

SWING OUT

Thursday, March 19
Luth Concert Hall
Prior Presents 2025–26

PRIOR
Performing Arts Center

Program

SWING OUT

I. The Show

Braintrust (Creative Team): Evita Arce, LaTasha Barnes, Nathan Bugh, Caleb Teicher, Eyal Vilner

Choreography and Improvisation by Caleb Teicher and the Braintrust in collaboration with the Dancers, except:

"Big Apple Contest" - choreography by Frankie Manning, as first seen in "Keep Punching"

Director: Caleb Teicher

Music: All arrangements and orchestrations by Eyal Vilner, performed by the Eyal Vilner Big Band; "Downhill," "The Rabbit," "Ain't Got Nobody," "Chabichou," "The Jam," "Tap Tap Tap," and "Belleville" - all composed by Eyal Vilner. "My Baby Just Cares For Me" - by Walter Donaldson & Gus Kahn, "Saint Louis Blues" - by W.C. Handy, "5-10-15 Hours" - by Rudolph Toombs, "The Big Apple Contest" - by L. Norman, "Shiny Stockings" - by Frank Foster, "Jumpin' At The Woodside" - by Count Basie

Production Stage Manager: Maddie Kunert

Original Lighting Design: serena wong

Lighting Supervisor: Sage Green

Original Sound Design: Joseph Wolfslau

Costume Design: Márion Talán de la Rosa

Bandstand & Logo Design: Michelle Stokes

Choreographic Advisor: Melanie George

Dancers: Brandon Barker, Nathan Bugh, Gaby Cook, Tyedric Hill, Jennifer Jones, Breonna Jordan, Brian Lawton, Rachel Pitner, Natasha Shevchenko, Caleb Teicher, Elena Valencia, Sean Vitale

Band: Erán Fink (drums), Ian Hutchison (bass), Brandon Lee (trumpet), John Lake (trumpet), Josh Lee (baritone saxophone), Julieta Eugenio (tenor saxophone), Martha Kato (piano), Eyal Vilner (alto saxophone, flute, clarinet), Imani Rousselle (vocals), Ron Wilkins (trombone)

Producer: Ross LeClair, Joyce Theater Productions

Company Manager: Bridget Caston

Producing Assistant: Kate Ross, Joyce Theater Productions

II. The Jam

Improvised social dancing is integral to the tradition and modern-day expression of Lindy Hop and Jazz Dance. Now that you've seen our show, we invite you to dance: find some space and join us while the Eyal Vilner Big Band plays a 30-minute set!

Music: All arrangements and orchestrations by Eyal Vilner, performed by the Eyal Vilner Big Band; "Bumpy Tour Bus," "Snacking and Slacking," "Another Time" - all composed by Eyal Vilner, "I'm Just A Lucky So and So" - by Mack David and Duke Ellington, "Shout Sister Shout" - by Bill Doggett and Lucky Millinder, "Drop Me Off in Harlem" - by Duke Ellington and Nick Kenny, "I Don't Wanna Be Kissed (by Anyone Else but You)" - by Jack Elliott and Harold Spina, "Tain't What You Do (It's The Way That You Do It)" - by Sy Oliver and James Young, Chicken an Dumplings - by Ray Bryant, "Bei Mir Bist Du Schon" - by Jacob Jacobs, Sholom Sholem Secunda, Sammy Cahn & Saul Chaplin

About Lindy Hop

Lindy Hop is the preeminent, swing-jazz, partnered dance. In the late 1920's, movement elements, including those of The Charleston, The Collegiate, and The Texas Tommy, were swirling together in African-American communities to form a new style, and they coalesced around a musical groove called "swing." Dance champion George Snowden supplied the name, "Lindy Hop," in reference to Charles Lindberg — whose recent transatlantic flight was the phenomenon of the moment. The name stuck, and the dance was popularized by early masters at the Savoy Ballroom, in Harlem.

Frankie Manning, and other exponents of the 1930's and 1940's, incorporated choreography and high-flying "air steps." Frequently presented by Savoy bouncer Herbert White as "Whitey's Lindy Hoppers," these champions dominated clubs, contests, stages, and film. Manning had a phasic career, retiring after the swing era, but reengaging with the dance industry in the 1980's. In the intervening years, visionaries such as Norma Miller and Mama Lu Parks sustained Lindy Hop and even adapted to new music genres.

At the end of the 20th century, a surge of popularity sowed modern, swing-dance scenes all around the world. There are now plenty of non-US hotspots, like Stockholm and Seoul, with robust dance communities. Lindy Hop also continues to thrive in the US, and in Harlem, where the dance never stopped.

A Note From The Braintrust

Sw!ng Out presents social Lindy Hop and vernacular dance as a jazz, concert experience. It is a blend of prearrangement and improvisation, where only some of the steps are choreographed; only some of the music is on the page. Performers and spectators are invited to interpret the material in real time, to share in the exhilaration of creation.

Even though Lindy Hop and vernacular jazz have been used in other productions for nostalgia or novelty, there has not been a touring, evening-length program celebrating what these dances have become. By assembling genuine, swing-dance superstars in an improvisatory space, this show offers a unique glimpse into their universe: the modern, Lindy Hop scene.

For us, Lindy Hop tackles the issues of society-at-large, but in an arena of exaggerated humanity. Touch, trust, gender, history, intimacy, and partnership get ground together there, in the crucible of jazz, and they are reified as art. Our mission with *Sw!ng Out* is to search for perspective on these complexities, while embracing the joy of jazz dance and music.

Thank you for joining us.

- *The Braintrust: Evita Arce, LaTasha Barnes, Nathan Bugh, Macy Sullivan, Caleb Teicher & Eyal Vilner*

Funding Credits

SW!NG OUT was made possible by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation; and was commissioned and created, in part, with the support of The Joyce Theater's Artist Residency Center, made possible by lead funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Howard Gilman Foundation, LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust, and Doris Duke Charitable Foundation; Works & Process at the Guggenheim; the Center for the Arts at George Mason University; Northrop at The University of Minnesota; and additional commissioning funds provided by The O'Donnell-Green Music and Dance Foundation.

Additional creation support was provided by Deborah and Charles Adelman, Alpern Family Foundation, Sarah Arison, Michèle and Steve Pesner, Anh-Tuyet Nguyen and Robert Pollock, and Karen Roth.

Music commissioned by the Charles and Joan Gross Family Foundation.

Lead tour support for this tour of *SW!NG OUT* was generously provided by Mr. Stephen Kroll Reidy. Additional tour support provided by Stephanie Gittleman, Karen Roth, and Dorry Segev.

Music Rights Credits

I. The Show

"My Baby Just Cares For Me" by Walter Donaldson and Gus Kahn
Published by Gilbert Keyes Music Company (ASCAP) administered by WC Music Corp.
and by BMG Gold Songs obo Donaldson Publishing Company

"Saint Louis Blues" by W.C. Handy

"5-10-15 Hours" by Rudolph Toombs
Published by Unichappell Music Inc.

"The Big Apple Contest" by L. Norman

" Shiny Stockings" by Frank Foster
Published by Adaken Music

"Jumpin' At The Woodside" by Count Basie
Published by WC Music Corp.

II. The Jam

"I'm Just A Lucky So and So" by Mack David & Duke Ellington
Published by Sony / ATV Harmony and by Universal Polygram Int Publishing, Inc.

"Shout Sister Shout" by Bill Doggett and Lucky Millinder
Published by WC Music Corp.

"Drop Me Off in Harlem" by Duke Ellington and Nick Kenny
Published by EMI Mills Music Inc, Sony / ATV Harmony

"I Don't Wanna Be Kissed (by Anyone Else but You)" by Jack Elliott and Harold Spina
Published by Sony / ATV Harmony and Music Sales Corp.

"Tain't What You Do (It's The Way That You Do It)" by Sy Oliver and James Young
Published by Music Sales Corporation and Embassy Music Corp.

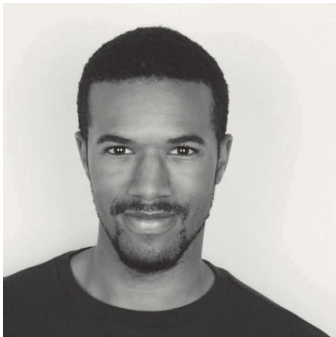
"Chicken an Dumplins" by Ray Bryant
Published by EMI Unart Catalog Inc.

"Bei Mir Bist Du Schon (Means That You're Grand)" by Jacob Jacobs, Sholom Sholem Secunda,
Sammy Cahn, and Saul Chaplin
Published by Estate of Sheldon Secunda and WC Music Corp, and Concord Music Group, Inc. on behalf of Cahn Music Company

Biographies



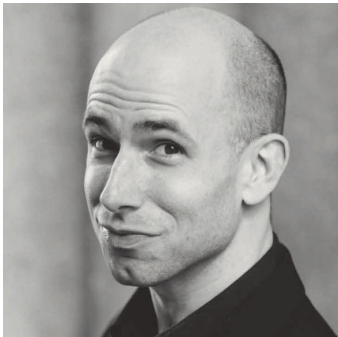
Evita Arce (Braintrust), an internationally renowned Lindy Hop dancer and teacher, began her jazz journey in Austin, Texas (1998). A few career highlights include competing on *So You Think You Can Dance* (2007), “*Let Freedom Swing*” with Jazz at Lincoln Center at the Kennedy Center (2009), performing in *SWING!* the musical (2008-2009), and her Broadway debut beside Caleb Teicher for Regina Spektor’s run at the Lunt-Fontanne Theater (2019). Evita was also featured in the Swing documentary *Alive and Kicking* (2016) which follows her path in the international Lindy Hop community. Co-directing with Michael Jagger, *Syncopated City*, debuted as the first Lindy Hop dance company to present at Jacob’s Pillow Inside/Out Stage (2012-2013). Evita danced for Caleb Teicher & Company having performed in *Meet Ella* and *More Forever*. Over the course of the pandemic Evita has continued to teach Lindy Hop, Charleston and solo Jazz online at syncopatedcity.com. She graduated from UT Austin with a double Bachelor’s degree in Theater & Dance and Film Production. Thanks to her family, especially her husband Simon, her mentors Ryan Francois & Jenny Thomas, the Vanaver Caravan’s training, Mirra & Richard Brockman’s support, Jacky Li for the shoes, and Elena Iannucci & Teddy Kern of *Dance Manhattan* for providing an artistic home for 10 years. And of course huge love to the extraordinary dream team of *SW!NG OUT*.



Brandon Barker (Braintrust, Dancer) is a performing artist who began his journey of dancing at the age of three at the Dance Theatre Harlem with the style of ballet. Following this he dove deeper into movement with modern dance and contemporary styles through grade school. He found a unique release from rigid structure and a freedom of creativity with Lindy Hop. Following this he allowed for this to become his main focus and passion guiding him through his studies to obtain a Bachelor of Fine Arts in dance. He continued to study styles of ballet and modern along with West African, Hip Hop, and House. He is currently exploring the connections between all dances of the african diaspora and their lineage to each other. While having a physical connection of growth to the performing arts he also has an economic connection as well through working to ensure there is financial stability to the arts through his studies to obtain a Bachelor's Degree in Arts Public Policy.



Multi-Bessie award winner **LaTasha Barnes (Braintrust)** is an internationally recognized and celebrated dance artist, insightful educator and Tradition-Bearer of Black American Social Dance. Currently operating between New York and Phoenix, Barnes' expansive artistic, competitive, and performative skills have made her a frequent collaborator to arts organizations around the world including The Kennedy Center for The Performing Arts, Dorrance Dance, Summer Dance Forever (NL) and many others. She is honored to serve as the visionary creator and Artistic Director of the critically acclaimed intergenerational and intercommunal Black cultural arts experience 'The Jazz Continuum'. Her "Continuum" based research serves as a guidepost in her efforts as Associate Prof. Of Dance & Cultural Anthropology on the highly innovative faculty of Arizona State University School of Music, Dance & Theater. Across all communities and positions LaTasha's purpose is to inspire activism through an authentic sense of self and unapologetic joy. Visit www.latashabarnes.com to learn more about her journey, achievements and ways to support her cultural efforts.



Nathan Bugh (Braintrust, Dancer) is one of the world's leading exponents of Lindy Hop and vernacular jazz dance. His on-stage performances include: Carnegie Hall (*Swing Swing Swing w/ New York Pops*), The Apollo Theater (*Swingin' Frankie's Way*), and Jacob's Pillow (*Earthbeat!, More Forever, SW!NG OUT*). His on-screen appearances include *My Fair Wedding, Making Money, Rebel In The Rye*, and *The Weepies Be My Honey Pie*. He co-choreographed Joyce Theater Productions' *SW!NG OUT* and the Gibney commission, *Meet Ella*, both under the direction of Caleb Teicher. An avid social dancer since the late 1990's, Nathan has won many swing contests, with first-place titles for Lindy Hop, Team, Solo, Invitational, Slow Dance, Video Showcase, and Mix/Match divisions of the International Lindy Hop Championships et al. He has taught the Columbia University Swing Club since 2006 and is on the dance faculty at Marymount Manhattan College.

Biographies



Gaby Cook (Dancer) is an esteemed, active professional in the global lindy hop community. For nearly 20 years, she has established her career performing and teaching for major swing dance festivals worldwide. She performed with the Joyce's debut *SWING OUT* cast (2021) and toured through 2021 and 2022. Stage credits include: "Macy's Day Parade Live Broadcast" for Nickelodeon's *Blue's Clues* (2022), "Decades of Dance" at the BET Soultrain Awards (2021), "Don't Mean a Thing" with the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center (2021), "Swingtime: Revolution in Rhythm" with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra (2016) and many appearances in film and TV. As a choreographer, her work has been featured at the Guggenheim "Works & Process", Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, Jacob's Pillow's "Inside/Out Series" and Lincoln Center's Midsummer Night Swing. She regularly advocates for lindy hop in industry dance communities and is consistently "on-call" with university-level programs (past: Julliard, Marymount, NYU, Columbia). Online at @gaby_cook *Gatsby Party* and many appearances at the Rainbow Room at Rockefeller Center. Wild Rhythm is a current dance company in residence at Brooklyn College through the CUNY Dance Initiative program for the 2019-2020 season.



John Lake (Trumpet) is an acclaimed trumpet player and composer based in the vibrant musical scene of New York City. With a career marked by versatility and virtuosity, John is recognized as an in-demand lead trumpet player, jazz soloist, and recording artist. His musical journey has taken him across the United States and abroad, performing at leading venues and collegiate jazz programs. John's acoustic jazz septet released their highly anticipated album "ensemble | in situ" (Bandstand Presents) in early 2024. In addition to his solo work, John has made significant contributions to large ensembles, as both a lead trumpeter and featured soloist, including the Danny Jonokuchi Big Band, Charlie Rosen's Grammy Award-Winning 8-Bit Big Band, Eyal Vilner Big Band, the Steven Feifke Big Band, and Remy Le Boeuf's *Assembly Of Shadows* (Grammy-nominated), among many others.



Julieta Eugenio (Tenor Saxophone) is an Argentinian Saxophonist based in New York city. Julieta embedded herself into the Argentinian jazz scene and performed in renowned jazz venues in Buenos Aires alongside master musicians. In 2013, Julieta was accepted to study at Queens College for a Jazz Master degree in New York City. After her Master Graduation, nowadays, Julieta is playing alongside the finest jazz musicians from the worldwide and New York city jazz scene. Julieta had the opportunity to perform on one of the most prestigious jazz broadcast radios in the US - WBGO. As well as being featured on a piece of ABC7 News nationwide alongside Master Philip Harper. In April 2017, Julieta Eugenio won the International Women in Jazz Competition as a member of the SIJ trio and will perform at the Saint Peter's Church for the IWJ Festival in NYC. Julieta has shared the stage multiple times with the Jazz Legend Johnny O'Neal, where she was featured on his residencies at Smoke Jazz club, Ginny's Super Club, Smalls Jazz club, Mezzrow and more. Over the last years Julieta had the opportunity to perform with prestigious musicians such as , Leon Parker, Joe Farnsworth, Tardo Hammer, Pasquale Grasso, Bertha Hope, Eric Reed, to name a few. In October 2021 Julieta performed at the Joyce Theater in NYC for a 2 weeks residency with the Eyal Vilner Big Band as part of the *SW!NG OUT* performance. December 2021 Julieta performed at the Guggenheim Museum in NYC for the Rotunda Solstice Concert with the Eyal Vilner Big Band. In March 2021 Julieta recorded her debut album *JUMP* on Greenleaf Music, a record label by Dave Douglas. The album, released March 4th 2022, presents her own compositions featuring Jonathan Barber and Matt Dwonszyk. The Julieta Eugenio Trio has won the 2022 DCJazzPrix, an International competition presented by the DC Jazz Fest. Over the year of 2022, Julieta performed with *SW!NG OUT* show, and exciting Joyce Theater production featuring Lindy Hop choreography and improvisation with an on-stage jam session with live music by Eyal Vilner Big Band. The show has been touring all across the US including Los Angeles, Texas, Portland, Ann Arbor, Virginia, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, NYC and more. Julieta has also been presenting her debut Album in NYC with her trio at Dizzy's, Jazz at Lincoln Center Summer Stage, Smalls Jazz Club, Bushnell Park Jazz Festival in CT and some touring presenting the new music in Los Angeles, California performing at Sam First, Just Jazz Series and ETA Highland Park. October 2022 Julieta has been nominated by the Jazz Music Awards for Best new Artist. In 2023 Julieta was nominated by the GRAMMY Magazine as one of the 10 Jazz Emerging Artists to watch in 2023 and also was chosen as semi-finalist of Next Jazz Legacy. The Julieta Eugenio is performing nowadays on main stage Jazz Festivals in the USA and abroad. One of the highlights of this year will be performing at the Kennedy Center with the legendary Dee Dee Bridgewater for the Mary Lou Williams Jazz Festival. This year Julieta's trio performed at The Mid Atlantic Jazz Festival, College Park Jazz Fest, and will be performing at the Elkhart Jazz Festival in Indiana and Washington DC Jazz Festival.

Biographies



Brandon Lee (Trumpet) was born and raised in Houston, TX. Growing up in a musical family, Lee started on piano at age 5 and switched to trumpet at age 9. He found his love for jazz at the early age of 11 years old and never looked back. In 2001, Brandon moved to New York City to further pursue his jazz studies at The Juilliard School, where he received a Bachelor of Music, Masters and Music and Artist Diploma. After studying, Brandon taught at Juilliard as one of the youngest to ever teach on faculty in the jazz studies department, from 2008-12. Brandon then moved to North Carolina from 2013-2018 to pursue a college teaching position for the Miles Davis Studies program at University of North Carolina, Greensboro (UNCG). As a sideman, Brandon is a member of the Christian McBride Big Band, Birdland Big Band, David Berger Big Band and recently joined the Count Basie Orchestra. He also plays frequently with the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, Maria Schneider Orchestra, Fat Cat Big Band, Eyal Vilner Big Band and many others. Over the years, Brandon has played with notable artists and groups including Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, Aaron Diehl and Cecil McLorin Salvant, Kurt Elling, and Kenny Barron Quintet, and many more. He has recorded on over a dozen albums as a sideman. In February 2018, Brandon was awarded his first Grammy as a sideman on Christian McBride's big band album, "Bringin' It". As a leader, Brandon has recorded three albums: "From Within" (2007), "Absolute-Lee" (2010), and his latest, "Common Thread" (2017). Brandon also co-leads a 10-piece ensemble, Uptown Jazz Tentet (UJT). UJT released its first album, "There It Is" in March of 2017 and second album, "What's Next" in October of 2020. Currently, Brandon resides in New York City where he is continuing to pursue more performance-based opportunities in the city and abroad.



Erán Fink (Drums) is originally from Israel, where he attended the Thelma Yellin High School of the Arts. His passion for music and jazz in particular then led him to Berklee College of Music in Boston, where he studied with jazz masters Ralph Peterson Jr., Hal Crook, Bob Gulotti, and Jamie Haddad, among others. Since moving to New York City in 2011, Fink has been active in the jazz, R&B, Ethiopian, and Afro-Cuban music scenes. He is a sought-after accompanist at the city's top dance schools, including the Alvin Ailey School and Martha Graham School.



Saxophonist, composer, arranger, and Managing and Co-Artistic Director of Jazz Lives Philadelphia, **Joshua Lee (Baritone Saxophone)** is fully dedicated to the advancement of the Philadelphia jazz community. Joshua graduated from Temple University in 2016 and 2019 with both a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Jazz Performance. Joshua brings performance experience gained in the trenches of the Philly and New York scene that has been fostered by mentors like Barry Harris, Terell Stafford, Tim Warfield, Dick Oatts, and Gary Smulyan. In June of 2018, Joshua joined the Legendary Count Basie Orchestra and currently performs with them around the world. He also is a regular substitute with groups like Terell Stafford's Jazz Orchestra of Philadelphia, The Mingus Big Band, and Memo Acevedo's Manhattan Bridges Orchestra and has had the privilege to travel around the country with the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, Delfeayo Marsalis, and the Upton Jazz Orchestra, and Orquestra Akokan. He, along with classmate Sarah Leonard, founded Jazz Lives Philadelphia in 2015-its mission being to celebrate Jazz in Philadelphia through Performance, Education, and Community outreach. Since its existence, Jazz Lives Philadelphia has presented music in unconventional venues and given free jazz education master classes for thousands of Philadelphia school children. Joshua has taught Jazz at his high school alma mater Pennsbury since 2017 and joined the Jazz Faculty at Temple University in the fall of 2019.



Tyedric Hill (Dancer) is an artist who specializes in Black American cultural and social dance traditions, currently based in Columbus, Ohio. He began dancing socially, and further developed his practice under the mentorship of legendary dance pioneers, like Chester Whitmore, Sugar Sullivan, Sekou Herou et al. Through international workshops, collaborations, and performance projects, including tenure with "Latasha Barnes presents: The Jazz Continuum," "Paris Jazz Roots," "Herrang Dance Camp," and many others, Tyedric continues to grow as a teacher, artist and tradition bearer. This marks his first appearance in the cast of *SWING OUT*. You can follow his journey on Instagram, @tyedric_hill.



Melanie George (Choreographic Advisor) is the founder and director of Jazz Is... Dance Project and Associate Curator and Director of Artist Initiatives at Jacob's Pillow. As a dramaturg, she has contributed to projects by Raja Feather Kelly, Ephrat Asherie, Susan Marshall & Company, Kimberly Bartosik/daela, LaTasha Barnes, and Urban Bush Women, among others. Melanie is featured in the documentary *UpRooted: The Journey of Jazz Dance* and founded the global advocacy website jazzdancedirect.com. She is the former Dance Program Director at American University, and has guest lectured at Harvard University, the Yale School of Drama, and The Juilliard School.

Biographies



Natasha Shevchenko (Dancer) is a vibrant New York City-based dancer and performer. A first-generation Ukrainian American, born in Los Angeles, California, Natasha began her dance journey at the age of 6, training rigorously in competitive Latin Ballroom. Her early talent quickly gained recognition, landing her appearances on major platforms like *Dancing with the Stars* (Season 4) and PBS's *America's Ballroom Challenge*. Natasha represented Team USA at the prestigious Blackpool Dance Festival in England and danced in the finals of the Open World Latin Championships in Paris, France. It was dance that brought her to New York City, where she discovered swing dancing—and she's never looked back. Since then, she's earned high accolades in this style, securing wins at celebrated events like Camp Hollywood and the California Balboa Classic, with top placements at the International Lindy Hop Championships and The Snowball in Sweden. A dedicated artist and scholar, Natasha also holds both a Bachelor's and Master's degree from New York University. Follow her on IG, TikTok, and YouTube at @NatashasRhythm.



Playing swing music for swing dancers is **Ian Hutchison's (Bass)** passion - he's done it all over the world. His big sound and bouncing pulse make Ian one of the busiest swing and trad jazz bass players in New York City. Ian has played with a virtual who's who in the swing dance world, including Glenn Crytzer, Jonathan Stout, Naomi Uyama, and Gordon Webster. As a skilled social dancer, Ian is in a unique position to teach in-depth yet practical music classes to swing dancers. Ian has taught in NYC, Colorado, and Israel. Ian leads his own swing band Slap Happy; they've played at dance events in Florida, Colorado, NYC, and Canada. Originally from Colorado, Ian enjoys hiking and rock climbing whenever he can make room in his gig schedule. Ian studied jazz bass at the University of Denver.



Jennifer Nicole Jones (Dancer) is a New York City based Dancer. Originally from Akron, Ohio she received a BFA in Dance Performance from Wright State University while performing with Dayton Contemporary Dance Company. Jennifer has performed in many regional and Off Broadway productions.



Born and raised in Nagoya, Japan, **Martha Kato (Piano)** is a pianist, composer and arranger in her blossoming career in New York. Based in New York since 2009, she has performed across the world as a bandleader and collaborator at major venues such as Blue Note, Jazz Standard, Blue Note Tokyo, Cotton Club Japan, The Jazz Gallery, Dizzy's Club, Smoke Jazz & Supper Club and Smalls Jazz Club. Playing in a wide range of styles and instrumentations, she has shared the stage and studio-recording with collaborators including Remy Le Boeuf, Miho Hazama, Takuya Kuroda, Alexis Cuadrado, and Pedro Giraudo. Martha's awards and honors include the ASCAP Foundation Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composer Award and she is a second-place winner of Montreux Jazz Solo Piano Competition in Kawasaki 2014. She was a scholarship recipient of The Juilliard School and The New School, where she studied with Kenny Barron, Kevin Hays, Robert Sadin, Reggie Workman and more. She is on Remy Le Boeuf's Grammy-nominated album "Assembly of Shadows" as a pianist.



Breonna Jordan (Dancer)'s fondest childhood memories are dancing in the kitchen with her siblings to top 40 radio while dinner was being prepared. Cooking, cleaning, roadtrips - music and dance was a part of everyday life. But it wasn't until Breonna moved to New Orleans, where she experienced her first taste of live traditional jazz music, that she realized her affinity for the living art form of jazz dance! She has danced and studied Lindy Hop, along with Vernacular Jazz at many different festivals and workshops around the world. As an emerging New Orleans based dance instructor, she values the connections between music, history, and authentic self expression through movement.



Elena Valencia (Dancer) is a performer, dancer, and proud New Yorker. Constantly inspired by community-building through movement, Elena loves focusing on social and club dance styles such as Lindy Hop, floorwork, and more. Elena trained at Steps on Broadway, completed the Professional Semester at Broadway Dance Center, and taught at Broadway Dance Center Children & Teens. She has furthered her training at Jacob's Pillow, Herrang Dance Camp and Dance Italia as a scholarship recipient. Significant teachers and dance influences include: Nathan Bugh, Michael Jagger, Evita Arce, Samantha Siegel, Brian Lawton, LaTasha Barnes, and Gaby Cook. In NYC, Elena has performed with New York Swings and is a Teaching Artist with the 92NY. Online at @elenaxvalencia

Biographies



Brian Lawton (Dancer) is a dancer, instructor, choreographer, and director. He has an eclectic background in ballet, jazz, and modern as well as Latin and Ballroom dances with a specialty in the vernacular jazz dances of the 1920's-1940's. He has performed on *Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, Shakespeare in the Park's *Comedy of Errors*, with the Red Hot Chili Peppers at Madison Square Garden and in their music video "Go Robot". He was the Choreographer and Resident Director of the *A Charlie Brown Christmas* National Tour and is a Resident Choreographer for Norwegian Cruise Line as well as the Assistant Director/Choreographer of the new musical *Part of the Plan* (TPAC) and the Associate Director of *Distant Thunder* (Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma).



Kelly Martin (Assistant Lighting Designer) is a lighting designer and associate based in New York City. He has lit productions with numerous theatre, opera, and dance organizations, including the Slovak National Theatre, Boston Early Music Festival, Pick Up Performance Co, The Joyce Theater, New York Theatre Ballet, Opera North, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, The Bang Group, Duncan Lyle Dance, Co-Lab Dance, Suffolk University, and MIT. He frequently works with designers both in the city and regionally. Member United Scenic Artists Local 829. Alumnus Boston University.



Rachel Pitner (Dancer) has been dancing all of her life. From dancing down the aisles at the grocery store to performing on stage and everywhere in between. Rachel's life is full of movement and exploring connections. She has performed around the country as a cast member of SW!NG OUT and in other productions including the Disney movie the Haunted Mansion. Rachel has a degree in dance with a focus in Graham-style modern from Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Georgia. Rachel loves dancing, and she loves nurturing her dance community. You can often find her organizing or supporting fellow organizers throughout the Southeast and at various events, but especially at Hot Jam and Atlanta Varsity Showdown (the hometown events that she runs). Rachel loves the personal growth and the exchange of ideas that occurs with partner dancing and the freedom and energy of Lindy Hop and the flow of solo dancing. You'll often see her dancing to the music in her head.



Imani Rousselle (Vocals) is a Texas-born vocalist with a love for interpreting and delivering the message of lyric. Whether jazz standards or contemporary compositions, her voice invites you to follow along as she fills the spaces between the silence with carefully crafted sound. She currently resides in New York City, having graduated from the Manhattan School of Music in the spring of 2021. Prior to moving to NYC, Imani studied at Columbia College Chicago where she obtained her Bachelor's Degree in Voice as well as a double minor in environmental science and management. While in Chicago, she performed on many stages around the city including the legendary Jazz Showcase and The Green Mill, and since moving to New York just before the global shutdown, Imani was able to sing on stages such as the world famous Dizzy's Jazz Club, Clements Place, the Schomburg Center in Harlem, and more. She is excited to be joining the world's audiences again, *safely*.



Born in Mexico City, Mexico, costume designer **Márion Talán de la Rosa (Costume Designer)** has nurtured her work by collaborating with artists and innovators of dance, drama, and opera for over the last two decades. She has been the wardrobe supervisor and designer at the Juilliard School for 15 years, and has designed at NYU Steinhardt School for approximately 13 years in collaboration with Joe Salvatore on plays and research-based performances including the Verbatim Performance Lab (VPL). Her most recent project of note is the GRAMMY nominated *Fire in My Mouth* composed by Julia Wolfe and performed by The New York Philharmonic, The Crossing and the Young People's Choir of NY. This highly acclaimed piece was inspired by the New York Triangle Shirtwaist Fire that took place on March 25, 1911 and was performed with a symbolic 146 women's choir. Other works include collaborations with choreographers Caleb Teicher, Sonya Tayeh and Bryan Arias and has had work featured in Fall for Dance at City Center, BAM Next Wave Festival, Jacob's Pillow, American Dance Festival, The Joyce, The Gibney, The New Victory Theater, the DUMBO Light Festival, and WHITE WAVE Festival among others. Márion is a proud member of United Scenic Artists Local 829.

Biographies



Caleb Teicher (Director, Braintrust, Dancer) is a New York City-based choreographer and performer specializing in musically-driven dance traditions and interdisciplinary work. They've collaborated onstage and in the recording studio with celebrated music artists including Ben Folds, Regina Spektor, Eyal Vilner Big Band, Conrad Tao, Chris Celiz, Nic Gareiss, AJR, and many others. Caleb's concert dance work has been commissioned and presented at prestigious venues including The Joyce Theater, New York City Center, Works & Process at the Guggenheim, The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, and Lincoln Center. Additional choreographic credits include Regina Spektor on Broadway, Sister Aimee (streaming on HBOMax), and AJR's "Bang" music video. Caleb is an Artist in Residence at the American Tap Dance Foundation and the recipient of a 2019 New York City Center Choreographic Fellowship, a 2019 Harkness Promise Award, a 2019 NEFA National Dance Project Production Grant, and two Bessie Awards. IG: @CalebTeicher / www.CalebTeicher.net (photo by Mark Mann)



Eyal Vilner (Braintrust, Band Leader, Alto Saxophone, Flute, Clarinet) is one of the leading voices in the New York swing and big band scene. Born in Tel Aviv, saxophonist, clarinetist, flutist, composer and bandleader Eyal Vilner moved to New York in 2007 and started his big band the following year. The Eyal Vilner Big Band has been performing widely at some of New York's landmarks such as Lincoln Center, Works & Process at the Guggenheim, The Joyce Theater, Birdland, Dizzy's Club, Smalls Jazz Club, Minton's Playhouse, Midsummer Night's Swing, and Central Park SummerStage. Internationally, Eyal has performed on Israel's most prestigious stages such as the Red Sea Jazz Festival, Tel Aviv Museum, Jerusalem Theater, The Tel Aviv Jazz Festival as well as the historical La Bellevilloise, Caveau des Oubliettes and Caveau de la Huchette in Paris, France. The big band performs Eyal's original compositions as well as his new arrangements of jazz classics. Their music, which derives from the tradition of jazz, swing and the blues, strives to bring a unique voice to this beautiful art form. The big band's first six albums: *Introducing the Eyal Vilner Big Band*, *Almost Sunrise*, *Hanukkah*, *SW!NG OUT*, *Live in Washington Square Park!*, and *The Jam!* received rave reviews and made it to the Top Jazz Radio Charts of the US and Canada.



Sean Vitale (Dancer) is a dynamic dancer with a love for jazz music and movement. Sean has been lindy hopping since 2018 and is a prominent member of several NYC based dance troupes including Frankie Manning's legacy troupe, The Big Apple Lindy Hoppers. Sean is grateful to be a part of the 2024 cast of the renowned stage show, *Sw!ng Out*. As a partnered dance specialist, Sean excels at improvisation and has won many partnered improvisation (luck of the draw) competitions throughout the U.S. and Europe. Sean has witnessed the power of dance to both grow community and heal hearts and minds and he wishes to spread that joy for as long as he is able. Beyond his work as a dancer and educator, Sean is a Doctor of Physical Therapy rehabilitating dancers, athletes, and those affected by neurologic conditions such as stroke and Parkinson's disease.



NYC based musician **Ron Wilkins (Trombone)** has been performing on tenor and bass trombones, euphonium, tuba, bass trumpet and jazz vocals for over forty years. He is currently trombonist for the Broadway revival of "Funny Girl", and has played numerous other musicals including "Wicked", "The Lion King", "West Side Story", "Phantom Of The Opera", and many others. Ron has performed at the highest levels touring around the world with his own groups as well as premiere artists, including Ray Charles, Aretha Franklin, Lena Horne, Dizzy Gillespie, Jimmy Heath, Jon Faddis, Eddie Daniels, Randy Brecker, Wycliffe Gordon, and many others. He is the bass trombonist with The Count Basie Orchestra, and tenor trombonist with the Dizzy Gillespie All Star Big Band and the Birdland Big Band. Ron has also performed The Vanguard Jazz Orchestra and The Mingus Big Band, among others. Ron Wilkins plays Greg Black custom mouthpieces and S.E. Shires trombones. He released his latest album, "Ron Wilkins-Trombocalist" (Jazz Legacy Productions) in August 2021. For more listings to purchase Ron's latest album, along with upcoming performances, videos, and educational tips, go to ronwilkins.net



Joseph Wolfslau (Sound Designer) is a set, sound, and costume designer based in Brooklyn. Recent designs include production design for *La Sonnambula* (Promenade Opera), production design for *Magnum Opus: A Retrospective: (The People Movers)*, sound for *The Emperor's Nightingale* (Pan Asian Rep.), sound for *The Peanut Butter Show* (Little Lord), production design for *Cendrillon* (Promenade Opera), sound for *Romulus the Great* (Yangtze Rep.), sound for *Brideshead Obliterated* (Dixon Place), set, sound, and costumes for *410 [Gone]* (Yangtze Rep), sound for *CoIncident (JACK)*, sound for *Ski End* (New Ohio), sound for *CoVenture* (Baryshnikov), and set and costumes for *Poor Sailor* (Tugboat Collective).

Biographies



Sage Green (Lighting Supervisor) (they/he) is a non-binary, genderqueer lighting designer based out of Washington D.C. Theatre: Or, (Constellation Theatre), Dodi and Diana (Mosaic Theater), Lizzie: The Musical (Keegan Theatre), Circus of the Self (Spooky Action Theatre), Trip to Bountiful (Barter Theatre). Associate/Assistant: Little Miss Perfect (Olney Theatre Center), Hedwig and the Angry Inch (Signature Theatre), Figures in a Landscape (The Royal Ballet), Fall for Dance (New York City Center), Dance Africa (Brooklyn Academy of Music). Lighting Supervision: Gallim, Sw!ng Out. Awards: Helen Hayes Lighting Design 2025 (nomination). Education: UNC School of the Arts (2020-Dance, 2024-Lighting Design), American Ballet Theater Lighting Assistant (2023), Kennedy Center Fellowship (2024-2025). www.sagegreenlxdesign.com



Maddie Kunert (Production Stage Manager) (she/her/hers) is a New York City based Production & Stage Manager for Dance. Originally from Warren, Michigan, she received her Bachelor of Arts in Dance from Western Michigan University then transitioned into the field of Dance Production. Current touring projects include Caleb Teicher's SW!NG OUT, Daniil Simkin's Sons of Echo, Johnny Gandelsman's Johnny Loves Johann, and Kwame Daniel's North Star. Previous production stage management includes Paul Taylor Dance Company, Ailey II, Richmond Ballet, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Andrea Miller's GALLIM, Heart of Brick, choreographed by Raja Feather Kelly, and The Center Will Not Hold with Michelle Dorrance & Ephrat Asherie.



serena wong (Lighting Designer) is a Brooklyn-based freelance lighting designer for theater and dance. Her designs have been seen at Lincoln Center, Fall For Dance at City Center, Danspace, and Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, among others in the US and abroad- including, oddly enough, a Celebrity cruise ship. Most recently she has designed for choreographers LaTasha Barnes, Gemma Bond, Caleb Teicher, Leonardo Sandoval, and Bill T. Jones. She enjoys biking, baking, and pottery.

The Prior Performing Arts Center

An uncommon commons for transformative experiences with the arts

Prior Presents

The keystone of the Prior Performing Arts Center's public-facing programming, Prior Presents merges thrilling live events by visiting artists with robust educational and outreach activities. Defined by exceptional artistic quality, interdisciplinary impulses, and the potential to spark both wonder and reflection, this annual series celebrates artistic risk-taking and the exchange of ideas and perspectives from around the globe. Short- and long-term visiting artist residencies include performances, artist talks, installations, workshops, and experiential learning opportunities for Holy Cross students and the greater Worcester community.

The internationally acclaimed artists of current and previous seasons embody our vision for artist residencies at The Prior Performing Arts Center. Their performances and lectures offer an exhilarating complement to the creativity and innovation of emerging student artists and Holy Cross faculty and staff also featured in our season this year.



1) Rhiannon Giddens in concert | Spring 2024; 2) Compagnie Hervé Koubi | Spring 2024

Stay in touch!



Scan to sign up for our email list and stay up to date with announcements and upcoming events from The Prior Performing Arts Center.

Upcoming Prior Presents Events



yMusic

yMusic is a genre-leading American chamber ensemble renowned for its innovative and collaborative spirit. Praised by NPR Music as “deeply, profoundly skilled,” yMusic has been tapped to lend their orchestral sound and instantly-recognizable style to recordings and concert projects by a dizzying array of popular artists from John Legend to Paul Simon.

Mar 29 @ 6 p.m. | Tickets \$35 | \$45 | \$55

Currently at the Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Art Gallery



Impetus: Visual Arts Faculty 2026

The faculty of the Studio Art program at Holy Cross are fundamental to the student creative experience. In addition to teaching and mentoring, these faculty members maintain a vibrant studio practice outside of the classroom and conduct scholarly research in areas ranging from the environment, feminism, the spectacle of religion, the body, memory and consumerism. Featuring work by Rachelle Beaudoin, John Carney, Marcus Clarke, Hilary Doyle, Colleen Fitzgerald, Matthew Gamber, Anna McNeary, Victor Pacheco, Cristi Rinklin, and Leslie Schomp.

On view now through Apr 8

Cantor Window Exhibition

Visit *Mind Touch Touch Touch* (2025, digital print of charcoal drawing), a mural by Christine Sun Kim in the Window Exhibition at the Cantor Art Gallery!

Repetition and iteration define Christine Sun Kim’s work, which distinctly incorporates the visual representation of sign language. This mural was made exclusively for the Cantor’s front window and comes from a body of work that combines text and graphic representations of signs in American Sign Language (ASL). Here, Kim depicts the arc of the hand movement in the sign *obsess*, which is a compound formed by the signs for *mind* and *touch*.

On view now through Apr 8



Scan to purchase tickets and learn more about our schedule of upcoming presentations.

Upcoming Events from the Arts Ecosystem at Holy Cross

Faculty Recital: *Rhythms of Spring*

DEPARTMENTS OF MUSIC AND THEATRE & DANCE. Faculty pianists Sonya Ovrutsky Fensome, Matthew Jaskot and Ulysses Loken join forces with The Diamonds, a faculty dance group led by Jimena Bermejo, to present an invigorating program of music for two pianos and dance.

Mar 21 @ 7 p.m.

Bradford Chin: Distinguished Visiting Practitioner Residency

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & DANCE. Bradford Chin is a disabled dance artist and educator whose work focuses on disability justice, accessibility in the arts, and critically inclusive pedagogy. During this residency, Chin will engage with students, faculty, and staff through classes, conversations and public events at Holy Cross.

Mar 26-27

Working Writers Series: Diannely Antigua & Philip Metres

CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAM. Join us for a Working Writers Series poetry reading and Q&A with poets Diannely Antigua & Philip Metres, presented by the Creative Writing Program at Holy Cross.

Mar 26 @ 7:30 p.m.

Holy Cross College Choir: *Hymns of Earth and Angels*

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC. This program for choir, orchestra and soloists features the vibrant Baroque classic *Gloria* by Antonio Vivaldi as well as arrangements of celebrated hymn settings by American composers.

Mar 27 @ 7:30 p.m.

Curiouser & Curiouser

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & DANCE. In *Curiouser & Curiouser*, inspired by *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking-Glass* by Lewis Carroll, creator and director Lynn Kremer collaborates with Balinese artists for an evening that is sure to charm audiences of all ages.

Apr 16-26

Spring Dance Concert

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & DANCE. The highly anticipated annual dance concert grows in variety and excitement with the addition of hip-hop, breaking, Afro-Haitian dance and Broadway dance styles to a repertoire featuring contemporary dance and ballet.

Apr 30 @ 7 & 9 p.m.



Scan to purchase tickets and learn more about our schedule of upcoming presentations.

The Prior Performing Arts Center thanks **Jacob's Pillow** for their support of this presentation.

Prior Performing Arts Center Staff

Jeffrey de Caen, *Nancy Savage Skinner '79* Director

ARTIST & ENGAGEMENT EXPERIENCE

Marta Beyer, Manager of Artistic & Engagement Initiatives

Morgan Fitzpatrick, Office Coordinator

PRODUCTION SERVICES

Brenda Shepard, Manager of Production

Elliot Cetinski, Production Technician

Matthew Freije, Pro Audio/Video Supervisor

Charlie Glaudini, Pro Audio/Video Technician

Christine Goguen, Costume Shop Manager

Stephen McGonagle, Technical Director

Judi Olson, Costume Shop Assistant

Mason Parece, Production Technician

Betsy Pierce, Assistant Technical Director

GUEST EXPERIENCE & OPERATIONS

Katrina Lewonczyk, Manager of Operations & Administration

Ethan Bates, Arts Marketing & Communications Manager

Evan Crocker, Event & Front of House Manager

Morgan Fitzpatrick, Office Coordinator

STUDENT STAFF

Students play a crucial role in the operation of the Prior Performing Arts Center, working as Production Assistants, Front of House Assistants, and more: Adele Feldberg, Alyshia Solomon, Andrea Gomez, Angela Almanza, Anna Rowley, Brigit O'Connell, Camila Müller-Juez, Elise O'Neill, Emily Fox, Emma Buchanan, Frank Amuso, Gabriellie De Gouveia, Gracie Lopez, Jamie Schmid, Jazmin Lopez, Kiera Ryan, Laurel Deneen, Maya Pinto, Morgan Kane, Nadia Frempong, Natalia Salinas, Rose Knoll, Sophia Rowley, Adelaide Abstoss, Alejandro Irizarry, Alexa Rodriguez Villatoro, Atiya Woolman, Billy Suter, Brandon Curtis, Daniel Hickey, Eliza Simpson, Emelia Jones, Emily Karlson, Emma Butler, Fiona Nelson, Gail Durkin, Gracyn Epstein, Irene Mandile, Jake Sidell, Joshua Love, Julia Divine, Katelyn Murphy, Lee (Leah) Varela, Lily Jaramillo, Luis Ramirez, Margaret DeWald, Maxim Tereshchenko, Melina Valencia, Meredith Brady, Meredith Shaw, Natalie Gasowski, Nevaeh Fleming, Osmaly Bonilla, Paige Thomson, Phoebe Wong, Piper Guiney, Savannah Rhodes, Scarlett Dawson, Sebastian Torres, Sofia Corvo, Solar (Ciara) Bello, Sophia Tran, Sophia Suffoletto, Sophie Sundaram, Vivian Higgins, Xiaoyi Wang, Yasmin Fernandez

Holy Cross

PRIOR