

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

THANK YOU

Leadership Funding: Victoria E. and Robert E. Zoellner '54

PROGRAM SUPPORT

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Notations: **Lehigh University Creative Writing Program**

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SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



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DEC 3

Sun
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FANCY NANCY SPLENDIFEROUS CHRISTMAS

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FAMILY SERIES



**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.

 **pennsylvania**
COUNCIL ON THE ARTS



— ABOUT —

What could be fancier than Christmas? Presents with elegant wrapping paper, festive decorations, Christmas cookies with sprinkles – and who could forget the tree? After all, there is no such thing as too much tinsel. Ooh la la! This year, Nancy is especially excited. After selling some of her old gowns and accessories, Nancy has enough money to buy a brand-new sparkly tree topper. She can't wait to decorate the Christmas tree. But when things don't turn out as Nancy planned, will Christmas still be splendiferous?

*Special Thanks to our Family Series
Concessions Partners:*



— THE REVIEWS ARE IN! —

New York Times

“Fortunately, there’s...much more to Fancy Nancy: Splendiferous Christmas an adaptation from Vital Theater Company...The hour long musical...has a dramatic tension... as well as a refreshing sound...elements of swing as well as contemporary pop...Everyone learns the true meaning of the holiday...but what makes “Splendiferous Christmas winning is that it dares to be a little naughty as well as nice.”

MommyPoppins.com

“When it comes to peppy musicalizations of super-popular picture books...Vital Children’s Theatre has cornered the market...Fancy Nancy Splendiferous Christmas is a wonderful holiday indulgence...an energetic and colorful production...in addition to being entertained, young audiences will be inspired to think about generosity, kindness and the true spirit of the holidays. And as usual with Vital shows, the songs are catchy and charming.”

TheCultureMom.com

“When you watch the play Fancy Nancy: Splendiferous Christmas you will realize that Fancy Nancy is not too fancy and is someone with many good qualities that you want your children to learn from. She bought a brand-new sparkly tree topper with her own money, but as usual, things don’t turn out the way Nancy would like. In the end Nancy teaches us that her family and especially her sister, Jojo, are more important than any fancy stuff that she could buy.”

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 LEHIGH UNIVERSITY



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Misha Amory, violist

Sunday, April 21, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

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Admission: \$35 at the door
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2023-24 SEASON

The 2023–24 season will be one to remember, and we invite you to join us as we conclude our 125th Anniversary Celebration this season!

- **GALA: Concert & World Premiere CD Recording** – Sat., November 4 at 3pm ■ Packer Memorial Church Newly completed scholarly edition of **Mendelssohn’s reconstruction of Bach’s *Saint Matthew Passion***
- **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
 - Recorder-phenom **Vincent Lauzer, Festival Artist-in-Residence**
 - 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
- + **2024 European Tour** ■ June 6–16 ■ **Germany & Austria**

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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 and Christmas Vespers in Packer Chapel). Please note, there may be a parking charge for rental events.

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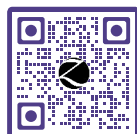
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HOUSE NOTES

Concessions: At this time, food and beverage service will likely be limited or eliminated for the time being. Please visit the Covid-19 safety information page on our website for updates and check the “Know Before You Go” email sent to ticket holders the week of the show. Be sure to give Ticket Services your email.

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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

KEY: PRESENTING SERIES | MUSIC DEPARTMENT | DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

