North Central College

SEASON 2017-2018
FINE & PERFORMING ARTS

An Evening with Jazz Trombonist Tim Coffman

Tommy Hensel “The Broadway Song Book of 1967”

Russian National Ballet Theatre “Romeo and Juliet” and “Carmen”

Are You My Mother?

10,000 Maniacs

ArtsPower National Touring Theatre “Are You My Mother?”
Welcome to the 2017-2018 season finale! We may be leaving for the summer, but we certainly are not going out quietly! Our final month of the season is filled with several exciting performances. We are so glad you have chosen to join us.

The Russian National Ballet is presenting two, one-act ballets that will surely dazzle the dance aficionados in the area. The poise, power and passion that these dancers present are inspirational. I hope that every dancer gets a chance to see this company. And if you are not a dancer and just enjoy the art form, welcome to excellence!

ArtsPower National Touring Theatre closes our young audience series for this season with “Are You My Mother?” They create a colorful musical adventure based on P.D. Eastman’s whimsical and well-loved picture book.

Our own Tim Coffman from the College’s jazz program closes the jazz series for the year with his virtuoso trombone work. If you are a fan of jazz, you do not want to miss this evening in the intimacy of the Madden Theatre. If you don’t have your tickets yet, don’t wait! The North Central College Jazz Faculty events usually sell out.

10,000 Maniacs—enough said. Pfeiffer Hall will surely be rockin’ as we wrap up our main stage productions. We will be unveiling our new season to those in attendance. Of course, if you are a member of the Friends of the Arts, you know the new season already. And, if you are a member at the Impresario level, you may have already purchased some tickets!

Our final performance for the season is the cabaret offered by Tommy Hensel, “The Broadway Songbook of 1967,” featuring classics such as “Cabaret,” “Fiddler of the Roof,” “Funny Girl,” “Hello, Dolly!,” “Mame,” “Man of La Mancha” and more! This will be an amazing evening.

I previously mentioned how the Friends of the Arts already know the new season—this is one of the many perks of supporting the arts at North Central College. We cannot do this without the support of our generous patrons who give above and beyond the ticket price. When you purchase your tickets for the new season, please consider joining the Friends of the Arts.

Thank you for being here. We hope you continue to join us in the new season and beyond. 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.

We apologize if we have inadvertently made an error concerning your gift. Please contact the box office at 630-637-7489 so we can correct our records.
North Central College thanks our Fine & Performing Arts 2017-2018 season sponsors.

These programs are also partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.
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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
### Stay tuned for the 2018-2019 season line-up!

During its first 10 years, the Wentz Concert Hall and Fine Arts Center has served as the cornerstone venue for the College’s spectacular Fine and Performing Arts seasons.
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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.
“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 pre-med 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.”

Cindy and Joe Beetz with children Bailey ’20, Bonnie ’06, Brooke ’02 and Barry ’01

To explore our undergraduate programs, visit northcentralcollege.edu/majors or call us at 630-637-5800.
"CARMEN" AND "ROMEO AND JULIET"

Russian National Ballet Theatre

May 5, 8 p.m.
Pfeiffer Hall
310 E. Benton Ave., Naperville
ABOUT THE COMPANY

Company of 50

Artistic Director: Elena Radchenko

The Russian National Ballet has been bringing timeless ballet classics to the stages of North America since 1999. Founded in Moscow during the transitional period of Perestroika in the late 1980s, the company used its newfound creative freedom, influenced by the political movement, to invigorate the tradition of Russian Ballet with new developments in dance from around the world. In 1994, the legendary Bolshoi principal dancer Elena Radchenko was selected by Presidential decree to assume the first permanent artistic directorship of the company. Ms. Radchenko is the founder of the Russian National Ballet, focusing on upholding the grand national tradition of the major Russian ballet works and developing new talents throughout Russia, with a repertory of virtually all of the great full works which continue to enlighten, inspire and entertain audience across the continent.

CARMEN

FULL-LENGTH BALLET IN ONE ACT

Music by Rodion Shchedrin (b.1932) after Georges Bizet (1838-1875)
Choreography by Alberto Alonso (1967)
First production 1967, Moscow
Based on a story by Prosper Merimee
Additional choreography and staging by Iryna Kovalova

PRINCIPAL CHARACTERS:

Carmen, A Gypsy woman
Don José, Corporal of Dragoons
Escamillo, Toreador (bullfighter)
Corregidor
Bull, Fate
Tobacco Workwomen
Plus Corps de ballet

PROGRAM NOTES

The impetus and cause for the creation of Carmen was the cherished dream of the celebrated Russian ballerina Maya Plisetskaya to depict the highly strung and riveting character of Carmen in a ballet. Initially banned by the Soviet hierarchy as “disrespectful” to the opera for precisely these qualities, the ballet has since become Shchedrin’s best-known work and has remained popular.
in the West as what reviewer James Sanderson of allmusic.com calls “an iconoclastic but highly entertaining retelling of Bizet’s opera.”

Soldier Don José falls in love with Carmen, a cigarette vendor, but she later abandons him for the toreador Escamillo. Don José suffers from an unhealthy passion for Carmen; he can no longer endure this situation and he urges her to come back to him. Carmen, who loves her freedom above all things and who does not accept being controlled by anyone, denies him the opportunity. Fate, an ambiguous character who takes on the shape of a bull, sketches the tragic conclusion of this exhilarating love story.

The program says, “Carmen is a beautiful woman who is free, true to herself and completely honest. Don José lies, and thus he loses her. The Bull represents Fate. Therefore Carmen and the Bull die at the same time because she and her Fate are one.” The final pas de deux, a danced contest between Carmen and Don José, is a simulated bullfight in which the ballerina assumes the combined roles of heroine and Fate in the form of a bull.

**CHOPINIANA**

*Grand pas.*

*Music by Frederic Chopin*

*(Suite of piano pieces orchestrated by Alexander Glazunov)*

*Choreography by Mikhail Fokine*

*Sets and costumes by Elena and Sergei Radchenko*

*Premiere: February 23, 1907, Marinski Theatre, St. Petersburg*

*Additional choreography and staging by Iryna Kovalova*

**PROGRAM NOTES**

Chopiniana grew out of Chopin’s Seventh Waltz and premiered on February 23, 1907. The favorite œuvre of its creator, Mikhail Fokine, this work has now become standard repertoire for many of the world’s leading theatres.

Chopiniana does not have a traditional plot. The curtain opens to reveal a picturesque group of ballerinas, frozen in anticipation, the embodiment of the Young Man’s dream. The women rise like a romantic vision, circle around the Young Man, spread out like a light fog and then freeze again in their original poses.

This ballet is in one regard a timeless poetic example of stylization, and in another, a work set distinctly in its own period. Fokine incorporated the cultural experiences of the past and the blossoming ideas of the present, thus saturating the work with universal significance. It is not the characters in the ballet that develop, but rather the themes, moods and feelings.
ROMEO AND JULIET
AFTER WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE’S TRAGEDY

Full-length Ballet

Music by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Original choreography by Marius Petipa

Restaged by Elena Radchenko

Sets and costumes by Elena and Sergei Radchenko

Libretto by Elena and Sergei Radchenko

PROGRAM NOTES

Scene 1
The Capulets are hosting a magnificent celebration. By their house a crowd of guests is dancing in the square. The Montagues, who are the Capulets’ enemies and rivals, are naturally not invited.

There are Mercutio and Benvolio with friends. They try to persuade their friend Romeo, Lord Montague’s son, to put on a mask with them and sneak into the feast. Romeo agrees. In the course of the merriment and dancing, Romeo meets Juliet, who unmasks him. They instantly fall in love with each other.

Lady Capulet’s nephew, Tybalt, is a desperate rake and squabbler. On seeing the strangers at the celebration, he starts a fight with Mercutio. However, Mercutio makes fun of Tybalt and cheers everybody up. Mercutio, Romeo’s best friend, gets villainously killed by Tybalt in a brawl. Romeo confronts and accidently slays Tybalt, who dies before the Capulets’ eyes.

They are in grief and ask for revenge. Romeo runs away. He hurries to a rendezvous with his beloved Juliet. Risking his life, Romeo gets into Juliet’s bedroom.

Scene 2
The loving couple meet. They carry on a dialogue. They vow fidelity until death parts them and become a husband and a wife. Suddenly a nurse appears and warns that Juliet’s parents and Paris are coming. They have chosen him as a rich fiancé for their daughter. The parents have a stern conversation with Juliet, who doesn’t want to marry Paris. The father is outraged. He tells Juliet that she will marry Paris tomorrow. The three of them leave the bedroom.

Juliet is stricken with the news. She asks Friar Laurence to give her a hypnotic drug so that she looks dead and the wedding with Paris can be cancelled. Juliet takes the drug to fall asleep, but Romeo does not know anything about it. Learning about Juliet’s death, he runs into her bedroom to die next to her. Romeo sees Juliet and believes that she is dead. He cannot imagine life without her so he has some poison prepared and he takes it. Before his death Romeo has visions and then everything plunges into darkness. Having woken up, Juliet sees her dead Romeo. He hasn’t left even a drop of poison for her. Juliet then stabs herself with Romeo’s dagger hoping to see her beloved and unite in the next world.

“For never was a story of more woe than this of Juliet and her Romeo”
ARTSPower National Touring Theater

"Are You My Mother?"

May 6, noon and 3 p.m.
Pfeiffer Hall
310 E. Benton Ave., Naperville
“ARE YOU MY MOTHER?”

Gary W. Blackman and Mark A. Blackman
Executive Producers

Greg Gunning
Artistic Director
present

ARE YOU MY MOTHER?
with
ERIN LYNN HASSETT
CHRIS MARTIN
EMILY KLINE
JESSICA ROSE
MASON HUSE
Stage Manager

Adapted by Greg Gunning
Directed by Greg Gunning
Lyrics by Greg Gunning
Music and Orchestrations by Richard DeRosa and Greg Gunning

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

Adapted from the book ARE YOU MY MOTHER? by P.D. EASTMAN. Published by Random House, Inc. All rights reserved. Copyright ©1960 by P.D. Eastman. Copyright renewed 1988 by Mary Eastman. Presented under an exclusive agreement with the Eastman family.
ARTSPower National Touring Theatre presents

ARE YOU MY MOTHER?
(A one-act musical based on the book by P.D. Eastman)

CAST (in order of appearance)

Baby Bird ................................................................. Jessica Rose
Hen/Mother Bird ...................................................... Emily Kline
Cat ................................................................. Erin Lynn Hassett
Dog .............................................................. Chris Martin
Stage Manager ....................................................... Mason Huse

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Overture

Mother’s Melody ......................................................... Mother Bird
Baby Bird’s Birth .......................................................... Baby Bird
All Alone in the World .................................................. Baby Bird
That’s Progress I .......................................................... Cast
That’s Progress II ......................................................... Baby Bird
That’s Progress II (Reprise #1) ...................................... Baby Bird & Hen
That’s Progress II (Reprise #2) ...................................... Baby Bird & Cat
The “Barking” Dog Chase ............................................... Dog
That’s Progress II (Reprise #3) ...................................... Baby Bird & Dog
Family ................................................................. Cast
That’s Progress I (Reprise #1) .......................................... Baby Bird
Are You My Mother ........................................................ Baby Bird
The Snort Attack! .......................................................... Cast
Fly ................................................................. .Hen, Cat, & Dog
Finale - All Alone in the World ........................................ Cast
WHO’S WHO

ERIN LYNN HASSETT (Cat) is thrilled to be back on the road with ArtsPower for a second time! She is so thankful for the opportunity to share this story and a new adventure with her husband, Chris, and the rest of the team of “Are You My Mother?” She was last seen on the road with ArtsPower as Anne in “My Heart in a Suitcase.” She would like to thank God for his guidance, and her family and friends for their love and support. Gma and Gpa H: “If home is where the heart is, then you’re always home.”

EMILY KLINE (Hen/Mother Bird) is thrilled to make her debut with ArtsPower! She earned her B.F.A. in musical theatre from Kent State University and is a proud member of Name of Bird Theatre Company. Regional: “Riley-The Series (Theatre 54),” Blue Gate Musicals, Mercury Theatre Company, Porthouse Theatre, The Musical Theatre Project. Many thanks and all the love to Mom, Dad and Ellie!
Instagram: @emkline14  www.emily-kline.com

CHRIS MARTIN (Dog) is so excited to go back on tour with ArtsPower in “Are You My Mother?” for a second time! A Texas native turned New Yorker, he is excited to share this story all over the country and tour with his wife, Erin. New York credits include: “Madeline and the Bad Hat” with ArtsPower (Ambassador/cook), “The Pajama Game” with The Gallery Players (Ensemble), “Beauty and the Beast” adapt... with American Family Theatre (Travail). Other favorite credits include: TUTS: “The Best Little... Texas (Aggie/Ensemble), Main Street Youth Theatre: “Diary of a Worm, Spider, and a Fly” (Spider), “Magic School Bus Live!” (Arnold), “Dirty Rotten Scoundrels” (ensemble/dance captain), TEXAS! Outdoor Musical Drama (Dancer); TYKES: “Goodnight Moon” (Bunny) and “Bad Kitty” (Dog). He would like to thank God for all the opportunities He has given, Erin for all her love, and his friends and family for all their support. B.F.A. in musical theatre from SHSU. EMC #catdog

JESSICA ROSE (Baby Bird) is thrilled to be touring the country in search of her mother! This is Jess’s first national tour and her debut with ArtsPower! International Tours: Snow White in “Snow White and the Seven Dwarves” and Halima/Queen Sultana in “Aladdin and his Wonderful, Magical Lamp.” Other favorite roles include Luisa in “The Fantasticks” and Helena Landless in “The Mystery of Edwin Drood.” She sings with two professional choirs, Glassbrook Vocal Ensemble and The Same Stream Choir, and works as a princess at Bella Princess, LLC! A New Jersey native, Jess graduated from Westminster Choir College with a B.M. in voice performance. Unending thanks to everyone at ArtsPower, her family, and friends, especially her mom for being her #1 supporter! Social media: @jessrosebella

MASON HUSE (Stage Manager) is thrilled to be stage managing “Are You My Mother?” as his first show with ArtsPower. In the past few years he has found himself working primarily in theatre for young audiences, especially with actors under age 18, and welcomes the pleasure of working with adult actors again, but still bringing the magic of theatre to young audiences. Mason is a graduate of Arizona State University with a concentration in stage management.

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, his wife Amy, and their daughter Emma 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 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, Illinois 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) 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 the University of North Texas 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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AN EVENING WITH JAZZ TROMBONIST

Tim Coffman

May 18, 8 p.m.
Madden Theatre
171 E. Chicago Ave., Naperville
PERFORMER BIOGRAPHY

Tim Coffman is one of the most active trombonists and instructors in the Chicago area. A graduate of the prestigious jazz studies program at Indiana University, he worked closely with David Baker and Keith Brown and was awarded the Performer’s Certificate after his senior recital. Coffman is in demand for studio and show work and has performed with Frank Sinatra, Frank Sinatra, Jr., Andy Williams, Natalie Cole, Lou Rawls, Louie Bellson, The Woody Herman Orchestra, Frank Wess, Ron Carter, Kurt Elling, Al Jarreau, Henry Mancini, Stevie Wonder, Diane Schur, Randy Brecker, Benny Golson, Joe Lovano, Lennie Niehaus, Slide Hampton, Diana Krall, Tony Bennett, Lady Gaga and many others.

He performed with the Chicago Symphony playing lead trombone in the Duke Ellington “Nutcracker.” He also performed on the recording of “Porgy and Bess,” featuring Clark Terry and the Chicago Jazz Orchestra. In 2009, Coffman performed with the WDR Big Band in Cologne, Germany for two weeks, with special guest Arturo Sandoval. He was a regular member of the Rob Parton Big Band and the Chicago Jazz Ensemble formerly led by Jon Faddis and Dana Hall. He is now a member of the New Standard Jazz Orchestra. His debut recording “Crossroads” is available on the Blujazz label.

Coffman is a Conn/Selmer artist/clinician and has performed/adjudicated at various high schools, jazz festivals and universities, including Purdue University, Furman University, University of Wisconsin-River Falls, University of New Mexico, DePauw University, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Ball State University; Evanston High School, Rolling Meadows High School, Mundelein High School, Oak Park-River Forest High School, Wheeling High School and many others. He has been on faculty at the Jamey Aebersold Summer Jazz Workshop at the University of Louisville since 1992.

Joining Coffman for this performance are fellow North Central College jazz faculty members Art Davis, Mitch Paliga, Chris White, Kelly Sill and Jack Mouse.
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10,000 Maniacs
May 19, 8 p.m.
Pfeiffer Hall
310 E. Benton Ave., Naperville
PERFORMER BIOGRAPHY

Founded in 1981 in Jamestown, N.Y., 10,000 Maniacs is one of the most enduring bands from the early “alternative rock” movement. The band has released close to 20 albums, including 2015’s “Twice Told Tales” and 2016’s “Playing Favorites,” while consistently touring the U.S. and abroad. This multi-platinum band still receives rave reviews of their live performances.

While 2017 marked the 30-year anniversary of the release of 10,000 Maniacs’ critically acclaimed, break-out album, “In My Tribe,” which Rolling Stone Magazine included in their “100 Best Albums Of The Eighties”, 2018 marks three significant anniversaries for the band. It was 25 years ago in 1993 that 10,000 Maniacs made their iconic performance on MTV’s “Unplugged.” The released recording would go on to sell millions of copies. Later, in that same year, Mary Ramsey, a backing vocalist on “Unplugged,” began her tenure as lead singer for the band. And 2018 marks the 35th anniversary of the release of their first full-length recording, “Secrets of the I Ching.” BBC radio legend John Peel brought the band to the attention of millions of listeners worldwide. To celebrate these milestones on their 2018 tour, 10,000 Maniacs will play select acoustic sets including songs from “Secrets of the I Ching” and MTV Unplugged as well as their hit songs.

10,000 Maniacs include: Mary Ramsey, lead vocals, viola; Steven Gustafson, bass guitar; Dennis Drew, keyboard; Jeff Erickson, guitar; John Lombardo, guitar; and Jerome Augustyniak, drums.

For more information visit: www.maniacs.com

A mutual love for the arts

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Tommy Hensel

"THE BROADWAY SONG BOOK OF 1967"

May 20, 6 p.m.
Madden Theatre
171 E. Chicago Ave., Naperville
THE BROADWAY SONGBOOK OF 1967

Featuring Tommy Hensel and Carolyn Brady Riley
With Madison Brunner, Sara Cromie, and Cody Ellsworth

PERFORMER BIOGRAPHY

Tommy Hensel (Vocalist) is a native of Columbia, S.C., and has worked for more than 30 years as a professional actor, singer, stage manager and director. He holds a B.A. in music and a B.A. in communication from Florida State University and an M.A. in theater from the University of South Carolina. Hensel is managing director of the Fine and Performing Arts Center at Moraine Valley Community College, a position he has held for over 10 years. He was formerly an 11-year resident of the Seacoast of New Hampshire. While in New England, Hensel produced and performed in cabaret shows throughout New England and was coproducer of the annual Cabaret by the Sea festival in Ogunquit, Maine. Since moving to the Chicago area, Hensel has been seen onstage at Davenport’s Piano Bar and the Drury Lane Water Tower Theater in productions for Chicago cabaret professionals and at Moraine Valley in four Sunday Salon performances. He also has an extensive musical theater résumé and maintains a side gig as a restaurant critic in Chicago for The Local Tourist (chicago.thelocaltourist.com).

Carolyn Brady Riley (Piano) maintains a private voice studio in the Fine Arts Building at 410 S. Michigan in Chicago and serves as a voice and theory teacher and music director in the Musical Theatre Conservatory at Roosevelt University. Her current and former students have performed with the Broadway Cast of “Book of Mormon,” Broadway in Chicago, NBC’s “The Voice,” Walt Disney World, Mercury, Theo Ubique, and Night Blue theatre companies, the Southwest Symphony, the Chicago Children’s Choir, Lyric Opera Children’s Chorus, and Chicago Opera Theatre. Brady Riley is a member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing and the Chicago Chapter. Formerly, she taught applied voice and musicianship at Loyola University and applied voice, opera workshop and university chorale at Saint Xavier University in Chicago.

Madison Brunner (Vocalist) has been seen at Stage773 in NightBlue Theatre Co.’s production of “Bullets Over Broadway” (Ensemble/Kay), as well as the Chicago College of Performing Arts mainstage production of “Promises, Promises” (Ensemble/Mrs. Sheldrake). Past Midwest credits include: “West Side Story” (Jet Girl/Swing/Dance Cap.), “Tarzan” (Ape/Dance Cap.), “Grease” (Pink Lady/Dance Cap.), “Les Misérables” (Lovely Lady/Dance Cap.), and many featured soloist opportunities with Chicago College of Performing Arts Showcase selections for both voice and dance.

Sara Cromie (Vocalist) is a musical theatre major studying at the Chicago College of Performing Arts. She is excited to be performing alongside such a wonderful and talented cast. Some of her favorite shows she’s been a part of include: “The Leader of the Pack” (Ellie Greenwich), “CATS” (Jellylorum), “Into the Woods” (Cinderella) and “Violet” (Young Violet).

Cody Ellsworth (Vocalist) was born and raised in the Midwest, Cody is in his senior year at Roosevelt University’s Chicago College of Performing Arts (CCPA) studying to receive his B.F.A. in musical theatre. He plans to move to New York after graduation. Recent credits include David Shayne in Nightblue Productions’ “Bullets Over Broadway,” Francis in Two Pigs Productions’ “Forever Plaid” in New Mexico, Stevens in “Dogfight” (CCPA), Aaron Schultz in “Legally Blonde” (CCPA) and Tobias Ragg in Harper College’s production of “Sweeney Todd.” Cody loves to lend his talent and energy to a good cause as recently seen in Dramatists Guild Banned Books Week Cabaret where he was a featured soloist for the second year. He can be heard on Musical Theatre International’s student recordings of “Rent” (Angel), “Sweeney Todd” (Tobias) and “Forever Plaid: The Sounds Of Plaid” (Jinx).
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