

2016

2016-2017 Season Brochure

Center for Performing Arts

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Recommended Citation

Center for Performing Arts, "2016-2017 Season Brochure" (2016). *Center for Performing Arts Memorabilia*. Book 286.
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**GOODBYE
YELLOW
BRICK
ROAD**

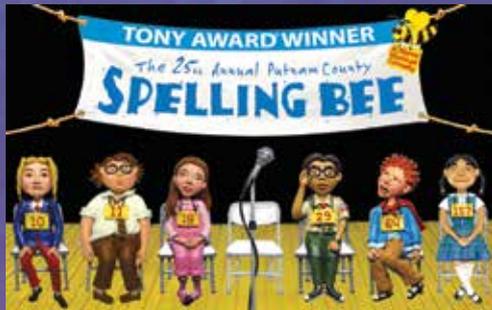
with songs
including hits
including
YOUR SONG
ROCKET MAN
BENNY AND THE JETS
and more

JESS GODWIN SINGS ELTON JOHN

2016/2017

SEASON

Premieres, New Works, & Fan Favorites



**CENTER FOR
PERFORMINGARTS**
Governors State University



Dear Friends,

Welcome to Governors State University's Center for Performing Arts. This season we present new works, premieres, and fan favorites – excellence that can be achieved only when a public university works together with a vibrant community.

At GSU, you'll get more than just a show. Immerse yourselves in the performing and visual arts. Stroll through the world-renowned Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park. Visit the Visual Arts Gallery. You can sample culinary and operatic delights, celebrate the Historically Black College marching band tradition with *DRUMLINE LIVE!* laugh with Southland Area Theatre Ensemble, and ring in the holidays with *The Nutcracker*.

Our MADE IN CHICAGO series, generously supported by The Chicago Community Trust, will bring us a national touring premiere of Chicago Dance Crash's street dance phenomenon, the return of the popular Porchlight Music Theatre telling a story of national importance, and the timeless sounds of Jazz, with special guest rising Chicago star Tammy McCann. GSU's Theatre and Performance Studies (TAPS) program presents two critically important works: Neil LaBute's *Fat Pig*, and Shakespeare's *The Tempest* (sited in the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park!). Our students live and learn in the midst of art; we aspire to share this artistic environment with the wider community.

The Center enhances the lives of over 60,000 patrons annually through the dedicated support of philanthropists, foundation and corporate partners, and loyal patrons like you. Please consider making a contribution to support our Arts In Education program, which opens the theater to thousands of underserved students to experience their first live performance. Your donation will provide life-changing experiences for students in our community.

As a full-service public university, GSU brings art to the public square for students, faculty, staff, and community members.

Sincerely,

Elaine P. Maimon, Ph.D., President

SEPTEMBER



Music and Food from Around the World

Presented by Opera Up Close, Hosted by Michael Cavalieri

Sunday, September 18, 2016 at 4 p.m.

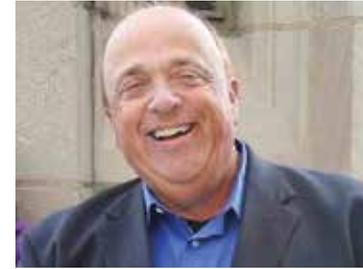
Tickets \$53

Get your ticket to a trip around the world, and sample beautiful music, paired with food and wine. This globally-inspired repertoire includes selections from Russia, Spain, Sweden, Israel, Mexico, Germany, France, and more. From the unique vantage point of your table on the stage, you'll be looking out into the theater as your delicious journey unfolds.

Featuring

John Concepcion, Tenor
Desiree Hassler, Soprano
Pamela Williams, Mezzo soprano
Dan Richardson, Baritone

ON STAGE, LIMITED SEATING



The Steve Cochran Comedy Tour

Saturday, September 24, 2016 at 7 p.m.

Tickets \$29

Join WGN's number one rated morning show host Steve Cochran and special guests in a comedy extravaganza, featuring Rocky LaPorte (Comedy Central/*The Tonight Show* with Jay Leno), and Chicago comedians Pat McGann (David Letterman) and John Da Cosse (*WGN Morning Show*, A & E, NBC & Comedy Central).



OCTOBER



Evil and Good

Presented by Chicago Dance Crash

Saturday, October 22 at 8 p.m.

Tickets \$28

By popular demand, Crash artistic director Jessica Deahr and Kaitlin Webster team up with Culture Shock Chicago's Christopher Courtney to see Crash point its feet a little less and 'bounce' a little more, in the national tour premiere conceptual work inspired by the gray areas of our conscience. It's street dance with a message, delivered like only Crash can.



NOVEMBER



Fat Pig

Presented by Theatre and Performance Studies (TAPS)

Saturday, October 29 and November 3 & 4

at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 30 at 2 p.m.

Tickets \$15

Cow. Slob. Pig. How many insults can you hear before you have to stand up and defend the woman you love? Tom faces just that question when he falls for Helen, a bright, funny, sexy young woman who happens to be plus-sized – and then some. Forced to explain his new relationship to his shallow (although shockingly funny) friends, he finally comes to terms with his own preconceptions of the importance of conventional good looks. Neil LaBute's sharply drawn play not only critiques our slavish adherence to Hollywood ideals of beauty but also boldly questions our own ability to change what we dislike about ourselves.



John Steptoe's Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters An African Tale

Adapted for the stage by Karen Abbott

Music & Lyrics by S-Ankh Rasa

Presented by Dallas Children's Theater

Sunday, November 13 at 2 p.m.

Tickets \$18, \$13 Children (16 and under)

This Caldecott Award-winning Cinderella tale celebrates goodness, generosity and love with traditional chanting, rhythmic drumming, and glorious African song. When a great African king desires a wife, only the most perfect maidens in the land are invited to meet him. Mufaro's pride and joy, his two daughters of very different dispositions, travel a half day's journey through a mystical jungle and across a deep river to be presented to the king.

This program is based on the book, MUFARO'S BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTERS – AN AFRICAN TALE, Copyright ©1987 by John Steptoe and adapted for the stage by Karen Abbot. This dramatization is being performed by permission of the estate of John Steptoe.



ON STAGE, LIMITED SEATING

CenterTickets.net | 708.235.2222

NOVEMBER



Goodbye Yellow Brick Road: Jess Godwin Sings Elton John

Presented by Artists Lounge Live

Saturday, November 19 at 8 p.m.

Tickets \$36

Includes complimentary Elton John inspired drink

Singer-songwriter and nationally-touring recording artist Jess Godwin (iTunes: *FOOL ME ONCE*, *BE A LIGHT*) pours her vulnerable heart and dynamic voice into Elton John's greatest hits. Sir Elton's sometimes eccentric, always heartfelt blend of classical, gospel, and rock perfectly suits the sensitive and courageous Godwin. Tony-Award Winner and Jess Godwin fan Kristin Chenoweth lauds, "I just love her voice... she gets it." Godwin shines playing piano-driven, chart-topping hits like *Your Song*, *Rocket Man*, and *Benny and the Jets*.

ON STAGE, LIMITED SEATING

DECEMBER



The Nutcracker

Presented by Salt Creek Ballet

Saturday, December 3 at 1 & 5 p.m.

Tickets \$43/33/23 Adults

\$18 Children (16 and under)

A magical tale featuring Tchaikovsky's enchanting score, festive set & costumes, waltzing flowers, giant mice and the Sugar Plum Fairy. A delightful holiday tradition for all ages! The production features internationally recognized guest dancers and boasts a cast of 100 including local children and young adults aged eight to seventeen from the Salt Creek Ballet. Salt Creek is artistically directed by Sergey Kozadaev and Zhanna Dubroskaya who trained at St. Petersburg's famed Vaganova Ballet Academy.

Take pictures with Santa at 3 p.m.

JANUARY



Pavarotti, Pasta and Pastries

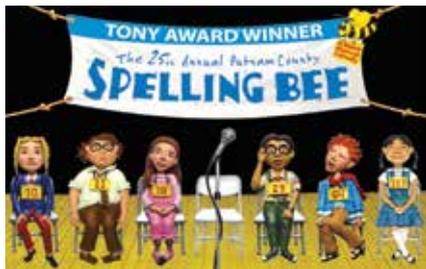
Presented by The Other 3 Tenors, Opera Up Close

Sunday, January 15 at 4 p.m.

Tickets \$53

The talented triumvirate – Warren Moulton, Franco Martorana and Simon Kyung Lee – **The Other 3 Tenors**, dazzles with A Salute to Pavarotti including *La danza*, *Ave Maria*, *Drink! Drink! Drink!*, *Danny Boy*, *O sole mio*, *Lolita*, *Passione*, and more! Paired with Pasta and Pastries, this is one spicy and sweet performance! From the unique vantage point of your table on the stage, you'll be looking out into the theater as your delicious journey unfolds.

ON STAGE, LIMITED SEATING



The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

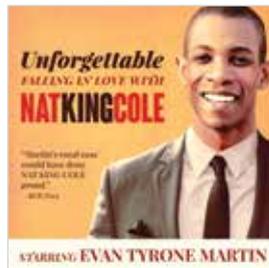
Presented by Southland Area Theatre Ensemble

Friday, February 3 at 8 p.m.

Saturday, February 4 at 3 p.m. & 8 p.m.

Tickets \$28

While candidly disclosing hilarious and touching stories from their home life, the tweens spell their way through a series of [potentially made-up] words hoping to never hear the soul-crushing, pout-inducing, life un-affirming “ding” of the bell that signals a spelling mistake. Six spellers enter; one speller leaves! A riotous ride complete with audience participation, *The Bee* is a delightful den of comedic genius.



Unforgettable: Falling in Love with Nat King Cole

Presented by Artists Lounge Live

Saturday, February 11 at 8 p.m.

Tickets \$36/\$28

Includes complimentary chocolate truffle per ticket

Chicago theatre standout Evan Tyrone Martin (*Dreamgirls*, *Far From Heaven*, *Rent*, *Violet*—Jeff Award Nomination) warmly resonates the velvety vocal style of musical legend Nat King Cole. Martin intimately relates Cole’s musical journey: from his upbringing in the Chicago church, to shuffling along the jazz scene, to his emergence as a popular music icon. Classic tunes include “Straighten Up and Fly Right,” “L-O-V-E,” and “Smile.”



Drumline Live!

Sunday, February 26 at 6 p.m.

Tickets \$45/\$42/\$39/\$35



The show-stopping attraction created by the Executive Band Consultant of the hit movies *Drumline*, and *Drumline: A New Beat*, brings the historically black college marching band tradition to the theatrical stage like you have never seen before. With a new spectacle featuring new music and choreography. A Center for Performing Arts favorite, *Drumline* electrifies, and hits all the right notes!

MARCH



Inspired by Prince
GSU Dance Company Spring Festival

Presented by Theatre and Performance Studies (TAPS)

Saturday, March 4 at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets \$15

The man who made *Purple Rain* a household name, the legendary Prince, was inspired by icons like James Brown, Jimi Hendrix, Sly Stone, the Beatles, and Michael Jackson. His rhythms, style and voice captivated a nation. Enjoy a dance festival showcase featuring Rock, Pop, Jazz, Funk, Soul, R&B and fusion styles, all inspired by the man forever known as Prince. **Choreography by Megan Lindsay.**

APRIL



The Scottsboro Boys
CHICAGO PREMIERE PRODUCTION!

Presented by Porchlight Music Theatre

Saturday, March 25 at 8 p.m.

Tickets \$38/28

Music and Lyrics by John Kander & Fred Ebb
Book by David Thompson s

The thrilling, final collaboration by the creators of *Cabaret* and *Chicago*, *The Scottsboro Boys* has been hailed as one of the most visionary and controversial musicals to grace the stages of Broadway and London. Nominated for 12 Tony Awards, and presented in the style of the notorious “minstrel show,” this is the true-life story of nine African American teenagers accused and put on trial in Memphis for a crime they did not commit. One of the most infamous events in our country’s history, the story ignited the start of the modern civil rights movement.



Shakespeare's The Tempest

Presented by Theatre and Performance Studies (TAPS)

Thursday, April 6 at 6 p.m.

Friday, April 7 at 6 p.m.

Saturday, April 8 at 2 p.m. & 6 p.m.

Sunday, April 9 at 2 p.m. & 6 p.m.

Tickets \$15

Join us in the **Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park**, as it is transformed into a remote island for Shakespeare’s tale of magic, deception, revenge, and romance. After years of being exiled with his daughter, Prospero the rightful Duke of Milan, summons a storm of epic proportions to trap his usurpers and exact his revenge on them with the help of a mischievous fairy.

LIMITED SEATING

CenterTickets.net | 708.235.2222

APRIL



The Monk Meets the First Lady

Presented by Orbert Davis Chicago Jazz Philharmonic, featuring Tammy McCann

Saturday, April 29 at 8 p.m.

Tickets \$38/28

Orbert Davis' CJP Chamber Ensemble celebrates the centennial birthdays of two of the jazz genre's most influential artists: Thelonious Monk and Ella Fitzgerald. While Ella's music has been a staple of Chicago Jazz Philharmonic performances, new arrangements of Thelonious Monk works will premiere under Orbert Davis' baton, blending jazz and classical genres. This performance will also mark a CJP debut for vocalist Tammy McCann, hailed by Howard Reich of the *Chicago Tribune* as "the next great voice coming out of Chicago."



BUY 3 SHOWS, SAVE 15%, and get Ticket Refund Privileges!

To receive discount, the 3 shows must be purchased in one order.

Visit govst.edu/BoxOffice for discounts, pricing and box office policies.

Discounted tickets are available through the box office for:

- Seniors over 65
- Students with valid i.d.
- Groups of 10 or more

Some seating restrictions and limited quantities may apply. Discounted tickets are not available online. Purchaser must inform the box office that a discount may apply when ordering. Discounts may not be combined.

Visit CenterTickets.net and sign up for our email list for program updates and exclusive offers and promotions.

To place your ticket order call 708.235.2222 or stop by during Box Office hours: Mon-Fri: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
The Box Office will stay open late on Thursdays until 6 p.m.
CenterTickets.net



Directions & Parking

From I-57, exit at Stuenkel Rd/University Parkway East. Continue east on Stuenkel Rd/University Parkway for approximately 3 miles. The GSU entrance is located on the right. For more directions, visit our website at CenterTickets.net.

PARKING IS FREE.

CENTER FOR PERFORMINGARTS

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University Park, IL 60484

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