



The Performing Arts Center, Purchase College
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For Immediate Release
June 28, 2023
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The Performing Arts Center, Purchase College 2023-2024 Season
Join us on our creative journey and “experience something real”

(Purchase, New York - June 28, 2023) THE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, PURCHASE COLLEGE will present a full season of live, world-class performing arts starting in September of 2023. Tickets will go on sale Wednesday, July 12.

True to The Purchase PAC’s mission to build an inclusive community, the upcoming season will feature a broad range of events that will include return visits by audience favorites, new work from Purchase alumni, introductions to innovative emerging artists, and ample opportunities for creative encounters and engagement.

The season will begin on Saturday, September 23 with a family-friendly performance by Step Afrika!, one of the most celebrated African American dance companies in the world. Step Afrika! is dedicated to preserving and promoting the tradition of stepping through performances that integrate songs, storytelling, humor and audience participation. The season will run through April of 2024; other highlights include a performance by Orpheus Chamber Orchestra with special guest Branford Marsalis, a dance series that includes Doug Varone and Dancers and A.I.M by Kyle Abraham – both led by Purchase Conservatory of Dance alums – and a Latin Jazz Festival headlined by piano great Eddie Palmieri.

All performances will take place at The Performing Arts Center, Purchase College, 735 Anderson Hill Road, Purchase, NY 10577. The complete season schedule is available to view on The Purchase PAC website at <https://www.artscenter.org/events/>.

Tickets will be available for sale online 24/7 starting July 12, and by phone during box office hours, from 10am to 12pm on Mondays and Wednesdays. Box office hours will be extended after August 30.

Interim General Manager of The Performing Arts Center, Ian Driver, states, *“Our spaces are crackling with energy and alive with possibility, and we are proud to announce a 2023-2024 season centered*

on the creative journey. Whether your journey leads you here to experience our world-class performances, to discover the best in emerging artists, or to seek creative encounters, there's a good chance that you'll experience something that you didn't anticipate. The possibility of such unexpected pleasures forges the creative spirit that binds our creative community. I invite you to be a part of it!"

[Event images can be downloaded here.](#)

Step Afrika!

Saturday, September 23, 2023, 7pm

\$65 / \$50 / \$30

Honoring its rich roots in the African American fraternity and sorority experience, the dancers of Step Afrika! are committed to promoting tolerance, self-expression, and cross-cultural understanding through the percussive, energetic, and joyful art form known as stepping.

Invigorating and interactive, each Step Afrika! performance blends percussive dance styles, traditional African dances, and an array of contemporary dance forms with songs, storytelling, humor, and audience participation. Come ready to clap, stomp, cheer, and participate in call and response with the artists; experience a thunderously complex, polyrhythmic symphony that will bring you to your feet.

Learn more about Step Afrika! at www.stepafrika.org

Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and Branford Marsalis

Friday, October 13, 2023, 8pm

\$75 / \$60 / \$35

Revered jazz saxophonist Branford Marsalis teams up with the innovative Orpheus Chamber Orchestra for a program that meets at the intersection of jazz and classical, featuring works by Debussy, Ibert, Lecount, brand-new arrangements of works by Ravel and Gershwin, and the world premiere of a work by Antonio Garcia, commissioned by Orpheus.

From his early acclaim as a jazz saxophonist bringing new energy and new audiences to the art form, NEA Jazz Master and 3-time Grammy Award winner [Branford Marsalis](#) has never stopped exercising and expanding his skills as an instrumentalist, composer, bandleader, and educator, crossing stylistic boundaries while maintaining an unwavering creative integrity.

[Orpheus Chamber Orchestra](#) is a Grammy-Award winning classical ensemble, known for creating extraordinary musical experiences through innovative collaboration.

Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center: Rachmaninov: The Composer

Saturday, October 21, 2023, 5pm

\$65

2023 marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of virtuoso pianist and composer Sergei Rachmaninov. In tribute to his legacy, this piano-centered program pairs his singular voice with those of his mentors and contemporaries.

Including works by:

Rachmaninov, Rubenstein, Tchaikovsky, Balakirev, Mussorgsky, Glinka, Rimsky-Korsakov

Artists:

ERIKA BAIKOFF, Soprano

GILLES VONSATTEL, Piano

BENJAMIN BEILMAN, Violin

CLIVE GREENSMITH, Cello

BODYTRAFFIC

Saturday, November 4, 2023, 8pm

\$55 / \$40 / \$25

BODYTRAFFIC is on a mission to inspire a love of dance. With a style that “suggests invention, attitude, and urban edge” (The Boston Globe), the company’s repertory includes works by a range of today’s most prominent choreographers — dance that is inspiring, accessible, and challenging, a thrill to watch for new audiences and experienced enthusiasts alike.

BODYTRAFFIC will take the stage at The Purchase PAC with a program of contemporary works that embody the company’s energy, sophistication, and sheer joy in dancing.

BODYTRAFFIC uses the creative spirit of its Los Angeles home to fulfill its mission of delivering performances that inspire audiences simply to love dance. Learn more:

<http://bodytraffic.com/company/>

The Klezmatics

Sunday, November 12, 2023, 3pm

\$45

The Klezmatics are globally-renowned world music superstars — and the only klezmer band ever to win a Grammy award. They emerged out of the vibrant cultural scene of New York City’s East Village in 1986 playing klezmer steeped in Eastern European Jewish tradition and spirituality, while incorporating contemporary themes such as human rights and anti-fundamentalism, and eclectic musical influences including Arab, African, Latin and Balkan rhythms, jazz and punk. In the course of over twenty years and nine albums they have stubbornly continued making music that is wild, mystical, provocative, reflective, and ecstatically danceable.

Presented in partnership with the Jewish Studies Program at Purchase College.

The Rob Mathes Holiday Concert

Friday, December 15 and Saturday December 16, 8pm

Sunday December 17, 3pm

\$85 / \$65 / \$40

Every December for the past 30 years, arranger, composer, producer, director, and musician extraordinaire Rob Mathes has been ringing in the holiday season with a spectacular celebration that features Mathes, his all-star band, and a chorus of saints and friends.

This high-energy evening of rock, jazz, and blues — original tunes and new spins on your favorite holiday classics — is a local holiday tradition. We have no doubt that the 30th Anniversary Celebration will be bigger and better than ever. Don't miss it!

Rob Mathes has worked with virtually every big name in the music industry, arranging, producing, directing, recording, and performing with the likes of Bono, Bennett, Sting, and Springsteen. But despite his busy schedule, he makes time for his fans, and it's always a treat to have this Greenwich, CT, native "home" for the holidays.

Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center: Extraordinary Imaginations
Saturday, January 27, 2024, 5pm
\$65

Diverse in origin and expression, this program offers audiences a deep dive into the innovative chamber music of the early 20th century with works by Coleridge-Taylor, Hahn, Ysaÿe, and Bloch.

Artists:

GLORIA CHIEN, Piano

KRISTIN LEE, Violin JAMES THOMPSON, Violin

YURA LEE, Viola

DMITRI ATAPINE, Cello

Purchase College High School Latin Jazz Festival
Saturday, February 17, 2024
Start time and ticketing info TBA

Get a look at the stars of tomorrow during this day-long Latin Jazz Festival and competition, featuring eight high school bands facing off in front of a panel of judges made up of local music industry leaders.

Eddie Palmieri and the Purchase Latin Jazz Orchestra
Saturday, February 10, 2024, 8pm
\$55 / \$40 / \$25

A dazzling pianist whose technique incorporates bits and pieces of everyone from McCoy Tyner to Herbie Hancock and recycles them through a dynamic Latin groove, Eddie Palmieri (aka "El Maestro") has been a Latin jazz and salsa master since the mid-'50s.

His approach can be compared to Thelonious Monk's for its unorthodox patterns, odd rhythms, sometimes disjointed phrases, and percussive effects played in a manner that is always successfully resolved. It's a free/hard bop/Afro-Caribbean blend, with keyboard solos and montunos that are forever stimulating.

Palmieri has released dozens of records on various labels. He is the recipient of nine Grammy and three Latin Grammy Awards, the National Endowment for the Arts' distinguished Jazz Master Award and the Latin Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences' Lifetime Achievement Award.

Palmieri will be joined by the Purchase Latin Jazz Orchestra. This performance is presented in partnership with Purchase College Conservatory of Music, as part of the Purchase College High School Latin Jazz Festival.

Urban Bush Women: *Legacy + Lineage + Liberation*

Saturday, February 24, 2024, 8pm

\$55 / \$40 / \$25

Urban Bush Women's *Legacy + Lineage + Liberation* celebrates the power of Women(+) in an evening of classic works by UBW Founder / Visioning Partner Jawole Willa Jo Zollar. These iconic works transcend genres and amplify the voices of women of color, resonate in this time of reflection around equity and justice, and lift up Black lives in inspiring ways. Experience UBW's great sense of musicality, reflection inside of empathy and joy — a gracious invitation to respond to what you are experiencing and to leave the theater energized and inspired.

Founded in 1984 by choreographer Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, [Urban Bush Women](#) (UBW) electrifies audiences with performances that blend dance, instrumental music, and theater to express black, woman-centered perspectives and catalyze social change. Through innovative choreography, community collaboration, and artistic leadership development, UBW brings untold and under-told stories to light while highlighting the beauty and strength of the African Diaspora.

Doug Varone and Dancers: *To My Arms / Restore* (world premiere)

Saturday, March 16, 2024, 8pm

\$70 / \$45 / \$30

Experience the world premiere of *To My Arms / Restore*, an evening-long two-part work that embodies dancemaker Doug Varone's choreographic fascination with the interplay of the deeply emotional and the immensely physical.

Set to a suite of exquisite operatic arias by Georg Fredric Handel, *To My Arms* (Part 1) builds a rich and distinct landscape of love and loss within a suite of ten dances, evoking a strange otherworld of intimacy. In stark contrast, *Restore* (Part 2) is visceral and tactile, driven by the 21st century sound of DJ Nico Bentley's *Handel Remix*, a score that fuses the fundamentals of Handel's 18th century choral score *Dixit Dominus* with beats more commonly heard in clubs around the globe; the result is a marriage between a score and a dance that is unabashedly glorious.

For more than 30 years, [Doug Varone and Dancers](#) has devoted itself to the humanity and virtuosity of dance, reaching out to audiences well beyond the proscenium arch, earning a reputation as one of the most respected dance companies working today. Varone received his BFA from Purchase College where he was awarded the President's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2007.

Jazz at Lincoln Center presents Sing & Swing:

Our American Songbook, featuring Bria Skonberg and Benny Benack III

Sunday, March 24, 2020, 5pm

\$70 / \$45 / \$30

Celebrate the Great American Songbook in all of its playful — and sophisticated — glory, brought to life by two of New York’s brightest young artists and a quartet of jazz all-stars. Boasting prodigious trumpet talent and vocal charm, Bria Skonberg and Benny Benack III will re-imagine some of the classic partnerships in jazz and popular song, including Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald, Judy Garland and Bing Crosby, and Dean Martin and Peggy Lee. Featuring songs by Gershwin, Ellington, Cole Porter, Irving Berlin and many more, this will be an “unforgettable” evening of singin' and swingin'!

For over three decades, Jazz at Lincoln Center, under the direction of Wynton Marsalis, has been a leading advocate for jazz, culture and arts education. The Jazz at Lincoln Center PRESENTS touring initiative features up-and-coming musicians who have been identified as rising stars by Jazz at Lincoln Center.

Bria Skonberg: Trumpet, Vocals, Co-Music Director
Benny Benack III: Trumpet, Vocals, Co-Music Director

Jocelyn Gould: Guitar Miki Yamanaka: Piano
Charles Goold: Drums Mark Lewandowski: Bass

A.I.M / Kyle Abraham
Saturday, April 6, 2024, 8pm
\$70 / \$45 / \$30

“It is a crazy, sexy, cool fusion of elite/street/afro-punkism that is a visual feast, a delicious ‘postmodern gumbo’, as he calls it.” -Theresa Ruth Howard, Dance Magazine

Contemporary dance company A.I.M by Kyle Abraham is celebrated as one of the most consistently excellent troupes working today by *The New York Times*, and we most certainly agree. Led by MacArthur Genius and Purchase College alum Kyle Abraham, A.I.M returns to The Purchase PAC with a repertory program that showcases his brilliance as an Artistic Director who is constantly innovating the industry. He will serve us his signature “postmodern gumbo”- a blend of modern dance styles ranging from ballet to hip hop, seasoned with human stories and social commentary.

The mission of [A.I.M by Kyle Abraham](#) is to create a body of dance-based work that is galvanized by Black culture and history. While grounded in choreographer Kyle Abraham’s artistic vision, A.I.M draws inspiration from a multitude of sources and movement styles. Abraham received his BFA from Purchase College.

Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center: String Magic
Saturday, April 20, 2024, 5pm
\$65

The deeply human voices of violins, violas, and cellos have inspired much of the greatest music ever composed. From Beethoven’s earliest all-string work to Françaix’s effervescent trio, this program offers a rich feast of string sonorities from the 18th to the early 20th centuries.

Including works by: Beethoven, Françaix, Bridge, Mendelssohn

Artists:
CHAD HOOPES, Violin
BELLA HRISTOVA, Violin
MATTHEW LIPMAN, Viola
TIMOTHY RIDOUT, Viola
SIHAO HE, Cello

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TICKETS: <https://www.artscenter.org/events/>
BOX OFFICE 914-251-6200
Monday & Wednesday, 10am to 12pm (hours will be extended after Aug 30)
ADDRESS: 735 Anderson Hill Road, Purchase, NY 10577
WEBSITE: www.ArtsCenter.org

2023-2024 SEASON AT A GLANCE

2023

September 23	7pm	Step Afrika!
October 13	8pm	Orpheus Chamber Orchestra with Brandford Marsalis
October 21	5pm	Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center / Rachmaninov: The Composer
November 4	8pm	BODYTRAFFIC
November 12	3pm	The Klezmatics
December 15	8pm	The Rob Mathes Holiday Concert
December 16	8pm	Rob Mathes Holiday Concert
December 17	3pm	Rob Mathes Holiday Concert

2024

January 27	5pm	Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center / Extraordinary Imaginations
February 10	all day	Purchase College High School Latin Jazz Festival
February 10	8pm	Eddie Palmieri
February 24	8pm	Urban Bush Women
March 16	8pm	Doug Varone and Dancers
March 24	5pm	Jazz at Lincoln Center presents Sing & Swing
April 6	8pm	A.I.M by Kyle Abraham
April 20	5pm	CMS of Lincoln Center

**All artists, dates, programs, and times subject to change*

The PAC acknowledges with great appreciation our major funders and sponsors: PepsiCo, Inc., The Vivian and Seymour Milstein Endowed Fund, Lucille Werlinich, ArtsWestchester, The Jandon Foundation, and the Bee Steinhaus Memorial Arts-in-Education Fund.

The Purchase High School Latin Jazz Festival and performance by Doug Varone and Dancers is supported by the Lake Placid Center for the Arts Audience-Building Project made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) with the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

ABOUT THE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, PURCHASE COLLEGE:

[THE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, PURCHASE COLLEGE](#) (The Purchase PAC), a four-theatre complex located on the campus of Purchase College, SUNY, is the major professional, non-profit arts presenter in the Southeastern New York–Southwestern Connecticut region.

The Purchase PAC has long been a hub for highly skilled artists, civic and academic leaders, community activists, and volunteers who recognize the power of investing in the performing arts to spark creativity and connection.

Through Education & Engagement programs, The Purchase PAC creates opportunities for local K -12 students and multi-generational learners to participate in the artistic process.

The Purchase PAC has a collaborative relationship with the campus population, hosting performances for the Conservatories of Music, Dance, and Theatre Arts. Purchase College students can take advantage of master classes, on-site training, internships, job opportunities, and ticket discounts.

An active facility rental business focuses on providing space and support to high-quality musical recordings, technical rehearsals, and community events.

Purchase College, 735 Anderson Hill Road, Purchase, NY, is located 28 miles northeast of New York City at the Connecticut border. The College, part of the State University of New York (SUNY), is an institution of public higher education encompassing the liberal arts and sciences, professional training in the performing and visual arts, continuing education, the Neuberger Museum of Art, and The Performing Arts Center.

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