

ZOELLNER ARTS CENTER

LEHIGH UNIVERSITY



2026 - 2027 PLAYBILL



Marc Falato '87 & Mark Wilson

DEAR FRIENDS,

It is my honor to share some exciting news about the future of Zoellner Arts Center.

A longtime collaborator, partner, and Lehigh alumnus has made a meaningful commitment to both our present and our future by endowing the Executive Director position. I am proud to now serve as the **Marc Falato '87 Executive Director of Zoellner Arts Center**. This support for the arts at Lehigh University represents something deeper. It is a belief in this place, in this work, and in what we can continue to build together.

That work continues to grow through purposeful partnerships.

Our collaboration with the Carnegie Hall Weill Music Institute through Well-Being Concerts and the Lullaby Project has allowed us to expand our Arts & Wellness initiatives across campus and the Lehigh Valley. We are building a system in which the arts are not an extra but an essential civic infrastructure of how a community cares for itself.

At the same time, we remain committed to artistic excellence through the world-class artists we bring to our stage. The season opens with a generational voice in Graham Nash, followed by the sharp, observant wit of David Sedaris, and the unmistakable presence of LeAnn Rimes. We welcome Andy Grammer, whose music brings joy and meets audiences exactly where they are, lifting them just a bit higher.

If you ever wanted to run away with the circus, you will have three opportunities to see this art form with Cirque Alfonse, Minty Fresh Circus, and Gravity & Other Myths. The National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine is a remarkable ensemble whose music reminds us that even in turbulent times, there are moments of beauty, reflection, and restoration. Family programming remains central to who we are. This season, Pete the Cat is a highlight of our Family Series as we start a Choose-What-You-Pay model because we believe access to the arts is for all. When you come to Zoellner, you also help us make a difference in supporting 10,000+ K-12 students who attend our School Shows, bringing curriculum to life for children across the Lehigh Valley.

In celebration of America's 250th founding, the Lehigh University Music Department finds all the right notes performing compositions by Sousa, Joplin, Bernstein, and more. The Department of Theatre explores powerful themes of agency, freedom, and reinvention through four contemporary plays. Remember, it is always a good time to visit LUAG, Lehigh University's free public museum, while you are on campus.

When I think about this season, I don't just think about performances. I think about how we bring the world to the Lehigh Valley...how we bring joy to our community...how we connect our beautiful campus to the rest of the Greater Lehigh Valley. You are all welcome to experience the arts with us.

With Gratitude,

Mark Wilson

Marc Falato '87 Executive Director
of Zoellner Arts Center



**Arts &
Libraries**

LEHIGH UNIVERSITY

Zoellner Arts Center is now closely aligned with the Lehigh University Art Galleries and University Libraries under a new Vice Provost for Arts and Libraries, further elevating the arts and maximizing impact on our community.

THANK YOU

Leadership Funding:

Victoria E. and Robert E. Zoellner '54 GP'15

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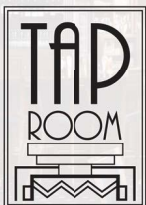


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CIRQUE ALFONSE

LA NOCE



**ZOELLNER
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2026.2027
SEASON

"Zoellner Arts Center received funding from Pennsylvania Creative Industries, powered by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts."



La Noce d'Alfonse

Production: Cirque Alfonse

Artistic Directors: Julie and Antoine Carabinier-Lépine

Stage Director: Alain Francoeur

Composer: David Simard

Costume Design: Sarah Balleux

Light Design: Jean-François Piché

Performed by:

Rob Abubo, Julie Carabinier-Lépine, Antoine Carabinier Lépine, Jonathan Casaubon, Arthur Casaubon, Claire Hopson, Gen Morin and Rob Abubo

With the participation of:

Mafalda Carabinier, Délima Carabinier and Jules Casaubon

Music performed by:

Josiane Laporte, Guillaume Turcotte and Colin Savoie-Levac

LA NOCE by Cirque Alfonse is a celebration of love in all its forms — as tender as it is delightfully kitschy. It's a freak show of the heart where caustic humor, circus performance, and live music collide in a whirlwind of festive poetry. Each night, a bold — and sometimes risqué — procession unfolds a series of acrobatic, love-infused tableaux, honoring the union of one lucky couple from the audience.

Rooted in a 1970s aesthetic and fueled by constant crowd interaction, the show joyfully overflows with outrageous twists and turns. It bears all the hallmarks of Cirque Alfonse: irreverence, daring, poetry, and live music.

With Caribbean flair and unapologetically Québécois folk roots, its vintage-meets-modern soundtrack sets the tone for a jubilant union — between Cirque Alfonse, its performers, and the public who celebrate alongside them.

LA NOCE premiered at TOHU in Montreal, QC July 3-13, 2025, during the Complètement Cirque Festival.

THE STORY



For this new creation, Cirque Alfonse draws inspiration from a deeply rooted tradition: the wedding. Here, the theme is not approached for its religious connotations, but as a celebration of gathering around love—a subject as old as time, endlessly explored, yet always relevant. We are not seeking to find a new angle but rather embracing the challenge of wrestling with it in a form that suits us: an invitation to the public to come celebrate and party. *La Noce* will be the company's sixth production and, like its predecessors, will follow a decidedly contemporary path.

The fertile ground of the wedding offers an infinite playground for exploring a range of situations that flow from it: passion, commitment, romance, communication, trust, surrender, break-up, complicity, ritual, devotion, and more. Circus vocabulary is used here to embody archetypes revealed through action—not through the psychology of a character driving the action.

Planned disciplines include: duo and group hand-to-hand; mouth suspension; balancing glasses, bottles, and flair bartending; teeterboard; aerial straps; roller skating; bungee; archery duels and target shooting; juggling; tightwire; and swing dance.

This unique celebration, *La Noce*, will take the form of a kaleidoscope of incongruous situations where the company's signature caustic humor, audacity, physical performance, and poetry collide. There will be no narrative thread per se, but an impressionistic dramaturgical

structure evolving through a succession of tableaux evoking a wedding reception—in and out of order— with all its codes, triumphs, and mishaps. Live music, song, circus, and dance will unfold on stage, giving life to a hybrid form that hints at a “freak show of the heart.”

Performers will don their finest attire for the occasion—a reinterpretation of the 1970s aesthetic, maintaining its pastel color palette of powder blue, canary yellow, and delicate pink. On the evening’s menu: Cupid presiding over a bachelor party; garter games with the audience; jealousy duels; flair competitions and cocktail-making with tastings for the audience; repeated kissing contests judged by the crowd; a roller-skate opening dance; bouquet battles; bawdy songs from a drunken uncle; a Kamasutra demonstration; a lonely soul in continuous tears; a sleepwalking priest; and more. Many moments will mirror fragments of the audience’s own reality, for we’ve all, at some point, attended a wedding that went off the rails.

The company favors intimacy with its audience, performing in theatres or, when possible, under a big top transformed for the occasion into something reminiscent of a church basement. The space will be filled with illuminated arches draped with strings of white lights, banquet tables, and chairs. Kitsch is welcome, and celebration is mandatory—with all the delightful digressions that entails. There will be no “official” bride and groom, but rather a symbolic celebration of the union between Cirque Alfonse and its audience.

The company will act as the host, observing all the courtesies, engaging directly with the audience throughout the show. Each evening, a couple from the audience will be honored, and the performance will be dedicated to them. Their union will be celebrated by naming the number of years they’ve been together and the corresponding traditional anniversary—e.g., 2 years: cotton, 8 years: poppy, 25 years: silver, etc. The show will end with a tightwire performance and, as a grand finale, a traditional family photo.

The entire musical score will be an original composition. As in past productions, traditional Québécois music remains a key influence, but for this project, it will be “contaminated” with pre-recorded sounds from Casio synthesizers or vintage Hammond organs. We’re dusting off a musical style beloved at festive gatherings in certain Québec communities during the 1970s and 80s. The score will also draw on calypso, merengue, samba, and salsa influences, creating a unique festive sound reminiscent of Caribbean music—whose structures sometimes echo traditional Québec music. Planned instruments

include guitar, banjo, keyboards, accordion, percussion, steel drum, steel guitar, and, as a special guest, the lyre. An extensive search for traditional song lyrics on love, union, and lament will be undertaken, as singing will be a key element in shaping the dramaturgy.

The company has always embraced a multidisciplinary approach. Cirque Alfonse wishes to maintain continuity with its collaborators while remaining open to each artist's current creative desires. This approach situates every performer in the present of their personal artistic journey, offering renewal for all through challenges that are both individual and collective. In this new creation, we continue breaking down the boundaries between musicians and circus artists, highlighting their multidisciplinary skills in a constant interplay between music and action— allowing for greater musical freedom and a more complex, multi-level involvement from everyone.

“An irresistible procession, a wedding parade featuring six acrobats [...] and three musicians, all dressed in their Sunday best. In this ‘family affair’, the participation of the younger generation is not only immensely cute but deeply moving.”

- Le Devoir, 6 July 2025



ZOELLNER ARTS CENTER LEHIGH UNIVERSITY



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This list recognizes gifts received between July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026. Gifts made after these dates will be updated in January and July on our digital recognition list found at zoellnerartscenter.org/support.

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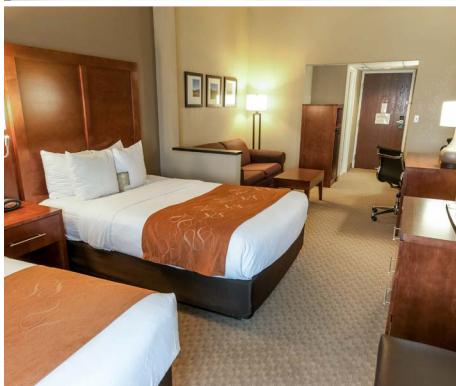
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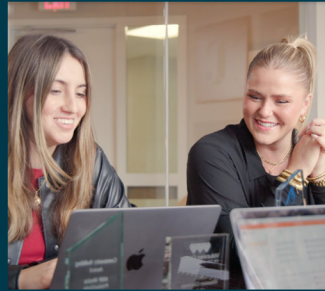
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INFORMATION

CAN'T MAKE IT? EXCHANGE OR DONATE YOUR TICKETS.

Contact us before the show to either **exchange** for another event, or convert the value of your tickets to a charitable contribution to Zoellner Arts Center. Subscribers and Friends may exchange for free, just \$1 per ticket for all others. Patrons are responsible for any difference in ticket price, exchanges must occur within event category (e.g., Music Dept. ticket for Music Dept. ticket). Excludes rental events. No refunds.

PARKING IS FREE in the garage attached to the center for all Presenting Series, Lehigh University Music Dept. and Dept. of Theatre events (excluding some weekday morning events, Christmas Vespers in Packer Chapel and Dolce in Lamberton Hall). Please note, there may be a parking charge for non-Zoellner sponsored events.

GROUPS SAVE UP TO 15% Just buy 10 or more tickets to a performance. Orders incur a one-time per-performance fee of \$6 per group order in lieu of per-ticket fees.

TAXES AND FEES

Single tickets ordered by phone or online carry fees ranging from \$2.25-\$8.50 per ticket. Tickets purchased in-person may carry fees of up to 50 cents per ticket. The City of Bethlehem Amusement tax is 5% on tickets above \$10, with a cap of \$2 per ticket. Additional delivery charges may apply. check online for details.

**OUR GIFT CERTIFICATES
NEVER EXPIRE.**

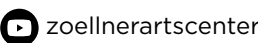
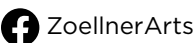
Purchase these at Ticket Services or online
in any amount and give
the gift of entertainment.

Certificates cannot be redeemed for rental events.

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CONNECT WITH US!



GO TO WEBSITE

zoellnerartscenter.org

#artshaveimpact

HOUSE NOTES

Concessions: Food and beverage service will likely be limited. Check the “Know Before You Go” email sent to ticket holders the week of the show. Be sure to give Ticket Services your email.

Please silence all mobile devices upon entering the theatre.

To leave theatres during performances, use the rear doors, if you are able, to minimize disruption of performance.

Late seating occurs at suitable intervals. While waiting, you may watch performance on lobby monitors.

Lost & Found: Contact Ticket Services. Not responsible for lost or stolen items.

Families with Children:

We welcome children of all ages to our Family Series shows. For performances not listed as Family Series in our brochure, we recommend that attendees be ages four and over. Everyone entering the theatre must have a ticket, and sit quietly in a seat throughout the performance. There are closed-circuit monitors in the lobby which supervised children may use to watch performances if they need a break.

Accessible seating can be requested when purchasing tickets. Accessible parking is on levels 1 and 3 in the parking garage.

Free assistive-listening devices are available through Ticket Services for amplified performances.

Free Sensory Kits are available to checkout, please inquire at the box office or with an usher.

Questions about your tickets?

Contact Ticket Services:

Phone: 610-758-2787 ext. 0

Email: inzactix@lehigh.edu

Box Office Hours:

TUE 12-6; WED-FRI 12-5

For ticketed events: SAT 2 hours prior to curtain, 90 mins. all other days.

All programs and artists are subject to change. In the event of a cancellation or material change, we will make every effort to contact all ticket holders. We must reserve the right to make any changes whatsoever in the event owing to any unforeseen or unavoidable cause or to cancel the event for any reason beyond our control without being liable to pay any ticket holder compensation for damages other than a ticket of comparable value to an event (based on availability).

Video recording or photography may occur for this performance that might include images of audience members. Your attendance at today's performance grants permission for further usage of such images.

ZOELLNER ARTS CENTER

at LEHIGH UNIVERSITY

2026 FALL SEASON AT A GLANCE



LUVME	FRI AUG 28
HELL'S KITCHEN FUNK ORCHESTRA	SAT SEP 5
PAUL SALERNI BIENNIAL ART RECITAL	SUN SEP 20
GRAHAM NASH	THU SEP 24
WITCH	SEP 25 - OCT 3
ONE VISION OF QUEEN FEAT. MARC MARTEL	SAT SEP 26
DAVID SEDARIS.....	FRI OCT 2
CIRQUE ALFONSE	SAT OCT 3
OUTLANDER IN CONCERT	SUN OCT 11
WU FEI AND ABIGAIL WASHBURN	FRI OCT 16
FREQUENCY STRING QUARTET	SUN OCT 18
CHORAL ARTS	FRI OCT 23, SAT OCT 24
VOCES8	SUN NOV 1
THE HOUSE THAT WILL NOT STAND	NOV 6 - 14
JAZZ REPERTORY ORCHESTRA	SAT NOV 7
ANDY GRAMMER	SUN NOV 8
PHILHARMONIC	FRI NOV 13, SAT NOV 14
PETE THE CAT FAMILY SERIES  FAMILY SERIES	SUN NOV 15
ACADEMY OF VOCAL ARTS	SUN NOV 22
MICHAEL FEINSTEIN	SUN NOV 29
FALL STUDENT JAZZ CONCERT	FRI DEC 4
WIND ENSEMBLE	SAT DEC 5
CHORAL ARTS FREE	SUN DEC 6
THE NUTCRACKER	SAT DEC 12, SUN DEC 13
CHERISH THE LADIES	SUN DEC 20

KEY: **PRESENTING SERIES** | **MUSIC DEPARTMENT** | **DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE**

