



# PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY  
State University of New York

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**SEASON ANNOUNCEMENT**

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## 2009-10 Season of Performances

(Albany, NY): The University at Albany Performing Arts Center, operating under the auspices of the College of Arts and Sciences, is pleased to announce the 2009-10 season of performances at its five-theatre complex located on the University's main campus. The schedule includes performances by four professional touring companies presented by the Performing Arts Center. In addition, the Department of Theatre will mount three full productions along with presenting several play readings and a special appearance by Harold Gould for a total of 29 performances. Offering concerts by guest artists, faculty and students, the Department of Music will present 34 concerts, three festivals, two artist interview/talks, a lecture and a master class.

### Special Performances

The Performing Arts Center is pleased to offer four professional touring companies this season that have been made possible through partnerships with other University entities.

On two separate occasions during the season, **American Place Theatre** will visit the campus. This acclaimed company's Literature to Life<sup>®</sup> series creates professionally staged theatrical adaptations of significant literary works. In a tribute to the memory of Frank McCourt, the company will present two performances of **Teacher Man**. Michael McMonagle will star in the Pulitzer Prize winner's witty and heartbreakingly honest memoir which records the trials, triumphs and surprises he faced in public high schools around New York City during his 30 year career as a teacher. The public performance will take place on October 13 while a morning matinee for high school students will take place the next day. Returning in March, the company will present Greg Mortenson's inspiring true story, **Three Cups of Tea**, which tells of the journey that led him from a failed 1993 attempt to climb Pakistan's K2, the world's second highest mountain, to successfully establish schools in some of the most remote regions of Afghanistan and Pakistan. The public performance will take place on March 18 with a matinee for high school students the next morning. All performances are being presented in conjunction with the New York State Writers Institute.

In October, the Performing Arts Center will host **A Celebration of Rumi**. Regarded as the quintessential voice of love, compassion and tolerance for people of all faiths, the 13th century Islamic poet/mystic's works are read in both Farsi and English in this compelling and dramatic presentation that includes whirling dervishes and Sufi musicians. This program of music, sacred dance and spoken word will take place on October 21 and is made possible through a

partnership with the Office of International Education and the New York State Writers Institute. It will be repeated on October 22 for high school student groups.

Next on the schedule is a residency by **Gallim Dance** from February 24-27. Selected as one of Dance Magazine's "25 to Watch" for 2009, artistic director/choreographer Andrea Miller creates works that are astonishingly physical, charmingly awkward and wildly technical and has her dancers wearing lime green dresses with hot pink socks while singing along to underground club music. The residency will include a public performance on Saturday evening and a matinee for high school students on Friday morning of its evening length work, *I Can See Myself in Your Pupil*, a breathless suite of dances set to a highly eclectic score by Manu Chau, Pimmon, Trio Medieval, Beirut, Puccini and the Israeli band, Balkan Beat Box. Along with the performances, the company will conduct master classes throughout the community. The residency is a cooperative project with the Dance Department at The College at Brockport and the Department of Theatre and Music at SUNY Potsdam.

Lastly, through an artist-in-residence exchange program with Long Island University's CW Post Campus, the **Pierrot Consort** will perform on April 11. Flutist Susan Deaver, violinist Dale Stuckenbruck, violist Veronica Salas, cellist Maureen Hynes and pianist Heawon Kim comprise this ensemble which was originally modeled after the instrumentation of Schoenberg's Pierrot Lunaire and has always been dedicated to performing new music as well as the standard repertoire.

In addition to the professional offerings, the Performing Arts Center has also embarked on a relationship with Russell Sage College and will be presenting their students in a production of ***Mirror, Mirror***. Originated & directed by Leigh Strimbeck and produced by David Baecker, this ensemble-created piece looks with compassion and humor at the tyranny of the media towards women's bodies, the struggles young women have with this issue and their attempts to see themselves and others in a different, more empowered way. The show will be offered for high school student groups on March 31.

## Department of Theatre

The Theatre Department will produce three departmental productions this year which feature a program of new plays and video works, a retrospective of scenes from the last 100 years of theatrical productions at UAlbany and Arthur Miller's 1953 Tony Award winner for Best Play. This year's full productions include the following shows:

### **BioTech Performance Festival** – October 31 to November 7

This production of new plays and video work provides a theatrical response to a world in which our ever-evolving technology redraws what constitutes the living and the mechanical, the spontaneous and the engineered, the natural and the synthetic, by transforming the theatrical stage into a laboratory and the playwright into a researcher.

### **10 for 2010: Celebrating 100 Years of History** – February 18 to 21

Celebrating the centennial anniversary of theatrical productions at UAlbany, the Department of Theatre journeys through the last one hundred years of performances. In conjunction with the show, there will be an exhibit highlighting moments from the University's theatre history.

***The Crucible*** – April 16 to May 1

Arthur Miller's 1953 Tony Award winner for Best Play is a story of good and evil buffeted by the question of self-identity and morality. Considered his most timeless work, this exciting drama about the Puritan purge of witchcraft in old Salem is a gripping historical play and contemporary social parable.

In coordination with the Performing Arts Center, the Department will also offer student matinee performances for high school groups of the first and last of these productions.

As part of a special event for Homecoming/Family/Reunion Weekend, celebrated alumnus ('47) **Harold Gould** will share an informal evening of poetry, speeches, and short monologues on October 10. Well known for his television roles in *Rhoda*, *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, *The Golden Girls* and *Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman* in addition to film roles in *The Sting*, *Freaky Friday*, *The Front Page*, *Love and Death* and *Silent Movie*, the acclaimed actor won an OBIE Award for *The Increased Difficulty of Concentration* and appeared on Broadway in Neil Simon's *Fools* as well as at Shakespeare festivals around the country.

In addition, the Department will continue its **Plays in Process** series during each semester. This play development lab provides student playwrights the opportunity to develop their plays with actors and directors and culminates in a staged reading. In an ongoing commitment to showcase emerging student voices, several new, exciting and diverse plays are chosen to be part of the series each year. Readings will take place in the fall from October 9-11 and in the spring from March 12-14.

## Department of Music

This season, the Music Department is pleased to present two festivals. For three days in November, the **Youth Movements Festival** will return after premiering last season. The slate of offerings for this year is as follows:

**Family Trees** - November 12

A violin and piano recital by Hilary and Duncan Cumming including the Brahms *Sonata in A major, Op. 100*; Smetana's *From My Homeland*; Dvořák's *Sonatina in G major, Op. 100* and the Duo of William Matthews, written as a wedding present for the performers.

**La Boite á Joux** - November 14

Pianist Duncan Cumming is joined by Jackie Abbott's School of Creative Arts for a performance of Debussy's children's ballet.

**Dvořák's Slavonic Dances** - November 15

In the festival's grand finale, UAlbany students, faculty, staff, alumni, faculty emeritus and community piano teachers with their students perform the complete series.

In January, the **Beethoven Festival** features Frank Glazer in his third residency at UAlbany. Celebrating his 95<sup>th</sup> year, this Professor Emeritus of Piano at the Eastman School of Music will offer a recital on January 28, a lecture on "Unique Features of Beethoven's 32 Sonatas" on January 29 and a master class for the community on January 30.

New this season is the **Bel Canto Series** which will feature concerts, a mini-festival and other events focusing on singing.

**Julie Norman** - October 8

A native of the Capital Region and a recent graduate of the Eastman School of Music Masters in Voice program, this young soprano performs a variety of works from the song and operatic repertory.

**“The Singer’s Life”** – October 9 and March 11

In an “Inside the Actors Studio” format, UAlbany’s voice coach Frances Wittmann interviews Julie Norman on the first date and Emalie Savoy on the second date discussing the young singers’ lives, achievements and career demands.

**“Don Giovanni”** - October 22 & 23

Sung in Italian, Capital Opera’s fully-staged performance of Mozart’s much-loved opera features Ivan Amaro, Rosa Tulyaganova, Richard Mazzaferro, Kara Cornell, Vedrana Kalas and Andy Truex.

**The Michael Clement Professional Vocal Studio**- November 1 & January 24

The young professional singers of accompanist and coach Michael Clement present programs of operatic arias, duets and trios.

**Emalie Savoy** - March 12

Capital Region born and bred, this young soprano of the Juilliard School of Music Graduate Voice program performs a variety of works from the song and operatic repertory.

**Art Song Festival** – February 26 & 27

The Eastern New York Chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) hosts this festival that champions the study and performance of the art song with particular focus on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century American composers. This non-competitive event gives singers currently studying in the Capital Region an opportunity to explore, coach and perform new repertoire and be evaluated by local NATS members. Registration, rehearsals and coaching will take place on the first date with performances open to the public on the second date.

Rounding out the concert schedule are performances by the Department’s ensembles, students, faculty and guest ensembles. Performers and dates are as follows:

**33 Variations** - September 10 & 12

Pianist Findlay Cockrell performs Beethoven’s Diabelli Variations and more.

**Albagli & Friends** - September 24

This thematic concert of music features readings, poetry and music for marimba and other percussion.

**Chopin’s Greatest Hits** - October 15 & Saturday, October 17

Pianist Findlay Cockrell performs Polonaises, Mazurkas, Ballades and more.

**University Concert Band** - October 19 & March 8

This ensemble of brass, woodwinds and percussion performs several selections covering a wide variety of band literature.

**University Symphony Orchestra** - October 25, March 7 & May 2

A group of students, faculty and community musicians under the direction of conductor Chris Neubert present symphonic favorites.

**Fall Choral Concert** - November 18

The University Chorale and Chamber Singers present a concert of ancient and modern choral music featuring Eric Whitaker's "Five Hebrew Love Songs."

**Bob Gluck-Joe Giardullo Duo** - November 19

Two virtuoso jazz musicians present a program of duet improvisations.

**Bach to Broadway** - November 20

This cabaret features the classical and not-so-classical side of UAlbany's voice majors.

**University Jazz Ensemble** - November 23 & April 19

The mid-sized ensemble performs popular jazz standards.

**Holiday Concert** - December 6

The University Music Department ensembles -- the Chorale, Chamber Singers, Concert Band, Jazz Ensemble and Symphony Orchestra -- are joined by student groups -- Serendipity, Earth Tones and Angelic Voices of Praise -- for a concert celebrating the season.

**Twenty Drummers Drummin'** - December 7

A concert of percussion music is performed by the University Percussion Ensemble and the Rensselaer Percussion Ensemble.

**Celebrating Chopin's Bicentennial** - March 1

Now in its third season in residence at UAlbany, the Capital Trio celebrates Chopin's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday by performing his early and virtuosic Piano Trio, Op. 8 as well as his last published work, the great Sonata for Cello and Piano, Op. 65.

**Festival of Contemporary Music** - March 4

This concert of percussion music emphasizes contemporary and recent works performed by the University Percussion Ensemble and two youth ensembles.

**An Evening of Opera Scenes and Chamber Music** - March 24

This performance features the voice and instrumental students of the Music Department.

**2 Harpsichords** - April 15 & 18

William Carragan and Findlay Cockrell perform works by Bach and Handel.

**The Sound of the Trumpets, The Roll of the Drums** - May 3

A concert featuring the University's Concert Band and Percussion Ensemble

**The Choral Hour** - May 4

This annual concert of choral delights celebrates the arrival of spring.

Once again this season there is a subscription available offering discounts for patrons who purchase tickets for multiple performances. Ticket buyers may pick three of four shows of their choice with a 10% discount on the total order while those purchasing five or more shows receive a discount of 20% off the total order.

Tickets and subscriptions are available now by mailing orders to the Performing Arts Center at University at Albany, PAC 266, Albany, NY 12222. Beginning September 8, they may be purchased at the Performing Arts Center Box Office or by calling (518) 442-3997. To receive a schedule of events, call (518) 442-3995.

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