

2025-2026

PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

AT STEPHENS AUDITORIUM

WELCOME TO THE 2025-2026 PERFORMING ARTS SEASON AT STEPHENS AUDITORIUM!

Dear Friends,

It is with great excitement and gratitude that we welcome you to a spectacular new season at Stephens Auditorium – your home for unforgettable live performance experiences.

This year's lineup promises to delight, inspire, and entertain audiences of all ages with a rich blend of music, dance, theater, and dazzling stagecraft. We are especially thrilled to present three acclaimed Broadway productions: the delightfully spooky and heartwarming **The Addams Family**, the hilarious and heartfelt **Mrs. Doubtfire**, and the captivating musical tribute **The Simon and Garfunkel Story**.

But that's just the beginning. Our season sparkles with dynamic performances including the electrifying **iLuminate**, the elegance of World Classic Ballet's **The Great Gatsby**, the uplifting harmonies of the **Soweto Gospel Choir**, and the breathtaking spectacle of **Cirque Musica**.

Celebrate the season with **Dolly Parton's Smoky Mountain Christmas Carol**, revel in the energy of **Delirium Musicum**, and tap your toes to the timeless voices in **Great American Crooners**. We're also thrilled to welcome back the acrobatic marvel of the **Peking Acrobats**, the high-octane bagpipe rock of the **Red Hot Chilli Pipers**, and the spot-on tribute to the Fab Four legends with **The Fab Four**.

Whether you're returning as a long-time patron or joining us for the first time, we thank you for making Stephens Auditorium part of your cultural journey. Your enthusiasm and support make it possible for us to continue presenting world-class performances right here in the heart of Iowa.

Here's to a season of magic, music, and memorable moments. We can't wait to share it with you!

– Tammy Koolbeck, CVE, Executive Director, Stephens Auditorium

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

May 18

Early Bird Deadline

Subscribe by May 18 to receive a free milkshake from Sweet Caroline's in Downtown Ames!

Priority Seating Deadline

Renew your subscription by June 13 to retain your seating priority.

June 13

August 5

Public On-Sale Date

Tickets go on sale to the general public. Some shows have different public on-sale dates.

Tickets and Donor Benefits Are Mailed

Keep an eye on your mailbox in September for your tickets and donor benefits!

September

PERFORMANCE UNDERWRITERS

Please join us in thanking our generous supporters of the 2025-2026 season at Stephens Auditorium!

Their support makes it possible for Stephens Auditorium to present these great performances and create memorable experiences.

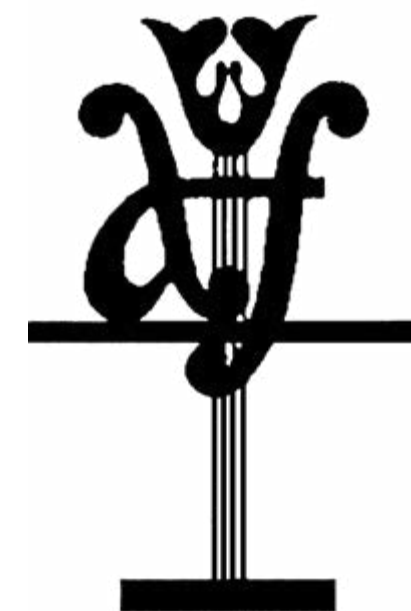
Performance Underwriters are a select group of individuals who believe in the value and importance of the performing arts. These individuals make it possible for Stephens Auditorium to fulfill its mission of presenting great performances, educating the young and almost young, creating shared and memorable experiences, and building community.

Donors who contribute \$2,500 or more have the option of choosing from series performances that are available in a range of gift levels and are listed as Performance Underwriters for the selected performance. For more information, contact Tammy Koolbeck at tkool@iastate.edu or (515) 294-8809.

Tanya and Brian Anderson
Elizabeth Beck
Jim and Karen Beckwith
William and Mary Ann Dilla
Deanne Brill and Dean Janssen
Jay and Karen Heldt-Chapman
Cathy and Randy Fitzgerald
Cecilia and Jack Horner
Sherilyn and Mitchell Hoyer
Gwenna and Doug Jacobson
Arthur Klein
Jill and Todd Klindt
Tammy and Mike Koolbeck

Beverly and Warren Madden
Ana and Ed McCracken
Meggan and Eli Musselman
Alec and Charlton Pendry
Steve and Randi Peters
Bonnie and David Orth
Stanley Rabe
Rae Reilly
Linda and John Schuh
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Megan and Duane Wolf
Brent and Maggie Wynja

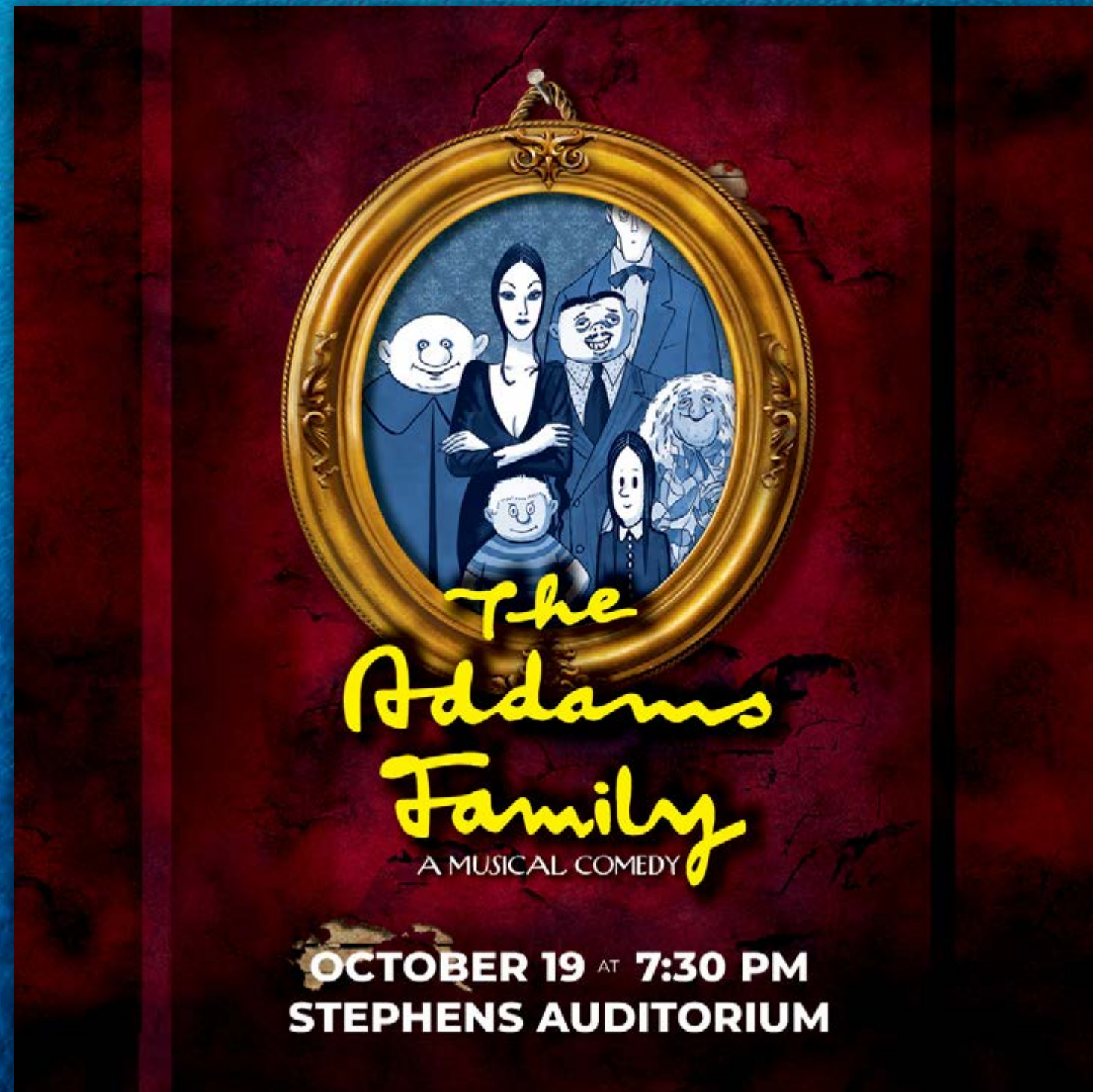
Additional funding support from:
City of Ames' Commission on the Arts
Iowa 4-H Youth Development
VenuWorks



Become an AIOFA Member!

Become an Ames International Orchestra Festival Association (AIOFA) member for only \$35! This amount can be allocated from your gift to any of the three Stephens Auditorium Foundation funds. Simply indicate in the "Notes" section on the foundation giving page or the donation form through Stephens Auditorium.

2025-2026 BROADWAY SERIES PACKAGE



3-SHOW BROADWAY PACKAGE STARTS AT \$105



WORLD BALLET COMPANY
THE
GREAT
GATSBY
BALLET

OCTOBER 9 AT 7:00 PM
STEPHENS AUDITORIUM

The Great Gatsby Ballet

October 9 at 7:00 pm

Step into the jazzy world of the Roaring Twenties with this new Broadway-style ballet by the World Ballet Company.

See the glitz, glamor, and tragic romance of F. Scott Fitzgerald's timeless novel LIVE on stage, featuring a multinational cast of 40 professional ballet dancers, an all-star creative team, original jazz-inspired score, multimedia effects, acrobatics, dazzling costumes, and lavish sets.

World Ballet Company's "**The Great Gatsby**" is a must-see feast for the eyes. Be among the first to experience this lavish new production!

Create-Your-Own Series Subscriber Prices:

\$73 | \$56 | \$39 | \$35

This performance is made possible, in part, by a generous gift from Bev and Warren Madden.



OCTOBER 17^{AT} 6:30 PM
STEPHENS AUDITORIUM

iLuminate

October 17 at 6:30 pm

From the moment the lights fade to darkness, you are transported into another world... another dimension, where the music moves you and the visuals are unlike anything you've ever seen. Welcome to the world of **iLuminate**, named "Best New Act in America" by America's Got Talent in 2011. iLuminate features a brilliant cast of the country's top dancers performing to energetic music – including top Pop and Rock hits from the 70s, 80s, and 90s, a little jazz, a little Latin, a little hip hop and more. The dancers are outfitted with customized LED suits synced to iLuminate's proprietary software to create extraordinary lighting effects with each of the phenomenally choreographed dance moves.

This mind-blowing, multi-sensory experience is completely unique and incomparable to any other stage spectacular as the dancers perform dynamic routines and illusions on a darkened stage. As the show progresses, each scene creates a new "room" inside "Club iLuminate" where an exhilarating blend of music, dance, illusion, technology and comedy comes to life for an experience that's sure to be the most fun you'll ever have in the dark.

Create-Your-Own Series Subscriber Prices:

\$44 | \$31 | \$22

This performance is made possible, in part, by generous gifts from Randy and Cathy Fitzgerald and Megan and Duane Wolf.



The Addams Family

A MUSICAL COMEDY

OCTOBER 19 AT **7:30 PM**
STEPHENS AUDITORIUM

The Addams Family

October 19 at 7:30 pm

A comical feast that embraces the wackiness in every family, **THE ADDAMS FAMILY** is the magnificently macabre hit musical featuring everyone's favorite creepy, kooky characters. Wednesday Addams, the ultimate princess of darkness, has grown up and fallen in love with a sweet, smart young man from a respectable family. A man her parents have never met. And if that weren't upsetting enough, she confides in her father and begs him not to tell her mother. Now, Gomez Addams must do something he's never done before - keep a secret from his beloved wife, Morticia. Everything will change for the whole family on the fateful night they host a dinner for Wednesday's "normal" boyfriend and his parents.

On the heels of Wednesday, the 3rd most-watched show on Netflix of all time, Big League Productions, Inc. presents **THE ADDAMS FAMILY**, a devilishly delightful musical comedy based on the bizarre and beloved characters by legendary cartoonist Charles Addams.

Broadway Series Subscriber Prices:

\$72 | \$61 | \$45 | \$35

This performance is made possible, in part, by a generous gift from Jill and Todd Klindt.

SOWETO GOSPEL CHOIR PEACE



Photographs: Stefan Meekers

Soweto Gospel Choir

November 10 at 7:00 pm

With their concert entitled "PEACE," the multi-Grammy® and Emmy Award®-winning **SOWETO GOSPEL CHOIR** return to North America to perform a joyful program of South African freedom songs, traditional spirituals and some classics. The inspirational concert will also feature the spirited music of Aretha Franklin, Harry Belafonte, Peter Gabriel, Kate Bush, Leonard Cohen and more!

Formed in 2002, the Choir was created to celebrate the unique power of African gospel music and quickly established itself as a group that is "undeniably synchronized, appears unshakable, and simultaneously expresses universality and individuality" (San Francisco Classical Voice).

Heralded by Nelson Mandela, Desmond Tutu, Barack Obama, and Oprah Winfrey, SOWETO GOSPEL CHOIR excites audiences worldwide, uplifting the soul and spreading joy through its earthy rhythms, rich harmonies, brilliant costumes, and infectious spirit. It's perfect for the entire family!

Create-Your-Own Series Subscriber Prices:

\$48 | \$35 | \$22

This performance is made possible, in part, by generous gifts from William and Mary Ann Dilla and Rae Reilly.

AN ALL-NEW LIVE ACROBATIC MUSICAL HOLIDAY EXPERIENCE

CIRQUE MUSICA

HOLIDAY WONDERLAND

NOVEMBER 26^{AT} 7:00 PM
STEPHENS AUDITORIUM



TCG
ENTERTAINMENT

Cirque Musica Holiday Wonderland

November 26 at 7:00 pm

To kick off the holiday season, experience the magic of cirque like never before with the all-new **Cirque Musica Holiday Wonderland!** A thrilling blend of world-class circus artistry and your favorite holiday music, this spectacular production will transport you to a winter wonderland of awe and enchantment.

With breathtaking acrobatics, soaring aerial performances, and an all-new production for this year, Cirque Musica Holiday Wonderland delivers an unforgettable holiday experience for the whole family. Feel the holiday spirit come to life with heart-pounding feats and beloved seasonal melodies. Don't miss your chance to be part of the magic!

Create-Your-Own Series Subscriber Prices:
\$48 | \$39 | \$31

This performance is made possible, in part, by a generous gift from Jay and Karen Heldt-Chapman.



Dolly Parton's Smoky Mountain Christmas Carol

December 15 at 7:00 pm

Right Angle Entertainment and Paul Couch are proud to present the national tour of **Dolly Parton's Smoky Mountain Christmas Carol**, a new musical featuring songs by Dolly Parton and book by David H. Bell, adapted by Bell, Curt Wollan and Paul T. Couch.

Set in the 1930s in the Smoky Mountains, this incredibly heartwarming, unforgettable production and amazing cast imagines Ebenezer Scrooge as the owner of a mining company town, where his callous greed blinds him to the joys and gifts of the season.

As a Christmas Eve snowstorm approaches, Scrooge is visited by his deceased business partner and three ghosts who compel him to see life anew and discover that love is the greatest gift we have. Dickens' classic characters and Parton's one-of-a-kind songwriting expertise are certain to make this a holiday event you'll want to share with those you love.

Create-Your-Own Series Subscriber Prices:

\$81 | \$68 | \$50 | \$35

This performance is made possible, in part, by a generous gift from Randi and Steve Peters.

DeliriumMusicum



JANUARY 24 AT **7:00 PM**
STEPHENS AUDITORIUM

Delirium Musicum

January 24 at 7:00 pm

Delirium Musicum is a self-conducted chamber orchestra that pulses with ferocious passion and infuses L.A.'s crackling energy into every performance, disrupting expectations and redefining "classical" music as the new red-hot concert experience.

A 21st-century musical phenomenon, Delirium Musicum breathes fire into masterworks from the Baroque to the music of tomorrow, delivering a concert experience that radiates with fierce and unapologetic creative fervor.

Create-Your-Own Series Subscriber Prices:

\$48 | \$35 | \$27

This performance is made possible, in part, by generous gifts from William and Mary Ann Dilla and Rae Reilly.

DeliriumMusicum



JANUARY 24 AT **7:00 PM**
STEPHENS AUDITORIUM

Delirium Musicum Program

Manuel DE FALLA (1876-1946): Danse Espagnole,
from La Vida Breve (1904) 6'

Franz SCHUBERT (1797-1828): Erlkönig 4'

Florence PRICE (1887-1953): Andante moderato,
from the Quartet in G major (1929) 6'30"

Philip GLASS (1937-): String Quartet No. 3
"Mishima" 14'

Intermission

Camille SAINT-SAËNS (1803-1869):
Danse Macabre 6'

J.S. BACH (1685-1750): Prelude BWV 847 5'

Antonio VIVALDI (1678-1741): The Four Seasons,
Spring and Winter 21'

HELLOOOO, Ames!

Mrs. Doubtfire

The New Musical Comedy

FEBRUARY 4 AT **7:30 PM**
STEPHENS AUDITORIUM

Mrs. Doubtfire

February 4 at 7:30 pm

Everyone's favorite Scottish nanny is headed to Ames in this internationally acclaimed hit musical critics call "wonderful, heart-warming, and laugh-out-loud funny" (Manchester Evening News) and "a feel-good, family-friendly comedy that delivers" (The Hollywood Reporter).

Based on the beloved film, **MRS. DOUBTFIRE** tells the hysterical and heartfelt story of an out-of-work actor who will do anything for his kids. It's "the lovable, big-hearted musical comedy we need right now," raves the Chicago Tribune – one that proves we're better together.

Broadway Series Subscriber Prices:

\$72 | \$61 | \$45 | \$35

This performance is made possible, in part, by generous gifts from Stanley Rabe and Brian and Tanya Anderson.

★★★★★
"FOR ONCE, YOU CAN BELIEVE THE HYPE"
BRITISH THEATRE GUIDE

"AMAZING"
ELAINE PAIGE - BBC RADIO 2

THE SIMON & GARFUNKEL STORY

FEBRUARY 24^{AT} 7:30 PM
STEPHENS AUDITORIUM



The Simon & Garfunkel Story

February 24 at 7:30 pm

The Simon & Garfunkel Story is touring North America again this year! Using huge projection photos and original film footage, featuring a full live band performing all the hits including 'Mrs. Robinson,' 'Cecilia,' 'Bridge Over Troubled Water,' 'Homeward Bound,' and many more.

The immersive concert-style theater show chronicles the amazing journey shared by the folk-rock duo, Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel. It tells the story from their humble beginnings as Tom & Jerry to their incredible success as one of the best-selling music groups of the 60s to their dramatic split in 1970. It culminates with the famous "The Concert in Central Park" reunion in 1981 with more than half a million fans in attendance.

Broadway Series Subscriber Prices:

\$61 | \$51 | \$41 | \$35

This performance is made possible, in part, by a generous gift from Karen and Jim Beckwith.

JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER PRESENTS

GREAT AMERICAN CROONERS



MARCH 1 AT 7:00 PM
STEPHENS AUDITORIUM

Jazz at Lincoln Center Presents **Great American Crooners**

March 1 at 7:00 pm

Great American Crooners focuses on quintessential crooners such as Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, and Bobby Darin, whose velvety voices and sentimental serenades made them superstars on stage and on screen.

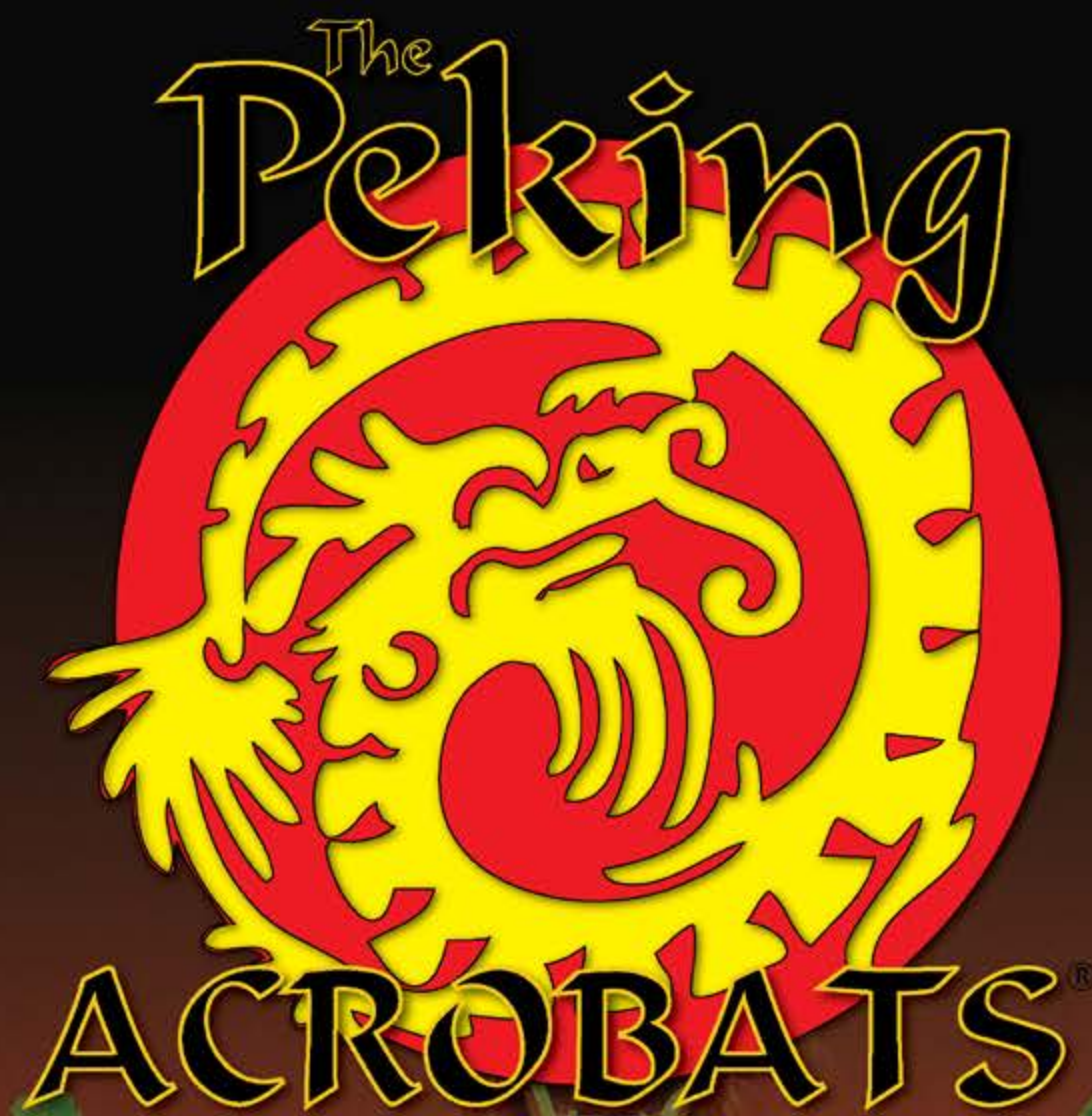
Featuring Robbie Lee and Shenel Johns, who have both graced Jazz at Lincoln Center's stages and Downbeat Magazine's #1 Rising Star Male Vocalist, Benny Benack III.

Relive classics like "I've Got You Under My Skin," "Misty," "I Only Have Eyes for You," and "Moon River," and enjoy incredible true stories about these legends. It's going to be a stylish evening of timeless tunes, and world-class talent.

Create-Your-Own Series Subscriber Prices:

\$44 | \$33 | \$22

This performance is made possible, in part, by generous gifts from Karen and Jim Beckwith, Frankie and Cal Parrott, Suzan and John Shierholz, and Rae Reilly.



The Peking Acrobats

March 3 at 7:00 pm

For over three decades, **THE PEKING ACROBATS®** have amazed audiences with their daring maneuvers and jaw-dropping artistry. From balancing atop towering pagodas of chairs to executing precision tumbling, trick-cycling, and gravity-defying contortions, they redefine the limits of human ability.

THE PEKING ACROBATS are part of a time-honored Chinese tradition, rooted in centuries of Chinese history and folk art. Tradition demands that each generation of acrobats add its own improvements and embellishments; because of this, high honor is conferred upon those skilled enough to become acrobats. THE PEKING ACROBATS seek to uphold this rich and ancient folk art tradition, bringing it to new technical heights while integrating twenty-first century technology.

Create-Your-Own Series Subscriber Prices:

\$39 | \$31 | \$22

This performance is made possible, in part, by a generous gift from Tammy and Mike Koolbeck.

MARCH 3 AT 7:00 PM
STEPHENS AUDITORIUM



MARCH 6^{AT} 7:30 PM
STEPHENS AUDITORIUM

Red Hot Chilli Pipers

March 6 at 7:30 pm

Bagpipes with attitude. Drums with a Scottish accent. A blazing rock band and show so hot, it carries its own health warning!

It's Bagpipes. It's Rock. It's Bagrock. AC/DC meets the poet Robert Burns. Where rock anthems sit comfortably alongside the great tunes from the glens and the mountains of Scotland.

It's **The Red Hot Chilli PIPERS** – (NOT the Peppers!) – a 9-piece ensemble consisting of pipers, guitarists, keyboards, and drummers -- who have been rocking the world from New York to Beijing to Melbourne and everywhere in between with musicianship of the highest order and a passion for pipes that will leave you breathless.

Create-Your-Own Series Subscriber Prices:

\$39 | \$31 | \$22

This performance is made possible, in part, by generous gifts from Jill and Todd Klindt and the Musselman family.

THE ULTIMATE TRIBUTE TO THE BEATLES

THE FAB FOUR



HELP!

featuring the Music of the Beatles' Film HELP! and Much, Much More

APRIL 10 ^{AT} 7:30 PM
STEPHENS AUDITORIUM

The Fab Four

April 10 at 7:30 pm

If you want to experience the best Beatles tribute ever, you won't want to miss **The Fab Four – The Ultimate Tribute**. The 2025 tour brings their all-new show to the stage, celebrating The Beatles' second film, *HELP!*, with performances from the movie soundtrack, as well as the Beatles' greatest hits of every era.

The Emmy Award Winning Fab Four is elevated far above every other Beatles Tribute due to their precise attention to detail. With uncanny, note-for-note live renditions of Beatles' classics such as "Help!," "Yesterday," "A Day In The Life," "Twist And Shout," "Here Comes The Sun," and "Hey Jude", the Fab Four will make you think you are watching the real thing.

Create-Your-Own Series Subscriber Prices:

\$48 | \$39 | \$27

This performance is made possible, in part, by a generous gift from Maggie and Brent Wynja.

2025-2026

PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

AT STEPHENS AUDITORIUM

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