

# 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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MAR 2

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# THE RAINBOW FISH

BY MARCUS PFISTER



Mermaid  
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FAMILY SERIES

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2023.2024  
SEASON

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 **pennsylvania**  
COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia presents:

# ***THE RAINBOW FISH***

**Tour US/Canada 2023-2024**

Author/Illustrator: Marcus Pfister

Director/Production Designer: Jim Morrow

Composer: Steven Naylor

Narrators: Laura Benanti and Linda Wonneberger

Associate Designers: Struan Robertson, Deborah MacLean

Scenic Painter: Sarah Haydon Roy, Lisa Bedard

Stage Manager: Liam Kearns

Performers: Ella MacDonald, Rachel Lloyd

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Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia gratefully acknowledges the support of the Canada Council for the Arts and the Province of Nova Scotia. Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia is a member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres and engages professional Artists who are members of Canadian Actors' Equity Association under the terms of the Canadian Theatre Agreement.

## **About Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia**

Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia ranks among North America's most respected theatres for the young, and plays an important ambassadorial role for Nova Scotia and for Canada. The company regularly crosses the continent, and has represented Canada in the United States, Japan, Mexico, Australia, England, Northern Ireland, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Holland, Hong Kong, Macau, Singapore, Vietnam, South Korea and Taiwan, Bahrain, and the People's Republic of China. Mermaid Theatre has earned Export Excellence awards from both the Governments of Canada and of Nova Scotia. Based in the Town of Windsor, Mermaid has performed for more than 6 million spectators on four continents. The company was founded in 1972.

## **About our Production**

The first of three tales introduces the most beautiful fish in the sea, whose scales shimmer in all the colours of the rainbow. He is admired – and resented – by the entire underwater world, until a clever octopus advises him to give each fish one of his scales.

Further adventures follow as The Rainbow Fish finds the courage to explore the great unknown deep sea, discovering a new world with wonderful sights and friendly creatures of all shapes, sizes and colours who are eager to make his acquaintance. The underworld wonderland is the setting for an introduction to the concept of opposites. As a fitting finale, the story ends with the most satisfying opposite of all—give and take—as Rainbow Fish shares one of his shining scales with a friend.

### **Marcus Pfister, Author/Illustrator**

Marcus was born in 1960 in Bern, Switzerland, where he attended art school and trained as a graphic designer before turning to the creation of innovative children's literature. Published in 1992, *The Rainbow Fish* took the bestseller lists by storm. Now celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary, more than thirty million copies have been sold worldwide in different formats, appearing in over fifty different languages.

## **ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM**



### **Jim Morrow, Director/Production Designer**

Jim is Managing Artistic Director of Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia. He was first introduced to puppetry in 1978 when he joined Mermaid Theatre as a young performer. His work with Mermaid has taken him across North America, the United Kingdom, and Asia. He has

directed, designed, and carved the puppets for stage, film, television, parks, and industry and has created twenty-four shows for Mermaid, including: *Guess How Much I Love You & I Love My Little Storybook*; *Goodnight Moon & The Runaway Bunny*; and the award-winning productions of *Swimmy*, *Frederick & Inch by Inch* and *The Very Hungry Caterpillar & Other Eric Carle Favourites*. Jim's contributions to the community, both as artist and mentor, have earned him the Nova Scotia government's highest award for artistic achievement, the Portia White Award; a Doctor of Humanities from his Alma Mater, Acadia University; the Order of Nova Scotia; and the Mickey Minor Award, presented annually by the US-based International Performing Arts for Youth (IPAY) to distinguished artists who have made exemplary contributions to the lives of the children around the world. Jim was born in Grand Falls, Newfoundland, lives in Lower Avonport, Nova Scotia:



### **Steven Naylor, Composer**

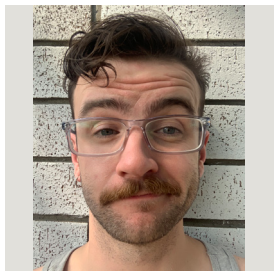
Steven has created the music for more than a dozen Mermaid shows, including *The Very Hungry Caterpillar & Other Eric Carle Favourites*; *Stella, Queen of the Snow*; *Swimmy, Frederick, and Inch by Inch*; *Goodnight Moon & The Runaway Bunny* and many others. His many other professional activities include original

film and television scores; contemporary music composition and performance; university teaching and curriculum development; and a long-term international involvement with electroacoustic concert music. Steven is Mermaid Theatre's Artistic Advisor for Music and Sound Design.

### **Laura Benanti and Linda Wonneberger, Narrators**

In addition to substantive professional accolades, Laura is the mother of a young child and a passionate advocate for the promotion of literacy and music education. She was born in New York City, daughter of Linda Wonneberger, a vocal coach and former actress (with whom she collaborates frequently). She is of Serbian, German, Irish, and Native American heritage. An accomplished actor and singer, she's enjoyed countless roles on stage, in television and film, and as a musical recording artist. She's the winner of a myriad of awards, including the Tony, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics Circle, and co-stars with Amy Schumer in Steve Martin's current Broadway show, *Meteor Shower*. Linda and Laura have recently appeared together in a well-regarded Mother-Daughter Cabaret, which they perform periodically.

## **ABOUT THE COMPANY**



### **Liam Kearns, Stage Manager**

Liam is a queer, Vancouver-based Stage Manager working professionally in the arts scene. They are excited to be back swimming with *Rainbow Fish* and his pals. Previous stage management endeavours include expressing his feelings in *Men Express Their Feelings* (Zee Zee Theatre), going off to war in *Redpatch* (Arts

Club Theatre), living in a trailer park in *Killer Joe* (ITSAZOO Productions), and riding *The Number 14* (Axis Theatre). Outside the theatre, Liam likes baking vegan treats, getting lost in a jigsaw puzzle and spending the entire day outdoors geocaching.



**Ella MacDonald, Performer**

Ella MacDonald (she/her) is an Actor, Collaborator, Puppeteer, and Intimacy Director from Mi'kma'ki [Halifax, Nova Scotia]. She is a graduate of Dalhousie University with a B.A. Hons. in Acting and Certificate in Dance & Movement. Ella is Her original co-creation, THE SKELETON

DANCE, a creative movement play for young audiences about Death, toured the Canadian Maritimes in 2022 with support from the Canada Council for the Arts and was recently presented at OutFest Theatre Festival.

Fun Fact: Ella is also a Celtic musician!

Secret Skill: Can tear an apple in half with her hands

Mario Kart Character: Daisy



**Rachel Lloyd, Performer**

Rachel is excited to join Mermaid's tour of Rainbow Fish! She is a puppeteer, actor, and creator with a special interest in Theatre for Young Audiences. Previous puppetry credits include: Herman in A Herman Tale (Theatre New Brunswick), Little Girl in 937 (Two Planks and a Passion), and puppeteer of various

roles in Code Green (Mermaid Theatre). As an actor Rachel has worked with various companies including Shakespeare by the Sea, Festival Antigonish, LunaSea, Theatre New Brunswick, The Villain's Theatre, Halifax Theatre for Young People and more. She has created 2 of her own Theatre for Young Audiences touring shows: Redfish (Halifax Theatre for Young People) and A Potion for Emotion (It's Gonna be Great Theatre / Ship's Company). Thanks as always to her parents and husband for their constant support and for being her biggest fans!

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## For general information, please contact

Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia

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fax: 902 798 3311

email: [puppets@mermaidtheatre.ca](mailto:puppets@mermaidtheatre.ca)

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Support for this tour comes from:



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Certificates cannot be redeemed for rental events.

## CONNECT WITH US!

 ZoellnerArts

 zoellnerartscenter

 zoellnerarts

 inzactix@lehigh.edu

 ZoellnerArts



GO TO WEBSITE

[zoellnerartscenter.org](http://zoellnerartscenter.org)

[#artshaveimpact](https://twitter.com/artshaveimpact)

# 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.

**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.

## Questions about your tickets?

**Contact Ticket Services:**  
Phone: 610-758-2787 ext. 0  
Email: [inzactix@lehigh.edu](mailto: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

## 2024 SPRING SEASON AT A GLANCE



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

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

