members at all ages and all stages of their performing arts exploration. In these intimate settings, participants hear artists' stories, learn their crafts, and engage more deeply with the themes of their work. These include:

- Pre-performance talks
- Masterclasses and public workshops
- Book clubs and other literary events
- Community panel conversations
- Film screenings
- Post-performance Q&A's
- Open rehearsals
- Meet-the-Artist events
- Drag Storytime

**To keep up with events as they are announced, visit [portlandovations.org/community-events](https://portlandovations.org/community-events).**

**Bringing performing arts and artists off our stages and into our communities.**

 **School-Time Performance Series**

Portland Ovations' 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 designed 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 theatre. 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/](http://portlandovations.org/school-programs/).

**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 Ovations Offstage:

207.773.3150 ext. 3  
[Offstage@portlandovations.org](mailto:Offstage@portlandovations.org)

THANK YOU TO OUR SCHOOL-TIME PERFORMANCE SERIES AND OVATIONS OFFSTAGE SPONSORS AND FUNDERS.



**2025-2026 SCHOOL-TIME PERFORMANCES**

 **Leonardo! A Wonderful Show about a Terrible Monster**  
 MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2025 • 10 AM

**Rennie Harris Puremovement: Nuttin' but a Word**  
 MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2025 • 10 AM

 **Maddi's Fridge**  
 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2025 • 10 AM

**Recycled Percussion**  
 THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2026 • 10 AM

**Les Ballets Africains**  
 TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026 • 10 AM

**The Peking Acrobats**  
 THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2026 • 10 AM

 **Wabanaki Stories**  
 FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2026 • 10 AM & 12 PM

**Dig Up! A Dinosaur Expedition — STEMmersive**  
 FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2026 • 10 AM & 12 PM

**Antonio Rocha Once Upon a Hill in Maine: The Pedro Tovookan Parris Story**  
 AVAILABLE TO BOOK IN-SCHOOL  
 MARCH 2 - JUNE 1, 2026



**Innovative and engaging performances from all over the world.**

TO PURCHASE TICKETS CALL **PORTTIX 207.842.0800**

### How to Order Tickets

#### IN PERSON

Visit PortTIX in person at 400 Congress Street, Suite A in Portland. Regular box office hours are Monday-Friday, 11 AM-3 PM and 60 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

### Accessibility

Portland Ovarions welcomes people of all abilities to our performances and programs. Complete accessibility information is available at [portlandovations.org/accessibility](http://portlandovations.org/accessibility), along with our Access Services Request Form. Questions? Email Ovarions Accessibility Coordinator at [kmanfre@portlandovations.org](mailto:kmanfre@portlandovations.org).



Venue specific accessibility information including parking, building entry, restrooms, and more is available for viewing at [portlandovations.org/accessibility](http://portlandovations.org/accessibility)



ASL interpretation is provided at select performances, indicated by the ASL icon in this brochure. ASL interpretation available upon request for all other events.



Audio Description is provided at select performances, indicated by the Audio Description icon in this brochure.

### Discounts

#### MEMBERS

Ovarions' 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.

#### GROUPS

An Ovarions 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](mailto: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-\$20 depending on the price of the performance. Fees apply at all modes of sale.

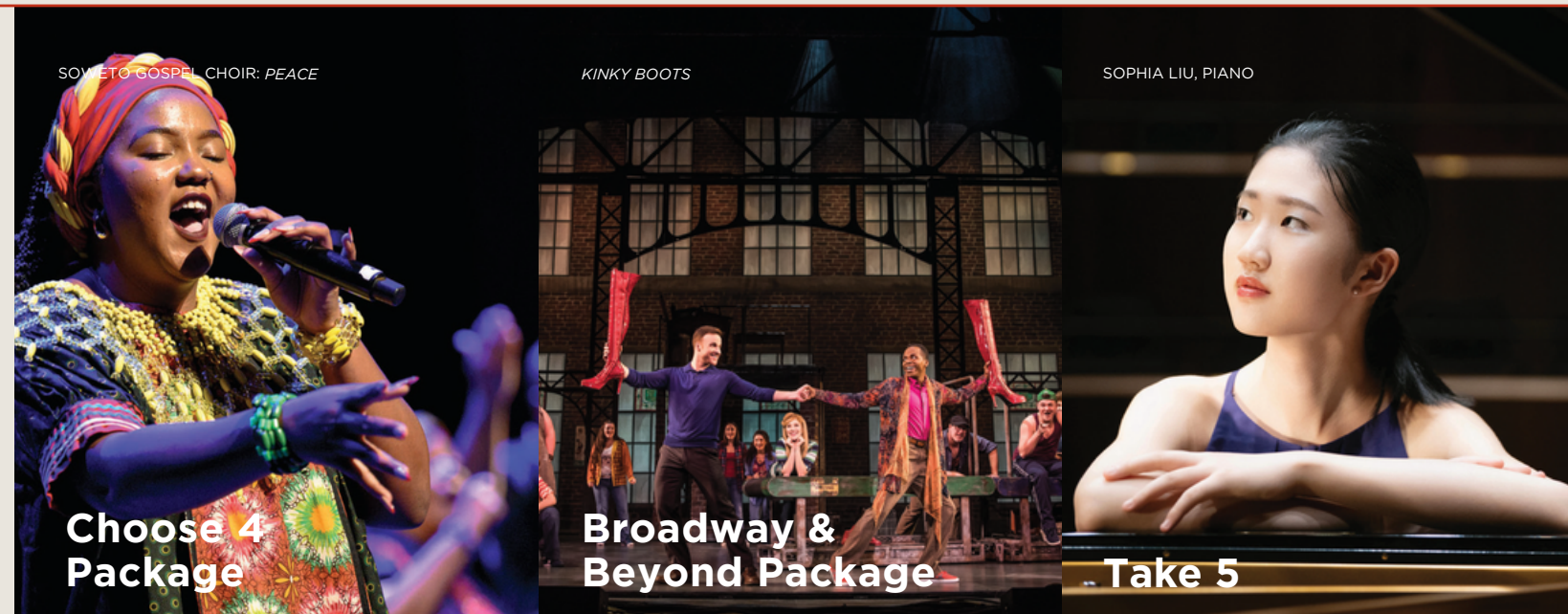
### Exchanges

Ticket exchanges are available to Ovarions 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.**

## GET MORE OF WHAT YOU LOVE: PACKAGE AND SAVE!



Choose 4 Package

Broadway & Beyond Package

Take 5

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.

Buy tickets to four Ovarions "Broadway & Beyond" performances and save 10%.

- *TINA* – The Tina Turner Musical Broadway National Tour
- *Clue* LIVE ON STAGE!
- *Kinky Boots* Broadway National Tour
- Meredith Willson's *The Music Man* Broadway National Tour
- *Monty Python's Spamalot* Broadway National Tour

Experience everything you love about Ovarions in one adventurous package: 5 unique performances across different venues, several genres, all of varying scale and staging for only \$125 plus fees.

- Rennie Harris Puremovement
- FLIP Fabrique: *Blizzard*
- Sunny Jain's *Wild Wild East*
- Les Ballets Africains
- Sophia Liu, piano



THE PEKING ACROBATS



SUNNY JAIN'S WILD WILD EAST



LES BALLETS AFRICAINS



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