

**SMOOTH
AND SMART...
RODGERS & HART**



A collaboration between:



**THE
MUSICAL
THEATER
PROJECT**

**Saturday, January 27, 2024, 7:30 p.m.
Maltz Performing Arts Center**

LEARN. LAUGH. CRY. LOVE.



CLEVELAND JAZZ ORCHESTRA (Co-Producer)

The CJO's mission is to increase awareness and appreciation of jazz by engaging the community with original music, exceptional performances, and inspirational educational programming. For 39 years, the CJO has provided Northeast Ohio with a homegrown, internationally respected jazz experience, featuring the finest jazz performers and educators in the region. CJO concerts are unique events, with renowned guest artists, inventive themes, and music created specifically for the ensemble. All members are both master musicians and educators, facilitating the CJO's role as the most active jazz education force regionally. For nearly four decades, the CJO has been a key cultural presence in Northeast Ohio, seeking to engage, educate, and enlighten the communities of Cleveland and surrounding suburbs.



THE MUSICAL THEATER PROJECT (Co-Producer)

was formed in 1998. Its programs celebrate, preserve and honor the songs and tradition of the 20th-century classic American musical, guiding participants in learning about and making personal connections with the art form. Through its concert and cabaret series, *The Song Is You!* (this concert is an example) and its school program, *Kids Love Musicals!*, TMTP serves 10,000 Northeast Ohioans each year. The organization also reaches more than 100,000 listeners annually through the WCLV radio program *Footlight Parade*, and thousands more through the program's national distribution on public radio stations and SiriusXM Satellite Radio. For more information, visit www.MusicalTheaterProject.org or call 216-860-1518.



PAUL FERGUSON

(Co-Host, Arranger, Trombone), artistic director of Cleveland Jazz Orchestra, has performed with and arranged music for CJO since 1988. A graduate of Eastman

School of Music, Paul has toured extensively with the Glenn Miller and Tommy Dorsey Orchestras. Along the way, he has also performed with The Cleveland Orchestra and Apollo's Fire, and has backed up many performers including Tony Bennett, Sarah Vaughan, Andy Williams, Mel Tormé, and others too numerous to mention. Paul was the winner of the Gil Evans Fellowship in Jazz Composition in 1995 and was the sole American invited to ART-EZ jazz composition contest in Enschede, Holland, in 2012. He has recorded eight CDs of his work, including *Big Band Christmas*, *Rays of Light*, and *Encounter*. Paul has been an instructor of jazz studies at CWRU since 1988.



BILL RUDMAN (Writer

and Co-Host), the founder and artistic director of The Musical Theater Project, is a nationally recognized authority on the American musical. His

radio program, *Footlight*

Parade, is heard locally on WCLV 90.3 and coast-to-coast on 100 other public stations, and on SiriusXM Satellite Radio (under the title *On the Aisle*). Bill has created more than 120 concerts and cabarets for TMTP's *The Song Is You!* and *Rendezvous* series and has produced recordings of classic American theater and film songs featuring such vocalists as Peggy Lee and Maxine Sullivan. His recent release on the TMTP/Harbinger Records label is "You Are Tomorrow: Rare Songs by Harold Arlen and Martin Charnin," featuring two-time Grammy Award winner Sylvia McNair and pianist Kevin Cole. In 2000 Bill became the first recipient of the Robert P. Bergman Award for his work in arts education and community outreach.



**Cleveland Jazz Orchestra and
The Musical Theater Project present:**

**SMOOTH
AND SMART...
RODGERS & HART**



**January 27, 2024
7:30 p.m.
Maltz Performing Arts
Center**

**Hosted by BILL RUDMAN and PAUL FERGUSON
Conceived and written by BILL RUDMAN**

**Featuring
MEMBERS OF CLEVELAND JAZZ ORCHESTRA
and THE JOE HUNTER TRIO**

Vocalists MICHAEL SHIRTZ and EVELYN WRIGHT

**Production Manager & Lighting Designer
JEREMY K. BENJAMIN**

Sound Designer ERIC SIMNA

**This concert is made possible by a generous gift from Richard Pogue,
with the support of Ohio Arts Council and Cuyahoga Arts & Culture.**

TRI-C® PERFORMING ARTS

2023-2024 SEASON



PHILADANCO!

Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023
7:30 p.m. | Mimi Ohio Theatre



A Tribute to Ruth Brown

Thursday,
Nov. 16, 2023
7 p.m.
Tri-C Metro Auditorium



Paul Taylor Dance Company

Saturday,
Jan. 20, 2024
7:30 p.m.
Mimi Ohio Theatre



Christian McBride, *The Movement Revisited*

Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024
7:30 p.m.
Maltz Performing Arts Center



Sean Jones "Dizzy Spellz"

Friday, April 5, 2024
7:30 p.m.
Tri-C Metro Auditorium



The Legendary Count Basie Orchestra

directed by
Scotty Barnhart
Wednesday
March 27, 2024
7:30 p.m.
Tri-C Metro Auditorium



For more information, scan QR code
or visit tri-c.edu/tricpresents.



Question: what kind of concert is this?

Unique. If this is your first experience with a partnership between Cleveland Jazz Orchestra and The Musical Theater Project, we want to tell you what you're in for.

We're going to present a number of great songs by composer Richard Rodgers and his first lyricist-partner, Lorenz Hart, going back more than 100 years and including many standards that all of us know—but we're going to do a lot more than that.

In each of our concerts, which feature terrific vocalists, we tell a kind of "story" (in this case Rodgers & Hart's) that we hope will help you enjoy the songs even more. We tell that story through the spoken word delivered by the two of us and the singers—and with video clips, audio clips, more than 100 still images and very attractive lighting.

It takes about four months to put one of these shows together, but our goal is to make it look so easy that you'll truly relax with us. We can't think of anybody else in America who does exactly what we do. We're proud of that.

But one thing about "uniqueness": You can't be all things to all people. We've built an extraordinarily large audience for our collaborations, and we hope that if you're a first-timer, you'll come back next year. But if what the two of us do is not your cup of tea, that's OK, too.

The important that is that we are all joined together right now to share (as Rodgers & Hammerstein put it) "Something Wonderful."

Can you think of a better way to spend two hours?

–Bill Rudman and Paul Ferguson



"Our Huckleberry Friend: The Lyrics of Johnny Mercer," CJO/TMTP 2023 (photo credit: Doug Klein)

All programs and artists are subject to change without notice.



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A Night in Hollywood

Sat., 10/21/23 - 8pm - Severance



Music from your favorite blockbuster movies including Star Wars, Indiana Jones, Little Mermaid, Beauty and the Beast, Titanic and more.

A Mediterranean Cruise

Sat., 11/18/23 - 8pm - Severance



A stay-cation with the Pops! Enjoy the enchanting sounds of France, Italy, Spain, and Greece with French songstress Gay Marshall.

Holiday Cheer!

Sun., 11/26/23 - 2pm - Connor Palace



Making spirits bright with this annual concert featuring the Pops Chorus, Dancing Santas, adoptable shelter pets and more holiday magic!

New Years Eve: Concert & Party

Sun., 12/31/23 - 9pm - Severance



End 2023 with song and dance. After the concert, enjoy a cash bar as you dance the night (and year!) away and count down to the midnight balloon drop.

A Tribute to the Beatles

Sat., 2/3/24 - 8pm - Severance



Celebrating 60 years of the Beatles! Hear music from the early days through the solo years performed by the Pops and Classical Mystery Tour, four musicians who sound and look just like the Beatles.

Champagne & Shamrocks

Fri., 3/1/24 - 8pm - Severance



Kick off March with the songs and dances of Ireland featuring Cleveland's own Murphy's Irish Dancers and vocalist Connor Bogart O'Brien.

Broadway Rocks

Fri., 4/12/24 - 8pm - Severance



Shining the spotlight on musical theatre as Broadway vocalists perform selections from shows including Wicked, The Book of Mormon, Hairspray, Rent, The Wiz and more.

A Tribute to our Armed Forces

Sat., 6/1/24 - 8pm - Severance



Saluting our heroes with stirring patriotic music and a special tribute to NASA featuring videos from space flights, furnished by NASA Glenn in Cleveland.

For more information, visit: ClevelandPops.com

M U S I C A L N U M B E R S

All music by Richard Rodgers (1902-1979); lyrics by Lorenz Hart (1895-1943)

ACT ONE

This Can't Be Love
(from *The Boys from Syracuse*,
1938)

Any Old Place with You
(from *A Lonely Romeo*, 1919)

Manhattan
(from *The Garrick Gaieties*, 1925)

Mountain Greenery
(from *The Second Garrick
Gaieties*, 1926)

Here in My Arms
(from *Dearest Enemy*, 1926)

You Took Advantage of Me
(from *Present Arms*, 1928)

The Girl Friend
(from *The Girl Friend*, 1926;
Richard Rodgers, piano)

Thou Swell
(from *A Connecticut Yankee*,
1927)

My Heart Stood Still
(from *A Connecticut Yankee*)

A Ship Without a Sail
(from *Heads Up*, 1929)

This Funny World
(from *Simple Simon*, 1929)

Dancing on the Ceiling
(from *Evergreen*, 1930)

15 Minute Intermission

ACT TWO

With a Song in My Heart
(from *Spring Is Here*, 1929)

Mimi
(from *Love Me Tonight*, 1932)

The Most Beautiful Girl
in the World
(from *Jumbo*, 1935)

Excerpt from Slaughter
on 10th Avenue
(from *On Your Toes*, 1936)

Glad to Be Unhappy
(from *On Your Toes*)

Where or When
(from *Babes in Arms*, 1937)

The Lady Is a Tramp
(from *Babes in Arms*)

You Have Cast Your
Shadow on the Sea
(from *The Boys from Syracuse*,
1938)

I Like to Recognize the Tune
(from *Too Many Girls*, 1939)

It Never Entered My Mind
(from *Higher and Higher*, 1940)

Plant You Now, Dig You Later
(from *Pal Joey*, 1940)

Bewitched
(from *Pal Joey*)

Wait Till You See Her
(from *By Jupiter*, 1942)

FEATURED VOCALISTS

EVELYN WRIGHT

(Vocalist) has been a professional vocalist for over 40 years who revels in the styles of jazz, R&B and popular standards such as tonight's concert of Rodgers & Hart.



Evelyn has toured throughout the United States and Canada, performing in top clubs and concert halls. She has opened for the likes of Mel Tormé, Joan Rivers, Harry Belafonte, Bob James and David "Fathead" Newman, and performed for First Lady Rosalyn Carter, Oprah Winfrey and General Colin Powell. In 2008 Evelyn was given the Jazz Legend Award from Tri-C Community College. She loves performing with Cleveland Jazz Orchestra and The Musical Theater Project.

MICHAEL SHIRTZ

(Vocalist), a credited "songsmith," scat-singer and performer, is known for his versatility with contemporary and musical theater audiences. Michael has worked with



such artists as Melissa Manchester, Elizabeth Von Trapp and Ellen Winters, and serves as music director/producer for Maureen McGovern. After a decade's break from performing, he returned to the stage in 2014 with the shows *As I've Learned It*, *In Finding Faith* and his album and show, *Blue Skies*. As a composer he writes for jazz, theater, choirs and musical narratives such as *Gift of a Generation* and *To Rise Above: The Journey of Harold Brown*. Michael is an active clinician and presenter, leads the Michael Shirtz Quartet, conducts and teaches with the Firelands Symphony Chorale and the Heidelberg University School of Music and Theater, and is with Tri-C JazzFest Cleveland.

MEMBERS OF TMTP'S COMPANY

JOE HUNTER

(Associate Music Director and Pianist) has been a featured attraction of TMTP's *The Song Is You!* series since it began in 2002. Joe has played piano professionally since 1979, and his versatility has garnered him work with an array of artists. In 1981 he studied in Rio de Janeiro at the Universidade Gama Filho, which fueled his passion for Brazilian music. From 1992-97 he served on the Conservatory of Music faculty at Capitol University in Columbus. Joe has performed with many national artists, including Conti Condoli, Tito Puente, Scott Hamilton, and Cleveland's Ernie Krivda.



HOLBROOK RILES III

(Drums) is a drummer/producer from Mansfield. His interest for drums was sparked at age 9 and continued through his school years, attending the University of Akron for five years, where he developed his love for jazz, electronic, hip hop, world and classical music. He has been involved in national/worldwide tours with organizations including the Glenn Miller Orchestra and the American Queen Steamboat Co. He performs with groups such as Free Black!, Red Light Roxy, JT's Elektrik Blackout and Jul Big Green. Holbrook has also launched his own instrumental hip hop project under the moniker HR3, creating a soundscape of soulful beats for emcees and musicians to express themselves.



MEMBERS OF TMTP'S COMPANY (cont.)

BARBARA VITCOSKY

(Director of Development and Marketing), prior to joining The Musical Theater Project, served for nine years as director of development for the Wilderness Center, a nonprofit nature center located in Wilmot, Ohio. She has more than 25 years of fund development and marketing communications experience in organizations such as the American Red Cross Santa Clara Valley Chapter, Humane Society Silicon Valley and Junior Achievement of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Barbara was born and raised in Northeast Pennsylvania and lived in the California Bay Area, but for the past 12 years has made her home in Wooster, Ohio. She brings with her a lifelong appreciation of the arts and is especially delighted to be rekindling her love of musical theater.



JEREMY K. BENJAMIN (Production Manager/Lighting Designer) has spent the last 36 years designing lighting for drama, opera, musical theater, dance, cabaret and theme parks. He has designed for Cincinnati's College Conservatory of Music, Cleveland Institute of Music Opera Department, Cleveland Metropolitan School District, Dancing Wheels, Great Lakes Theater, Lyric Opera Cleveland, Oberlin Opera Theatre and Department of Theatre and Dance, Ohio Dance Theatre, Opera Cleveland, Pointe of Departure, Stages Repertory Theatre and Verb Ballets. Jeremy currently serves as director of theater/production manager/technical director at Lorain County Community College.

ERIC SIMNA (Sound Designer)



THE MUSICAL THEATER PROJECT

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Info@musicaltheaterproject.org

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MEMBERS OF CLEVELAND JAZZ ORCHESTRA

CHRIS BURGE

(Saxophone) began his musical career at the Ohio State University, where he studied saxophone and music theory with Gene Walker and Hank Marr, graduating with a Bachelor of Music in Jazz Performance in 1997. During that time, Christopher toured Thailand with free-jazz group Honk, Wail and Moan, toured Europe with the OSU Jazz Ensemble, played on a USO tour of maximum-security prisons, and played concerts with Barry White, Louie Bellson, Stanley Turrentine, The National Black Music Caucus Big Band, and the Stars of the Lawrence Welk Show. Since moving to Cleveland in 1998, Christopher has played with internationally known artists Gino Vannelli, David Sandborn, Cyndi Lauper, Mavis Staples, Ronnie Spector, Clark Terry, David "Fathead" Newman, "Little" Jimmy Scott, Bobby Caldwell, Benny Golson, Eddie Holman, Nancy Wilson, Diane Marino, Cleveland Jazz Orchestra, Jazz Heritage Orchestra, Ernie Krivda and the Fat Tuesday Big Band, The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame house band, and area musicians such as Evelyn Wright, Helen Welch, Joe Hunter, Joe Bell, Sammy DeLeon, Dave Sterner, Ray Porrello, and Bill Ransom. Christopher is also active in the recording studio, playing saxophone, flute and clarinet for American Greetings e-cards, and he wrote and performed the theme song of the WVIZ-PBS TV show, Applause. Currently, Christopher teaches saxophone at Skyline Music in Westlake, Ohio, and performs with his own trio and the blues-swing band Blue Lunch, which has just released its 8th CD, *Above the Fold*, on RipCat Records.



Maneri, Dan Wall, Jamey Haddad, Joshua Breakstone, Howie Smith, Andrew Waggoner, and many others. Aidan is the jazz bass instructor at Kent State University and he is a frequent adjudicator and clinician at jazz festivals in the region. Aidan can be heard on NPR's *Jazz Night in America* with Joe Lovano ("Cleveland's Joe Lovano Comes Home"), on Collage Project's *Off Brand*, and on Dan Bruce's Beta Collective's *Time to Mind the Mystics*. Aidan is also a member of the Third Law Composers Collective where many of his compositions are featured. Many of his compositions and arrangements can also be heard performed by the Cleveland Jazz Orchestra. Along with being a member of the Cleveland Jazz Orchestra, Aidan co-leads the quartet Pulse and serves as the bassist for Jazzworks. Aidan can also be seen in ongoing collaborations with guitarist Daniel Lippel. Aidan graduated from Cleveland State University with a BS in Biology. He is currently completing his MM in Jazz Studies under the guidance of Dave Morgan. Aidan also studied classical bass with Kevin Switalski, who is recently retired from the Cleveland Orchestra.



JACK SCHANTZ

(Trumpet), former Artistic Director of the CJO, is the director of Jazz Studies at The University of Akron. Jack has toured with Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, Glenn Miller Orchestra, Artie Shaw Orchestra, and Woody Herman. He has also worked in the pickup bands of Jimmy Dorsey, Larry Elgart, and Guy Lombardo. Among shows he has worked: *Miss Saigon*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, *The Color Purple*, and *The Sound of Music*. He also has



AIDAN PLANK (Bass) is a highly sought after bassist in the Cleveland/Akron region. He has performed with Joe Lovano, The Cleveland Orchestra, John Fedchock, Joe

MEMBERS OF CLEVELAND JAZZ ORCHESTRA

performed with artists such as Mel Tormé, Sarah Vaughan, Tony Bennett, Cleo Laine, Jack Jones, Nancy Wilson, and Diane Schuur. He has played trumpet and flugelhorn with Cleveland Pops, Blossom Festival Orchestra and Band, and Akron Symphony.

GEORGE SHERNIT

(Personnel/Librarian, Baritone Saxophone) has performed with the Cleveland Jazz Orchestra and the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra. He also has worked numerous Broadway shows and is featured on records by CJO, The Cleveland Orchestra, and Cleveland Symphonic Winds. Shernit earned a bachelor of arts degree in music theory and composition, as well as a master's degree in performance, from Cleveland State University. Shernit has taught at Cleveland State, Case Western Reserve University, Ashland University, The University of Akron, and Muskegon University. A charter member of CJO, he also is the band's personnel manager. He is a district sales manager with Jupiter Band Instruments.



BRAD WAGNER (Alto Saxophone) was born in Akron, Ohio. In June of 2003, Brad competed his B.M. in Jazz Studies from the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music.



Brad has studied with Rick VanMatre, Brad Goode, Phil DeGreg, John Von Ohlen, Marc Fields, Steve Wendelken, and others. Brad has been a member of many groups including a quartet called Pulse, The Cincinnati Contemporary Jazz Orchestra, Ernie Krivda at the Fat Tuesday Big Band, Bobby Selvaggio's Hendetet Jazz Collective, Moustache Yourself, Dan Bruce's Beta Collective, Sam Blakeslee's Large Group, Third Law Composers Collective, and more. He currently plays lead alto saxophone with the Cleveland Jazz Orchestra. Brad can be heard playing soprano, alto, tenor, and bari saxophones, clarinet, bass clarinet, flute, piccolo, alto flute, and the Roland AE10. Brad leads his own groups, including a big band, and stays busy composing and arranging for various groups and projects. Visit his website at www.bradwagner.net

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Holly's High Notes

The Holly Hofmann Lesson Program

Through the generosity of Jeanne Lyons, and other CJO donors, this program creates an opportunity for Middle School aged children in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District to receive private lessons from a CJO instructor.



2023 - 2024
HOME & AWAY
at the Maltz Performing Arts Center



FRIDAY, MARCH 15



FRIDAY, APRIL 26



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MEMBERS OF CLEVELAND JAZZ ORCHESTRA (cont)

SCOTT GARLOCK

(Executive Director, Trombone) is a full professor of Music at Ashland University. He has a degree in music education from Kent State University, two master's degrees from the University of Akron (music performance and music history), and a doctorate from the University of Iowa. In addition to teaching for over five years in the public schools, Scott has also taught at Mount Union College and at Knox College. Scott was cited by Benny Green at the Notre Dame Jazz Festival for his "positive leadership." He is also a member of the Cleveland Pops Orchestra and Mansfield Symphony Orchestra. Scott served as president of Ohio's chapter of IAJE and of JECCO, which he helped to create.



THERESA LESH

(Managing Director) has been with the CJO since 2019. Prior to joining the Cleveland Jazz Orchestra, and the non-profit world, she spent fourteen years at American Greetings, working on the Product Development of various card lines, including Recycled Paper Greetings. She brings with her to the CJO a background of marketing analysis, product research and development, and creative experience in both design and copy. She has a BA in Modern Foreign Languages from Kenyon College, and also a background in fashion design from Kent State University. A native of Cleveland, she has always loved the region's rich art and culture scene, and is delighted to be a part of it with the CJO.



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Lloyd and Lois Bell
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Chorus (cont)

Joan Cecil
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Chorus (cont)

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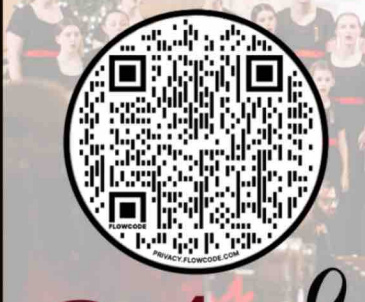
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