North Central College
SEASON 2017-2018
FINE & PERFORMING ARTS

An Evening of Big Band

Art Garfunkel: In Close-Up

HARRY the Dirty Dog

Paddy Homan and the Noble Call

Velvet Caravan

ArtsPower National Touring Theatre “Harry the Dirty Dog”
Welcome! We’re so glad you decided to join us this evening. The month of March brings some extremely talented performers to our stages.

I am often asked about how we secure these wonderful performers and people are usually surprised when I tell them that some of the best performers have come from suggestions from you, our loyal patrons. If there is someone you would like us to bring in, we welcome your feedback.

A close colleague has been telling me for years to bring in a certain artist. Each season I get the expected message that I need to bring this person in. Fast forward to our search for our 2017-2018 lineup and the artist whom my colleague kept requesting turned out to be the best seller of the current season. In fact, this artist was the first to sell out—the one and only Art Garfunkel!

In addition to Art Garfunkel, we have the Velvet Caravan as part of our cabaret series. I first saw them at a showcase in New York and was so impressed that I put in an offer that night. If you have not been to a cabaret yet, this will be the one to start with.

I cannot forget our own local legend Paddy Homan. Paddy Homan and the Noble Call bring their tales of native Ireland to the Wentz Concert Hall stage. Be prepared to be utterly charmed by this amazing talent.

For our younger audiences, I do hope you are here for Harry the Dirty Dog from ArtsPower National Touring Theatre. It promises to be pure, fun entertainment!

I have always said I have the greatest job in the world. I get to bring some of the finest performers in the business to our city. If you enjoy what we present, please consider joining the Friends of the Arts—these fantastic performers would not be possible without the generosity of our wonderful donors.

We thank you for being here with us tonight and hope you enjoy the performance. And remember, if there is an artist you would like to see, we welcome your feedback.

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 of the Friends of the Arts ensures the College can continue to bring world-class performers to our world-class venues.

![Impresario Society](#)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YOUR GIFT</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 Schoenherr 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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<td><strong>MAESTRO ($10,000 OR MORE)</strong></td>
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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.

**The Impresario Lounge offers refreshments and appetizers in a private setting and is available for three events during the upcoming season. Impresario members will receive an email message with details at the beginning of the season.

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We apologize if we have inadvertently made an error concerning your gift. Please contact the box office at 630-637-7409 so we can correct our records.
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Dickey's Barbecue Pit

DuPage Foundation

Hotel Indigo Naperville Riverwalk

Hugo's Frog Bar Fish House

Monarch Landing Settle In. Branch Out.

Pinot's Palette

Sullivan's Steakhouse

Visit & dine NAPERVILLE

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

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

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Naperville

Mesón Sabika
1025 Aurora Ave., Naperville

Paisans Pizzeria & Bar
2901 Ogden Ave., Lisle

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

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

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Red Roof Inn Plus+
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For more information about corporate sponsorship opportunities, please contact Megan Lynch, director of corporate relations at 630-637-5210 or mwlynch@noctrl.edu
## March 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change”</td>
<td>$15, $10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chords for Kids Concert for Children with Autism</td>
<td>Free (ticket required)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Symphonic Band &amp; Chamber Players Winter Concert</td>
<td>$5, $3</td>
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<tr>
<td>An Evening of Big Band</td>
<td>$20, $15</td>
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<tr>
<td>ArtsPower National Touring Theatre “Harry the Dirty Dog”</td>
<td>$12, $6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Art Garfunkel: In Close-Up – SOLD OUT</td>
<td>$80, $70</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chicago Sinfonietta “Hear Me Roar”</td>
<td>$60, $48, $10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paddy Homan and the Noble Call</td>
<td>$30, $20</td>
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<tr>
<td>DuPage Symphony Orchestra “Celebrate Now &amp; Then”</td>
<td>$38 - $15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chicago Harmony Sweepstakes “A Cappella Festival”</td>
<td>$40, $30</td>
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<td>Velvet Caravan</td>
<td>$35, $30</td>
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## April 2018

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<th>EVENT</th>
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<tr>
<td>Richie Kotzen</td>
<td>$35, $25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dallas Children’s Theater “How I Became a Pirate”</td>
<td>$12, $6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hypnotic Brass Ensemble</td>
<td>$35, $25</td>
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<tr>
<td>“The Flick”</td>
<td>$10, $8</td>
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<td>Theatrworks USA “The Cat in the Hat”</td>
<td>$12, $6</td>
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<tr>
<td>An Evening with Branford Marsalis</td>
<td>$70, $60</td>
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<td>Concert Winds Return from Tour Concert</td>
<td>$5, $3</td>
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<td>Chamber Singers “Metamorphosis”</td>
<td>$5, $3</td>
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<td>Revenge of the Rhythm Section featuring Bassist Kelly Sill and Drummer Jack Mouse</td>
<td>$20, $15</td>
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<td>Philip Fortenberry “The Hands of Liberace”</td>
<td>$35, $30</td>
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## May 2018

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<tr>
<th>EVENT</th>
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<tr>
<td>“Almost Living”</td>
<td>$5, $3</td>
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<tr>
<td>DuPage Symphony Orchestra &quot;Body, Earth, and Spirit”</td>
<td>$38 - $15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Russian National Ballet Theatre “Romeo and Juliet” and “Carmen”</td>
<td>$40, $30, $25</td>
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<tr>
<td>ArtsPower National Touring Theatre “Are You My Mother?”</td>
<td>$12, $6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chicago Sinfonietta “Praise &amp; Punk: The Ending of All Endings”</td>
<td>$60, $48, $10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cardinal Chorus &amp; Chamber Strings Spring Concert</td>
<td>$5, $3</td>
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<tr>
<td>An Evening with Jazz Trombonist Tim Coffman</td>
<td>$20, $15</td>
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<td>10,000 Maniacs</td>
<td>$40, $30, $20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tommy Hensel “The Broadway Song Book of 1967”</td>
<td>$35, $30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Bands Spring Concert</td>
<td>$5, $3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concert Choir &amp; Women’s Chorale &quot;Graduation Finalet!&quot; Concert</td>
<td>$5, $3</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Spring Great Evening of Jazz</td>
<td>$5, $3</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Vinegar Tom”</td>
<td>$10, $8</td>
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Artists, dates, times, prices and locations are subject to change.  
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★ Impresario Society event
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Our unique housing program for summer interns offers affordable, convenient and furnished apartment-style suites.

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.
An Evening of Big Band

March 9, 8 p.m.
Madden Theatre, Fine Arts Center
171 E. Chicago Ave., Naperville
AN EVENING WITH BIG BAND

PERFORMER BIOGRAPHY

The North Central College Big Band, under the direction of Tim Coffman, presents a concert featuring two guest artists, jazz vocalist Janice Borla and jazz saxophonist Mitch Paliga. The first event of this type for the band, the musical program features music specially arranged by and for Borla and Paliga, in addition to the band’s own repertoire.

Described as a “one-woman jazz tornado” and “genius – pure genius” by Jazz Times Magazine, vocalist Janice Borla has performed with such jazz talents as Clark Terry, Charlie Haden, Bunky Green, Sheila Jordan, Bobby Watson, Steve Rodby, Jay Clayton and Peter Eldridge. She has presented concerts and workshops throughout the U.S., Canada, Germany and Japan, including three appearances at the Chicago Jazz Festival. Her CD “Promises to Burn” was named one of DownBeat Magazine’s “Best CDs of the Year,” and received numerous accolades from noteworthy jazz critics. Christopher Louden: “…Among the best, boldest and most innovative vocalists around…” Bob Protzman: “A stunning singer with a lustrous voice and the technique, imagination and daring of the best improvising instrumentalists.”

Performer, educator and composer Mitch Paliga has been described as “…the next great voice on soprano saxophone” by Cadence Magazine. As a member of actor/musician Gary Sinise’s “Lt. Dan Band” since 2007, he has performed in Afghanistan, South Korea, Japan, Kuwait, Europe, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and Canada as well as throughout the U.S., averaging 40 shows a year. He has also performed with Vinnie Colaiuta, Christopher Cross, Danny Gottlieb, Steve Rodby, the Nelson Riddle Orchestra and many others. In 2017 he received a Global Music Awards bronze medal for his recording of his original composition “QP Doll” from Fall Night. He has recorded over 30 original compositions and arrangements with a variety of artists, and is a founding member of the Chicago Jazz Composers Collective.

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ARTSPower National Touring Theatre

Harry the Dirty Dog

March 10, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.
Pfeiffer Hall
310 E. Benton Ave., Naperville
HARRY THE DIRTY DOG

Based on the book by Gene Zion

with

Kirk Geritano, Jennie Hughes, Ali Valentine, Courtney Wersick

Kristen Tunney
Stage Manager

Adaptation and Lyrics by Greg Gunning
Music and Orchestrations by Richard DeRosa
Directed by Greg Gunning
Choreographed by Nicole DiVincenzo

Costumes by Fred Sorrentino
Set Construction by Tom Carroll Scenery
Incidental Music by Ron Drotos

CAST

Harry ............................................................ Ali Valentine
Mom ................................................................. Jennie Hughes
Dad ................................................................. Kirk Geritano
Little Girl ........................................................ Courtney Wersick
Stage Manager ................................................. Kristen Tunney

MUSICAL NUMBERS

A Dog's Life for Me .............................................. Harry
Harry's Clever Tricks (sequence) ......................... Harry & Orchestra
“HARRY THE DIRTY DOG”

Harry Howls ............................................................ Harry
A Dog’s Life for Me – version #2 .................................... Harry
Take a Bath ................................................................. Harry, Mom, Dad, Little Girl
Beyond the Fence ....................................................... Harry & Mom
A Dog’s Life for Me – version #3 .................................... Harry
Luigi & Harry Duet (Harry Howls) ................................. Harry & Mr. Luigi
Dirt .............................................................................. Harry, Workers, & Luigi
A Dog’s Life for Me – version #4 .................................... Harry
Calling All Dogs (Harry Howls) ........................................ Harry
This Dog’s Gonna Howl Today ........................................ Scottie, Champ, & Fifi
A Dog’s Life for Me – version #5 .................................... Scottie, Champ, & Fifi
A Dog’s Life for Me – version #6 .................................... Harry
High Class Minuet ...................................................... Headwaiter, Café Patrons
Harry Howls (reprise) .................................................... Harry
EE-U!! ........................................................................ Headwaiter, Café Patrons
Home ........................................................................... Mom
Harry’s Clever Tricks (reprise) ....................................... Harry & Orchestra
Take a Bath (reprise) ..................................................... Harry, Mom, Dad & Little Girl
A Dog’s Life for Me (reprise) – version #1 ....................... Harry
Home (Finale) ................................................................ Cast

This production is based on the book HARRY THE DIRTY DOG by Gene Zion and Margaret Bloy Graham. Presented under an exclusive agreement. All rights reserved.

HARRY THE DIRTY DOG WHO’S WHO

KIRK GERITANO (Dad / Champ) is delighted to be back with ArtsPower bringing the magic of theater across America! This is Kirk’s third tour with the company, having previously appeared in Chicken Dance as Mac/Elvis Poultry last fall and in The Rainbow Fish last spring as Shark/Green Fish. Kirk also recently appeared off-Broadway in New York City with the National Yiddish Theater Folksbeine in their production of The Sorceress! Kirk has toured regionally in his home state of New Jersey with George Street Playhouse’s 2015-16 Educational Touring company and understudied the title role in their main stage production of My Name is Asher Lev. Kirk is a proud graduate of Montclair State University with a B.F.A. in musical theatre. Many thanks to the cast and the entire ArtsPower team for another incredible season!

JENNIE HUGHES (Mom/ Scottie) is thrilled to be performing as Mom in Harry the Dirty Dog! She recently made her off-Broadway debut with Freefall Frostbite last fall. Some of her favorite roles include Baker’s Wife in Into The Woods and Mona Kent in Dames at Sea. Jennie would like to thank ArtsPower for this incredible opportunity and her loving family for their support. Follow Jennie on Instagram @JennieMarie7. Keep on dreaming!

ALI VALENTINE (Harry) is so excited to be going on tour with ArtsPower this spring! She was last seen as the title character in ArtsPower’s musical Biscuit this past fall. Originally from Ohio, Ali earned her B.F.A. in musical theatre from Belmont University. Since graduating, she has had the
privilege to work in theatre companies across the country, including theatres in Montana, Tennessee and New York. Her favorite roles include Laurey in Oklahoma!, Maria in West Side Story, Elizabeth in Young Frankenstein and Humpty Dumpty in Shrek the Musical. Ali would like to thank her family, friends and Luke for their unending love and support!

COURTNEY WERSICK (Little Girl/ Fifi) was born and raised in Bowie, Maryland. Courtney remembers reading and loving Harry the Dirty Dog as a child and is super excited to be joining her first national tour with ArtsPower! Regional: Kate in Pirates of Penzance YVTC; Johanna in Sweeney Todd TU, Papagena in The Magic Flute TU. International: Disney Cruise Lines (Disney Dream), B.M. in vocal performance, Towson University. Gratitude to the moon for my parents, grandparents and family for supporting me in this crazy journey. So much love to Jason for being my rock, and thanks to my amazing teachers, coaches and friends for their support.

KRISTEN TUNNEY (Stage Manager) is a 2017 graduate of NYU’s performing arts administration master’s program and is delighted to get back to her stage management roots. Kristen grew up south of Pittsburgh where she was theater manager at The Geyer Performing Arts Center and stage and company manager for Stage Right! Performing Arts School and Professional Theatre Company. Kristen’s next title and project is production manager for a summer musical season she co-founded at the State Theatre Center for the Arts in Uniontown, Pa. To all the kids (and kids at heart) out there: have faith in your talents, don’t be afraid to roam, and, of course, take regular baths. Thanks for coming!

GARY BLACKMAN (Executive Producer) co-founded ArtsPower in 1985 with his identical twin brother, Mark, and serves as ArtsPower’s managing director. Gary received his bachelor’s degree in psychology from Columbia College, Columbia University and earned a master’s degree in music education from the College of Music at Florida State University. In 2013, he was appointed as a council member to the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. He is also a graduate of the Commercial Theatre Institute. Gary and his wife Amy live in Glen Ridge, New Jersey.

MARK BLACKMAN (Executive Producer) is ArtsPower’s founding co-director and currently serves as director of development. He is a graduate of Columbia College, Columbia University and received a master’s of music education degree from Florida State University’s College of Music. He is also a graduate of the Commercial Theatre Institute. Mark is responsible for ArtsPower’s fundraising and marketing efforts. In a former life, Mark was a jazz saxophone player who was a recipient of a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to study for a year with jazz recording artist Eddie Daniels. Recently, he performed in the pit orchestra (Reeds 1 book) in Hello Dolly! on Broadway. Mark and his wife, Leslie Sutton-Smith, each have a daughter, Alyssa Blackman and Kelly Sutton-Skinner.

GREG GUNNING (Artistic Director) hails from Chicago Ill and is the man behind ArtsPower’s on-stage magic. He has written every ArtsPower production since 1989. Greg auditions and rehearses ArtsPower’s theatre companies each semester in addition to creating at least one new production each year. A graduate of the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music and a former actor, Greg has performed in 38 states across the country.

RICHARD DEROSA (Composer & Orchestrator) Richard orchestrated the scores to ArtsPower’s Fourscore and Seven Years Ago, Olympic Spirit: The Jesse Owens Story, Beyond the Miracle and The Silent Boy. He composed and orchestrated the scores to ArtsPower’s Jigsaw Jones, Anne of Green Gables, Laura Ingalls Wilder: Growing Up on the Prairie, Terrifically Tilly, A Little Princess, Caddie Woodlawn, Otherwise Known as Sheila the Great, Salem Justice, Are You My Mother?, Anastasia Krupnik, Highlights for Children, Hans Brinker & the Silver Skates, Lily’s Crossing, The Little Engine That Could Earns Her Whistle, From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler, Mike Mulligan & His Steam Shovel, The Rainbow Fish, Amber Brown is Not a Crayon, My Heart in a Suitcase, and Harry the Dirty Dog. Richard is a respected jazz drummer and arranger and has toured and recorded with jazz legend Gerry Mulligan, Susannah McCorkle, Jackie and Roy, and many other world-
class jazz musicians. He is a faculty member at Uni North Texas University where he teaches jazz composition and arranging. Richard is also affiliated with Jazz at Lincoln Center as an arranger for Wynton Marsalis and the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra.

FRED SORRENTINO (Costumer) has designed and built the costumes for ArtsPower’s Beyond the Miracle, Laura Ingalls Wilder: Growing Up on the Prairie, Anne of Green Gables, Hans Brinker & the Silver Skates, A Little Princess, Terrifically Tilly, Salem Justice, Caddie Woodlawn, Are You My Mother?, Anastasia Krupnik, Highlights for Children, Otherwise Known as Sheila the Great, Lily’s Crossing, The Little Engine That Could Earns Her Whistle, From The Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler, Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel, The Rainbow Fish, Amber Brown is Not a Crayon, My Heart in a Suitcase, and Harry the Dirty Dog. Fred is a gifted musician having earned a bachelor’s degree in voice from Jersey City (N.J.) State College. A veteran performer in both operatic and musical theatre productions, Fred now maintains a busy schedule designing and building costumes.

ARTSPower National Touring Theatre Celebrating our 32nd anniversary season in 2017-2018, ArtsPower is one of America’s largest and most respected producers of professional theatre for young and family audiences. Founded by twin brothers Gary and Mark Blackman in 1985, ArtsPower has created 32 original musicals and plays that have been presented for more than 13.5 million people throughout 49 states and the District of Columbia. Based in Cedar Grove, New Jersey, ArtsPower hopes you enjoy today’s performance and invites you to share your comments with us at info@artspower.org.

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Art Garfunkel: In Close-Up

March 10, 8 p.m.
Wentz Concert Hall, Fine Arts Center
171 E. Chicago Ave., Naperville
ART GARFUNKEL

PERFORMER BIOGRAPHY

Blessed with what the New York Times described as a “beautiful countertenor,” singer ART GARFUNKEL has made an indelible mark on the music world as both a solo artist and half of the unrivaled Simon & Garfunkel. He has also enjoyed a successful film career, published a book of poetry and released 12 solo albums, the most recent being SOME ENCHANTED EVENING in 2007. In late 2017 he released an autobiography, What Is It All But Luminous: Notes From An Underground Man (Alfred A. Knopf).

Since then, he has been busy as a husband and father to his two sons, 27-year-old James and 12-year-old Beau Daniel. He is also an avid walker who has walked across Japan, the U.S. (celebrated in the 1997 concert DVD ACROSS AMERICA) and now Europe.

GARFUNKEL was originally revered for his Grammy-winning, chart-topping songs and albums with partner and fellow NYC native Paul Simon. Their greatest hits collection, which includes “Mrs. Robinson,” “Scarborough Fair,” “The Sound Of Silence,” “The Boxer” and “Bridge Over Troubled Water,” among others, is one of the biggest selling album ever.

After Simon & Garfunkel parted ways in 1970, GARFUNKEL landed several major film roles, including “Carnal Knowledge” (opposite Jack Nicholson), “Catch 22” and Nicholas Roeg’s “Bad Timing/A Sensual Obsession.” His solo debut ANGEL CLARE spawned the top 10 hit “All I Know.” His other solo albums include BREAKAWAY (’75; features the hit “I Only Have Eyes For You”), WATERMARK (’78; featuring “[What A] Wonderful World” with James Taylor and Paul Simon), FATE FOR BREAKFAST (’79), SCISSORS CUT (’81), THE ANIMALS’ CHRISTMAS (’86), LEFTY (’88), GARFUNKEL (greatest hits, ’88), UP TILL NOW (’93), ACROSS AMERICA (’97), SONGS FROM A PARENT TO A CHILD (’97), EVERYTHING WAITS TO BE NOTICED (’03), SOME ENCHANTED EVENING (’07) and THE SINGER (2012).

The late ‘80s brought two new challenges for GARFUNKEL: he published Still Water, a collection of poetry in ’89, and began an amazing trek across America—on foot. But the ‘80s and ‘90s found GARFUNKEL doing what he does best: singing for an audience. “Taking on the fear and vulnerability of a live show keeps you vital,” says GARFUNKEL, who relishes the opportunity to perform new and classic material for fans around the world. “I’m a singer trying to get away with a lucky job. I try to soothe, to lift...That’s my life.”

GARFUNKEL earned his bachelor of arts degree at Columbia College, majoring in art history; later he earned his master’s degree in architecture at Columbia University. He lives in New York City with his wife Kim. GARFUNKEL is an avid reader and has chronicled every book he’s read since June 1968 on his website—1,246 in all.

www.artgarfunkel.com
Paddy Homan and the Noble Call

March 16, 8 p.m.
Wentz Concert Hall, Fine Arts Center
171 E. Chicago Ave., Naperville
PERFORMER BIOGRAPHY

Join The Noble Call for a special St. Patrick’s Evening Concert, as they bring the song and story out of all who gather in honor of Ireland’s patron Saint...who happened to be a Welshman! But sure, aren’t we all Irish in March! So sit back and listen to the very best of traditional Irish music and song, from some of Ireland’s leading musicians. The Noble Call derives its origins from that age old Irish tradition of “calling” on invited guests to share their favorite song or tune or dance. Lead by one of Ireland’s foremost traditional Irish Tenors- Paddy Homan, star of the hugely successful I AM IRELAND SHOW- The Noble Call also includes Mick Broderick on bouzuki and Dave Curley on guitar, banjo and vocals, both lead performers from one of Ireland’s leading traditional Irish groups, Slide. With Homan hailing from Cork City, Broderick from Dublin and Curley from Galway, the “banter” and fun is always high! There will be many special guests and dancers for what promises to be an incredible night of music, song and dance.

Thanks so much!

Paddy
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Velvet Caravan
Since its beginning, Velvet Caravan’s journey has continued to gain momentum, as its reputation for top-notch virtuosity and unforgettable live shows has become the band’s unique global brand. Praised for its “compositional whimsy and ferocious technique” by The Austin Chronicle, Velvet Caravan “brings together musicians from as close as Austin and as far away as Venezuela and Slovenia. The quintet’s varied lineage contributes to its eclectic sound, as the group weaves thick threads of Latin and gypsy music into acoustic swing jazz.” Whether on the big stage with a full orchestra or in an intimate jazz club, the band remains “tight and vibrantly free. Velvet Caravan pours violin, acoustic guitar, upright bass, accordion, keyboard and percussion into a gumbo of lively swing music,” according to Atlanta’s Creative Loafing magazine.

As a national and international touring ensemble, the band still calls Savannah, Ga. its home, bringing a bit of southern charm and coastal coolness to their music. If one were to name one Savannah-based musical act that most exemplifies this time-honored, eclectic and adventurous city, they’d be hard-pressed to find a more appropriate ambassador than Velvet Caravan.

This unorthodox, high-energy, acoustic-based quintet has, over the past few years, emerged as one of the shining lights of Savannah’s burgeoning music scene. In that time, the band has grown from an instrumental combo that routinely draws enthusiastic and loyal followers at raucous restaurants and jazz clubs to a respected and admired touring act that’s comfortable in an attentive listening room or large concert hall. They have recently built their show to occasionally collaborate with vocalists, orchestras and a variety of featured musicians.

Among its orchestral collaborations, the group has performed with the Savannah Philharmonic Orchestra, the Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra and the Jackson Symphony Orchestra. They have also performed in world-class jazz clubs such as The Iridium in New York City, The Jazz Corner in Hilton Head and in intimate listening rooms such as Eddie’s Attic in Atlanta. Velvet Caravan has enjoyed performing at many music festivals including the South By Southwest Music Festival in Austin, Texas and the Rochester International Jazz Festival in Rochester, N.Y.

Velvet Caravan’s unique ability to subtly shift musical gears without sacrificing their integrity as composers and performers is rare. This has resulted in an envelope-pushing group that’s just as successful at dazzling jaded cocktail drinkers as they are at commanding the rapt attention of serious music aficionados in whisper-quiet recital environments. Of late, the band has even taken things a step further, by mesmerizing and inspiring even the most finicky of schoolchildren through fun and engaging music educational programming.

www.velvetcaravan.com
VELVET CARAVAN

THE BAND

**Ricardo Ochoa**: violin
Ricardo uses a Tas d’ordures gypsy fiddle

**Jimmy Grant**: guitar
Jimmy uses Favino Guitars

**Eric Dunn**: upright bass
Eric uses Chadwick Folding basses and Upton Basses

**Jesse Monkman**: cajón and percussion
Jesse uses Swan Percussion and Gretsch Drums

**Jared Hall**: piano, organ, and accordion
Jared uses Hammond Organs

GUEST VOCALIST

**Jessica Ann Best**: mezzo-soprano

Jessica Ann Best is a versatile artist, known for her dramatic interpretation and an easy, beautiful sound that crosses the operatic, musical theater and concert stage. Ms. Best debuts Gordon Getty’s “The Canterville Ghost” and “Usher House” with LA Opera in June 2018. Best has recorded the new opera by composer Louis Karchin, “Jane Eyre,” on the Naxos label and debuted “International Carol Suites” by Mark Hayes, a DCINY production at Carnegie Hall. Best premiered the role of Alice Ryley, by Michael Ching, with the Savannah Voice Festival. Best is a returning artist, teacher, and director at the Savannah Voice Festival. Recently, Ms. Best has toured with Velvet Caravan, an award-winning, cross-discipline gypsy-jazz ensemble. Best has been a featured artist with The Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, The Florida Orchestra, and The Rochester Oratorio Society. She has performed with The Santa Fe Opera, Opera Tampa, The Center for Contemporary Opera, Gotham Chamber Opera, Nickel City Opera and Finger Lakes Opera.

www.jessicaannbest.com
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The Leroy Neiman Golf Series is part of North Central College’s art collection and was donated by David and Donna Tierney. Known for his colored and detailed images of sporting events, Neiman was probably the most popular artist in the United States before he died in June 2012. Many of Neiman’s paintings are about sports, ranging from basketball, boxing, billiards and hockey to gymnastics, shot put, swimming and cycling. His work characteristically uses pop art with dramatic brushwork and vibrant color.

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“The Hands of Liberace”
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10,000 Maniacs
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“Romeo and Juliet” and “Carmen”
May 5

An Evening with Jazz Trombonist Tim Coffman
May 18

Artspower National Touring Theatre
“Are You My Mother?”
May 6

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