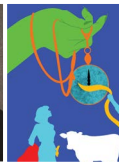


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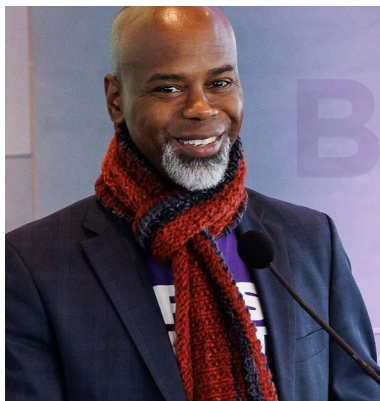


Photo By John Kish IV

DEAR FRIENDS,

It's hard to **believe**, but I've now spent over five years as executive director of Zoellner Arts Center. As I write this, I'm filled with gratitude. What an honor it has been—and continues to be—to come to work each day with a mission to connect our urban, suburban, and rural communities through the arts. Thank you for welcoming me so warmly to the Lehigh Valley and for continuing to walk alongside us on this journey.

This season opens on high notes — with The Bacon Brothers and Morgan Freeman's Symphonic Blues Experience. These

Hollywood heavyweights have also centered music in their award-winning careers. The world-renowned Philharmonia Orchestra, under the prestigious baton of Marin Alsop, will perform stirring works of Tchaikovsky, Bartók, and Prokofiev, filling our hall with beauty and power. Mark Morris Dance Group returns with their signature blend of live music, exquisite movement, and bold fashion—this time set to the music of Burt Bacharach.

We're thrilled to welcome back audience favorites like Postmodern Jukebox and the Vienna Boys Choir, and to continue our commitment to family-centered programming through the Lehigh Valley Reilly Children's Hospital Family Series. Our pre-show conversations with Lehigh Valley Health Network health professionals have become a highlight, and we're excited to continue exploring the growing intersection of arts and wellness. Stay tuned for more news on this front.

In the winter and spring, we invite you to experience the electrifying energy of Drum Tao, the return of the moving virtual reality installation *Traveling While Black*, and a celebration of Jane Austen's 250th birthday with a delightful project by The Jane Austen Playlist. The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain will leave you smiling, while The Tallis Scholars—the world's preeminent early music vocal ensemble—will offer a transcendent performance in the beautiful Packer Memorial Church. Finally, we close the season with **the** joyful rhythms of the NYC Ska Orchestra.

Zoellner Arts Center embraces its role as a university-based presenter. We are a space for a community of practice where educators and future makers converge. Student artists, along with the Departments of Music and Theatre and Lehigh University Art Galleries (LUAG), present concerts, plays, and exhibitions that reflect both their talent and the faculty who inspire them.

As always, we're proud to be a space where creativity, community, and connection come together. Thank you for being part of this journey and for making Zoellner Arts Center such a vibrant home for the **arts**.

With gratitude,

Mark Fitzgerald Wilson

Executive Director

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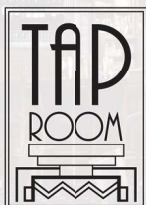
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A Concert That Will Fill Your Heart With Joy

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Musical Director
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PROGRAM NOTES

This new concert by 3-time Grammy®-winning Soweto Gospel Choir; celebrates songs and anthems of Nelson Mandela's Freedom Movement in South Africa and the Civil Rights Movement of Dr Martin Luther King's America. Opening with a rousing program of South African freedom songs, the repertoire moves down through time to the USA, with beautiful renditions of the protest music of the Civil Rights Movement and more contemporary classics, including works by legendary artists Elvis Presley, Sam Cooke, Cynthia Erivo, Stevie Wonder and the one-and-only Aretha Franklin. Formed to celebrate the unique and inspirational power of African Gospel music, Soweto Gospel Choir is dedicated to sharing the joy of faith through music with audiences around the world and has received critical acclaim and audience adoration for their powerful renditions of African American spirituals, gospel and folk music.

Soweto Gospel Choir 2025

“God has wrought many things out of oppression. He has endowed his creatures with the capacity to create - and from this capacity has flowed the sweet songs of sorrow and joy that have allowed man to cope with his environment and many different situations.”

Martin Luther King Jr.

1964 Berlin Jazz Festival (Article)

“... the political use of music in South Africa changed from being a ‘mirror’ in the 1940s and 1950s to becoming a ‘hammer’ with which to shape reality in the 1980s. In South Africa, music went from reflecting common experiences and concerns in the early years of apartheid, to eventually function as a force to confront the State and as a means to actively construct an alternative political and social reality.”

The Beat that Beat Apartheid: The Role of Music in the Resistance
Against Apartheid in South Africa.

Anne Schumann

2008 Vienna Journal of African Studies (Article)

*** NOTE: ALL INFORMATION SUBJECT TO CHANGE
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ABOUT THE SOWETO GOSPEL CHOIR

Hailing from Soweto (South West Township), a township outside of Johannesburg and home of Nelson Mandela and South Africa's democratic movement, **SOWETO GOSPEL CHOIR** continues to inspire audiences around the world with their powerful blend of African gospel, freedom songs and international classics.

Comprising a line-up of some of South Africa's best vocalists, these uplifting performers have shared the stage and collaborated with the biggest names in contemporary music including Aretha Franklin, Stevie Wonder, Beyonce, U2, Diana Ross, Peter Gabriel, Chris Martin, John Legend, Pharrell Williams, Jimmy Cliff, Ben Harper, Angelique Kidjo, Robert Plant, Celine Dion, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Hugh Masekela and Josh Groban.

SOWETO GOSPEL CHOIR was formed in 2003 at the end of the apartheid era and during South Africa's inspiring return to Democracy. Taking part in some of the major historical events in the new democratic South Africa, Soweto Gospel Choir are proud to have performed on many occasions for the Father of their Nation, former President Nelson Mandela and sadly at his State Funeral in South Africa and at the subsequent commemorative service at Westminster Abbey in London. They were similarly invited to perform at the funeral service for the late President's first wife, Winnie Mandela.

The Choir acts as Ambassadors for the Nelson Mandela Foundation.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Three-time Grammy® Award-winners including 2019 Best World Music Album for "Freedom"
- Performed with the biggest names in music including U2, Stevie Wonder, Celine Dion, Red Hot Chili Peppers and Josh Groban
- Over 17 million views on YouTube
- Spreading joy to audiences across the globe for nearly two decades

SET LIST

“MELODIES”

NARRATION

“NONKONYANE KA NDABA”

“MODIMO”

“DICHABA”

“NOT YET UHURU”

“LITSHONILE LI LANGA”

“PASOPA VERWOERD”

“SECHABA”

“E KE DUMETSE”

“MBAI MBAI”

“FREEDOM MEDLEY”

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“OPENING DANCE AND CHANT”

“AMEN”

“HEAVEN HELP US ALL”

“PASS ME NOT GENTLE SAVIOR”

“A CHANGE IS GONNA COME”

“MAN IN THE MIRROR”

“PEOPLE GET READY”

“STAND UP”

“YOU WILL NEVER WALK ALONE”

“HALLELUJAH”

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This list recognizes gifts received between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025. 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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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.

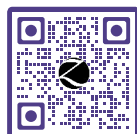
CONNECT WITH US!

 ZoellnerArts

 zoellnerartscenter

 zoellnerarts

 inzactix@lehigh.edu



GO TO WEBSITE

zoellnerartscenter.org

[#artshaveimpact](https://www.instagram.com/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

2025 FALL SEASON AT A GLANCE



LUVME	SAT SEP 6
THE BACON BROTHERS	SUN SEP 7
MORGAN FREEMAN'S SYMPHONIC BLUES EXPERIENCE	FRI SEP 12
HELL'S KITCHEN FUNK ORCHESTRA	SAT SEP 13
ATTACCA QUARTET	SUN SEP 14
NOLI TIMERE	SAT SEP 20
PASSAGE	OCT 3 - 11
SPHINX VIRTUOSI	FRI OCT 3
KURBASY	SUN OCT 5
SOWETO GOSPEL CHOIR	SAT OCT 11
MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP	FRI OCT 17
FREQUENCY STRING QUARTET	SUN OCT 19
CHORAL ARTS	FRI OCT 24
PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA	SUN OCT 26
DON'T LET THE PIGEON DRIVE THE BUS! THE MUSICAL! <div> <div> FAMILY DAY  </div> <div> FAMILY SERIES </div> </div>	
STUDENT JAZZ CONCERT	SAT NOV 1
SCOTT BRADLEE'S POSTMODERN JUKEBOX	SAT NOV 8
THE FLICK	THU NOV 13
WIND ENSEMBLE	NOV 14 - 21
JAZZ REPERTORY ORCHESTRA	SUN NOV 16
ACADEMY OF VOCAL ARTS	FRI NOV 21
PHILHARMONIC	SUN NOV 23
CHORAL ARTS 	FRI DEC 5, SAT DEC 6
THE NUTCRACKER	SUN DEC 7
VIENNA BOYS CHOIR	SAT DEC 13, SUN DEC 14
SEÁN HEELY'S CELTIC CHRISTMAS	FRI DEC 19
	SAT DEC 20

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

