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LEHIGH UNIVERSITY



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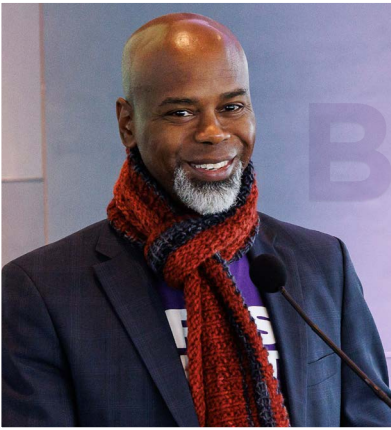


Photo By John Kish IV

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,

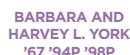
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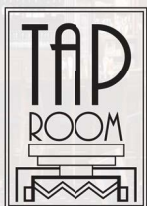


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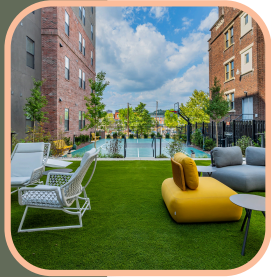


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THE BACON BROTHERS

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THE BACON BROTHERS

Ballad Of The Brothers



For The Bacon Brothers, music is all about exploration.

The siblings have spent the better part of three decades creating their own mix of folk, rock, soul, and country music. They call that diverse sound “forosoco,” and it’s taken them around the world, from headlining gigs in Japan to American performances at iconic venues like Carnegie Hall, the Grand Ole Opry and Gruene Hall.

The exploration continues with the band’s twelfth release, *Ballad Of The Brothers*. It’s a record that highlights not only the similarities between Kevin Bacon (known worldwide as an A-list Hollywood actor) and Michael Bacon (celebrated as an Emmy-winning composer), but the differences, too. The two siblings may be bound together by blood and a mutual love of American roots music, but they’ve grown into sharp songwriters and cinematic storytellers with their own distinct approaches. *Ballad Of The Brothers* makes room for both of those approaches, offering a mix of edgy alt-rock (“Take Off This Tattoo”), Motown-inspired soul (“Put Your Hand Up”), fingerpicked folk (“Let That Be Enough”), and everything in between.

“We’re two musicians who write songs very differently, and we’ve grown to really appreciate those differences,” says Michael. “Whenever I go see a band play live, I’d much rather see them do a thousand things than just one thing. We take a similar approach to our albums.”

While writing new material for *Ballad Of The Brothers*, the Bacons made several trips to Tennessee, where they teamed up with Nashville-area songwriters like Casey Beathard, Brett Tyler, and Kimberly Kelly. They continued to travel once it came time to record the album, too. “Live With The Lie” was tracked in New Jersey, where the band abandoned the use of a click track in favor of capturing a raw, real performance with their touring band. “Put Your Hand Up,” a brassy soul song that splits the difference between Memphis grit and Motown groove, was recorded in Philadelphia. “Take Off This Tattoo” was produced in Los Angeles by Kevin’s son, Travis Bacon. “It sounded like a country song when we wrote it,” Michael remembers, “but once we decided to give it to Trav, who has more of a rock and electronic sensibility, it became something new.” The band even added a fiddle solo to “Take Off This Tattoo” — an unexpected choice for a rock song, perhaps, but one that emphasizes the Bacon Brothers’ willingness to break new ground. “We worked with fiddle player Brian Fitzgerald on that song,” explains Kevin, “and the direction we gave him was: ‘Imagine that you’re playing an electric guitar, but it just looks like a fiddle.’ He absolutely crushed it.”

Like much of the Bacon Brothers’ work, *Ballad Of The Brothers* offers a mix of autobiography and richly-detailed fiction. The tongue-in-cheek “Old Bronco” finds Kevin turning a song about his 1969 Bronco truck into a metaphor for aging. “Airport Bar,” one of the most gorgeous tracks in the Bacons’ catalog, compares a doomed

relationship to a sports bar in an airport terminal. On the album's title track (inspired by Gruene Hall, the historic dancehall where Willie Nelson played some of his most memorable shows), the brothers deliver a Wild West narrative about two East Coast city slickers who take a road trip to Texas. Whether by fate or by Faust, they find themselves onstage at a Texas honky-tonk, blessed with musical talent they didn't know they had. "I wanted to write a Faustian story set in one of my favorite states ever," says Michael. "It's sort of like Texas' own version of Charlie Daniels' 'The Devil Went Down to Georgia.'"

For Michael and Kevin Bacon, *Ballad Of The Brothers* marks the continuation of a musical partnership that began long ago in Philadelphia, where the two siblings were raised on a soundtrack of 1970s singer/songwriters, Philly soul bands, and classic rock acts. They're creating their own soundtrack now, and like many artistic endeavors, the work is never truly done.

"We're still exploring the sound we began making all those years ago; we've just gotten a lot better at it," Michael says. "Music is a life's work. It's a universe of things yet to know. We're still making new discoveries."

Opener: **Kendal Conrad** www.instagram.com/kendalconrad

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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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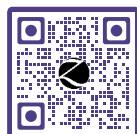
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HOUSE NOTES

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!	
FAMILY DAY  FAMILY SERIES	SAT NOV 1
 FAMILY SERIES	SAT NOV 1
STUDENT JAZZ CONCERT	SAT NOV 8
SCOTT BRADLEE'S POSTMODERN JUKEBOX	THU NOV 13
THE FLICK	NOV 14 - 21
WIND ENSEMBLE	SUN NOV 16
JAZZ REPERTORY ORCHESTRA	FRI NOV 21
ACADEMY OF VOCAL ARTS	SUN NOV 23
PHILHARMONIC	FRI DEC 5, SAT DEC 6
CHORAL ARTS 	SUN DEC 7
THE NUTCRACKER	SAT DEC 13, SUN DEC 14
VIENNA BOYS CHOIR	FRI DEC 19
SEÁN HEELY'S CELTIC CHRISTMAS	SAT DEC 20

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

