

2018
ANNUAL REPORT
2019

YEAR OF THE
W O M A N



PennState
College of Arts
and Architecture

**Veronica
Swift**



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Cover: Monterey Jazz Festival On Tour's **Cécile McLorin Salvant**

Photo by Hector Perez



Escher Quartet's
Danbi Um

Photo by Ah-Hyun Cho

Letter from the Director

We are pleased to share with you this annual report for our 2018–2019 season.

Thanks to the support we received from Penn State—and from our many patrons, members, sponsors, and supporters—we brought to our campus and community artists from around the world to give thrilling performances and participate in a host of engaging residency activities for all ages.

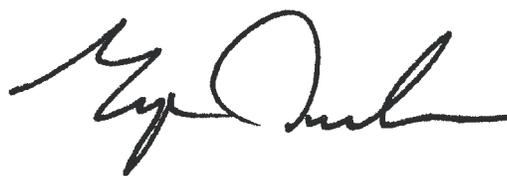
I am particularly proud that we highlighted and celebrated the many women artists and creators that were connected to the season. Our season theme, *I Am Woman*, inspired others to link similar programming to this concept, for which we are grateful.

Our community support initiative was a *Warm Hearts* clothing drive. In partnership with Skills of Central Pennsylvania, we collected new cold weather clothing that was distributed to community members in need. Thanks to the many who donated.

Our student engagement program continued to flourish. Of particular note is the development of IllumiNATION, a student-driven and arts-based creative festival of illuminated objects that will come to full fruition in the 2019–2020 season. Get ready to experience an amazing spectacle of art and light.

Those projects and much more are included in this report. What's most challenging to capture are the many memorable moments created by artists, in the theatre or as they engaged in programs throughout our community. Special thanks goes to the artists who shared their talents, touched many, and reminded us of the power of the arts to uplift our lives.

Enjoy!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Trudeau". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "T".

George Trudeau
Director, Center for the Performing Arts at Penn State

Monterey Jazz
Festival On Tour's
Melissa Aldana



vision

Enriching lives through
inspiring experiences

mission

The Center for the Performing Arts provides a context, through artistic connections, to the human experience. By bringing artists and audiences together, we spark discovery of passion, inspiration, and inner truths. We are a motivator for creative thinking and examination of our relationship with the world.

core values

Arts Leadership

We believe artistic distinction and exceptional experiences are the cornerstones of the Center for the Performing Arts and are integral to our position of national leadership.

Committed Stewardship

We ensure fiscal health, sustain superior facilities, create self-sustaining systems, and support the reduction of our environmental footprint through our business model, practices, and policies.

Creative Innovation

We seek and promote innovative, provocative, and risk-taking ideas and creative approaches across our organization.

People First

We value everyone who benefits from and contributes to the Center for the Performing Arts. We take pride in fostering an environment of mutual respect, teamwork, and high ethical standards in which everyone's involvement is honored, supported, and appreciated.

Service Focused

We provide our constituencies and partners with a consistently high level of support, access, and opportunities ensuring the greatest possible inclusiveness, diversity, and enrichment for those we serve.

Season theme develops ‘organically’

in response to the times

According to the late singer and activist Nina Simone, an artist’s duty is to reflect the times. Perhaps, then, an art center’s duty is to provide a space to share those messages. During the 2018–2019 season, Center for the Performing Arts presentations focused on a theme—“I Am Woman”—in response to the world in which we live.

A number of researchers, historians, and media outlets declared 2018 the year of the woman—a response to the rising number of women running for political office, embracing activism, and making their voices heard out of a desire to be represented and respected. Before and after the 2018 elections, women contributed their talents to the realm of politics and community to assert their power in the fight against indignity and injustice.

But for women artists around the world, the performing arts also provide an opportunity for self-empowerment, which often improves one’s economic, educational, and social spheres.

“Having a season-long theme is not something that we have strived for in the past, but this season, the idea developed very organically,” says Marketing and Communications Director Laura Sullivan. “I began to see a common thread weaving through the events. The more research I did on the artists included in the season, the more I discovered a rich tapestry of strong, brave, compelling, fearless, creative, confident women in the arts.”

The thematic concept also fit well with the second season of the center’s Diversity and Inclusion Collaborative, which aimed to introduce audiences to a variety of cultures, art forms, and ways of thinking that embrace the unfamiliar.

Starting with the season-opening performance—jazz vocalist Veronica Swift with The Emmet Cohen Trio—the schedule featured women of all ages, cultures, genres, and disciplines in leadership and supporting artist roles. Much of the



BRAVE

A “brave” girl is one of hundreds of patrons and visiting artists joining the chorus of expressions in front of the *I Am Woman* backdrop displayed at Eisenhower Auditorium for selected performances in the 2018–2019 season. Photo by Jacob Iwinski.

“an artist’s duty is to reflect the times”

Nina Simone

schedule highlighted artists and performances that touched on a woman’s experience.

Key events included dance theatre company Urban Bush Women’s performance of *Hair and Other Stories*, which examined perceptions of body, race, beauty, gender, and the struggles associated with those aspects of being a black woman. Ballet Hispánico, a dance troupe founded by Tina Ramirez and dedicated to exploring Latino culture, performed three works choreographed by women artists. The national tour of *BEAUTIFUL*

Ballet Hispánico
performs *Linea Recta*

Photo by Paula Lobo



followed the story of Carole King and revealed the obstacles she faced on her road to recording top-forty hits and finding her own voice.

“From musicians; to vocalists and composers; to choreographers, dancers, artistic directors, and writers; what I found in front of me was a list of women who use artistic expression to speak up, stand up, and tackle issues of social justice, race, equality, gender, and identity,” Sullivan says. The marketing campaign was multifaceted and extended beyond traditional print and digital

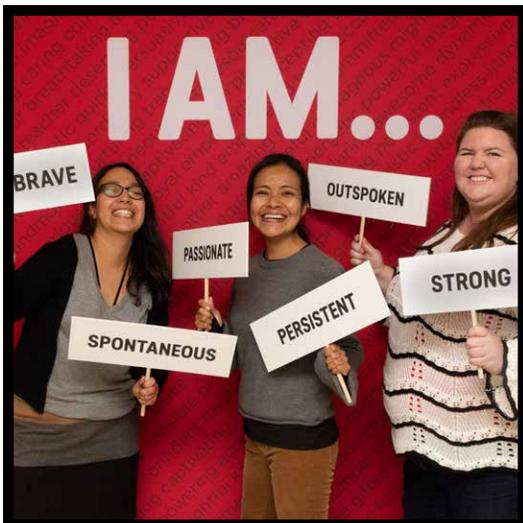
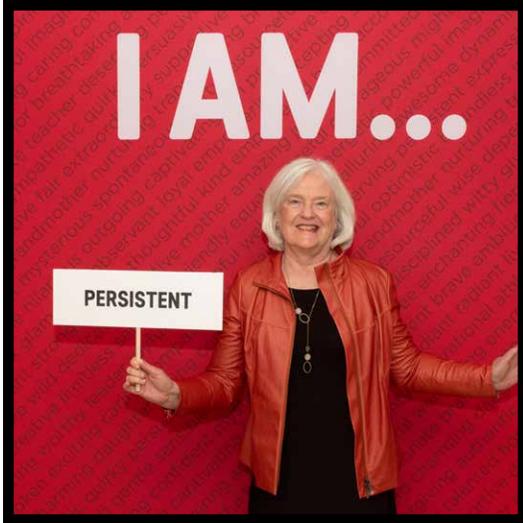
advertising methods. It included social media posts; feature interviews with a number of visiting artists plus visionaries in the worlds of pop music, literature, and science; informational posters and signage; and a photo opportunity for patrons to show their support.

The department’s efforts earned the team a mixed-media campaign Gold Award at the 2019 Bracket Awards, hosted by Central Pennsylvania Creative Professionals and judged by design and communications experts from New York City.





Patrons enjoy “speaking their minds” while engaging with the *I Am Woman* backdrop at Eisenhower Auditorium. A selection of the photos were on display in the Eisenhower lounge. Photos by Jacob Iwinski.



Presentations

Each performance was in Eisenhower Auditorium, unless indicated as having been in Schwab Auditorium (SA) or Pasquerilla Spiritual Center (PSC).

SEPTEMBER

Veronica Swift
with The Emmet Cohen Trio
Thursday, September 20 (SA)

Cantus
Alone Together
Tuesday, September 25 (PSC)

OCTOBER

Cirque Éloïze
HOTEL
Wednesday, October 3

Joshua Bell
with Sam Haywood
Thursday, October 11

Ballet Hispánico
Wednesday, October 17

Darcy James Argue's
Secret Society
Tuesday, October 23

Escher String Quartet
Gilles Vonsattel, pianist
Tuesday, October 30 (SA)

NOVEMBER

SOMETHING ROTTEN!
Wednesday, November 7

Diary of a Worm, a Spider, and a Fly
Dallas Children's Theater
Sunday, November 11

Béla Fleck, Zakir Hussain,
and Edgar Meyer
with special guest Rakesh Chaurasia
Wednesday, November 14

Soweto Gospel Choir
Songs of the Free
Celebrating the Centenary
of Nelson Mandela
Tuesday, November 27

JANUARY

FINDING NEVERLAND
Wednesday, January 23

BODYTRAFFIC
Saturday, January 26

Regina Carter • *Simply Ella*
Thursday, January 31 (SA)

FEBRUARY

Sounds of China

Tuesday, February 5 (SA)

Me ... Jane

**The Dreams and Adventures
of Young Jane Goodall**

Sunday, February 10

Sybarite5

Outliers

Wednesday, February 13 (SA)

BEAUTIFUL

THE CAROLE KING MUSICAL

Tuesday, February 19

Wednesday, February 20

Thursday, February 21

Friday, February 22

Saturday, February 23 (matinee and evening)

Sunday, February 24

Czech National Symphony Orchestra

100 Years of Leonard Bernstein

John Mauceri, conductor

Isabel Leonard, mezzo-soprano

Wednesday, February 27

Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra

Tales of Two Cities:

The Leipzig-Damascus Coffee House

Elisa Citterio, music director

Thursday, February 28 (SA)

MARCH

Urban Bush Women

Hair & Other Stories

Thursday, March 14

Monterey Jazz Festival on Tour

featuring **Cécile McLorin Salvant,**

Bria Skonberg, Melissa Aldana,

Christian Sands, Yasushi Nakamura,

and Jamison Ross

Friday, March 22

THE KING AND I

Thursday, March 28

APRIL

Dreamers' Circus

Wednesday, April 3 (SA)

KINKY BOOTS

Tuesday, April 9

Wednesday, April 10

Sarah Bockel in BEAUTIFUL

Photo by Matthew Murphy





Urban Bush Women

Photo by Christopher Roesing

ticket sales

tickets sold

32,320

performances

32

tickets distributed

34,659

Penn State
student attendance

32%



School-Time Matinees

We are grateful for the opportunity to provide these experiences to central Pennsylvania school children thanks to support from the McQuaide Blasko Endowment and the Honey and Bill Jaffe Endowment for Audience Development.

The return of Dallas Children's Theater, one of the country's most highly regarded theatre companies producing work for children, made a strong showing with a sellout performance of *Diary of a Worm, a Spider, and a Fly*, an adaptation of three best-selling children's books by Penn State alumna Doreen Cronin. South Africa's Soweto Gospel Choir was an all-ages performance that had the kids energized and uplifted. The wonderful Kennedy Center Theater for Young Audiences on Tour production of *Me ... Jane* told the story of a young Jane Goodall in operatic, yet easily understood, dialogue.

Due to the temporary inability of one of the three artists in the show to perform, *Night Train 57*, A Sensory-Friendly Comic Folk Opera, which had been scheduled as a School-Time Matinee for April 2019, had to be rescheduled for the 2019-20 season.



author and alumna
Doreen Cronin

School-Time Presentations

 Attendance is noted above each listing



1,735



Diary of a Worm, a Spider, and a Fly
Dallas Children's Theater

Monday, November 12
(sold out)

Partners

23

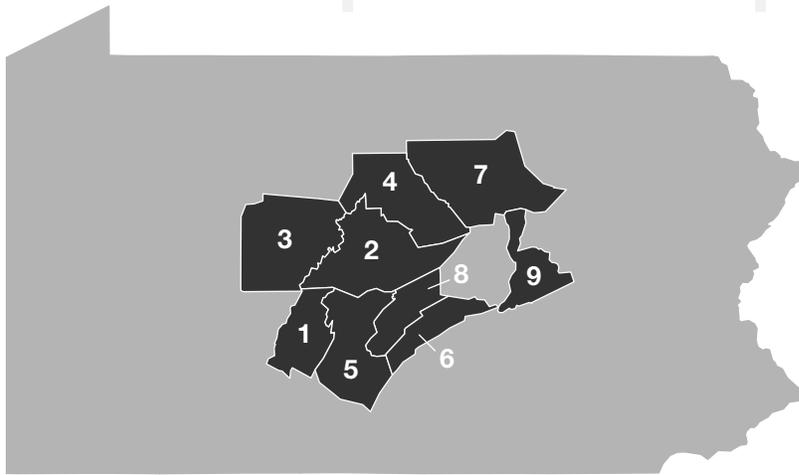
schools

28

homeschooling families

9

Pennsylvania counties



- ① Blair
- ② Centre
- ③ Clearfield
- ④ Clinton
- ⑤ Huntingdon
- ⑥ Juniata
- ⑦ Lycoming
- ⑧ Mifflin
- ⑨ North-umberland

Honey and Bill Jaffe Endowment for Audience Development funds supported the cost of the direct-mail postcards and the shipment of season information to schools in the region. Additionally, twenty schools (total number that requested subsidy) were reimbursed for 75 percent of their total field trip costs thanks to the endowment.



427



Soweto Gospel Choir
Songs of the Free

Tuesday, November 27



538



The Kennedy Center Theater for Young Audiences on Tour
Me ... Jane: The Dreams and Adventures of Young Jane Goodall

Monday, February 11

Presentations and Participation

Total Events: 83

all events in all supported venues

Total Attendance: 66,201

all public events in Eisenhower and Schwab auditoriums

Attendance by Groups: 5,055

Center for the Performing Arts presentations

Center for the Performing Arts Presentations: 25

Student-Sponsored Events: 7

University Presentations: 16

Academic Presentations: 17

Community Events: 7

Nittany Valley Symphony (1), Performing Arts School of Central Pennsylvania (2), Universal Ballet Competition (2), Shake the Ground Dance Competition (1), and MindBodyArt School of Dance (1)



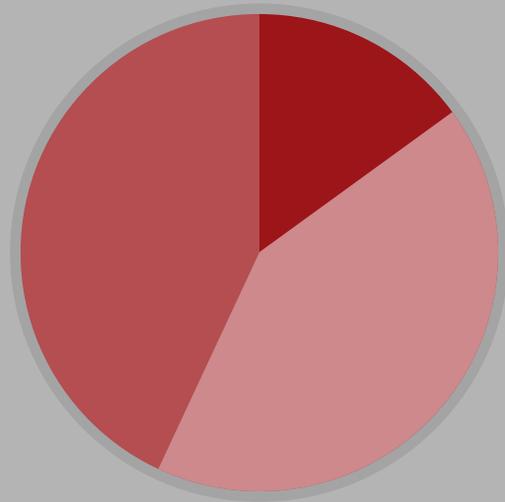
Finding Neverland

Photo by Jeremy Daniel

Income and Expenses

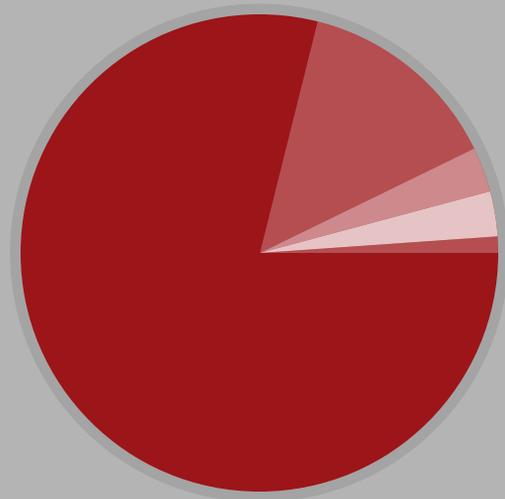
fiscal year 2018–2019 income

- 42% earned income
Ticket Sales 26%, Rentals 11%,
Other Earned Income 5%
 - 16% development income
Contributions 13%, Grants 1%,
Endowment Support 2%
 - 42% university support
-



fiscal year 2018–2019 expenses

- 81% program and events
- 12% general and administrative
- 3% equipment and capital improvements
- 3% development
- 1% grants and special projects



The Center for the Performing Arts organizational budget totaled **\$4,825,060**. Fifty-eight percent of revenues were earned and contributed through tickets sales and services, facility and equipment rentals, performance program advertising, concession sales, fundraising, grants, and endowments.

Center for the Performing Arts Staff

George Trudeau

Director and Associate Clinical Professor,
College of Arts and Architecture

Lea Asbell-Swanger

Assistant Director

Annie Doncsez

Finance Director

Jara Dorsey-Lash

Associate Director of Development

Tracy Noll

Sales and Development Services Director

Laura Sullivan

Marketing and Communications Director

Amy Dupain Vashaw

Audience and Program Development Director

Shannon Arney

Assistant Ticket Manager

Erin Baskin

Graphic Designer

Erik Baxter

Multimedia Specialist

Deanna Beamer

Assistant Finance Director

Len Codispot-Anderson

Group Sales and Donor Relations Manager

Aimee Crihfield

Contracts/Logistics Coordinator

Medora Ebersole

Education and Community Programs Manager

Hope Falk

Student Engagement Manager

Angela Harbst

Assistant to the Director

Tom Hesketh

Events Manager

Dr. Tom Hogan

Scholar in Residence

Christine Igoe

Ticket Manager

Kelly Kaiserian

Audience Services Manager

Robyn Krause-Hale

Associate Director for Arts Advancement,
College of Arts and Architecture

Heather Longley

Communications Specialist

Rick MacZura

Production Supervisor

Heather Mannion

Marketing Strategy Specialist

Joi McKenzie

Downtown Ticket Manager

John Mark Rafacz

Editorial Manager

Mark Tinik

Production Supervisor

Jason Winfield

Production Supervisor

Workforce

- 26** full-time employees
- 27** part-time employees
- 98** student employees
- 114** volunteers
- 8** interns

Volunteer Event Staff Advisory Board

Ruth Bell
Jean Bloom
Roger Cartright
Dave Cowher
Vicky Droll
Emily Gregory
Susan Houser
Grace Long
Kathy Matason
Barbara Reed

Community Advisory Council

chair

Mary Ellen Litzinger

vice chair

Melinda Stearns

Judy Albrecht
Jennifer Bailey
Barry Bram
Stephanie Corcino
Sandy Elbin
Ed Galus
Charlene Gaus
Tom Hogan
Rich Kalin
Charles “Chick” King
Eileen Leibowitz, *emeritus*
Elinor “Ellie” Lewis
Larry Mroz
Sally Schaadt
Sue Thorpe
Lillian Upcraft

student representatives

Zachary McKay
Marissa Works

Members

We appreciate the support of Center for the Performing Arts members during 2018–2019.

Executive Circle

\$5000 and more

Bob and Sonia Hufnagel
Mrs. Barbara Palmer
Betty Scott and Chick King

Leadership Circle

\$3,000 to \$4,999

Patricia L. Best and Thomas Ray
Mimi Barash Coppersmith
Janet Fowler Dargitz
and Karl George Stoedefalke
Martin and Joan Duff
Blake and Linda Gall
Helen A. Harvey
Beverly Hickey
Dorsey and Sherry Houtz
Rich and Sally Kalin
Eileen W. Leibowitz
Dan and Peggy Hall LeKander
Mary Ellen and Tom Litzinger
Pieter W. and Lida Ouwehand
Lynn Sidehamer Brown

Directors Circle

\$2,000 to \$2,999

Jennifer Bailey and Philip Bosha
Marie Bednar
Lynn Donald Breon
Steve and Sandy Elbin
Rod and Shari Erickson
Edward R. Galus
Arnold and Marty Gasche
Richard B. Gidez

John and Carol Graham
David and Margaret Gray
Bill Jaffe
Kay F. Kustanbauter
Stan and Debra Latta
Benson and Christine Lichtig
Dorothy Rigby
Alex Sahakian and Heidi Handler
Robert Schmalz
Louis P. Silverman
and Veronica A. Samborsky
Mark and JoAnne Westerhaus
Youmeus

Encore Circle

\$1,000 to \$1,999

Pamela M. Aikey
Judy Albrecht and Denny Gioia
Bill and Debbie Atwater Asbury
Hu Barnes
Jack and Diana Brenizer
Alan Brown
Bala Carver M.D.
Dr. Keith Cheng and Dr. Shou Ling Leong
Heidi Nicholas and Bruce Fleischer
Steven L. Herb and Sara Willoughby-Herb
Lam and Lina Hood
Michael P. Johnson and Maureen Mulderig
James and Bonnie Knapp
Sally L. Schaadt
Jackson and Diane Spielvogel
Susan and Lewis Steinberg
Marilynne W. Stout
Sue Thorpe
David and Diane Wisniewski
Charlotte Zmyslo

Advocate

\$500 to \$999

Charles and Nancy Baechler
Ned and Inga Book
Richard Carlson and Lori Forlizzi
Lee and Joan Coraor
In Memory of Doris Croskey
Joseph and Annie Doncsecz
Michael and Ann Dotsey
Nancy S. Gamble
Bill and Connie Hayes
Nancy L. Herron
Chris and Gail Hurley
George and Ann Johnstone
Robyn Krause-Hale and Rick Roush
Daniel Larson and Melina Porro
Elinor C. Lewis
Richard and Juanita Lysle
John and Michelle Mason
Marcia and Bill Newton
Ira and Eva Pell
Jack and Sue Poremba
Shirley Sacks
Robert and Peggy Schlegel
Paul Shrivastava
and Michelle Cooper
George and Debbie Trudeau
Mary Jane and William Wild
David and Betsy Will
Terry and Pat Williams
Craig and Diane Zabel

Partner

\$250 to \$499

Lynn and Ellis Abramson
Wendy Azzara
Lou and Bernadette Barth
Diane and Andrew Bartholomay
Sven and Carmen Bilen
John and Marolyn Boswell
Barry Bram and Laura Perry
Walter Broughton
and Joseph Fennewald
Linda B. Brown
Annie Copeland
Stephanie Corcino



Sybarite5's
Laura Metcalf

Photo by Jiyang Chen

Terry and Janice Engelder
Pamela Francis
Bob and Ellen Frederick
Catherine Greenham
Peg and Don Hambrick
Elizabeth Hanley and Patrick Kolivoski
Sue Haug
Dawn E. Hawkins
Mary Hile Herold
Jackie and John Hook
Jim and Susan Houser
Steven and Shirley Hsi
Anne F. Hummer
Allen and Nancy Jacobson
Cindy and Al Jones
Daniel and Kathleen Jones
Harry B. Kropp and Edward J. Legutko
Mark and Theresa Lafer
Gretchen Leathers
Dorothy Lutz
Michael A. Matten
Lyle Merriman
Mark and Minda Morath
Robert F. and Donna C. Nicely
Guy and Grace Pilato
Lisa Preis and Jeffrey Wong
Pat and Cindy Rice
Mike and Joan Roseberry
Tom and Marlene Russo
Midori Savage
Jane Stanton
Tamie and Mark Stocku
Nancy and Wade VanLandingham
Shawn and Amy Vashaw
Barbara and Joel A. Weiss
Carl and Sharon Winter
Debra Christensen Young
Cal and Pam Zimmerman

Friend

\$150 to \$249

Anne Anderson
Sue and Dick Aten
Scott and Sandy Balboni
Margaret and Kevin Brant
Isaac and Penny Brewer
Dr. Henry and Elaine Brzycki
Edward Buss
John M. Carroll and Mary Beth Rosson
John Collins and Mary Brown
Adrienne and Bob Darrah
George and Bunny Dohn

MaryAnn Domitrovitz
Nick and Mary Lou Dubil
Marti Franklin Duffy
The Egan Family
Elite Edge Athletics
Irwin Feller and Tena St. Pierre
Chris and Deborah Flavin
Heather F. Fleck
Tom and Tamra Fountaine
Estelle Frankl
Andy and Toni Gates
Pam Gavazzi
David and Kay Green
Gregory and Deborah Guise
Miles and Tawni Guralnick
John Lloyd Hanson
Proforma LLH Promos, LLC
Tom and Ann Hettmansperger
George and Diane Kesidis
Ed and Deb Klevans
John Knepp
Janet and Al Koch
Michael and Jara Lash
Sharon and David Lieb
Bob and Janice Lindsay
Jane M. Linsky
Herb and Trudy Lipowsky
Dale and Beverly Lippincott
Jane and Edward Liszka
John and Nancy Lowe
Sandy and Betty Macdonald
Mary Jean MacNeil
August and Mary Marakovits
Deborah Marron and Michael Rosenberg
Wayne and Marian Martenas
June Miller
Gary and Judy Mitchell
Betty and John Moore
Larry and Kelly Mroz
Jon and Naomi Nelson
Elizabeth A. Nesbitt
Joe and Sandy Niebel
Meghan O'Melia
Amy Paster
Barbara J. Peterson
Randy and Dorothy Poulsen
Ford and Mary Risley
Rocco and Lorraine Rosamilia
Susan J. Scheetz
Melissa and Paul Sherbondy
Ronald Glen Smith
Paul and Susan Smith
Joe and Jackie Sobel
Ben Sporay and Tom Renehan

Barry and Ellen Stein
JoLaine A. Teyssier
Mr. William Townes and Mrs. Kimberly Townes
Ellie Trulick
James and Deena Ultman
Merita and Bruce Valoris
Christine and Jim Vrentas
The Whitney Family
Roselee Williams
Alice Wilson and Friends

Supporter

\$60 to \$149

Mike and Roxanna Ahlgren
Reg and Diane Bartram
Dr. Ernest Bergman
Chandra Bose
Ben Bronstein
John Bukowski and Cathy Stenson
Philip and Susan Burlingame
Kevin and Suzanne Cheesebrough
David and Johanna Chisnell
Ron and Pat Cioffi
Rob Confer
Erica Culler
Ellen Dashem
David and Paula Diedrich
Ms. Anita Ditz
Robert and Joann Dornich
Margaret Duda
Carol Dwyer
Peggy Ekdahl
Vicki Fong and Greg Grieco
Kathryn Friedman
Ted Gabriel and Lori Steffensen
Michael Gabrovsek and Susan Traynor
Patricia Garthe
Dennis and Ellen Gilson
Gary and Jill Gingrich
Amy Greenberg and Richard Doyle
Bud and Irma Grimm
Lee Grover and Anita Bear
Dan and Debbey Grow
Martha Halberstadt
David Hall
Dr. Tom C. Hogan and Ms. Sharon Frost
Bill and Kelly Hughes
Jack and Joyce Igoe
Todd and Toni Irvin
Tim and Teresa Jeffries
Mel Kaulkin
Laura and Peter Kemper

Mary Lee Kerr and Tim Bralower
Mr. and Mrs. Chris Kirkpatrick
Jeanne Kitko
Sally T. F. Knapp
Patricia and Lawrence Koch
Jim Nolan and Rocky Landers
Kirk and Sandy Larter
Ralph Licastro and Laura Reidy
Doreen Long
Helen B. Love
Westcott McKellop Family
Arline Miller
Scott and Mary Miller
Layli and Sergey Miron
Rick and Tami Mistrick
Janet K. Muhlert
Gloria Nieweg
Andrian Ocneanu
Harold Parks
Camille Barczak Payne
Jakub P. and Katarzyna A. Pelka
Elizabeth Pennock
Bob and Lynn Phillips
Dr. and Mrs. Mark Polis
Lori Propst
Michael Pursley
Dave and Ginny Ray
David and Mary Richards
Len and Nancy Rockey
Ken and Millie Rockwell
Mark and Cindy Scanlon
Ken Schmell
Paul and Branyan Sensiba
Joan Mitchell Shimmel
Rich and JoAnn Shore
Laura J. Simon
Roger L. and Jo Snyder
Kepler Sones
Dixie Stauffer
Sam and Vicki Stea
Richard Steuernagle
Mary Jane Stout
Christine Suhey
William Taylor and Andrea Mastro
Suzann Tedesco
Susan and Robert Urion
Donna Weller
Elwood and Ruth Ann Williams
Nancy J. Wolf
Devra Wolfe
Tom Yourchak
Susan Zimmerman

Jazz Train

\$400 and more

William and Deborah Atwater Asbury
Patricia L. Best and Thomas Ray
David and Susan Beyerle
Lynn Donald Breon
Lisa and David Coggins
Sarah and Paul Damaske
Gordon F. DeJong
Jim and Polly Dunn
Edward R. Galus
Arnold and Marty Gasche
Charlene and Frank Gaus
John and Michelle Groenveld
Steven L. Herb and Sara Willoughby-Herb
Steven Hinckley and Sara Krome
Anne and Lynn Hutcheson
Bill Jaffe

Michael P. Johnson and Maureen Mulderig
Cindy and Al Jones
Dr. Marla L. Moon
Wilson and Maureen Moses
Annemarie Mountz and John Balogh
Larry and Kelly Mroz
John S. Nichols
Jack and Sue Poremba
Sally L. Schaadt
David and Ann Shallcross-Wolfgang
Louis P. Silverman and Veronica A. Samborsky
Dan and Melinda Stearns
Dan and Linda Trevino
Barbara and Joel A. Weiss
Charlotte Zmyslo



Monterey Jazz Festival
On Tour's **Bria Skonberg**

Photo by Carolina Palmgren

Lam and Lina Hood receive Distinguished Service Award

Lam and Lina Hood grew up during the Great Depression in families who subsisted on the basics, but they found ways to enjoy various events and give back to their communities. The couple's volunteerism and unwavering support for the Center for the Performing Arts—as ushers for more than twenty years and members since the mid-2000s—earned the Hoods the center's 2019 Distinguished Service Award.

“They are shining examples of engaged volunteers and donors,” says center Director George Trudeau. “They have reached out to engage many others in our community to join with them in supporting the Center for the Performing Arts. This is a very well-deserved recognition of their outstanding service.”

The couple were close to retirement—Lam as dean of Penn State's College of Agriculture and Lina at Conferences and Institutes at Penn State Outreach—when she says she realized they were missing “lots of good things here at the University.” They joined the center as volunteer ushers as a way to stay abreast of the center's events.

In 2006, Lina joined the center's Volunteer Event Staff Advisory Board, and the couple also became event sponsors. From 2011 to 2018, Lam was a member of the center's Community Advisory Council, the final two years as council chairman.

“I think the important thing for us has always been to sponsor,” Lam says. “We've supported the center in a whole lot of different ways. I think when I was on the council, it felt like we needed to step up and do more than we'd been doing. ... The whole idea was to try to encourage others to step up.”

One way he aimed to rally support for the center was to co-sponsor an event with others. He says he understands that for some sponsors the price tag might be hefty, “so sponsoring with a small group of people or another couple is one way to give back without breaking the bank.”



Left to right: George Trudeau, Debbie Trudeau, Lina Hood, (son) Chris Hood, and Lam Hood. Photo by Stephanie Swindle.

The couple's contributions to and involvement in the community didn't stop with the Center for the Performing Arts. The Hoods contributed to the College of Agricultural Sciences and created a Penn State scholarship for adult learners.

He worked with Habitat for Humanity and shared his passion about the issue of affordable workforce housing in Centre County. Lina helps out with Centre Volunteers in Medicine. Both are members of The Arboretum at Penn State's Founders Circle and ardent supporters of Mount Nittany Health. They also participate in social circles in their housing development, enjoy a variety of Penn State sports, and support volleyball boosters.

They say that helping others helps to make the community better for everyone. The spirit of the award—which recognizes dedication, contributions, and service to the center—pairs neatly with the Hoods' longstanding ideology.

“We've always had the philosophy of giving back to the community in a variety of ways, not just financially, because the community provides so much for us,” Lam says.

The Distinguished Service Award has been given annually since 1996.

Thanks for the Support

We are grateful to these
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Sybarite5's
Sarah Whitney

Photo by Alex Fedorov



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The Center for the Performing Arts is committed to making the arts accessible to everyone and offers many services to patrons who need assistance in order to fully enjoy attending live performances.

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Dr. Marla L. Moon at Nittany Eye Associates

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Penn State Affirmative Action Office,
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Cirque Éloize's **Una Bennett, Sabina Halde, and Tuedon Ariri**

Photos © Pierre Manning - Shoot Studio

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Elizabeth Hanley and Patrick Kolivoski



2018–2019
SEASON

Highlights

Each season brings an abundance of artistic experiences. Some of the highlights of 2018–2019 follow.

Music Accord Commissions

The Center for the Performing Arts is proud to be a member of the prestigious national chamber music commissioning consortium Music Accord. With combined resources from member organizations, Music Accord each year commissions several works pairing great American composers with outstanding American chamber ensembles.

The center brought two of these commissions to Penn State, inviting the composers to be in residence for the world premieres. In September 2018, composer Libby Larsen came to University Park for the premiere of *You*, which she wrote for the renowned a cappella octet Cantus, which made its second appearance at Penn State. In October 2018, Escher String Quartet was joined by pianist Gilles Vonsattel for a performance of *All Roads* by composer Anthony Cheung.

For each engagement, the artists and composer combined to offer a Classical Coffeehouse program the night before their public performance.

Libby Larsen

Photo by Ann Marsden



Soweto Gospel Choir

Many languages, many voices, one message: peace, love, and unity. Soweto Gospel Choir returned to Penn State in November 2018 with a program featuring some of Nelson Mandela's favorite songs, along with Christmas favorites sung in a variety of languages. While the choir's time at Penn State was short, the impact it made on the community was big.

The Center for the Performing Arts collaborated with the choir; Essence 2, Essence of Joy's community gospel choir counterpart; and Roots of Life, a West African-influenced performance company comprised of middle- and high school-aged students from State College Area School District. The groups participated in a cultural exchange at which each ensemble performed for the others. After a long ride from New England, the Soweto ensemble arrived just in time for the exchange. The travelers' fatigue quickly melted away with the infectious joy of sharing and warmth that filled the room. In all, 200 people participated, proving once again that music is the universal language.

The center also partnered with State College Area School District's Delta Program, whose students created candles on which they wrote what they would each personally do to uphold and promote the legacies of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Mandela. Those candles were displayed in the Eisenhower Auditorium lobby during the Soweto performance. Earlier that day, more than 400 schoolchildren and educators from around the region participated in a School-Time Matinee performance by the choir.



Photo by Alan Messer

Fleck/Hussain/Meyer

Three masterful genre benders and the leading virtuosos on their respective instruments, Béla Fleck (banjo), Zakir Hussain (tabla), and Edgar Meyer (double bass) combined in a captivating performance in November 2018. They were joined by special guest Rakesh Chaurasia, a noted Indian flutist, who amazed the audience with his artistry.

The Center for the Performing Arts partnered with THON so that \$5 of each ticket purchased would be donated to the student-run philanthropy. A student THON representative joined Center for the Performing Arts Director George Trudeau on-stage prior to the performance, after which a short video about THON was unveiled. The center provided \$5,960 to THON as a result of the partnership.

Cirque Éloize

Cirque Éloize, the acclaimed Canadian contemporary circus company, made its sixth Penn State appearance in October 2018. The company performed *HOTEL*, its newest creation. The Center for the Performing Arts provided support for the creation of the show thanks to the support of fifty community “investors.”

Created to celebrate the company’s twenty-fifth anniversary, *HOTEL* takes audiences into a timeless art-deco hotel to meet a daring, engaging, and funny cast of characters who deploy a host of amazing circus skills. Live music and singing throughout enhance the experience. The show has gone on to performances in North America, Europe, and South America.



Guzheng soloist

Photo © 2015 Todd Rosenberg Photography



Sounds of China

Sounds of China, a delightful eight-member ensemble, arrived in the United States in February 2019 for a three-week tour, including two days in State College engaging with students and celebrating Chinese New Year.

Penn State's Chinese Students and Scholars Association hosted a welcome dinner for Sounds of China. It was a celebration of Lunar New Year *and* an opportunity for the musicians to feel welcomed by people who spoke the same language. At the dinner, a member of the Chinese Traditional Instrument Club played a tune of welcome on an *erhu*, a traditional Chinese stringed instrument.

The next day, the musicians visited a State College Area High School Chinese language class at which they demonstrated their traditional instruments to high school students learning to speak Mandarin. Ensemble members were impressed with the high school students' language skills.

More than eighty Penn State students, also learning Mandarin, were treated to a two-hour demonstration and history lesson about the instruments and the sounds they make. "After all, embracing and learning about diverse musical traditions is part of cultural exploration," says Chunyuan Di, the faculty member who organized the language class visit, "and it is crucial for students to discover more through in-depth, face-to-face experience with professional Chinese musicians."

Sounds of China's Schwab Auditorium concert showcased the ensemble's unique sound, which is contemporary despite being played on traditional instruments. The music was enthusiastically received by the audience, including students who stayed long after the concert's end to meet the musicians.



artistic director
Samantha Speis

Photo by Hayim Heron

Urban Bush Women

Brooklyn-based dance theatre company Urban Bush Women has been making groundbreaking, challenging, and fierce works of dance for forty years. Hosting the company for almost a week in March 2019 allowed for deep and meaningful engagement in the community. At Penn State to perform *Hair and Other Stories*, the engagement was reflective of the themes of the work: exploring our relationship with our hair, and finding and giving voice to our individual and collective power from a woman-centered perspective.

The company engaged with women of all ages for a “Hair Party”—an exploration of hair and our relationship to notions of beauty. Who gets to define it? How do we internalize those prevailing notions? How do we express our own beauty in the world? The session ended with guided movement reflective of the themes explored throughout the evening. The party was at Woskob Gallery in Penn State Downtown Theatre Center, which was featuring an exhibition titled *Race and Revolution*, a fitting visual accompaniment to the physical work of the session.

Also included in the engagement were a community dance party and a community sing, both in State College Municipal Building. Each session featured the participants singing and moving, with plenty of room for personal expression within the guided sessions.

The engagement concluded with the performance of *Hair and Other Stories*, which featured lots of audience interaction and made powerful observations about life through an African-American woman-centered lens.

The performance was preceded by Artistic Viewpoints, at which Associate Artistic Director Chanon Judson asked audience members to think about their own relationships to their hair through a series of guided questions that got them discussing the topic with one another. After the performance, company members engaged the audience in thought-provoking questions.



Urban Bush Women’s Du’Bois A’keen (top) participates in a “Hair Party” at Woskob Gallery in downtown State College. Tendayi Kuumba (bottom), an Urban Bush Women dancer, leads participants at a workshop in State College Municipal Building. Photos by Jacob Iwinski.



From left, Center for the Performing Arts Education and Community Programs Manager Medora Ebersole; center Audiences Services Manager Kelly Kaiserian; center Director George Trudeau; Skills of Central PA Inc. Program Specialist Karry Carr; Barry Cain, a participant in a Skills adult training service; Penn State College of Arts and Architecture Dean Barbara Korner; and College of Arts and Architecture Staff Advisory Council Chairperson Jennifer Howard stand next to items donated to the center's "Warm Hearts" winter drive.

‘Warm Hearts’ drive nets 150 articles of winter clothing

The Center for the Performing Arts, partnering with Skills of Central PA, Inc., remembered the struggle of some Centre County residents with a three-month “Warm Hearts” clothing drive that ended in January 2019. The drive collected more than 150 new winter-weather items—including hats, scarves, gloves, and socks—to benefit community members in need.

The drive, which ran from November 1 through January 26, was inspired by the center’s presentation of Los Angeles-based contemporary dance company BODYTRAFFIC at Eisenhower Auditorium on the drive’s final day. The presentation featured *Fragile Dwellings*, a work dedicated to the Los Angeles homeless population.

With increasing numbers of individuals in the State College area in need, and with the closing of downtown State College’s Hearts for Homeless shelter in the summer of 2018, *Fragile Dwellings* could be representative of any community.

“This successful drive demonstrates how the arts can catalyze awareness and offer a meaningful way to contribute to the good work being done in our community for those experiencing housing insecurity,” says Medora Ebersole, the center’s education and community programs manager.

Karry Carr, program specialist at Skills of Central PA Inc., distributed the donated winter accessories to Out of the Cold: Centre County, Housing Transitions (Centre House), Centre Safe, and Burrowes Street Youth Haven.

Illumi NATION

IllumiNATION lights way for students to find their place at Penn State

The Center for the Performing Arts and Penn State Student Affairs, in a collaboration with partners across the University Park campus, have launched IllumiNATION, a student-focused, arts-driven festival.

IllumiNATION includes a series of workshops for Penn State students to make illuminated lanterns, hats, wings, and flying “creatures.” The workshops will culminate in a parade and a dance party on March 28, 2020. That date coincides with Earth Hour, an annual global lights-out event organized by the World Wide Fund for Nature. Earth Hour aims to raise awareness of the effects excessive energy consumption have on the environment.

Pittsburgh-based puppet and parade artist Cheryl Capezzuti, a Penn State alumna, will help accomplish the festival’s goals. She has been leading workshops for students, plus train-the-trainer workshops for service units at University Park, with the idea that those units will lead their own lantern-making workshops for the students they serve. In addition, Capezzuti has created large-scale puppets—a group of lions that stand ten feet tall—to lead the 2020 parade.

IllumiNATION seeks to:

- Unite Penn Staters as a community through the arts by providing a catalyst for connecting students throughout their time at the University;
- Bridge the gap between international and American students with a series of workshops led by students who will share with their peers how light is celebrated in various religions and cultures;
- Spark conversation and demonstrate best practices regarding sustainability and climate change.

Learn more about IllumiNATION.



Penn State students decorate lanterns at an April 2019 IllumiNATION workshop in Eisenhower Auditorium.