North Central College

SEASON 2017-2018
FINE & PERFORMING ARTS

Jim Brickman “A Joyful Christmas”

The Tenors Christmas Together

Jazz Faculty Christmas Concert

Organic Theater Company “Jacob Marley’s Christmas Carol”

Hot Peas ‘N Butter “Holidays From Around The World”

Photo by Jeff Klaum

Photo by Matt Knox

PHOTO CREDITS

North Central College
NAPERVILLE, ILLINOIS
Founded 1861
Welcome to North Central! The holiday season is personally my favorite time of year. I believe life should be like the ending of the movie “White Christmas” when Bing Crosby signals the stage manager in the wings to raise up the backdrop and reveal the pristine whiteness of the new-fallen snow on the Vermont countryside. There should always be that quiet crunch when a blanket of white freshens the scene. We should all feel the joy and serenity of the holiday season.

This is also my favorite time of year because of the artists we are able to present to you. Picture walking into the Wentz Concert Hall and settling into your comfortable seats. Following a brilliant announcement from the stage by yours truly (I can dream, can’t I?) out walks Jim Brickman. We have had Jim Brickman here twice before but never during the holiday season. He has the ability to charm every audience member with his virtuoso work on the piano, showing his passion for the art form while creating the perfect atmosphere. To have him in the acoustic perfection of the Wentz Concert Hall will be a gift that will set all in attendance in the perfect holiday mood.

Following a Christmas performance two seasons ago, The Tenors will once again amaze the crowd in the classic beauty of Pfeiffer Hall. For our new kids on the block, Hot Peas ‘N Butter, from Nick Junior will perform two shows just for our younger audiences. What better way to get in the holiday spirit than participating in “Holidays From Around the World.”

What a wonderful time of year! However you celebrate this holiday season, I am glad we can be a part of it. We hope these performers will create holiday memories to last for years to come. On behalf of our fine arts team, we wish you a blessed and happy holiday season. And now, on with the show!

Brian Lynch
Fine Arts Director
North Central College
Join Friends of the Arts today and receive exclusive benefits.

Thanks to our many contributors, world-renowned artists such as Yo-Yo Ma, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Vienna Boys Choir, Wynton Marsalis, Celtic Woman and many more have performed in our venues. But the cost of performance tickets only covers half our expenses to bring these great artists to the College’s stages. The generous support from the Friends of the Arts ensures the College can continue to bring world-class performers to our world-class venues.

YOUR GIFT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Sneak preview of next year’s season</th>
<th>Name recognition in program</th>
<th>Name recognition in Wentz Concert Hall lobby</th>
<th>Private Sheltering Gallery showing and tour</th>
<th>Pre-Sale opportunity for select performances</th>
<th>Access to Impresario Lounge*</th>
<th>Pre-Show Recognition Dinner</th>
<th>Complimentary tickets to North Central College presented events (per season)</th>
<th>Backstage meet and greet opportunity (subject to artist availability)</th>
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*Annual gifts made at the Standing Ovation level and above will also include membership into the North Central College Presidents Club. The Presidents Club consists of donors who make a minimum gift of $1,000 or more to one or more areas of the College. Presidents Club members are annually invited to the Presidents Club BBQ in September, and the Presidents Club dinner and theatre event in November.

2017-2018 FRIENDS OF THE ARTS

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Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wehrli
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Lyle Allison
Boychen Bradshaw and Kelly Fronse
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William Vickery
Joseph Weigel
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Carmen Woodring
Dale & Lorraine Helm Wordelman
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Yost

To become a Friend of the Arts visit northcentralcollege.edu/makeagift

We apologize if we have inadvertently made an error concerning your gift. Please contact the box office at 630-637-7469 so we can correct our records.
# North Central College

## Season 2017-2018

### Fine & Performing Arts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DECEMBER 2017</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 7, 8, 9, 10</td>
<td>Organic Theater Company &quot;Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol&quot;</td>
<td>$30, $20</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 8</td>
<td>5th Annual Jazz Faculty Christmas Concert</td>
<td>$25, $20</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 9</td>
<td>Jim Brickman &quot;A Joyful Christmas&quot;</td>
<td>$45, $35</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 10</td>
<td>DuPage Symphony Orchestra &quot;Yuletide Joy&quot;</td>
<td>$18 - $8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 15</td>
<td>The Tenors</td>
<td>$85, $75, $85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 16</td>
<td>Hot Peas 'N Butter &quot;Holidays from Around the World&quot;</td>
<td>$12, $6</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JANUARY 2018</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 12</td>
<td>An Evening with Jazz Saxophonist Mitch Paliga</td>
<td>$20, $15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 14</td>
<td>Chicago Sinfonietta &quot;Annual Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.: Ask Your Mama&quot;</td>
<td>$60, $48, $10</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 20</td>
<td>Jim Peterik &amp; World Stage</td>
<td>$70, $60</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 21</td>
<td>Spider Saloff &quot;The Cool Heat of Peggy Lee&quot;</td>
<td>$35, $30</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 27</td>
<td>The Wailers</td>
<td>$45, $35, $30</td>
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<tr>
<th>FEBRUARY 2018</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
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<tr>
<td>February 1, 2, 3, 4</td>
<td>&quot;Iphigenia Among the Taurians&quot;</td>
<td>$10, $8</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 3</td>
<td>&quot;Gospel Extravaganza 30&quot;</td>
<td>$15, $10</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 9</td>
<td>An Evening with Jazz Vibraphonist Brad Stirtz</td>
<td>$20, $15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 10</td>
<td>DuPage Symphony Orchestra &quot;Double Rich&quot;</td>
<td>$38 - $15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 16</td>
<td>&quot;Explore the Sound X&quot;</td>
<td>$10, $3</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 18</td>
<td>Berlin Philharmonic Piano Quartet</td>
<td>$30, $20</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 24</td>
<td>Regina Carter &quot;Simply Ella&quot;</td>
<td>$60, $50</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 25</td>
<td>Tammy McCann &quot;Tenderly Nat King Cole&quot;</td>
<td>$35, $30</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 28</td>
<td>&quot;I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change&quot;</td>
<td>$15, $10</td>
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<tr>
<th>MARCH 2018</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
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<tr>
<td>March 1, 2, 3, 4</td>
<td>&quot;I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change&quot;</td>
<td>$15, $10</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 3</td>
<td>Chords for Kids Concert for Children with Autism</td>
<td>Free (ticket required)</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 8</td>
<td>Symphony Band &amp; Chamber Players Winter Concert</td>
<td>$5, $3</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 9</td>
<td>An Evening of Big Band</td>
<td>$20, $15</td>
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<td>March 10</td>
<td>ArtsPower National Touring Theatre &quot;Harry the Dirty Dog&quot;</td>
<td>$12, $6</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 10</td>
<td>Art Garfunkel: In Close-Up</td>
<td>$80, $70</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 11</td>
<td>Chicago Sinfonietta &quot;Hear Me Roar&quot;</td>
<td>$60, $48, $10</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 16</td>
<td>Paddy Homan and the Noble Call</td>
<td>$30, $20</td>
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</table>

Artists, dates, times, prices and locations are subject to change.  ★ North Central College performance  ★ Impressario Society event
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MARCH 2018</td>
<td>DuPage Symphony Orchestra &quot;Celebrate Now &amp; Then&quot;</td>
<td>$38 - $15</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 18</td>
<td>Chicago Harmony Sweepstakes &quot;A Cappella Festival&quot;</td>
<td>$40, $30</td>
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<td>March 24</td>
<td>Velvet Caravan</td>
<td>$35, $30</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>March 24</td>
<td>Velvet Caravan</td>
<td>$35, $30</td>
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<tr>
<td>APRIL 2018</td>
<td><strong>Richie Kotzen</strong></td>
<td>$35, $25</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 6</td>
<td>Dallas Children's Theater &quot;How I Became a Pirate&quot;</td>
<td>$12, $6</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 7</td>
<td>Harry Connick Jr.</td>
<td>$38, $15</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 12</td>
<td>ArtsPower National Touring Theatre &quot;Are You My Mother?&quot;</td>
<td>$12, $6</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 25</td>
<td>Chamber Singers &quot;Metamorphosis&quot;</td>
<td>$5, $3</td>
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<tr>
<td>APRIL 2018</td>
<td><strong>Revenge of the Rhythm Section featuring Bassist Kelly Sill and Drummer Jack Mouse</strong></td>
<td>$20, $15</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 21</td>
<td>Theatreworks USA &quot;The Cat in the Hat&quot;</td>
<td>$12, $6</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 21</td>
<td>An Evening with Branford Marsalis</td>
<td>$70, $60</td>
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<tr>
<td>APRIL 2018</td>
<td><strong>Theatreworks USA &quot;The Cat in the Hat&quot;</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>April 21</td>
<td>An Evening with Branford Marsalis</td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>Hypnotic Brass Ensemble</strong></td>
<td>$35, $25</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 13</td>
<td>Harrison Ford</td>
<td>$35, $25</td>
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<td>April 19, 20, 21, 22</td>
<td>&quot;The Flick&quot;</td>
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<td><strong>ArtsPower National Touring Theatre &quot;The Hands of Liberace&quot;</strong></td>
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<td>May 6</td>
<td>Concert Winds Return from Tour Concert</td>
<td>$5, $3</td>
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<td>MAY 2018</td>
<td><strong>ArtsPower National Touring Theatre &quot;The Hands of Liberace&quot;</strong></td>
<td>$35, $30</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 13</td>
<td>Russian National Ballet Theatre &quot;Romeo and Juliet&quot; and &quot;Carmen&quot;</td>
<td>$45, $30, $25</td>
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<td>May 17</td>
<td>Russian National Ballet Theatre &quot;Romeo and Juliet&quot; and &quot;Carmen&quot;</td>
<td>$45, $30, $25</td>
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<td>May 21</td>
<td>Russian National Ballet Theatre &quot;Romeo and Juliet&quot; and &quot;Carmen&quot;</td>
<td>$45, $30, $25</td>
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<td>May 22</td>
<td>The Spring Great Evening of Jazz</td>
<td>$5, $3</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAY 2018</td>
<td><strong>Russian National Ballet Theatre &quot;Romeo and Juliet&quot; and &quot;Carmen&quot;</strong></td>
<td>$45, $30, $25</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 23</td>
<td>Concert Choir &amp; Women's Chorale &quot;Graduation Finale!!&quot; Concert</td>
<td>$5, $3</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 24, 25, 26, 27</td>
<td>&quot;Vinegar Tom&quot;</td>
<td>$10, $8</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 19</td>
<td>10,000 Maniacs</td>
<td>$45, $30, $20</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 20</td>
<td>Tommy Hensel</td>
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<td>May 21</td>
<td>Department of Bands Spring Concert</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 22</td>
<td>Concert Choir &amp; Women's Chorale &quot;Graduation Finale!!&quot; Concert</td>
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North Central College thanks our Fine & Performing Arts 2017-2018 season sponsors.

BMO Harris Bank

Nicor Gas

ADVANCED DATA TECHNOLOGIES

BLOOMING COLOR printing in Illinois

Chef

Elements at Water Street

Marquette

naperville magazine

Ryan Hill Realty

SAVANT

Bar Louie

CATCH35 Seafood & Premium Steaks

DuPage Foundation

Hotel Indigo, Naperville Riverwalk

Hog's Fugger Fish House

Monarch Landing

Pinot's Palette

Sullivans Steakhouse

These programs are also partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.

For more information about corporate sponsorship opportunities, please contact Megan Lynch, director of corporate relations at 630-637-5210 or mwlynch@noctrl.edu
RESTAURANTS:
Bar Louie
22 E. Chicago Ave., Naperville

Catch 35
35 S. Washington St.
Naperville

Hugo’s Frog Bar & Fish House
55 S. Main St., Naperville
(Entrance is on Van Buren)

Sullivan’s Steakhouse
244 S. Main St., Naperville

The Bangkok Village
22 E. Chicago Ave.
Suite 122, Naperville

Bistro du Bouchard
127-129 S. Washington St.
Naperville

Dark Horse Pastries
232 S. Washington St.
Suite 6, Naperville

Eggs, Inc. Café
220 S. Washington St.
Naperville

La Sorella di Francesca
19 W. Jefferson Ave.
Naperville

Mesón Sabika
1025 Aurora Ave., Naperville

Paisans Pizzeria & Bar
2001 Ogden Ave., Lisle

Smallcakes Cupcakery
115 E. Ogden Ave.
Suite 119, Naperville

Ted’s Montana Grill
39 W. Jefferson Ave.
Naperville

NAPERVILLE HOTELS:
Hotel Indigo
Naperville Riverwalk
120 Water St.

Best Western
1617 Naperville
Wheaton Rd.

Chicago
Naperville Marriott
1801 N. Naper Blvd.

Country Inn & Suites
1837 Centre Point Cir.

Courtyard Marriott
1155 E. Diehl Rd.

Embassy Suites
1823 Abriter Ct.

Fairfield Inn & Suites
1820 Abriter Ct.

Harrison House Bed & Breakfast
26 N. Eagle St.

Hotel Arista
2139 City Gate Ln.

Red Roof Inn Plus+
1698 W. Diehl Rd.

For more information about corporate sponsorship opportunities, please contact Megan Lynch, director of corporate relations at 630-637-5210 or mwlynch@noctrl.edu
We’re here to help.

At BMO Harris Bank, we take pride in our local communities. That’s why, each year, through various sponsorships and community involvement, we are committed to providing our support.

BMO Harris Bank is proud to support North Central College Fine & Performing Arts.
Date availability: June 14 - August 5, 2018

Eligibility: Applicants must be age 18 or older and enrolled in a degree-seeking program involving a summer internship in the area.

Reservation options: Companies contract directly with North Central College on behalf of their intern(s) or intern contracts directly with North Central College.

For more information regarding on-site and Naperville amenities, visit northcentralcollege.edu/internhousing.
ORGANIC THEATER COMPANY

“Jacob Marley’s Christmas Carol”

December 7, 8, 9, 7:30 p.m.
December 9, 10, 2 p.m.
Theatre at Meiley-Swallow Hall
31 S. Ellsworth St., Naperville
CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Richie Gross - Richie earned a BA in Theatre from the University of South Carolina, an MFA in Acting from Northern Illinois University, and a Certificate of Acting from the Moscow Art Theatre School. He is an Organic Theater Company artistic associate and has been seen in several Organic productions, including Bartleby The Scrivener, Man With Bags, The Police, The Secret Agent, The Naked King, Rhinoceros, All In the Timing and Sexual Perversity in Chicago.

Colin Jackson - Colin Jackson joined Organic in 2010. Acting credits with them include Caligula, Tartuffe, Macbeth, Bartleby the Scrivener, Rhinoceros, King Ubu and Theophilus North. Originally from West Virginia, Colin is a graduate of Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan and received his BFA from Northern Illinois University. He also studied a semester abroad at the Moscow Art Theater School.

Amy Powell - Amy is an actress and filmmaker from Chicago. Previous Organic credits include Darlene in Diviners, Marianne in Tartuffe, and Vika in Out of the Blue. She was most recently seen as Benvollia in Along The Way Productions version of Romeo and Juliet, where the cast rehearsed individually and secretly, only meeting on stage the first night of performance. Off stage, she keeps busy making films with her production company, Sundog Studios. Amy has a BFA in acting and has also studied at the Moscow Art Theater School. When she finds some free time, Amy enjoys teaching tricks to her pet birds, writing her first feature film, and always saving room for dessert.

Bryan Wakefield - Bryan joined Organic as a company member in 2007 and has appeared in Out of the Blue, The Good Doctor, Picasso at the Lapin Agile, Tartuffe, Bartleby the Scrivener, Bobby Gould in Hell, Macbeth, Play Strindberg, The Police, The Secret Agent, and Theophilus North. Bryan also directed Emilie: La Maquise Du Chatelet Defends Her Life Tonight and will be directing The Revolutionists in the summer season of 2018. Chicago credits include: Twelfth Night, The Fair Maid of the West, and Cyrano de Bergerac(Oak Park Festival Theater); You Can’t Take it With You (Village Players); The Devils Arithmetic – TYA (Apple Tree Theatre); Character Sheet (Chicago ScriptWorks). Regional credits include Moscow Art Theatre, Virginia Permiere Theatre and Virginia Musical Theatre. Bryan is also an actor/combatant with the Society of the American Fight Directors and a trained exotic bird handler from the California-based Carvalho's Friends of a Feather. He holds an MFA in acting from Northern Illinois University and a Certificate of Acting from the Moscow Art Theater School.
PRODUCTION TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

Josh Anderson (Director) - Josh has been a company member of Organic Theater since 2007. He works as a director, actor and is currently the managing director of the company. He recently directed productions of The Good Doctor, Picasso at the Lapin Agile, The Diviners, Chekhov’s The Bear, Jacob Marley’s Christmas Carol, Tomfoolery, Ancient History and the upcoming Tiresias was a Weatherman. Favorite acting credits include The Emigrants, Rhinoceros, Theophilus North, The Police, All in the Timing, Sexual Perversity in Chicago, The Secret Agent, Man with Bags, Bartleby the Scrivener, and The $30,000 Bequest. A film version of The $30,000 Bequest is currently in post-production and can be seen soon!

Angela Kring (Stage Manager) - Originally from the hills of Fayetteville, Arkansas, Angela graduated from Northern Illinois University with a BA in theatre studies and a minor in Southeast Asian studies in 2011. Angela has been with Organic since 2010 when she began as an intern and is thrilled to be the company’s resident stage manager. Organic credits include: Stage Management – King Ubu, Phantom Pain, Emilie: La Marquise Du Chatelet Defends Her Life Tonight, The Good Doctor, Out of the Blue, Bartleby the Scrivener, Caligula, Picasso at the Lapin Agile, Tartuffe, The Diviners, The Emigrants, Jacob Marley’s Christmas Carol, Macbeth, The Naked King, Rhinoceros, The Police, Theophilus North; Properties Design - All in the Timing, The Naked King, The Police, Theophilus North.

Melanie Parks (Costume Designer) - Melanie is a professor of costume design in the School of Theatre and Dance and the associate dean for the College of Visual and Performing Arts at Northern Illinois University. Her costume designs have been seen in action at Lifeline Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Mordine Dance Company, the Moscow Art Theatre School, DanszLoop Chicago, The Organic Theatre Company and recently for the film Hogtown with 9:23 Films. Melanie has received two Joseph Jefferson nominations and one After Dark Award.

Ryan Breneisen (Lighting Designer) - Ryan is the resident lighting designer for Organic Theater Company, lighting such shows as Jacob Marley’s Christmas Carol, Caligula, The Emigrants, Theophilus North, and Man With Bags to name a few. Other theatrical credits include War and Peace, Disciples and Juliet. Ryan holds a staff position at Upstaging Lighting and Transport as well as touring extensively as both a designer and electrician for such tours as Bruno Mars, Death Cab for Cutie, Rodney Carrington and World Wrestling Entertainment. Ryan holds an MFA in lighting design from Northern Illinois University.

ABOUT THE ORGANIC

The Organic is committed to staging bold and relevant productions of new and adapted works with a permanent group of artists over a sustained period of time and presenting productions as a rotating repertory. This approach, while unusual in the United States, is widely accepted in much of the Western world as the ideal way to create a body of theatrical work.

STAFF

Producing Artistic Director, Alexander Gelman
Managing Director, Josh Anderson
Business Manager, Bryan Wakefield
Company Manager, Colin Jackson
"JACOB MARLEY’S CHRISTMAS CAROL" (continued)

COMPANY MEMBERS
Josh Anderson
Sara Copeland
Colin Jackson
Laura Sturm
Ryan Breneisen
Alexander Gelman
Angela Kring
Will Burdin
Joel Moses
Melanie Parks
Anna H Gleman
M. Anthony Reimer
Bryan Wakefield

ARTISTIC ASSOCIATES
Kristina Cottone
Amanda Jane Long
Angela Enos
Ryan Massie
Philena Gilmer
Richie Gross
Joel Stanley Huff
Joe Mikieta
Kaitlin Henderson
Kendra Holton
Anthony Perrella Jr.
Amy Powell
Matthew Romriell
Patricia Skarbinski

EMERITUS COMPANY
Andrew Hampton Livingston, H. Lynn Kendziera, Megan Shea, Chris Wallinger, Jessica Webb

IN MEMORY
Jose Ochoa

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5th Annual Jazz Faculty Christmas Concert

December 8, 8 p.m.
Madden Theatre, Fine Arts Center
171 E. Chicago Ave., Naperville
PERFORMER BIOGRAPHY

The concert will feature a collection of well-known holiday favorites with a jazz twist. The faculty artists include vocalist Janice Borla, saxophonist Mitch Paliga, trumpeter Art Davis, trombonist Tim Coffman, vibraphonist Brad Stirtz, pianist Chris White, bassist Kelly Sill and drummer Jack Mouse. At the top of their game, each faculty artist is a talented musician-educator in the College’s jazz studies program. They’re all successful as independent jazz artists, regularly performing in public venues and releasing new recordings.

Borla’s latest CD release “Promises to Burn” received numerous outstanding reviews and was named one of DownBeat Magazine’s “Best Jazz Albums of the Year.” Paliga, an active performer and composer, continues to tour worldwide with actor/musician Gary Sinise’s Lt. Dan Band. One of Chicago’s leading jazz trumpet artists, Davis toured extensively with Ray Charles and Frank Sinatra and has played with a “who’s who” of artists, from Dizzy Gillespie and Nancy Wilson to Kurt Elling.

An active trombonist in the Chicago area, Coffman has performed with the best, from Frank Sinatra, Natalie Cole and Stevie Wonder to Tony Bennett and Lady Gaga. Stirtz’s reputation as an outstanding professional mallet percussionist has led to a career spanning the globe. A busy freelance musician, pianist White has performed with David Baker, Jamey Aebersold and Oliver Nelson Jr. and frequently performs at the Jazz Showcase, Andy’s and other Chicago nightspots.

Sill has shared the stage with innumerable jazz icons, including Joe Henderson, Art Blakey, Jackie McLean, Freddie Hubbard, Chris Potter, Louis Bellson and Mel Torme. Mouse has played with such jazz luminaries as Stan Kenton, Clark Terry, Bunker Green, Randy Brecker and received wide critical acclaim for his current releases “Range of Motion” and “Three Story Sandbox.”
Jim Brickman
“A Joyful Christmas”

December 9, 8 p.m.
Wentz Concert Hall, Fine Arts Center
171 E. Chicago Ave., Naperville
PERFORMER BIOGRAPHY

Jim Brickman has transformed the genre of solo piano music with his original pop-style instrumentals and star-studded vocal collaborations.

Brickman’s extraordinary keyboard skills have earned him 21 No. 1 albums and 32 Top 20 Radio Singles in the industry bible, “Billboard” magazine. He’s garnered two Grammy nominations, gospel music’s Dove Award, two SESAC Songwriter of the Year Awards and the Canadian Country Music Award. He also has a music scholarship named for him by his alma mater, the prestigious Cleveland Institute of Music.

Born and raised in Shaker Heights, Ohio, Brickman began his music training at age 5. But young James wouldn’t conform to the rudimentary regulations of piano lessons. “He didn’t have the knack for it,” his first teacher would say. That didn’t discourage the tenacious pianist from creating his own unique brand of musical storytelling. An innovative force in the music industry was born.

Brickman’s first album release was 1995’s “No Words,” and he’s gone on to sell 8 million albums worldwide. He’s written three best-selling books, starred in four TV concert specials, and is in the 20th season of hosting radio’s popular “The Jim Brickman Show.”

“Hope,” “Faith” and “Peace” are truly at the heart of Jim Brickman’s passionate songwriting. “I write music to be shared—to soothe, to inspire, to celebrate, to love. To me, music is the pure and simple soundtrack to life’s most memorable moments.”
The Tenors “Christmas Together”

December 15, 8 p.m.
Pfeiffer Hall
310 E. Benton Ave., Naperville
THE TENORS

PERFORMER BIOGRAPHY

A decade after forming in their native Canada, The Tenors are an international success story. With their robust singing and seamless blend of classical and contemporary pop textures, Victor Micallef, Clifton Murray and Fraser Walters have scored multiplatinum sales, performed for the likes of Oprah Winfrey and HM Queen Elizabeth II and shared stages with superstars ranging from Paul McCartney to Justin Bieber. And once again, they’re ready to share their blessings and seasonal spirit with the new recording “Christmas Together.”

“Our whole career has been about finding songs we really love,” says Murray. “The thing about Christmas music is it’s the music that takes us back furthest in our lives, because we’ve been listening to these songs since we were children.” For “Christmas Together,” he, Walters, and Micallef dug deep into tradition while also looking forward, coming up with an assortment of both old and new favorites – including original material – that reflect their personal and artistic growth.

The Tenors were involved in each step of the creative process behind “Christmas Together,” working on arrangements and production alongside Grammy Award-winning producer Keith Thomas (Blake Shelton, Amy Grant, Gladys Knight), renowned producer Bob Ezrin (Pink Floyd, Peter Gabriel, Alice Cooper) and Grammy Award and Oscar-winning orchestrator Jorge Calandrelli (Tony Bennett, Michael Bublé, Plácido Domingo).

The new album is further enriched by experiences Micallef, Murray, and Walters have had outside the studio. All three are now married men, and Walters welcomed a daughter a year ago. Micallef has a son, age 9, who makes a cameo appearance on “Santa’s Wish,” a new song adapted from “I’d Like To Teach The World To Sing (In Perfect Harmony)” with fresh lyrics and music by the Tenors, spinning a tale of a young boy who witnesses Santa disguised as a street musician.

Murray, who isn’t yet a dad – “I have a new puppy,” he says, “so that’s a warmup,” – thinks “Christmas Together” is “more playful” as a result: “We really tried to capture the essence of what it’s like to be a child at Christmastime. The wonder and mystery of it, the sense that miracles can happen.” At the same time, Murray says, “There’s a lot of nostalgia. You think of those magical times sitting around the dinner table, singing with family. These songs have been the soundtrack to our memories.”

Adds Micallef, “We’ve included classic songs like ‘O Come All Ye Faithful’ and ‘Little Drummer Boy’ but tried to go in a slightly different direction and add some rhythm.” On “Faithful,” featuring members of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, they inject world-music accents while rising to operatic heights.

The Tenors’ agile and resonant voices soar throughout, whether forming lush harmonies on “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen” – in a stirring a cappella arrangement – or dancing through playful guitars on the buoyant original “When We Are Together.” Also included is Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene’s “Mary, Did You Know?”; Fraser describes the sweetly melancholic song as “kind of a new classic, in that it’s really ramped up in popularity in the past 15 years or so. When we put the word out that we were working on this album, it was one of the songs most requested by our fans.”
That kind of feedback is vital to The Tenors, who, Walters notes, “all have diverse backgrounds and bring different tools and abilities to the group.” Micallef, son of Maltese immigrants, began playing piano and singing at age 5. It was not until he was 16 - after his father passed away - that he focused his training on his operatic voice, singing the classical repertoire that his father so dearly loved. Following university, Micallef continued his studies with the Canadian Opera company and with his mentor in Italy while singing with the Maggio Musicale in Florence, Italy. “So Victor’s our in-house Italian guru,” quips Walters, “which mostly means he orders the red wine at restaurants.”

Murray, Walters says, “jokes that he got his musical training around the campfire. His dad started a family-run fishing resort in the most beautiful part of British Columbia, and from the age of 12, Clifton and his father would pull out their guitars after dinner and entertain the guests with songs, stories and jokes. So Clifton got to learn the trade by ear, and by feel, and then went on to sing in gospel choirs while pursuing a successful career in acting.”

Walters added, “I started singing and playing different instruments as a kid, earning an early musical education jamming with my grandfather’s band on the weekends. My mom shared her love of theatre with me; in fact, we were often in musicals together and I realized later it was probably just glorified babysitting! Well I’m grateful for that because it paved the way for my career as a young artist and those experiences have stayed with me all these years.”

They were all writing music as well, Walters says. “I think we all knew we didn’t want to go down one road, or stick to one genre. Victor was in a rock band at one point, with hair down to his butt, and then sang these amazing operas in Italy.” As Micallef says, “We never put what we do into a category. We just follow our hearts into whatever comes out at that moment, so that we could do a rock festival or a symphony show.”

That eclectic virtuosity are on display on The Tenors’ North American tour in November and December, starting in the USA. “We live and breathe by our live show,” says Murray. “It’s where we come from as artists and how we got to where we are today. Everything comes down to, how do we constantly create a better experience live? We’re working with some great choreographers and directors to make sure we get everything out of each song and moment.”

That enthusiasm is shared by The Tenors. “When we create in the studio, it’s beautiful to be in that zone,” says Micallef. “But I think we all agree that there’s nothing like getting on stage and feeling that reciprocal energy go back and forth between the audience and us. It’s something you can’t put into words. It’s magic. And we can’t wait to start sharing it again.” The Tenors have performed all over the world, including headlining tours across North America, Europe, Asia and South Africa. Their widespread popularity also has enabled them to extend their talents to philanthropic endeavors with many charitable organizations, including The Special Olympics, The David Foster Foundation, The Starkey Hearing Foundation and for much needed orphan care in Bulembu, Swaziland. The Tenors have also been ‘We Day’ Ambassadors for many years, encouraging young people worldwide toward volunteering in communities both locally and globally; this has resulted in several life-changing trips for The Tenors to Africa and India with the organization.

It’s safe to say The Tenors have truly embraced the art of harmony in all their endeavors.
“Early on, Bailey realized she wanted to major in biology rather than marketing, but she wasn’t sure she could do it. Her faculty and advisor encouraged her to try—and that changed her life. Now she’s taking premed classes and volunteering at a hospital. We are so proud of her, and of all our children. They were great kids who became even better adults because of North Central. “We hear a lot about how expensive college is—and that’s true—but North Central is an unbelievable value and has helped each of our children reach their full potential.”
Hot Peas ‘N Butter
“Holidays From Around the World”

December 16, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.
Pfeiffer Hall
310 E. Benton Ave., Naperville

Sponsored by
PERFORMER BIOGRAPHY

Hot Peas ‘N Butter, a NYC-based, multicultural family music band, is known for its Latin-influenced, catchy songs for kids. They’ve been featured on Nick Jr. and Jack’s Big Music Show TV, partnered with St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital, won multiple Parents’ Choice Awards, and brought many thousands of fans to their feet on their national tours.

“HOLIDAYS FROM AROUND THE WORLD”

The Hot Peas ‘N Butter’s show, “Holidays From Around The World,” will provide families with an appreciation of the similarities and differences of their global neighbors. With songs in Spanish, French, Hebrew, Ladino, Korean and, of course, English, there’s something for everyone this holiday season!

The group will intermittently discuss the idea that culture may be understood as a collection of symbols, patterns, systems and meanings that are shared by groups of people. For example, they will invite you to think about the various countries around the world through their song, “Round the World.”

Hot Peas ‘N Butter will take you on a musical trip around the world exploring traditions and give demonstrations of traditional instruments.

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