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Department of Theatre production

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Department of Theatre production

Geneva Lewis and Gabriel Martins

January 13, 2022

Arts and Life performance series

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February 11, 12, 17-19, 2022

Department of Theatre production

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Annual Valentine's banquet and concert

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Angel Blue

February 25, 2022

Arts and Life performance series

Sinta Quartet

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Arts and Life performance series

Spring Sing "Moments"

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Department of Theatre production



For show times and locations, call 501-279-5315.

Check the website for current information.

harding.edu/theatre • harding.edu/artsandlife

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Left to right:

**Mary McCraw, CFP[®], Ralph Broadwater, M.D., CFP[®],
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FROM THE CEO

Dear ASO patrons,

Thank you all for being here today to celebrate and enjoy your Arkansas Symphony Orchestra. In compliance with City of Little Rock mandates and in consultation with health care officials, we ask that you keep your mask on during the concert until we can change that policy.

This concert season we aim to achieve important goals: community building, accessibility, artistic excellence, and, most importantly fun. I confess to a few tears of joy on September 16 at the free *Celebrate Little Rock* concert sponsored by the Stella Boyle Smith Trust. We were thrilled to see a fabulous turnout of happy concertgoers enjoying the music of Little Rock's cultural treasure, Florence Price. The sounds of *The Firebird* on Opening Night kept the momentum going, and we had a wonderful, warm, holiday experience with Kris Allen in December.

While the challenges the entire world has experienced these past two years have been large, we are looking to the future. Soon, we will announce a program for the 2022-2023 season—and I know you are going to love the works and artists Geoff Robson has created for us to experience. We have recently announced plans for the ASO Stella Boyle Smith Music Center—not just a new headquarters for the ASO but a true community music hub with greatly expanded facilities for our rapidly growing education programs, a streaming studio to reach more people across the state, and improved spaces for our musicians to rehearse and perform, all accessibly located in Downtown Little Rock's East End.

Thank you for being here. If you have any questions or would like to get more involved in the behind-the-scenes work of the orchestra, please do not hesitate to contact me at CLittlejohn@ArkansasSymphony.org. I look forward to seeing you this year!

Sincerely,

Christina Littlejohn, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
ARKANSAS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



ARKANSAS
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

Thank you



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FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Dear Music Lover,

As we continue the 2021-22 season, it gives me pause to reflect on the journey, full of challenge and pain, but also learning and love, that we have all been on for the last two years. It was with heartfelt gratitude and commitment to the community that we welcomed you back to the concert hall in the fall, where we once again experienced the power of the full symphony orchestra on stage together. I am so happy to be here with you again as we take the stage to celebrate some of the all-time greats in the next two Pops Live! concerts.

This has been a season like none other. As we experience the new and the familiar at the same time, we will hear great works of music by past masters and brand-new works commissioned by your ASO. We continue our journey to bring to light the works of composers who have been unfairly ignored through history—and we will continue to show the world that great art is created and enjoyed right here in Little Rock, Arkansas.

At its core, orchestral music is about community. Making this music is a communal act that exists to be shared. While we have learned new ways to bring the power of music to the people, there is no substitute for the atmosphere created when we enjoy it together. Thank you for being a part of it, and for helping us spread our positive impact farther and wider than ever before.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey Robson, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
ARKANSAS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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PROGRAM

Saturday, March 12, 2022 • 7:30 PM Sunday, March 13, 2022 • 3 PM
Robinson Performance Hall Little Rock, Arkansas



Tribute to the Queen of Soul: Aretha Franklin

Geoffrey Robson, *conductor*

Capathia Jenkins, *vocalist*

Ryan Shaw, *vocalist*

VARIOUS/Holcombe	Aretha Franklin Overture
COVEY/Shoup	Chain of Fools
BACHARACH/ DAVID	I Say a Little Prayer
DeSYLVA/BROWN/ HENDERSON/Rhodes orch. Stevens	Birth of the Blues
SIMON/Holcombe	Bridge Over Troubled Water
SAGER/HAMLISCH/ Raine	Nobody Does It Better
TRADITIONAL/Podd	What a Friend We Have in Jesus/ Climbing Higher Mountains
WEBB/Holcombe	MacArthur Park

continued next page

Tribute to the Queen of Soul continued

BATES/WARD/Shoup America the Beautiful

REDDING/Holmes Respect

I N T E R M I S S I O N

VARIOUS/Norris Salute to Ray Charles

BROWN/Bernier I Got You (I Feel Good)

GORDON/Holcombe Unforgettable

GOFFIN/KING/ (You Make Me Feel Like)
WEXLER/Holcombe A Natural Woman

COOKE A Change is Gonna Come

WONDER/Holman Isn't She Lovely

WARREN/Hampton At Last

WOODS/CAMPBELL/ Try a Little Tenderness
CONNELLY/Shoup

TRADITIONAL/Podd Amazing Grace

PLEASE SILENCE ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES. THANK YOU.

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The Arkansas Symphony Orchestra is supported in part by a grant from the Arkansas Arts Council, an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage, and the City of Little Rock.

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Tribute to the Queen of Soul: Aretha Franklin

GEOFFREY ROBSON, Conductor, *Pamela Diane Stephens Conductor's Chair*

CAPATHIA JENKINS, Vocalist RYAN SHAW, Vocalist

VIOLIN

Kiril Laskarov
Concertmaster

Dora Paley Ronnel
Concertmaster's Chair

Andrew Irvin
Concertmaster

Katherine Williamson
Assistant Concertmaster

*† Meredith Maddox Hicks
Principal Second Violin
Eric M. Hayward
Memorial Chair

Edward Barnes

‡ Linnaea Brophy

† Charlotte Crosmer

Leanne Day-Simpson

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Tom McDonald

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Geronimo Oyenard

Magdalena Ryszkowski

Algimantas Staskevicius

Leigh Wing

VIOLA

‡ Katherine Reynolds
Principal

Dr. Howard & Celia
Barnhard Chair

Joe Joyner

Tatiana Kotcherguina

† Timothy MacDuff

Julian Pranata

Thomas McDonald

CELLO

† David Gerstein
Principal

Linda Garner Riggs Chair

Casey Buck

Micah Donar

Rafael León

Kristin Smith

‡ Jacob Wunsch

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Barron Weir
Principal

Ozzie Backus

Jordan Coleman

John Hunter

FLUTE

Carolyn Brown
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Gabriel Vega

PICCOLO

Gabriel Vega

OBOE

Leanna Renfro
Principal

Rachel Fuller

Memorial Chair

Lorraine Duso Kitts

Beth Wheeler

ENGLISH HORN

Beth Wheeler
Principal

CLARINET

Kelly Johnson
Principal

Karla Fournier

Lyle Wong

BASS CLARINET

Lyle Wong

BASSOON

Susan Bell León
Principal

Marissa Takaki

SAXOPHONE

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Gary Meggs
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Ron Jensen-McDaniel
Clint Kesterson
Joel Ratliff
Ashley Robertson
Satia Spencer



ARTISTS



GEOFFREY ROBSON, Artistic Director

Geoffrey Robson currently serves as artistic director and associate conductor of the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, and music director of the Arkansas Symphony Youth Ensembles. During his tenure in Arkansas, he has conducted critically acclaimed and sold-out masterworks, pops, chamber, and educational concerts throughout the state. He also produces and writes *At the Symphony*, a concert preview radio series on KLRE Classical 90.5 in Little Rock.

Robson frequently collaborates with organizations in the community such as Ballet Arkansas, Arkansas Children's Theater, Opera in the Rock, the Chamber Music Society of Little Rock, and many local choral groups. He is a former faculty member at Hendrix College and since 2017, has served as artistic director of the Faulkner Chamber Music Festival, a summer concert series and two-week intensive chamber music camp. In 2013-2014, he served as visiting assistant professor of music at the University of Central Arkansas, and conductor of the Conway Symphony Orchestra.

He has worked with renowned artists Midori, Rachel Barton Pine, Vadym Kholodenko, Alexander Markov, Christiane Noll, Calvin Lee, and the Beach Boys. He regularly brings emerging world-class talent to Little Rock to entertain audiences and to educate and inspire young musicians.

A champion of new music, he collaborates with and explores the music of renowned living composers. In 2016, he conducted the premiere of James Stephenson's *Concerto for Hope* with celebrated trumpeter, Ryan Anthony and the San Juan (Colorado) Symphony. Recently, he conducted the premiere of *Into the Beautiful North*, by Joe Brent, performed by the trio, 9 Horses. He has promoted works by composers with Arkansas connections such as Jeremy Crosmer and Karen Griebeling.

Robson is also an orchestral arranger and his works have been featured on the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra's Pops Live! series concerts on numerous occasions. Additionally, he writes string arrangements for recording artists to assist them in achieving their musical goals in the studio.

As a violinist, he performs frequently on the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra's popular *River Rhapsodies Chamber Music* series, often sharing the stage with principal members of the orchestra. Prior to his appointment in Arkansas, he served as concertmaster of the Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra, and assistant concertmaster of the Waterbury Symphony. Recognized for his skill and versatility, he is increasingly sought after as a studio musician.

Robson studied orchestral conducting at the Mannes College of Music in New York City under the tutelage of David Hayes and holds violin performance degrees from Yale University and the Michigan State University Honors College. Primary violin teachers include Erick Friedman, Dmitri Berlinsky, and I-fu Wang.

He studied conducting at Yale University with Lawrence Leighton Smith, Edward Cumming, and Shinik Hahm. Other notable teachers include Leon Gregorian, John Farrer, Neil Thomson, and Larry Rachleff.



CAPATHIA JENKINS, Vocalist

The Brooklyn-born and raised singer/actor, Capathia Jenkins, most recently released the critically acclaimed CD *Phenomenal Woman the Maya Angelou Songs* with her collaborator Louis Rosen and they sold out the world-famous Birdland Theatre in NYC for three nights. She starred as 'Medda' in the hit Disney production of *Newsies* on Broadway. She made her Broadway debut in *The Civil War*, where she created the role of Harriet Jackson. She then starred in the Off-Broadway 2000 revival of *Godspell*, where she wowed audiences with her stirring rendition of 'Turn Back, O Man' which can still be heard on the original cast recording. She returned to Broadway in *The Look of Love* and was critically acclaimed for her performances of the Bacharach/David hits. Ms. Jenkins then created

the roles of 'The Washing Machine' in *Caroline, Or Change* and 'Frieda May' in *Martin Short – Fame Becomes Me* where she sang 'Stop the Show' and brought the house down every night. In 2007 she went back to Off-Broadway and starred in (mis) *Understanding Mammy – The Hattie McDaniel Story* for which she was nominated for a Drama Desk Award. She was also seen in Nora Ephron's *Love, Loss, and What I Wore*.

An active concert artist, Ms. Jenkins has appeared with numerous orchestras around the world including the Cleveland Orchestra, Houston Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony (with Marvin Hamlisch), National Symphony, Cincinnati Pops (with John Morris Russell), Philly Pops, Atlanta Symphony, Seattle Symphony, Utah Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra, Toronto Symphony, San Diego Symphony, the Hong Kong Philharmonic and many others. She was a soloist with the Festival Cesky Krumlov in the Czech Republic multiple times. Capathia had the great honor of performing in the 'Broadway Ambassadors to Cuba' concert as part of the *Festival De Teatro De La Habana*. She has appeared several times at Carnegie Hall with the New York Pops and also sang in a Tribute to Marvin Hamlisch at the Library of Congress.

Her television credits include *30 Rock*, *the Practice*, *Law & Order SVU*, *the Sopranos*, *Law & Order*. She can be seen in the film *Musical Chairs* directed by Susan Seidelman. Ms. Jenkins was also seen in *The Wiz* in a live performance on NBC. She can be heard on the following film soundtracks: *Nine*, *Chicago*, *Legally Blonde 2*.

www.capathiajenkins.com



RYAN SHAW, Vocalist

Ryan Shaw is a three time Grammy nominated artist. He most recently appeared as Judas in the Lyric Opera House's (Chicago) US debut of the critically acclaimed London's Regents Park production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, which won the Oliver for "Best Musical Revival". He also starred as the original Stevie Wonder in *Motown the Musical* on Broadway. He has also starred on London's Wes End as the Soul of Michael Jackson in *Thriller Live*. As a recording artist, Ryan has toured the world and shared the stage with such artists as Van Halen, Bonnie Rait, Joss Stone, John Legend, B.B. King, Bruce Hornsby, Jill Scott, to name a few.

On television, Ryan has been guest artist on *The Ellen DeGeneres Show*, *Ellen's Really Big Show*, *Last Call With Carson Daly*, and *The Martha Stewart Show*. His music has been featured on FOX's *So You Think You Can Dance* and ABC's *Dancing With The Stars*, *Grey's Anatomy*, and *Lincoln Heights*. His music has also been featured in the films *My Blueberry Nights* starring Norah Jones, Jude Law, and Natalie Portman; *Bride Wars* starring Kate Hudson, and Ann Hathaway, and the *Sex In the City* Sound Track.

As a concert soloist, Ryan Shaw made his Radio City Music Hall debut at the Dream Concert benefit to build the Martin Luther King Jr National Monument in Washington DC. His Carnegie Hall appearances include an *Elton John and Bernie Taupin Tribute*, *A Celebration of The African American Cultural Legacy*, curated by Jessye Norman. Ryan has also been honored to be the second artist in history to be asked to perform a return engagement at the Central Park SummerStage Gala (second to Stevie Wonder). He has also been a featured artist with the Houston Symphony for their R&B Mixtape concert as well as the soloist for the Houston Symphony's Fourth of July Celebration. Ryan then returned to Carnegie Hall to headline the Nat King Cole Centennial Concert. Upcoming concert engagements include The Cleveland Orchestra, Philly Pops, Houston Symphony, Colorado Symphony, Arkansas Symphony, Colorado Springs Philharmonic, Tucson Symphony, Harrisburg Symphony, Springfield (OH) Symphony, Calgary Philharmonic, among many others.



For over 50 years, thousands of volunteers from the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra Guild have used music and the arts to make a profound impact on the lives of children and adults.

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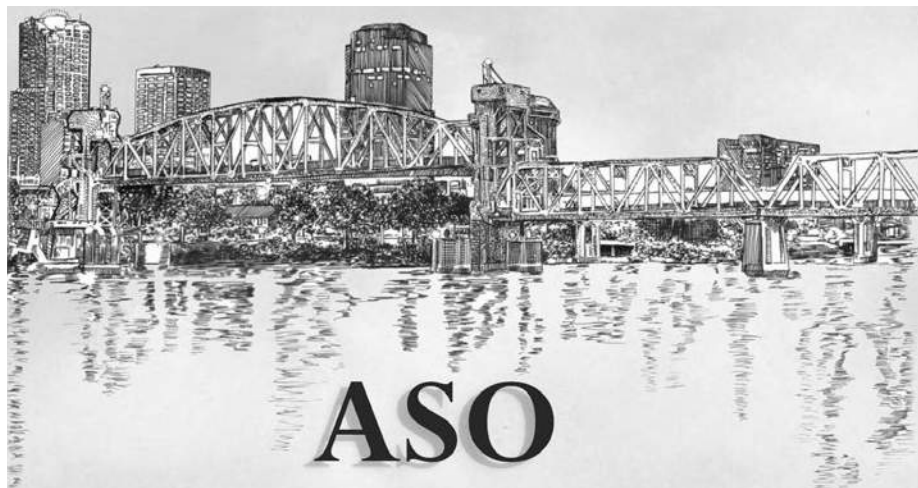


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The ASO offers exclusive entry to the Patrons' Club Lounge in thanks to our donors giving \$1,250 or more to the annual fund each season.

Patrons' Club donors are invited to enjoy complimentary wine, beer, and soft drinks during intermission of Saturday and Sunday Masterworks and Saturday Pops concerts!



The ASO Patrons' Club is located in the Barry Travis Lounge on the historic lobby level.

If your seat is on the Orchestra Level: take the elevators to level 2, then take a right.

If your seat is on the Grand Tier: exit through the double doors at the top of the stairs and take a left, or take the elevators to level 2, then take a right.

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PROGRAM

Saturday, March 26, 2022 • 7:30 PM Sunday, March 27, 2022 • 3 PM
Robinson Performance Hall Little Rock, Arkansas

UAMS
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES

Fascinating Gershwin

Geoffrey Robson, *conductor*

Sumayya Ali, *vocalist*

Destan Owens, *vocalist*

Joseph Joubert, *piano*

arr. Brubaker Selections from *Crazy for You*

arr. Gerle Fascinatin' Rhythm
from *Lady, Be Good*

arr. Wolpe/Walton S'Wonderful
from *Funny Face*

arr. Gerle They Can't Take That Away from Me
from *Shall We Dance*

arr. Gerle The Man I Love
from *Lady, Be Good*

Rhapsody in Blue
Joseph Joubert, piano

continued next page

Fascinating Gershwin continued

I N T E R M I S S I O N

An American in Paris

arr. Holcombe I've Got Rhythm
from *Girl Crazy*

arr. Gerle They All Laughed
from *Shall We Dance*

GERSHWIN/ Swanee
CAESAR *Joseph Joubert, piano*
arr. Joubert

GERSHWIN/ Jasbo Brown Blues/
BROWN I Got Plenty O' Nuttin Medley
arr. Joubert *Joseph Joubert, piano*

Summertime
from *Porgy and Bess*

There's a Boat Dat's Leavin'
from *Porgy and Bess*

Bess, You Is My Woman
from *Porgy and Bess*

PLEASE SILENCE ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES. THANK YOU.

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Support for the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra is provided, in part, by the Arkansas Arts Council, an agency of the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism, and the National Endowment for the Arts.



ORCHESTRA

Fascinating Gershwin

GEOFFREY ROBSON, Conductor, *Pamela Diane Stephens Conductor's Chair*

SUMAYYA ALI, Vocalist DESTAN OWENS, Vocalist JOSEPH JOUBERT, Piano

VIOLIN

Andrew Irvin
Concertmaster

Dora Paley Ronnel
Concertmaster's Chair

Kiril Laskarov
Concertmaster

Katherine Williamson
Assistant Concertmaster

*† Meredith Maddox Hicks
Principal Second Violin
Eric M. Hayward
Memorial Chair

Edward Barnes

‡ Linnaea Brophy

† Charlotte Crosmer

Leanne Day-Simpson

Lisa Dicus

‡ Trisha McGovern Freaney

Albert Garcia

Beth Gould

Karen Jarboe

Tom McDonald

Juan Mario Moreno

Jordan Musgrave

Geronimo Oyenard

Magdalena Ryszkowski

Miho Sakon

Chi Young Song

VIOLA

‡ Katherine Reynolds
Principal

Dr. Howard & Celia
Barnhard Chair

Joe Joyner

‡ Josquin Larsen

† Timothy MacDuff

Thomas McDonald

Julian Pranata

Beth Robison

Amanda Wilton

CELLO

† David Gerstein
Principal

Linda Garner Riggs Chair

Casey Buck

Micah Donar

Joanna Klett

Rafael León
Suren Petrosyan
Alexander Seman
‡ Jacob Wunsch

BASS

Barron Weir
Principal

Ozzie Backus

Jordan Coleman

John Hunter

Mike Williams

Brian Wolverton

FLUTE

Carolyn Brown
Principal

Diane McVinney

OBOE

Leanna Renfro
Principal

Rachel Fuller
Memorial Chair

Beth Wheeler

ENGLISH HORN

Beth Wheeler
Principal

CLARINET

Kelly Johnson
Principal

Karla Fournier

Lyle Wong

BASS CLARINET

Lyle Wong

BASSOON

Susan Bell León
Principal

Marissa Takaki

SAXOPHONE

Barry McVinney

Matt Taylor

Brandon Dorris

Dave Williams II

Kaleb Knight

HORN

David Renfro
Principal

Robin Dauer

Brent Shires

Tyler Bjerke

TRUMPET

Ben Hauser
Principal

Ross Ahlhorn
George Worthen

Memorial Chair

Carl Mason

TROMBONE

Michael Underwood
Principal

William "Bill" Vickery, Jr.
Memorial Chair

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Greer & Barnett Grace
Chair in memory
of Gov. Frank White

TIMPANI

Rick Diamond
Principal

Arkansas Symphony
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PERCUSSION

Erick Saoud

Amy Hearting

Justin Bunting

HARP

Alisa Coffey
Principal

PIANO/SYNTHESIZER

Carl Anthony
Principal

BANJO

Steve Brauer



ARTISTS



SUMAYYA ALI, Vocalist

The multifaceted Sumayya Ali has found success through multiple mediums of art as a Broadway actor, opera singer, actor/violinist, director, and sound therapist. Her Broadway credits include *Ragtime*, *The Gershwin's Porgy and Bess* and *Natasha, Pierre and The Great Comet of 1812*. She has been a soloist with The New York Philharmonic, The Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Ms Ali has been hailed by critics as “celestially voiced,” “emotionally and structurally ethereal,” and “silken voiced.” Sumayya was a Boston district winner of The National Metropolitan Opera Competition and a recipient of The Shoshana Foundation’s Richard F. Gold Career Grant. Sumayya enjoys the process of developing new works with opera companies. She is most proud of helping to bring the role of Harriet Tubman to life in the Harriet Tubman opera by Nkeiru Okoye.

Sumayya Ali is a product of Washington DC’s acclaimed Duke Ellington School of the Arts. Sumayya holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in music from Spelman College in Atlanta, GA as well as a Master Degree in music from The New England Conservatory in Boston, MA. She is a certified sound therapist in the process of receiving a second master degree in metaphysics with a specialization in balancing harmonics from Pan American School of Natural Medicine. Her greatest accomplishment in life is being a mother to her daughter Zahara. Instagram/Twitter: [@sumayyasings](#).



DESTAN OWENS, Vocalist

Destan Owens has appeared on Broadway in *Chicago*, *Smokey Joe’s Café*, and *Rent*. Off-Broadway, National tours, and other credits include *The Who’s Tommy*, *Sisterella*, *Chicago*, *Dreamgirls* with Jennifer Holiday, *Yo’ Alice*, *Jesus Christ Superstar Gospel*, *Stormy Weather: The Lena Horne Story*, *Soul Possessed*, *It Happened In Little Rock*, *Carmen*, *Trouble In Tahiti* and *A Little Night Music*. His television and film credits include *Marie And Bruce*, *Get Rich Or Die Trying*, *Across The Universe* and *30 Rock*. Mr. Owens has also been a soloist with the Oklahoma City Philharmonic, Southwest Florida Symphony, Florida Orchestra, Memphis Symphony Orchestra, Grand Rapids Symphony, Lake Charles Symphony, Phoenix Symphony and The Long Island Philharmonic.



JOSEPH JOUBERT, Piano

Joseph Joubert is the featured solo pianist for our *Fascinating Gershwin™* concert and available for conducting engagements. Mr. Joubert has served as the Conductor/Orchestrator/and or Arranger of Broadway Shows *Motown The Musical*, *The Color Purple*, *Violet*, *Billy Elliot: The Musical*, *Leap of Faith*, *Disaster!*, *Nice Work If You Can Get It*, *Caroline or Change*, *Five Guys Named*

Moe, *Truly Blessed*, and *Amen Corner*. His accomplishments are wide ranging and his talent has taken him not only across the continent, but also throughout the world. Mr. Joubert has appeared in New York City's major concert halls, including Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, and Alice Tully Hall as well as a concert pianist and conductor with notable symphony orchestras around the world. For two seasons, he served as staff pianist for the Metropolitan Opera Company's revival of *Porgy and Bess*. Abroad, he has performed in The International Festival Of Two Worlds in Spoleto, Italy and in Nice, France. Mr. Joubert has performed at the Pushkin Museum Of Arts in Moscow, Russia. He has also orchestrated for film, such as, *Nights In Rodanth*. His solo piano CD, "Total Praise – Classic Hymns For Piano," is available worldwide. [@josephjoubert](https://www.instagram.com/josephjoubert).



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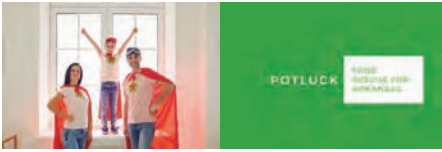


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