2021-2022

2021

College of the Arts 21/22 Season

Department of Theatre and Dance

John J. Cali School of Music

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After a year of virtual performances, stages around the College of the Arts are coming alive with music, theatre, and dance. Back in the spotlight are some remarkable young talents who represent the future of the performing arts.

Throughout the academic year, there will be something for audiences of every interest and taste—bold and innovative theatrical works . . . music ranging from ageless masterpieces to contemporary jazz . . . dance that excites the eye and challenges the mind.

Take your pick and reserve your seat. It’s showtime at Montclair State!

Daniel Gurskis
Dean, College of the Arts

Anthony Mazzocchi
Director, John J. Cali School of Music
Chair, Department of Theatre and Dance

973-655-5112 | peakperfs.org
JOHN J. CALI SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Kaleidoscope
Kaleidoscope is a 90-minute nonstop extravaganza of diverse repertoire celebrating the Cali School’s talented faculty and students. The concerts feature the MSU Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, Chorale, University Singers, Jazz Band, Symphony Orchestra, and chamber and solo artists.
Friday, October 8 @ 7:30 pm | Saturday, October 9 @ 8 pm
Alexander Kasser Theater | $20.00

JOHN J. CALI SCHOOL OF MUSIC
Harlem Quartet
The Cali School of Music’s Quartet-in-Residence Harlem Quartet will perform an exciting concert of classical and contemporary chamber music.
Sunday, October 10 @ 3 pm | Alexander Kasser Theater | $20.00

JOHN J. CALI SCHOOL OF MUSIC
MSU Wind Symphony
Thomas McCauley, Conductor
The MSU Wind Symphony will present the first of its three Travelogue concerts in preparation for their appearance at the 2022 International Conference of the World Association of Symphonic Bands and Ensembles (WASBE), July 20, 2022, in Prague, Czech Republic. The concert will feature the music of Leonard Bernstein, David Maslanka, and Karel Husa.
Friday, October 22 @ 7:30 pm | Alexander Kasser Theater | $20.00

JOHN J. CALI SCHOOL OF MUSIC
MSU Jazz Ensemble
Jeffrey Kunkel, Director
The MSUJE is proud to present a concert of music by emerging contemporary jazz composers, including Andrew Jones, Socrates Garcia, Erica Seguine, and two of our own — Oscar Perez and Jeff Kunkel!
Saturday, October 23 @ 8 pm | Alexander Kasser Theater | $20.00

973-655-5112 | peakperfs.org
As You Like It
By William Shakespeare
Directed by Avery Glymph

As You Like It speaks to us in charming and witty, yet serious and contemplative ways. Strong iconic characters balance the fear and uncertainty of harsh politics and familial rivalries with explorations of human and physical nature, overcoming obstacles and injustices, all in the name of love. Even if people get in the way of it, the power of love can make the most self-aware cynics among us lose themselves in passion and adventure, but it will not be denied.

Wednesday, October 27 @ 7:30 pm | Thursday, October 28 @ 7:30 pm
Friday, October 29 @ 7:30 pm | Saturday, October 30 @ 2 pm
Memorial Auditorium | $20.00

The Last Days of Judas Iscariot
By Stephen Adly Guirgis
Directed by Tommy Schrider

Hope Courtroom, Purgatory: 2000 years after he betrayed Jesus, Judas Iscariot finally has his day in court. Is he worthy of God’s divine love and forgiveness or doomed to suffer in infamy and the prison of his guilty conscience? And is it even God who is punishing him, or has Judas sentenced himself to eternal shame? Pulitzer Prize–winning playwright Stephen Adley Guirgis has written a wildly inventive play that is both riotously funny and a provocative meditation on the clash between justice and mercy and the mystery of what it means to be human.

Thursday, November 4 @ 7:30 pm | Friday, November 5 @ 7:30 pm
Saturday, November 6 @ 7:30 pm | Wednesday, November 10 @ 7:30 pm
Thursday, November 11 @ 7:30 pm | Friday, November 12 @ 7:30 pm
Life Hall Studio Theatre | $15.00

Fall Dance 2021
Directed by Kathleen Kelley
Choreographed by Stefanie Batten Bland, Jessica DiMauro Marks, Larry Keigwin, and Maxine Steinman

This concert presents world premieres by innovative choreographers Larry Keigwin (senior class) collaborating with composer Glen Fittin, Maxine Steinman (sophomore class), and Jessica DiMauro Marks (freshman class). Our junior class performs Stefanie Batten Bland’s WelcomeBienvenue, which interrogates how and to whom we open our arms and invite into our homes, cities, and countries.

Wednesday, November 17 @ 7:30 pm | Thursday, November 18 @ 7:30 pm
Friday, November 19 @ 7:30 pm
Alexander Kasser Theater | $20.00

RENT
Book, Music, and Lyrics by Jonathan Larson
Directed by Todd Underwood

This year is the 25th anniversary of Rent. When it was first produced Off-Broadway/Broadway it changed the landscape of musical theatre. It was bold and innovative. Rent was touted at the beginning of a new wave of musical theater. Set in the ‘80s during the height of the AIDS pandemic and based on the opera La bohème, it focuses on the struggle of a group of friends trying to find their way with or without each other. As we all move to the post-pandemic phase of our lives, this show is a great reminder to cherish the ones we love and that time waits for no one. Live fully in the Seasons of Love.

Sunday Nov. 21, 2021 @ 7:30 pm | Monday Nov. 22 @ 7:30 pm
Tuesday Nov. 23, 2021 @ 7:30 pm
Alexander Kasser Theater | $20.00

JOHN J. CALI SCHOOL OF MUSIC | DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE

RENT
Book, Music, and Lyrics by Jonathan Larson | Directed by Todd Underwood

This year is the 25th anniversary of Rent. When it was first produced Off-Broadway/Broadway it changed the landscape of musical theatre. It was bold and innovative. Rent was touted at the beginning of a new wave of musical theater. Set in the ‘80s during the height of the AIDS pandemic and based on the opera La bohème, it focuses on the struggle of a group of friends trying to find their way with or without each other. As we all move to the post-pandemic phase of our lives, this show is a great reminder to cherish the ones we love and that time waits for no one. Live fully in the Seasons of Love.

Sunday Nov. 21, 2021 @ 7:30 pm | Monday Nov. 22 @ 7:30 pm
Tuesday Nov. 23, 2021 @ 7:30 pm
Alexander Kasser Theater | $20.00

College of the Arts
21/22
JOHN J. CALI SCHOOL OF MUSIC
MSU Symphonic Band and MSU Campus Band
Thomas McCauley | Theodore Sotiropoulos, Conductors

Please join the MSU Symphonic Band and MSU Campus Band as they combine their efforts to present an evening of both new and standard wind band repertoires.
Friday, December 3 @ 7:30 pm | Alexander Kasser Theater | $20.00

JOHN J. CALI SCHOOL OF MUSIC
MSU Singers and MSU Chorale
Heather J. Buchanan, Conductor | Steven W. Ryan, Pianist

The Chorale will present the regional premiere of The Breath of Life by American composer Dan Forrest. Scored for SATB choir, piano, strings, Katherine Cherbas, solo cello; Taylor Gaudette, percussion; and Vincent Carr, organ, this 35-minute work is a reflection on the beauty and joy of new life juxtaposed with the pain of loss. It uses profound and compelling texts from Scripture as well as classic and modern poetry. The emotional arc of the music beautifully mirrors that of life, from the miracle of birth to the sorrowing of death, and the love that makes life rich and meaningful.
The University Singers will present highlights from Messiah in an exciting collaboration with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra Chamber Ensemble, conducted by Dr. Heather J. Buchanan. They will be joined by guest artists Wen, harpsichord; Steven W. Ryan, positive organ; and soloists including Jason Zacher, bass-baritone. Alumni, faculty, and friends of the choir are warmly invited to join the choir onstage to sing the “Hallelujah” Chorus to conclude the concert. This is the NJSS’s debut at Montclair State.
Saturday, December 4 @ 8 pm | Alexander Kasser Theater | $20.00

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE
New Works Initiative
The Names We Gave Him
Text by Ellen McLaughlin | Music by Peter Foley
Directed by Lisa Rothe

Loosely based on a true story, this is a musical about an amnesiac veteran of the First World War, the doctor who treated him, and the many women who, in denial of their grief, claimed him as their lost beloved. The piece explores the agony of war for both the soldiers and the families they leave behind, the disturbing power of loss, and the insistence of love. What is a country’s identity in the aftermath of such devastation? What is a self without memory?

Wednesday, December 8 @ 7:30 pm | Thursday, December 9 @ 7:30 pm | Friday, December 10 @ 7:30 pm
Memorial Auditorium | $20.00
The MSU Wind Symphony will present the second of its three Travelogue concerts in preparation for their appearance at the 2022 International Conference of the World Association of Symphonic Bands and Ensembles (WASBE), July 20, 2022, in Prague, Czech Republic. The concert will include the music of Leonard Bernstein, David Maslanka, Karel Husa, and will feature the world premiere of composer Bruce Yurko’s “TMCC Fanfare,” written especially for Dr. Thomas McCauley and the MSU Wind Symphony.

Friday, December 10 @ 7:30 pm | Alexander Kasser Theater | $20.00

The MSU Opera Workshop presents a sneak preview of scenes from classical and contemporary repertoires.

Saturday, December 11 @ 8 pm | Alexander Kasser Theater | $20.00

For our fourth Crawford Concert offering, the MSUJE, along with our vocal jazz ensemble, Vocamotion, are proud to present special guests Vertical Voices, a group composed of four of the finest artist/educators in the world of vocal jazz today: Kerry Marsh, Julia Dollison, Jennifer Barnes, and Greg Jasperse.

Sunday, December 12 @ 3 pm | Alexander Kasser Theater | FREE
Free admission but tickets are required
Beatrice Crawford Memorial Concert: This concert is a free public performance supported by a generous grant from the Beatrice Crawford Foundation. It is presented at Montclair State University in memory of Beatrice Crawford, a Montclair musician who was the director of two choral groups, the Madrigals and the Choraliers.

The MSU Opera with the MSU Symphony Orchestra present an opera from classical repertoires.

Saturday, January 29 @ 8 pm | Sunday, January 30 @ 3 pm | Alexander Kasser Theater | $20.00

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DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE

Dance Makers
Directed by Maxine Steinman
Come see the next generation of dance makers! In this curated dance concert, Montclair State student choreographers bring their individual and distinct creativity to the Alexander Kasser stage.
Friday, February 18 @ 7:30 pm | Saturday, February 19 @ 2 pm | Saturday, February 19 @ 7:30 pm
Alexander Kasser Theater | $20.00

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE

Head Over Heels
Directed by TBD
Songs by The Go-Go’s | Based on The Arcadia by Sir Philip Sidney
Conceived and Original Book by Jeff Whitty | Adapted by James Magruder.
Head Over Heels is the bold new musical comedy from the visionaries who rocked Broadway with Hedwig and the Angry Inch, Avenue Q, and Spring Awakening. This laugh-out-loud love story is set to the music of the iconic 1980s all-female rock band The Go-Go’s, including the hit songs “We Got the Beat,” “Our Lips Are Sealed,” “Vacation,” and Belinda Carlisle’s “Heaven Is a Place on Earth” and “Mad about You.” A hilarious, exuberant celebration of love, Head Over Heels follows the escapades of a royal family on an outrageous journey to save their beloved kingdom from extinction—only to discover the key to their realm’s survival lies within each of their own hearts.
Thursday, February 24 @ 7:30 pm | Friday, February 25 @ 7:30 pm | Saturday, February 26 @ 2 pm
Alexander Kasser Theater | $20.00

JOHN J. CALI SCHOOL OF MUSIC

MSU Symphony Orchestra
Nicholas DeMaison, Conductor
Join conductor Nicholas DeMaison and the MSU Symphony Orchestra as they present works from classical and contemporary repertoire.
Wednesday, March 2 @ 7:30 pm | Alexander Kasser Theater | $20.00

JOHN J. CALI SCHOOL OF MUSIC

MSU Wind Symphony and MSU Symphonic Band
with special guest artists
Michael Daugherty, Composer | Dame Evelyn Glennie, Percussionist
Thomas McCauley, Conductor
The MSU Wind Symphony and Symphonic Band will present the music of composer Michael Daugherty and will feature the world premieres of the wind band versions of his compositions Dreamachine, which will feature world-renowned percussionist Dame Evelyn Glennie as soloist.
Friday, March 4 @ 7:30 pm | Alexander Kasser Theater | $20.00
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time
Based on a novel by Mark Haddon | Adapted by Simon Stephens
Directed by Heather Benton
When a neighbor’s dog turns up murdered, 15-year-old Christopher (a suspect himself) sets out to solve a mystery and embarks on a terrifying journey that takes him far beyond his familiar street in Swindon, UK. As Christopher navigates the world through a unique neurological lens with a brilliance for math, his journey reveals more than the murderer, as family secrets unravel, bonds of trust are broken, and his once predictable world spins out of control. Based on the award-winning novel by Mark Haddon, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time received 7 Olivier Awards, including Best New Play in 2013.

Friday, March 18 @ 7:30 pm
Saturday, March 19 @ 7:30 pm
Wednesday, March 23 @ 5:00 pm
Thursday, March 24 @ 7:30 pm
Friday, March 25 @ 7:30 pm
Memorial Auditorium | $20.00

The Big Meal
By Dan LaFranc | Directed by Susan Kumar
Somewhere in America, in a typical restaurant on a typical night, Sam and Nicole first meet. Sparks fly. And so begins the extraordinary tale of five generations of an ordinary family, from first kiss to final good-bye. Packed with humanity and humor, The Big Meal chronicles the loves, trials, and resilience of modern families. Playwright Dan LaFranc won the 2010 NYT Outstanding Playwright Award for this big-hearted, theatrically inventive comedy.

Wednesday April 13 @ 7:30 pm
Thursday April 14 @ 7:30 pm
Friday April 15 @ 7:30 pm
Wednesday April 20 @ 7:30 pm
Thursday April 21 @ 7:30 pm
Friday April 22 @ 7:30 pm
Life Hall Studio Theatre | $15.00

JOHN J. CALI SCHOOL OF MUSIC
MSU Symphonic Band and MSU Campus Band
Thomas McCauley | Theodora Sotiropoulos, Conductors
Join us for a great evening of eclectic and entertaining music making by both the MSU Symphonic Band and the MSU Campus Band.
Tuesday, April 26 @ 7:00 pm | Alexander Kasser Theater | $20.00

JOHN J. CALI SCHOOL OF MUSIC
MSU Symphony Orchestra
Nicholas DeMaison, Conductor
Join conductor Nicholas DeMaison and the MSU Symphony Orchestra as they present works from classical and contemporary repertoire.
Wednesday, April 27 @ 7:30 pm | Alexander Kasser Theater | $20.00

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE
Spring Dance 2022
Directed by Christian von Howard
Spring Dance 2022 features the choreographic works of Paul Taylor, Michelle Macaruso, TweetBoogie, Kathleen Kelley, Bradley Shaine, Christian von Howard, and other guest artists.

Wednesday April 13 @ 7:30 pm
Thursday April 14 @ 7:30 pm
Friday April 15 @ 7:30 pm
Wednesday April 20 @ 7:30 pm
Thursday April 21 @ 7:30 pm
Friday April 22 @ 7:30 pm
Life Hall Studio Theatre | $15.00

JOHN J. CALI SCHOOL OF MUSIC
MSU Jazz Combo
Photo by Mike Peters
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DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE
The Big Meal
By Dan LaFranc | Directed by Susan Kumar
Somewhere in America, in a typical restaurant on a typical night, Sam and Nicole first meet. Sparks fly. And so begins the extraordinary tale of five generations of an ordinary family, from first kiss to final good-bye. Packed with humanity and humor, The Big Meal chronicles the loves, trials, and resilience of modern families. Playwright Dan LaFranc won the 2010 NYT Outstanding Playwright Award for this big-hearted, theatrically inventive comedy.
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE

Into the Woods
Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim  
Book by James Lapine
Directed by Peter Flynn

"...and they live happily ever after." So end all of our most beloved fairy tales; but what if there was a different "after" after the "ever after"? Are we always happy with what we get? Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine's most acclaimed musical explores what happens when dreams come true, wishes are granted, and spells are broken. With soaring music, funny dialogue, and unexpected turns, Into the Woods at MSU promises a night of mystery, magic, humor, and surprise. At a time when we are beginning to come out of our homes, we invite you Into the Woods.

Wednesday, April 27 @ 7:30 pm  
Thursday, April 28 @ 7:30 pm  
Friday, April 29 @ 7:30 pm  
Saturday, April 30 @ 2:00 pm
Memorial Auditorium  |  $20.00

JOHN J. CALI SCHOOL OF MUSIC

MSU Wind Symphony

Thomas McCauley, Conductor  |  Steven W. Ryan, Piano

The MSU Wind Symphony will present the third of its three Travelogue concerts in preparation for their appearance at the 2022 International Conference of the World Association of Symphonic Bands and Ensembles (WASBE), July 20, 2022, in Prague, Czech Republic. The concert will feature the music of Aaron Copland, Joan Tower, and a performance of Olivier Messiaen's Colors of the Celestial City, with piano soloist Steven Ryan.

Friday, April 29 @ 7:30 pm  
Alexander Kasser Theater  |  $20.00

JOHN J. CALI SCHOOL OF MUSIC

MSU Jazz Ensemble

Oscar Perez, Director

The MSU Jazz Ensemble will be joined by guest artists to perform an exciting concert of classic and contemporary jazz.

Sunday, May 1 @ 3 pm  
Alexander Kasser Theater  |  $20.00

Montclair State University College of the Arts

Montclair State University College of the Arts (CART) offers more than 55+ majors programs, minors, and concentrations, providing training and education for students wanting careers in music, dance, theater, art and design, television and digital media, and communication studies. The faculty includes working composers, designers, actors, musicians, directors, choreographers, conductors, fine artists, broadcasters, and communications specialists, including Fulbright, Guggenheim, and Howard Award winners. The College of the Arts is proud to offer cultural enrichment of all kinds to the Montclair State campus and surrounding community.

The Office of Arts + Cultural Programming (ACP) supports the artistic, cultural, and academic life at Montclair State University and extended Montclair community. ACP produces and presents innovative work by artists of exceptional talent through its internationally acclaimed series PEAK Performances, and promotes the next generation of performing artists studying at MSU's College of the Arts. Significant to its mission, ACP provides outreach programs designed to enhance awareness of the aesthetic and social context of performances on the MSU campus. Of note is ACP's Creative Thinking course, which brings students of all disciplines together with PEAK artists to discover the power of innovation in all fields of study and present in every individual.

The Arts + Cultural Programming at Montclair State University College of the Arts (CART) offers more than 55+ majors programs, minors, and concentrations, providing training and education for students wanting careers in music, dance, theater, art and design, television and digital media, and communication studies. The faculty includes working composers, designers, actors, musicians, directors, choreographers, conductors, fine artists, broadcasters, and communications specialists, including Fulbright, Guggenheim, and Howard Award winners. The College of the Arts is proud to offer cultural enrichment of all kinds to the Montclair State campus and surrounding community.

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Venues
Montclair State University’s College of the Arts boasts several professionally equipped performance facilities that share a central box office at the Alexander Kasser Theater, located near the main entrance to campus off Normal Avenue and connected to the Red Hawk Parking Deck. For more information about any of these venues, call the box office at 973-655-5112.

The Alexander Kasser Theater is a state-of-the-art, fully wheelchair-accessible, 500-seat theater that offers exceptional acoustics, unparalleled comfort, and an array of range of services including assistive-listening devices and, for many of its events, Braille and large-print programs.

Memorial Auditorium is the University’s largest venue, with a proscenium stage and a seating capacity of almost 1,000. It is a 10-minute walk from the Red Hawk Parking Deck and the Alexander Kasser Theater.

Life Hall Studio Theatre is an intimate, flexible studio theater located in Life Hall, with an additional entrance through the School of Communication and Media building. It is an 8-minute walk from the Red Hawk Parking Deck and the Alexander Kasser Theater.

Programs in this season are made possible in part by New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Dept. of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

Tickets
Tickets range from $15 to $20. See individual performances for details.

Montclair State Students Take Your Seat—For Free!
No charge for Montclair State Students at all of these performances! Show your Montclair State ID at the box office.

Bring a Group
Groups of 10 or more receive the following savings and benefits:

• Free ticket for one of every 10 tickets your group purchases
• Reduced handling fees: Pay one flat handling fee of $10 per group

Parking
Parking is available for a small hourly fee in the Red Hawk Parking Deck, attached to the Alexander Kasser Theater, for all events.

• For events located in the Alexander Kasser Theater only, convenient and easy-to-use parking vouchers for the Red Hawk Parking Deck are available for sale in the lobby beginning one hour before each performance and during intermissions. For events without intermissions, vouchers will be available for sale after the performance as well.
• For events located in the Red Hawk Parking Deck only, parking vouchers are available for sale in the lobby beginning one hour before each performance and during intermissions. For events without intermissions, vouchers will be available for sale after the performance as well.

• All vouchers are $6.00 (cash only).
• For any questions, comments, or concerns about your parking experience, please contact Parking Services by phone at 973-655-7580 or by email at parking@montclair.edu.

We Want to Hear from You
Our Audience Services staff is at your service. Please call 973-655-5112 or email boxoffice@montclair.edu with questions about any of these services. For additional guidance and tips, visit peakperfs.org.

Connect With Us!

The Fine Print
• All performances, dates, and times are subject to change.
• Tickets and handling fees are nonrefundable, except in the event of show cancellation.
• Learners will be seated solely at the discretion of theater management.
• Subject to availability, tickets may be exchanged up to 24 hours before the performance for which they were purchased. There is a $5 dollar exchange fee for each ticket.
• Please check the website for current COVID-19 protocols for attending a performance.

Box Office
Order by phone, 973-655-5112

Online ticketing is available 24/7 at peakperfs.org.

Or visit us!
Box Office Hours: Tuesday–Friday, noon–6:00 pm.
Performance Days: 10 am until curtain.

Our Better Angels
Frederick Earl Mosley, Choreographer
Photo by Robert M. Cooper

Cover photo by Robert M. Cooper