

ZOELLNER ARTS CENTER

LEHIGH UNIVERSITY

2023 **2024**

PLAYBILL





Photo By John Kish IV

DEAR FRIENDS,

This season, I am thinking about our future makers and ways to make art together. The stories on our stages, both inside and beyond the building, offer an opportunity to hear new voices and diverse perspectives from world-class artists and talented Lehigh students.

Sphinx Virtuosi opens the Presenting Series with an exciting program highlighting the excellence of Black and Latinx performers and

composers. The San Diego Symphony graces our stage to premiere a new work by Carlos Simon, the Kennedy Center's composer-in-residence, the night before they debut it in Carnegie Hall.

The imaginative Momix celebrates its 40th anniversary with a fantastical version of *Alice in Wonderland*. The Vienna Boys Choir rings in the holidays with traditional songs in Packer Memorial Church. Mermaid Theater's *The Rainbow Fish* is a delight for audiences of all ages. Lehigh Music Department Chair Paul Salerni conducts a live orchestra for Nimbus Dance's contemporary interpretation of Copland's *Appalachian Spring*.

The university's music and theatre departments continue to amplify students' talents with the artistic vision of our esteemed faculty. See the future makers share their creativity this season.

We understand the importance of building our future audiences. Our Family Series partnership with the Lehigh Valley Reilly Children's Hospital ensures engagement continues with our second annual fun-filled Family Day.

Strike Anywhere Performance Ensemble joins us for a year-long residency, building dialogue and collaboration in the community beyond our building. The ensemble activates spaces with art by listening to individuals and turning their stories into a devised play that will be seen throughout Bethlehem's South Side neighborhood, weaving the campus and community together with a beautiful performance.

How excited I am that Zoellner Arts Center's 2023-2024 season adds to the vibrant arts scene in the Lehigh Valley and is a conduit to bring the area's rural, suburban and urban communities together. Thank you for your continued support. Arts have an impact in our community because of you.

Mark Fitzgerald Wilson

Executive Director

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NEIL GAIMAN



**ZOELLNER
ARTS CENTER**
LEHIGH UNIVERSITY



2023.2024
SEASON

Zoellner Arts Center receives state arts funding support through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.



“I make things up and write them down” is the way Neil Gaiman describes his varied art. Today, as one of the most celebrated writers of our time, his popular and critically acclaimed works bend genres while reaching audiences of all ages.

Gaiman’s groundbreaking *Sandman* comics, which received nine Eisner Awards, was described by Stephen King as having turned graphic novels into “art.” The *Los Angeles Times* called it the greatest epic in the history of the form, an issue of *Sandman* was the first comic book to receive the World Fantasy Award for Best Short Story.

Gaiman is the bestselling author of *Neverwhere*, *Anansi Boys*, *Good Omens* (with Terry Pratchett), *Smoke and Mirrors*, *Fragile Things*, *Trigger Warning: Short Fictions and Disturbances*, *The Ocean at the End of the Lane*, *The Sleeper & the Spindle*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *Norse Mythology*, and *The View from the Cheap Seats* (non-fiction essays). He is also the author of *American Gods*, winner of the Hugo, Nebula, Bram Stoker, and Locus awards and proclaimed one of the 125 most important books of the last 125 years by the New York Public Library. In 2020 he published *The Annotated American Gods*, *The Neil Gaiman Reader: Selected Fiction* (with a forward by Marlon James), and for children, *Pirate Stew*, illustrated by Chris Riddell.

His works for younger readers include *The Day I Swapped My Dad for Two Goldfish*, *The Wolves in the Walls* (made into an opera by the Scottish National Theatre and a puppet show by the Little Angel theatre), *Odd and the Frost Giants*, *The Dangerous Alphabet*, *Cinnamon*, and *Fortunately the Milk*. His young adult story, *Coraline*, won the Hugo, Nebula, Bram Stoker, and Locus awards and was adapted as a musical by Stephin Merritt in 2009 and into an opera by composer Mark-Anthony Turnage and librettist Rory Mullarkey in 2018. His children’s novel, *The Graveyard Book*, is the only work to win both the Newbery (US) and Carnegie (UK) Medals.

Much of Gaiman’s work has been adapted for visual media including *Stardust*, *Coraline* (BAFTA winner for Best Animated Film), *Neil Gaiman’s Likely Stories*, and *How to Talk to Girls at Parties* (directed by John Cameron Mitchell). The hit series *American Gods* ran for three seasons on the Starz network. *Good Omens*, an Amazon Prime series, won the 2019 Ray Bradbury Nebula Award for Outstanding Dramatic Presentation for the episode “Hard Times,” the Hugo for Best Dramatic Presentation—Long Form, and was renewed for a second season. *The Sandman* was developed as a critically acclaimed live-action TV series

for Netflix, *Anansi Boys* is in development for a six-episode series on Amazon, in addition Gaiman is producing a series based on Mervyn Peake's Gormenghast books for Showtime. His novelette turned performance piece "The Truth is a Cave in the Black Mountains" has been performed widely, including at Carnegie Hall. His novel, *The Ocean at the End of the Lane* was adapted as a critically acclaimed play for a sold-out run at England's National Theatre later transferring to the West End. Gaiman's commencement address "Make Good Art," received 1.5 million views, and was released as a book illustrated and designed by Chip Kidd. He is also the author of *Art Matters*, illustrated by Chris Riddell. In 2021 he starred in the Audible Original production *The Neil Gaiman At The End of The Universe* which benefited the mental health non-profit, This Is My Brave. In 2022 he collaborated with FourPlay String Quartet on an album called *Signs of Life* set to be released on April 28, 2023. Their first single is *Bloody Sunrise* with words and music by Neil Gaiman. He was also cast as Gef, the talking mongoose in the forthcoming movie *Nandor Fodor and The Talking Mongoose*.

A self-described "feral child who was raised in libraries," Gaiman credits librarians with fostering a life-long love of reading. He is a passionate advocate for books and libraries, and a supporter and former board member of the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund. His blog has more than a million regular readers, and over two million people follow him on Twitter. Born in England, Gaiman lives in the United States and teaches at Bard College.

Neil Gaiman has been honored with 4 Hugos, 2 Nebulas, 1 World Fantasy Award, 4 Bram Stoker Awards, 6 Locus Awards, 2 British SF Awards, 1 British Fantasy Award, 3 Geffens, 1 International Horror Guild Award, 2 Mythopoeic Awards, and 15 Eisner Awards. Other honors include the Shirley Jackson Award, Chicago Tribune Young Adult Literary Prize (for his body of work), Comic Book Legal Defense Fund Defender of Liberty award, 2022 St. Louis Literary Award (for his body of work), and an Honorary Doctorate from the University of the Arts. In 2017 UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, appointed Neil Gaiman as a global Goodwill Ambassador.

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2023-24 SEASON

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- **Christmas in Allentown + Bethlehem** 🎵*Livestream option Sat. & Sun., December 9 & 10* at 4pm **Bach Magnificat + Christen ätzet diesen Tag, BWV 63 + Carols!**
- **Spring in Bethlehem – BACH INSPIRED** ■ Sun., March 17 at 4pm **Bach Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott, BWV 80 + Selections from our June European tour**
- + **116th Bethlehem Bach Festival** ■ May 10–11 & 17–18, 2024
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 - The immortal **Mass in B Minor** 🎵 Live-stream option May 11
- + **Our Community & Educational Programs**
 - **Bach at Noon** Free and open to the public, second Tuesdays
 - **Greg Funfgeld Family Concert: Dancing with Bach** ■ In collaboration with the Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Arts & Muhlenberg College Dance Department ■ Sun., February 18 at 3pm
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ZOELLNER ARTS CENTER

2023 FALL SEASON AT A GLANCE



HELL'S KITCHEN FUNK ORCHESTRA	SEP 9
LUVME <i>Disruption and Hope</i>	SEP 23
SPHINX VIRTUOSI <i>Generations</i>	SEP 29
THE PRINCETON SINGERS <i>Inspirations</i>	OCT 1
THIS IS NOT THE PLAY	OCT 4-7
THE BACON BROTHERS	OCT 6
NEIL GAIMAN	OCT 8
SAN DIEGO SYMPHONY	OCT 12
STORYFACES + ARTRAGEOUS	FAMILY DAY
 Lehigh Valley Reilly Children's Hospital FAMILY SERIES	OCT 14
LEHIGH UNIVERSITY CHORAL ARTS <i>Sacred and Profane</i>	OCT 21-22
MOMIX <i>Alice</i>	OCT 28
LEHIGH UNIVERSITY JAZZ REPERTORY ORCHESTRA	OCT 29
LEHIGH UNIVERSITY FACULTY STRING QUARTET <i>Impression, Sunrise</i>	NOV 5
RAGS PARKLAND SINGS THE SONGS OF THE FUTURE	NOV 10-17
THE RODNEY MARSALIS PHILADELPHIA BIG BRASS	NOV 17
LEHIGH UNIVERSITY WIND ENSEMBLE <i>Come Dance with Us</i>	NOV 19
LEHIGH UNIVERSITY PHILHARMONIC <i>A Dance Across Life</i>	DEC 1-2
FANCY NANCY SPLENDIFEROUS CHRISTMAS	
 Lehigh Valley Reilly Children's Hospital FAMILY SERIES	DEC 3
CHERISH THE LADIES <i>A Celtic Christmas</i>	DEC 8
POSTMODERN JUKEBOX <i>Life in the Past Lane</i>	DEC 9
LEHIGH UNIVERSITY CHORAL ARTS <i>Christmas Vespers</i>	DEC 10
VIENNA BOYS CHOIR	DEC 15
THE NUTCRACKER	DEC 16-17

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