



**CHANDLER  
CENTER**  
FOR THE ARTS



## PROGRAM

BRIAN MCKNIGHT

HOORAY FOR  
HOLLYWOOD

DIAMOND: SONGS OF  
NEIL DIAMOND

BONEY JAMES

VOL. XXXV  
ISSUE 4

CELEBRATE  
**35**  
YEARS



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The arts celebrate culture and enrich our lives. A vibrant arts community is a key indicator of a thriving economy. That's why SRP is proud to support organizations like Chandler Center for the Arts that are committed to unifying our region through creativity, innovation and shared experiences that connect us all.

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## CHANDLER CULTURAL FOUNDATION

Dynamic leaders, loyal supporters and visionaries describe the Board members of Chandler Cultural Foundation. The Chandler Cultural Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit corporation established in 1989 to program and raise funds for the Center's artistic and outreach programs. Ticket sales and other earned income cover only part of the Center's programming expenses, which means that the Chandler Cultural Foundation's fundraising efforts play a vital role in delivering quality arts programs at an affordable cost to the public.

### Board of Directors

- Julia Marreel, *Chair*
- Latricia Woods, *Vice-Chair*
- Sherida McMullan, *Treasurer*
- Erika Castro, *Secretary*
- Susan Baker
- Peppur Chambers
- Jeanne Forbis
- Mike Halle
- Chris McMullan
- Jyoti Pathak
- Jennifer Sanchez
- Ellie Watland
- David M. Woodruff
- Mari Jo Woolf-Whitaker
- Candy Yu

### Emeritus Board Members

- Steena Murray
- Linda Yarbrough

# WELCOME TO CHANDLER CENTER FOR THE ARTS!



On behalf of the staff and volunteers of the CCA, welcome to Chandler Center for the Arts. We are delighted to have you join us for our 35<sup>th</sup> Season! It is an honor to serve you in Downtown Chandler's premier arts and entertainment destination. We are committed to creating a welcoming experience for all. Should you

have any feedback regarding your visit to the CCA, please feel free to share it with one of our staff members or volunteers.

This season features a diverse array of artists and musical talents. I am particularly enthusiastic about the theatrical performances. Literature to Life's new production offers a fresh perspective on F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic, *The Great Gatsby*. A musical biography about Aretha Franklin, appropriately titled "R.E.S.P.E.C.T" will captivate even the most devoted fans of her music. These, along with other dynamic performances such as *STOMP*, *Syncopated Ladies*, and *The Wizard of OZ* will all take to the Steena Murray Mainstage this season.

This exceptional season is made possible by your generous support through ticket purchases, memberships, and donations. Your contribution enables us to provide free arts experiences to over 15,000 families, seniors, and veterans each year. We invite you to consider making a deeper investment to your local arts center by visiting [chandlercenter.org/donate](http://chandlercenter.org/donate). Now, as we dim the house lights, please sit back and enjoy the show. It is showtime!

With gratitude,

**Michelle MacLennan**

*General Manager, Chandler Center for the Arts*

# OUR IMPACT

In the **2023-2024 SEASON**, the Chandler Center for the Arts had the following impact on our community.

**8,666** young people were reached with performing and visual arts programs through Connecting Kids.

**160,000** patrons experienced the arts through diverse programming

**3,000** individuals and families attended with free admission to ticketed performances

**3,000** creative workers engaged on a creative basis

**9,300** community members attended free concerts

**1,300** tickets were provided to veterans, active duty members & their families

**138** volunteers donated **7,063** hours of their time to CCA



## WELCOME

On behalf of the City of Chandler, thank you for choosing Chandler Center for the Arts. Chandler Center for the Arts is a cornerstone in our community, offering a myriad of distinct entertainment options and conveniently located in Chandler's vibrant Downtown. I am confident you will have an unforgettable experience. The diversity that makes our community unique is showcased and celebrated through the programs the CCA presents.

The 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season promises an eclectic mix of performances, featuring renowned artists like Bobby Rush, Boney James and Syncopated Ladies. The season also includes performances by The Texas Tenors, the highest-ranking vocal group in the history of *America's Got Talent*, and DRUMLine Live, showcasing the electrifying marching bands from Historically Black Colleges and Universities, among others.

Chandler Center for the Arts is dedicated to providing outstanding customer service and delivering some of the best entertainment in the Valley. Enjoy the performance; we look forward to welcoming you back soon.

**Mayor Kevin Hartke**  
City of Chandler



### CHANDLER CITY COUNCIL

**Front row, from left:** Councilmember Jane Poston, Councilmember Angel Encinas, Councilmember Matt Orlando, Councilmember Christine Ellis. **Back row, from left:** Vice Mayor OD Harris, Mayor Kevin Hartke, Councilmember Mark Stewart.



### CHANDLER CULTURAL FOUNDATION

**Back row, from left:** David Woodruff, Christopher McMullan, Michelle Mac Lennan  
**Front row, from left:** Jennifer Sanchez, Julia Marreel, Mari Jo Woolf-Whitaker, LaTricia Woods, Susan Baker, Terri Rettig, Erika Castro, Peppur Chambers, Sherida McMullan  
**Not pictured:** Mike Halle, Candy Yu, Jeanne Forbis, Ellie Watland and Jyoti Pathak



**CHANDLER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (CUSD) GOVERNING BOARD**



## A Distinct Performing Arts Center

Chandler Center for the Arts serves as a leader and one of the most collaborative multi-theatre performing and visual arts facilities in the country. Through a partnership between the City of Chandler, the nonprofit Chandler Cultural Foundation and Chandler Unified School District, Chandler Center for the Arts is the central space for Chandler's cultural activities. Serving a diverse community comprised of many ages, backgrounds and interests, the Center presents outstanding performances, exhibitions and events for the public each weekend, while providing a state-of-the-art facility for Chandler's students to use for their arts curriculum and school performances during the week.

The Chandler Cultural Foundation, which was formed upon the Center's opening in 1989, oversees all artistic programming and operations, and provides fiscal oversight for the Chandler Center for the Arts on behalf of the city.

The Chandler Cultural Foundation is comprised of 15 board members; all of whom are appointed by the Mayor. The members review and approve proposed management policies of the CCA, as well as review the budgets of the CCA's operating and endowment funds.

# THANK YOU

## TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

### DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE

\$50,000 - \$99,999

Ruth McCormick Tankersley Charitable Trust  
Steena Murray

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## Jerry Brooks Legacy Society

Mayor of Chandler from 1984-1988, Jerry Brooks was a visionary leader, dedicated to the cultural life of Chandler. In his honor, the Chandler Cultural Foundation established the Jerry Brooks Legacy Society. Those who give to the Legacy Society are dedicated to ensuring a lasting foundation of support for Chandler Center for the Arts, in keeping with Jerry's vision for a strong cultural center for Chandler and its residents.

Harriet Rickert Barnes  
Sheila & Jerry Brooks  
Anne & Brad Froude  
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Steena Murray  
Mariann & Craig Shields

List of supporters as of November 5, 2024

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# BIG TWO TOYOTA

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## MEMBER HIGHLIGHT NANCY BONNGARD

**Nancy** has been a member of Chandler Center for the Arts since before it existed. Bonngard was one of the members of the original group that supported the building of the Chandler Center for the Arts over 35 years ago. The Wisconsin native moved to Chandler, Arizona with her husband and four children in 1976 and attended performances in Scottsdale and Phoenix. "We were overjoyed that Chandler was building its own performing arts center," said Bonngard. The Bonngard family even moved to Pine Top for a few years and still attended performances in Chandler. "We have always enjoyed the programs.

It's been a wonderful asset for Chandler."

Her favorite performances include The Texas Tenors and Bob Newhart. One of Bonngard's sons was a fan of Newhart and brought a record to his performance. "Newhart actually signed that record at the show," she said. Bonngard encourages her friends and others to also become members: "It's wonderful having the quality of performance that the CCA crew has been able to deliver in Chandler. We attract people from all around because we offer performances that aren't anywhere else."

Chandler Center for the Arts is able to provide such high quality programming in part because of the generous support of our members. We thank you for investing in the arts in Chandler!

You can become a member  
for as little as **\$50** per year.

Visit [chandlercenter.org/member](http://chandlercenter.org/member)  
or call 480-782-2680

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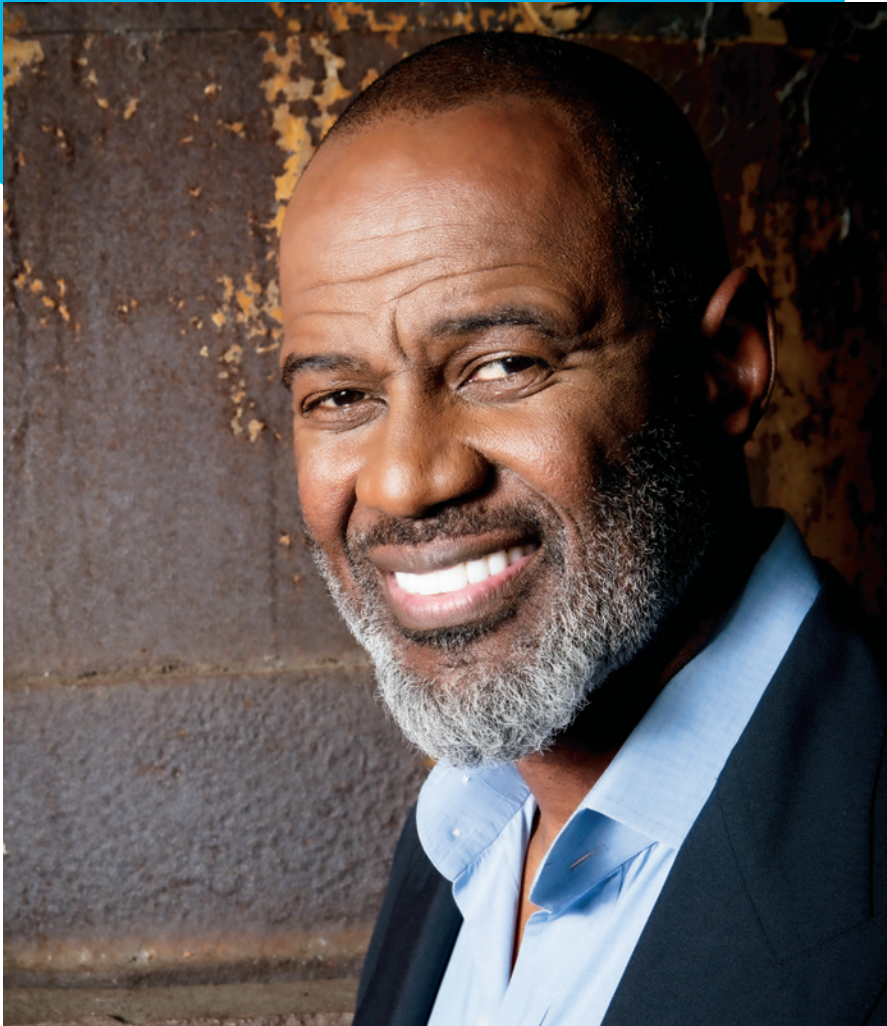
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# BRIAN MCKNIGHT: SEASON'S GREETINGS



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2024 | 7:30 P.M.

As an artist who needs no introduction, **Brian McKnight** has gained international and domestic recognition, earning himself a spot in contemporary music history. He has released 19 albums to date over the past twenty-five years, selling over 30 million albums worldwide. With 16 GRAMMY® Award nominations and numerous chart-topping songs, McKnight has established himself as a musical legacy. In 1992 McKnight released his self-titled and first album, which landed on the Billboard 200 chart. His video for “Anytime” was nominated for Best Male Video at the 1998 MTV Video Music Awards. McKnight has been the recipient of Soul Train Awards, American Music Awards and Billboard Songwriter of The Year. His most notable album, *Back At One*, sold over 3 Million copies. McKnight also found success outside of the world of music. He starred in the Broadway production of *Chicago* and used his vast industry knowledge as a red carpet host for *Extra! TV*. In addition to being a singer, songwriter, and producer, McKnight is a multi-instrumentalist who plays nine instruments including piano, guitar, bass, drums, percussions, trombone, tuba, flugelhorn and trumpet. McKnight released the album *Genesis* in 2017 through Sono Recording Group. The first single released off the album, “Forever,” quickly reached the Top 25 on Billboard’s Adult R&B Chart, and peaked high with radio charts all over the country. McKnight performed the album’s second single, “I Want You” live for millions on the hit daytime talk show *Steve Harvey*. Brian recently released a new album *Bedtime Story* with singles including “42 (Grown Up Topsy)” and “When I’m Gone.”

## BOARD SPOTLIGHT

### Julia Marreel



#### Chandler Cultural Foundation Board Chair Understands the Critical Need to Expand Access to the Arts

Julia Marreel is the Chair of the Chandler Cultural Foundation, and she assumes this role at a crucial time.

Marreel has been closely associated with the arts center as a volunteer since 2013.

As the longest serving member on the executive committee, Marreel now heads the foundation to cap her years on the special events committee, fundraising, and more recently, in the executive committee's secretary and treasurer roles.

Michelle Mac Lennan, General Manager of the Chandler Center for the Arts, said "It was a natural fit" for the board to elect Marreel Chair, calling her "warm, consistent, generous and strategic in positioning the CCA for today's audiences while identifying future needs for the community."

Before joining the Chandler Cultural Foundation board, Marreel used to work in the hotel business. She stopped working outside of the home after becoming a mother and now works in philanthropy. The mother of two adult sons, she continues to serve on many boards and associations, including the Dignity Health Foundation East Valley and Positive Paths. She and her husband also have partnership investments in a few restaurants in the area, including the CHoP Chandler, The Living Room, and Rock Lobster.

In the upcoming year, the Chandler Cultural Foundation plans to involve more corporate entities in the arts center and expand its engagement programs. With the changing school curriculum, arts opportunities are taking on even more importance.

"There's a definite trend of us reaching more young people and being able to bring them in because they are our future," said Marreel. "That way, the arts stay alive."

Currently, the Center reaches about 8,500 young people annually.

#### ADMINISTRATION

Michelle Mac Lennan  
*General Manager*

Terri Rettig  
*Assistant Art Center Manager*

Sandra Bassett  
*Development Manager*

Tracey Wyatt  
*Management Analyst*

Danielle Sezairi  
*Rental & Program Specialist*

Lindsay Bernardez  
*Management Assistant*

#### BOX OFFICE

Sam Ruiz  
*Box Office Supervisor*

Ann Marie Hermosillo  
*Box Office Associate*

#### MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Marta Werbanowska  
*Marketing & Communications Coordinator*

#### PATRON SERVICES

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*Patron Services Coordinator*

Rob Devine  
*Food and Beverage Coordinator*

#### PRODUCTION

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*Sr. Production Supervisor*

Bill Lorentz  
*Lighting Supervisor*

Jason Krull  
*Audio Supervisor*

#### VISION GALLERY

Peter Bugg  
*Museum Operations Manager*

Jillian Nakornthap  
*Exhibits Program Coordinator*

# THE NUTCRACKER



"A royally entertaining show."  
- *The Arizona Republic*

"An East Valley tradition...  
and a heartfelt artistic experience."  
- *The East Valley Tribune*

#### Chandler Center for the Arts

November 29 - December 8  
Tickets\*: \$31, \$35  
480.782.2680, [chandlercenter.org](http://chandlercenter.org)

#### Mesa Arts Center

December 14 - December 22  
Tickets\*: \$31, \$35  
480.644.6500, [mesaartscenter.com](http://mesaartscenter.com)

\*Base price. Venue fees apply.

BE

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Sharon Seder Meko - Founding Artistic Director

[balletetudes.net](http://balletetudes.net)

Ballet Etudes is supported in part by the Arizona Commission on the Arts, which receives support from the State of Arizona and the National Endowment for the Arts.





**CHANDLER  
CENTER**  
FOR THE ARTS

**2025**

**CELEBRATE  
35  
YEARS**



Cirque Mechanics:  
Pedal Punk

**The Texas  
Tenors**  
1/25/25

**Muddy & Wolf  
Revisited with  
Bobby Rush  
and the North  
Mississippi Allstars**  
1/31/25

**Literature  
To Life: *The  
Great Gatsby***  
2/1/25

**STOMP**  
2/7/25-2/8/25

**R.E.S.P.E.C.T.**  
A Celebration  
of the Music of  
Aretha Franklin  
2/15/25

**Dancing  
Queen: The  
Songs of  
ABBA**  
2/16/25

**Syncopated  
Ladies**  
2/21/25

**International  
Guitar Night**  
2/23/25

**DRUMline  
Live**  
3/8/25



DRUMline  
Live



Muddy & Wolf Revisited with  
Bobby Rush and the North  
Mississippi Allstars

**480-782-2680**

**CHANDLERCENTER.ORG**



STOMP



**The Wizard  
of OZ**  
3/14/25 -  
3/15/25

**Elvis: Aloha  
From Vegas**  
3/30/25

**Shakespeare  
in Jazz: Daniel  
Kelly Trio with  
Raina Sokolov-  
Gonzales**  
4/4/25

**Cirque  
Mechanics:  
Pedal Punk**  
4/11/25

**Piano Battle:  
Andreas vs  
Paul**  
4/13/25



Piano Battle:  
Andreas vs Paul

*Shows and dates subject to change.*

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2024 | 8:00 P.M.

# HOORAY FOR HOLLYWOOD

## A NEW YEARS EVE CELEBRATION



# HOORAY FOR HOLLYWOOD

### STARRING

KAITLYNN BLUTH  
KRISTEN DRATHMAN  
THOMAS STRAWSER  
ROB WATSON

### WRITTEN BY:

M. SETH REINES & JR MCALEXANDER

### PRODUCTION TEAM

DIRECTOR . . . . . M. SETH REINES  
MUSICAL DIRECTOR . . . . . JR MCALEXANDER  
CHOREOGRAPHER . . . . . KAITLYNN BLUTH

### ORCHESTRA

CONDUCTOR/KEYBOARD . . . . . JR MCALEXANDER  
KEYBOARD . . . . . DENISE MINTER  
VIOLIN . . . . . CHRYSTAL SMOTHERS  
CELLO . . . . . LI MA  
REED . . . . . DAN PUCCIO  
TRUMPET . . . . . DAVE COOLIDGE  
TROMBONE . . . . . CHARLES HOPKINS  
GUITAR . . . . . JOHN KNOWLTON  
BASS . . . . . DR. DANIEL STOTZ  
DRUMS . . . . . EMERSON LAFFEY

### CAST BIOS



**KAITLYNN BLUTH** graduated summa cum laude with her BA in Musical Theatre from ASU and relocated to NYC. Local credits include “Lina Lamont” (*Singin’ in the Rain*, Showtune Productions), “Marian Paroo” (*The Music Man*, Theatre League and Showtune Productions), “Lily” (*The Secret Garden*, Arizona Broadway Theatre), “Clara” (*The Light in the Piazza*, Phoenix Theatre), “Miss Dorothy” (*Thoroughly Modern Millie*, Phoenix Theatre), “Cinderella” (*Into the Woods*, Arizona Broadway Theatre), and “Audrey” (*Little Shop of Horrors*, Arizona Broadway Theatre). She also enjoys performing concert work across the Southwest. She now resides in Mesa, AZ with the loves of her life—her husband Jordan and three children Adelynn, Owen, and Carson.



**K R I S T E N DRATHMAN**, an AZ native with a BA cum laude in Music Theater from ASU, was classically trained by renowned voice teacher Dr. Judith Cloud. Kristen, who

has sung internationally, made her Phoenix Symphony debut as a female soloist in *A Salute to the Tonys* with Conductor Lawrence Golan. Favorite Phoenix Theatre productions include *Swing!* (AriZoni Award), *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* (AriZoni Award), *Cole!* (AriZoni Award), *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* (AriZoni Award), *I Love A Piano* (AriZoni Award) and *The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. Other local favorites include *Schoolhouse Rock, Live!* (Childsplay), *Still Life with Iris* (Childsplay), *Phenomenal Smith* (Childsplay), *Hello Muddah, Hello Fadduh!* (Theater League), *Blues in the Night* (Black Theater Troupe) and *Tapestry* (Actors' Theatre). With a studio of over 50 students ranging in age from 7-60, Kristen has been teaching private voice and acting for over 20 years.



**THOMAS (Tommy) STRAWSER**, originally from the small town of Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania, Thomas enjoys a full and diverse career as a performing artist in both the music and theatre communities here in Arizona. His professional choral experience includes The Philadelphia Singers during the organization's tenure with the Philadelphia Orchestra, The Manhattan Chorale, a choral residency at St. Alban's Cathedral in England, Art Renaissance Initiative, Arizona Bach Festival, the GRAMMY®-Nominated True Concord Voices & Orchestra, and the GRAMMY®-Award

Winning Phoenix Chorale including their album *Rachmaninoff: All-Night Vigil* which received the 58<sup>th</sup> GRAMMY's® "Best Choral Performance" award. Tommy is currently in his 10<sup>th</sup> season at Childsplay Theatre as both a company actor and music director for local and national tours. Tommy also serves as Music Director for Detour Company Theatre, an organization that provides theatre training and performance training for adults with intellectual, developmental, and physical disabilities. He acts with other Valley organizations including Arizona Opera, Arizona Broadway Theatre, The Phoenix Theatre Company, and Showtune Productions.



**ROB WATSON** is simply agog to have another opportunity to work with Showtune Productions! A University of Dayton graduate with degrees in Theatre and Religious Studies, he has been gainfully employed (much to the delight of his parents) as a performer, director, technician, educator and administrator in professional theatres across the country for over 25 years. While he normally remains behind the scenes as the Production Manager at Arizona Broadway Theatre, he is no stranger to the stage. This spellbinder's credentials include *Annie Get Your Gun* (Frank Butler), *Sound of Music* (Georg von Trapp and Uncle Max - though not in the same production), *The Music Man* (Harold Hill), *Brigadoon* (Jeff Douglas - AriZoni nomination), *Pump Boys and Dinettes* (Jim), *The Secret Garden* (Neville Craven), *The Fantasticks* (El Gallo), and *City of Angels* (Stone). Rob loves working in all aspects of the theatre and his favorite time of day is 5:37!



**M. SETH REINES** *Artistic Director of Showtune Productions*, Seth has served as Artistic Producer of Little Theatre on the Square, Illinois' oldest Equity Stock Company for

25 years and of Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre and Prather Entertainment Group for 10 years. A member of the Society for Directors and Choreographers and Actors Equity, he has staged over 500 productions for stage and television including national tours of *All Shook Up*, *The Wedding Singer*, *South Pacific*, and the tenth anniversary tour of *Sunday in the Park with George* working with such stage luminaries as Sierra Boggess, Emily Loesser, Tom Wopat and Peter Allen. Seth led the artistic team as Director of CCA's hit last season, *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, and will be directing this season's *Wizard of Oz*. Seth served as Artistic Director of Utah Musical Theatre in Ogden, UT, Promise Valley Playhouse in Salt Lake City, Waldo Astoria & Tiffany's Attic Playhouses in Kansas City, and was Director of the BFA/MFA Musical Theatre Program at Chicago's Roosevelt.



**JR McALEXANDER** is *Executive Director and Musical Director* of Showtune Productions, which has produced over 60 different productions since 2010 including CCA's last season's

hit *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*. He is a 38-year veteran of professional theatre and has music directed almost 400 productions throughout the United States and Canada including Broadway National Tours of *Sunday in the Park with George*, *All Shook Up*, *The Wedding Singer*, *Anything Goes*, *Footloose* and

*Beehive, The Musical*. JR has worked with numerous stars including Donald O'Connor, Gloria Loring, Gloria DeHaven, Van Johnson, Ken Page, and many West End and Broadway stars. Music Supervisor for Prather Entertainment Group for 18 years, he has also served as Musical Director for such prestigious theatres as The Guthrie of Minneapolis, Theatre Under the Stars of Houston, The Fulton Theatre in Lancaster, PA, Cumberland County Playhouse in TN, Galveston Island Opera House, Fireside Playhouse in WI, Little Theatre on the Square, Circa '21 in IL and Arizona Broadway Theatre. He has enjoyed being music director/vocal coach at UA Musical Theatre School in Tucson and feels very blessed to have worked with such talented artists over the past 38 years and hopes you enjoy the show. Thanks for supporting live theatre!

**SHOWTUNE PRODUCTIONS** is an Arizona-based entertainment company dedicated to bringing live professional performances to audiences throughout the United States. Performers and musicians are cast nationally and Showtune's original tribute and variety shows feature popular songs from country, early rock & roll, big band, 60's & 70's pop, Broadway and beyond. In 2017, Showtune Productions produced *Music Man in Concert* at the Orpheum Theatre in Phoenix with over 90 people onstage and *Singin' In The Rain in Concert* in December 2018 and has produced over 60 shows since 2010 including such hits as *Buddy*, *Ritchie & The Big Bopper*, *Walkin' the Line*, *Remember Patsy Cline*, *Diamond*, *Rider's in The Sky*, *ELVIS*, *Glen Campbell & Friends*, *Ted Vigil As John Denver*, *You've Got A Friend*, *We've Only Just Begun*, *Legendary Sisters of Soul*, *Swingtime*, *Broadway Classics*, *Early Rock and Roll Live*, *I Am Woman and Let's Go To the Movies* to name a few. For their complete schedule, visit their website at [www.showtuneproductions.com](http://www.showtuneproductions.com).

# ARTIST IN RESIDENCE



Creator/composer of *North The Musical*, **Ashli St. Armant** is embarking on her multi-year residency with Chandler Center for the Arts. The residency includes the development of her new production entitled *Ordinary Folks*.

Rooted in storytelling, *Ordinary Folks* will infuse jazz and soul music into the treasured stories of African American folklore, including such classics as “The Legend of John Henry,” “Brer Rabbit” and reimagined tales like “Sukey and the Mermaid.”

These stories are performed by St. Armant and a rotating collective of dynamic Black storytellers, bringing the heartbeat back to these largely forgotten tales. St. Armant’s hope is to allow these stories from her cultural ancestors to be told in a way that honors the spirit of the original storytellers.

During the residency in Chandler, Ashli will focus on the creative development of this new work, including casting, scenic design elements, composition and workshopping scenes with actors and artists as well as extensive community engagement activities.

The project is two-pronged. The first element includes the studio recording of the new story-songs created by Ashli St. Armant. The second prong is a multi-sensory, interactive, intergenerational theatre experience based on music from the album. The audience will be enveloped and involved in the storytelling. Every show will be different.

*Ordinary Folks* is scheduled to premiere in the 2026-2027 season.

Scan here to learn more about our Artist in Residency program.



# Late Night Eats



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# DIAMOND: SONGS OF NEIL DIAMOND



SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2025 | 3:00 P.M.

## DIAMOND, Songs of Neil Diamond

CHANDLER CENTER FOR THE ARTS

### STARRING

SCOTT MOREAU

with KRISTEN DRATHMAN

COURTNEY WASHINGTON

### WRITTEN BY

Scott Moreau

### MUSICAL ARRANGEMENTS BY

JR McAlexander & Dr. Dan Puccio

### ORCHESTRA

CONDUCTOR/KEYBOARD. . . . . JR MCALEXANDER  
KEYBOARD 2 . . . . . DENISE MINTER  
REED. . . . . DR. DAN PUCCIO  
TRUMPET. . . . . DAVE COOLIDGE  
TROMBONE . . . . . MATT LENNOX  
GUITAR . . . . . JOHN KNOWLTON  
BASS . . . . . DR. DAN STOTZ  
DRUMS . . . . . EMERSON LAFFEY

### CAST BIOS



**SCOTT MOREAU** is from Litchfield, ME, and holds a BFA in Music Theatre from Illinois Wesleyan University. After a lifelong dream of being a professional baseball player, Scott turned to the stage

after seeing a life-changing performance of *Les Misérables* in London during his freshman year of high school. Through his years in high school and college, he found a love for not only musical theatre but choral singing, directing, sound design, and stage combat.

Since graduating from IWU he has been traveling the country, performing everywhere from his home state of Maine to Osaka, Japan. Scott was cast as Johnny Cash on the first national tour

of the Tony Award-winning musical, *Million Dollar Quartet*. He has since reprised his role in MDQ more than 1,200 times in the Regional Premiere at the Ogunquit Playhouse, Tony Award-winning Papermill Playhouse, Riverside Theatre, Harrah's Casino Las Vegas, Farmers Alley Theatre, Springer Opera House, New Theatre, Fulton Theatre, Maine State Music Theatre, and STAGES St. Louis. In 2013, Scott created a solo Johnny Cash show, *Walkin' the Line* with Showtune Productions, and that same year, he released a Johnny Cash tribute album, *Home Of The Blues: A Tribute to Johnny Cash at Sun Studio* now available for digital download and on CD. Last year, also with Showtune Productions, Scott created his new *Diamond, Songs of Neil Diamond* show stemming from his passion for Neil Diamond. His experience

is not limited to performing, Scott made his professional directorial debut with *Ring of Fire* at the Round Barn Theatre in 2011. He has since directed MDQ at Farmers Alley Theatre in Kalamazoo, MI, and assistant directed at the Springer Opera House, both while doing double duty as Johnny Cash. He made his television debut on the series finale of HBO's Emmy Award-winning *Boardwalk Empire* as Young Jim Neary.



**COURTNEY WASHINGTON** is thrilled for every opportunity she gets to step on stage and perform. This proud graduate of the American Musical and Dramatic Academy

in NYC (AMDA), has been captivating audiences across the US and Canada with her charisma, charm, and big voice for over 2 decades. Most recently seen on CCA's stage as Mrs Potts in *Beauty and The Beast*, she is excited to sing the hits of such an iconic artist as Neil Diamond. Some favorite credits include the national tours of *The Wedding Singer* (ensemble) and *Beehive: The 60's Musical* (Tina Turner), *Hairspray* (Dynamite), *High School Musical* (Taylor) and *Nuncrackers* (Sister Mary Hubert). Catch Courtney currently performing with Showtune Productions in shows all over AZ or with her company Edgewood Productions, which she shares with her husband, Clayton.

[@edgewoodproductions](#)



**KRISTEN DRATHMAN**, an AZ native with a BA cum laude in Music Theater from ASU, was classically trained by renowned voice teacher Dr. Judith Cloud. Kristen, who

has sung internationally, made her Phoenix Symphony debut as a female soloist in *A Salute to the Tonys* with Conductor Lawrence Golan. Favorite Phoenix Theatre productions include *Swing!* (AriZoni Award), *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* (AriZoni Award), *Cole!* (AriZoni Award), *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* (AriZoni Award), *I Love A Piano* (AriZoni Award) and *The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. Other local favorites include *Schoolhouse Rock, Live!* (Childplay), *Still Life with Iris* (Childsplay), *Phenomenal Smith* (Childsplay), *Hello Muddah, Hello Fadduh!* (Theater League), *Blues in the Night* (Black Theater Troupe) and *Tapestry* (Actors' Theatre). With a studio of over 50 students ranging in age from 7-60, Kristen has been teaching private voice and acting for over 20 years.



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SHOWTUNE PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

# BONEY JAMES: SLOW BURN TOUR



FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 2025 | 7:30 P.M.

**slow burn:** noun, informal

*A feeling that grows with a slow but deliberate intensity.*

For saxophonist and composer **Boney James**, these words perfectly describe the music he has crafted for his new Concord Records album, *Slow Burn*, released on October 18, 2024.

“When I mentioned that phrase to people as a possible title, they said, “That also refers to your whole career in a way” James says with a laugh. “This is my 19<sup>th</sup> record and I feel like I’m just hitting my stride.”

*Slow Burn* is a new high point in a remarkable career that now spans more than three decades and includes a long list of accolades; four GRAMMY® nominations, three NAACP Image Award nominations, a Soul Train Award for Best Jazz Album and four RIAA Gold Record certifications. In 2009, Billboard named James one of the Top 3 Contemporary Jazz Artists of the decade. In 2024, Boney became the first ever artist to score 20 number one singles on the Billboard Smooth Jazz chart.

*Slow Burn* follows two of the most successful albums of James’ career, 2020’s *Solid* and 2022’s *Detour* which debuted in the Top 10 on the Billboard Pop Albums Chart.

James is, of course, thrilled that his music continues to reach new audiences more than thirty years after he released his debut album, *Trust*, in 1992. “It’s always been my goal to be one of those guys that would just keep doing it at a high level,” he says, “and to have that connection with the audience.”

That’s what it’s always been about for Boney James. Growing up in New Rochelle, New York, James played clarinet in his school band, but two years later, he says, “The teacher needed a sax player. As soon as I switched, playing it became my favorite thing to do.”

By the time he entered his teens, James was already gigging with bands, and he turned pro at 19. After years of paying his dues with artists like The Isley Brothers, Teena Marie and many more, Boney cut his first album on an independent label, which led immediately to a major label deal and a string of increasingly successful recordings and nonstop touring.

Now residing in Los Angeles with wife, director Lily Mariye, James says, “I wake up each day and try to play a little better. To quote the cellist Pablo Casals ‘I think I’m making progress.’ I am really proud of my playing on this new record. And I absolutely love the songs and the sound I achieved.”



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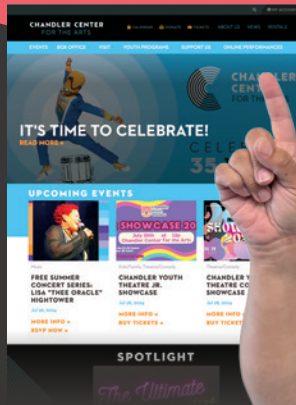
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**Ann Marie**  
 Box Office Associate

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 Vanja Gjumar Nikolovski, Conductor

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*Sunday, January 26, 2025 | 3 p.m.*

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Chandler Center for the Arts  
 Tickets: [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com)

**Mozart and More**  
*Sunday, March 23, 2025 | 3 p.m.*

Kenneth Fuchs: *Rush for Alto Saxophone and Orchestra*, Andrew Harrison, soloist; Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: *Concerto for Flute and Harp*, Lisa Tharp Friedeman, flute & Pamela Hahn, harp.

Chandler Center for the Arts | Admission is by donation. Doors will open at 2:30 pm for open seating.

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