

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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CHERISH THE LADIES

A CELTIC CHRISTMAS



**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.



— ABOUT —

“It is simply impossible to imagine an audience that wouldn’t enjoy what they do,” says the *Boston Globe*, speaking of Cherish the Ladies, the Grammy-nominated, Irish-American super group that formed in New York City in 1985 to celebrate the rise of extraordinary women in what had been a male-dominated Irish music scene. Since their first sold-out concert, they have exploded onto the Irish music circuit performing thousands of concerts around the globe, and are now among the busiest and most admired Irish groups on the planet.

Their show is a wonderful blend of the old and the new. Irish songs, lively jigs and reels, and heart-wrenching slow airs transport the listener on an enchanted musical journey. Cherish the Ladies make centuries-old music their own, with music passed down from generation to generation, enhancing it with tasteful new arrangements and talented renditions.

Catchy newly composed melodies, almost certain to become traditional staples in their own right, are interspersed throughout the show. Each song has been carefully selected and showcases the musicality and versatility of this outstanding ensemble that includes Joanie Madden (flute, whistles, harmony vocals), Mary Coogan (guitar), Mirella Murray (accordion), Kathleen Boyle (piano, harmony vocals) and Nollaig Casey (fiddle). The tour is also joined by Special Guest, County Clare songstress Kate Purcell, with world-class dancing from 5-time World Champion County Kerry native David Geaney.

Under the leadership of frontwoman and raconteur, All-Ireland flute and whistle champion Joanie Madden who was named one of the Top 25 most influential Irish Americans of the past quarter century, these ladies create an evening that includes a spectacular blend of virtuoso instrumental talents, beautiful vocals, captivating arrangements and stunning step dancing.

The New York Times calls their music “passionate, tender, and rambunctious,” and *The Washington Post* praises their “astonishing array of virtuosity.” They’ve won recognition as the BBC’s Best Musical Group of the Year and were named Top North American Celtic Group by America’s National Public Radio and the Irish Music Awards, not to mention having a street named after them in the Bronx!

They've shared the stage with such legendary musicians as The Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem, The Chieftains, Vince Gill, Nanci Griffith, Pete Seeger, Don Henley, Arlo Guthrie, Maura O'Connell, Mary Black and even collaborated on The Boston Pops Symphony orchestra's recording, "The Celtic Album," which was nominated for a Grammy. They're in constant demand in the symphony world and have become the most popular Celtic Pops act in history with over 300 performances as the featured soloists with symphony orchestras.

One of the most engaging and successful ensembles in the history of Celtic music, Cherish the Ladies have shared timeless Irish traditions with audiences worldwide for over thirty years. In their *Celtic Christmas* program, the Ladies put their signature mark on classic carols such as "O Come All Ye Faithful" and "Silent Night," in arrangements that highlight the group's unique Celtic instrumentation, beautiful harmonies, and spectacular step dancing. Cherish the Ladies have released three critically acclaimed holiday albums, *On Christmas Night*, *A Star in the East*, and 2015's *Christmas in Ireland*.

Cherish the Ladies' level of artistic, historical, and purely enticing entertainment is unlike any in its genre. As their reputation and admiration from both fans and critics alike continue to grow, Cherish the Ladies blazes forward into another decade of music-making.

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

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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
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ZOELLNER ARTS CENTER

2024 SPRING SEASON AT A GLANCE



ERTH'S DINOSAUR ZOO		FAMILY SERIES	FEB 2
LEHIGH UNIVERSITY JAZZ FACULTY			FEB 3
CELLOGAYAGEUM			FEB 9
THE PRINCETON SINGERS			FEB 10
LEHIGH UNIVERSITY PHILHARMONIC			FEB 16, 17
<i>ANTIGONICK</i>			FEB 23-MAR 2
MNOZIL BRASS			FEB 24
LES BALLETS TROCKADERO DE MONTE CARLO			FEB 29
THE RAINBOW FISH		FAMILY SERIES	MAR 2
GARY BARTZ & LU JAZZ REPERTORY ORCHESTRA			MAR 2
EUGENE ALBULESCU			MAR 3
LAS CAFETERAS			MAR 8
LADYSMITH BLACK MAMBAZO			MAR 10
LEHIGH UNIVERSITY CHOIR, DOLCE AND GLEE CLUB			MAR 22, 23
MICHAEL JORGENSEN, VIOLIN AND STEVE BECK, PIANO			MAR 24
NIMBUS DANCE			APR 5
NEW YORK JAZZ REPERTORY ORCHESTRA			APR 7
VIOLIN WOMAN, AFRICAN DREAMS			APR 12
LEHIGH UNIVERSITY WIND ENSEMBLE			APR 14
<i>THIS EMANCIPATION THING</i>			APR 12-20
SPRING STUDENT JAZZ CONCERT			APR 20
LEHIGH UNIVERSITY PHILHARMONIC			APR 26, 27
LEHIGH UNIVERSITY CHORAL ARTS			MAY 3, 4
ACADEMY OF VOCAL ARTS OPERA			MAY 12
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