

# ZOELLNER ARTS CENTER

LEHIGH UNIVERSITY



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PLAYBILL



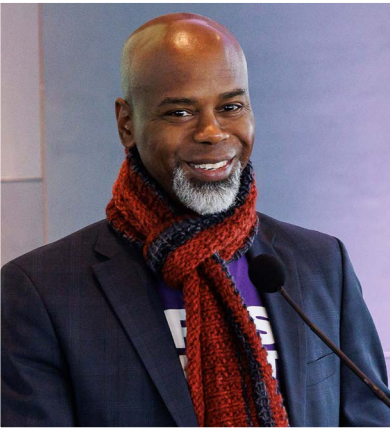


Photo By John Kish IV

## DEAR FRIENDS,

We are at the beginning of a new arts Renaissance. There are moments when one can feel the shifting tides of change and that moment is now as people return to live performing arts. I have had many conversations about the role of the arts in bringing our diverse urban, suburban, and rural Lehigh Valley communities together through shared experiences. The 2024-2025 season will rejuvenate our spirits through world-class artists as we continue to gather.

Montreal-based Cirque Kikasse starts our Presenting Series with a unique twist,

performing their production of *Santé* in front of Fritz Laboratory on our Lehigh University campus. This one-of-a-kind FREE performance, set on a food truck, will connect our campus, surrounding community, and local students in a truly memorable way. Our dedication to inclusivity and diversity in the arts is exemplified by our partnership with the internationally acclaimed disability arts ensemble, Kinetic Light. Their residency, a testament to our shared values, will intertwine with Touchstone Theatre's Festival Unbound, culminating in a breathtaking performance of *DESCENT*. This dance performance promises to be a powerful and moving experience, showcasing the transformative power of art and the positive impact of our partnerships.

In case you missed Marc Martel's sold-out tribute to Queen the last time, he is returning to perform his spectacular show, *One Vision of Queen*. I knew he had to come back. I could not go anywhere without people asking me to bring him back. He's back. And if you happen to be asking for a little R.E.S.P.E.C.T., join us for an electrifying tribute celebrating the music of the legendary Aretha Franklin.

With our commitment to nurturing the next generation of art enthusiasts and helping create a healthy community, we continue our Family Series partnership with Lehigh Valley Reilly Children's Hospital events like Family Day Fest, a celebration of community partners, free activities, and music by Somos Amigos featuring Sonia de la Santos and the Grammy Award-winning band, The Okee Dokee Brothers.

Zoellner Arts Center embraces our role as a university-based presenter to transcend entertainment. Lehigh University student artists are integral to this construct as they present concerts and plays celebrating their creativity and that of the faculty that inspires them.

We strive to empower the youth of our community by curating and co-curating high-quality multidisciplinary arts programs with educators that integrate the arts into their classrooms and inspire students to create their own artwork. We remain steadfast in our commitment to foster meaningful dialogue by utilizing the arts as a lens through which we explore and celebrate our shared humanity.

*Mark Fitzgerald Wilson*

Executive Director

# THANK YOU

## Leadership Funding: Victoria E. and Robert E. Zoellner '54 '15GP

### PROGRAM SUPPORT



### MEDIA PARTNERS



### ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

Curtain Warmers: **The Arnan and Marlene Finkelstein Endowment Fund**

School Shows: **Richard H. Johnson '73G**

**The Long Family Endowment for Community Outreach in the Arts**

Music Initiatives: Supported in part by the **Klees Family Instrumental Ensemble Endowed Fund**

Creative Campus Initiative: Supported in part by the

**Anne R. Kline '81 Endowed Fund for Creatively Integrated Programming**

Notations: **Lehigh University Creative Writing Program** and **Zoellner Arts Center**

Temple Grandin: **Lehigh University College of Education** and **Lehigh University Autism Services**

### SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



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.





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NOV 2 Sat  
7:30pm | Baker Hall

# PLENA LIBRE



*THIS ENGAGEMENT OF PLENA LIBRE IS MADE POSSIBLE IN PART THROUGH THE MID ATLANTIC TOURS PROGRAM OF MID ATLANTIC ARTS WITH SUPPORT FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS.*

**ZOELLNER  
ARTS CENTER**  
LEHIGH UNIVERSITY



2024.2025  
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

The trailblazing Plena Libre has been thrilling international audiences for nearly three decades. Masters of the traditional Puerto Rican plena and bomba styles, Plena Libre fuses well-loved traditions with modern Afro-Caribbean influences, putting a new and always electrifying spin on this scintillating music. With mesmerizing hand drumming, raucous horns, and soaring three-part vocal harmonies, this multi-Grammy Award-nominated band always brings the heat. Captivating and moving audiences over the course of a 30-year, 15-album career, this fine-tuned, original band of 12 virtuoso musicians has only gotten better with age. Founder, bandleader and bassist Gary Nuñez and his band have revived the plena sound for a new generation, electrifying audiences with horns, drums and dance.

Plena Libre, masters of contemporary bomba and plena, brilliantly infuses the Afro-Puerto Rican rhythms Plena and Bomba, with other Caribbean rhythms to their traditional and contemporary compositions, creating an electrifying stage performance. Featuring three vocalists singing in lush three-part harmonies — with an aggressive, tight, yet sensitive style, which balances the traditional with the contemporary, the global and the local — Plena Libre creates a brand of music and live performance that captivates the multi-cultured audience, invites to dance and to listen to their sound.

They are the Artist-in-Residence at the University of Chicago as they are recipients of the prestigious Don Michael Randel Award. Filtering the sounds of various Afro-Caribbean forms, this versatile collection of expert performers created a celebratory spectacle and engaging sonic ecstasy. Thrilling audiences around the world, from the Fez Festival (in Morocco), Montreal Jazz Fest and to the Playboy Jazz Festival, Plena Libre is a train that just keeps picking up steam as it charges ahead in unexpected and exciting directions. Plena Libre has recorded with notable musicians like pianist Eddie Palmieri, Papo Lucca, and Nestor Torres, among others. “They can rock the house with traditional singing and drumming, then turn around and lay down a smoking, jazz-heavy, Afro-Rican jam.” — *East Bay Express*

# joyful

CELTIC  
SHOWS



## THE IRISH TENORS

*A FAMILY  
CHRISTMAS*

SUN DEC 1

## THE KING'S SINGERS

*CHRISTMAS  
TIME IS HERE*

FRI DEC 20



## CHERISH THE LADIES

*A CELTIC  
CHRISTMAS*

SUN DEC 22



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The Board of Trustees of Lehigh University gratefully acknowledges and recognizes the following alumni, friends, corporations and foundations for their generosity in supporting the annual campaign for the Friends of Zoellner Arts Center:

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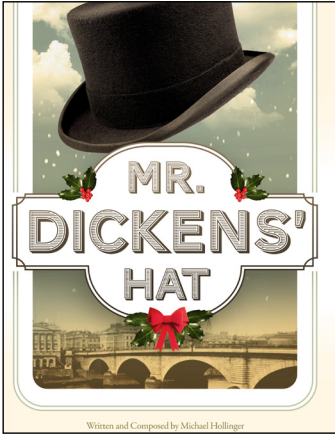
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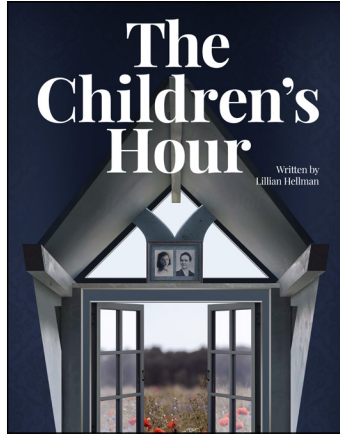
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Nov. 21 to Nov. 24, Dec. 3 to Dec 8  
Directed by K O'Rourke



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### TIMON OF ATHENS

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### MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

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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, 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.

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# HOUSE NOTES

**Concessions:** At this time, food and beverage service will likely be limited or not available. 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.

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**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

## 2024 FALL SEASON AT A GLANCE



THE TRIO SALLESE .....	FRI AUG 30
LUVME .....	SAT SEP 7
CIRQUE KIKASSE <b>FREE</b> .....	WED SEP 18
NOTATIONS: LUIS MIRANDA, JR. <b>FREE</b> .....	THU SEP 19
HELL'S KITCHEN FUNK ORCHESTRA .....	SAT SEP 21
FACULTY STRING QUARTET .....	SUN SEP 22
LEHIGH'S MARCHING BAND '97 .....	FRI SEP 27
<b>FAMILY DAY</b>  <b>FAMILY SERIES</b> .....	SAT SEP 28
<i>TROUBLE IN MIND</i> .....	OCT 4 - 12
KINETIC LIGHT .....	SAT OCT 5
TEMPLE GRANDIN .....	SUN OCT 13
123 ANDRÉS  <b>FAMILY SERIES</b> .....	THU OCT 17
BÉLA FLECK & ABIGAIL WASHBURN .....	FRI OCT 18
GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA .....	SUN OCT 20
CHORAL ARTS .....	FRI OCT 25, SAT OCT 26
NOTATIONS: CLINT SMITH <b>FREE</b> .....	THU OCT 29
PLENA LIBRE .....	SAT NOV 2
THE PRINCETON SINGERS .....	SUN NOV 3
RUMPELSTILTSKIN  <b>FAMILY SERIES</b> .....	SAT NOV 9
JAZZ REPERTORY ORCHESTRA .....	SAT NOV 9
<i>WOLF PLAY</i> .....	NOV 15 - 22
NEIL BERG'S 101 YEARS OF BROADWAY .....	SAT NOV 16
STUDENT JAZZ CONCERT .....	SUN NOV 17
WIND ENSEMBLE .....	SUN NOV 24
THE IRISH TENORS .....	SUN DEC 1
PHILHARMONIC .....	FRI DEC 6, SAT DEC 7
CHORAL ARTS <b>FREE</b> .....	SUN DEC 8
THE NUTCRACKER .....	SAT DEC 14, SUN DEC 15
THE KING'S SINGERS .....	FRI DEC 20
CHERISH THE LADIES .....	SUN DEC 22

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

