



WELCOME

Since opening in September 2009, Koerner Hall has emerged as one of the greatest concert venues in the world today. Beloved for its acoustic excellence, it has become the venue of choice for many of the world's greatest performing artists.

During 2020-21, in the midst of COVID-19, we worked to bring as many of our performances, plus dozens more for other Toronto-based arts organizations, to audiences via livestreams as we presented over 20 new online broadcasts. We also launched a new digital platform [RoyalConservatory.Live](#), which features numerous concerts from the Conservatory's archives, documentaries, as well as the [Music of My Life – A Conversation With](#) series with luminaires such as Cynthia Dale, Andrea Martin, Eugene Levy, C.M., and Daniel Barenboim. Each episode of Music of My Life also includes performances of the music by a spectacular array of musicians filmed in Koerner Hall.

As a community, we have managed to navigate through some extraordinary times. We are proud to say that our beautiful Conservatory is once again a hive of artistic activity and this special concert season is infused with a restoring and revitalizing energy. Many performances will look familiar, as there are concerts we had planned to bring in our 2020-21 season. Of course, we also have several brand-new concerts that we have been able to add to our season. Fall highlights include our season gala concerts featuring Stephen Sondheim's masterpiece [Follies](#) in concert, with stars Cynthia Dale, Ma-Anne Dionisio, Eric McCormack, and Marcus Nance. We are thrilled to welcome back old friends [Gidon Kremer and Kremerata Baltica](#) to celebrate 100 years of Astor Piazzolla as well as Gidon Kremer's 75th birthday, [Pinchas Zukerman](#) and the [Jerusalem Quartet](#), and the [Dover Quartet](#) – this time joined by the extraordinary young baritone [Davóné Tines](#). Two Canadian pianists and Royal Conservatory alumni return to Koerner Hall: [Stewart Goodyear](#) and [Jan Lisiecki](#). Goodyear debuts the world premiere of his piano quintet based on themes from Beethoven and is joined by the [Penderecki String Quartet](#), [Toronto Mendelssohn Choir](#), and four young singers; and Lisiecki presents a program of Chopin Nocturnes and Études, while French pianist [Jean-Yves Thibaudet](#) makes his venue debut with the complete Debussy Préludes.

Non-classical concerts feature award-winning Afro-Cuban jazz singer [Daymé Arocena](#) sharing an evening with [Nella](#), winner of the 2019 Latin Grammy Award for Best New Artist; [Artemis](#), an international all-star group which includes Canadians Renee Rosnes (piano & musical director) and Ingrid Jensen (trumpet); American singer-songwriter [Rosanne Cash](#); DJ [Skratch Bastid](#), accompanied by special guests [Andrew Forde](#) and [re.verse](#); Haitian musician [Wesli](#) shares an evening with Trinidad's [Kobo Town](#); Cape Breton fiddler [Ashley MacIsaac](#) joins Canada's queen of R&B soul, [Jully Black](#), for a powerful evening of Canadian roots music; Trinidadian trumpeter [Etienne Charles](#) shares an evening with Israeli pianist [Guy Mintus](#); and finally Grammy Award-winning Cameroonian bassist [Richard Bona](#), and Cubans [Alfredo Rodriguez](#) and [Pedrito Martínez](#) create a powerhouse group.

As always, we are enormously grateful to our series and individual concerts sponsors and donors, including our benefactors Michael and Sonja Koerner, as well as our government funders: The Department of Canadian Heritage, the Ontario Arts Council, the Government of Ontario, the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund, and the Toronto Arts Council. We are also extremely grateful to everyone who chose to support our efforts by either keeping their tickets to rescheduled concerts or donating the value of their tickets to us, or donating to our Fund for Koerner Hall. We cannot thank you enough as this has enabled us to continue to function and, most importantly, support our artists.

On behalf of everyone at The Royal Conservatory of Music, we are thrilled to welcome you back and share live music once again.

Dr. Peter Simon
Michael and Sonja Koerner President & CEO
The Royal Conservatory of Music

Mervon Mehta
Executive Director, Performing Arts
The Royal Conservatory of Music

Season Gala

Follies in Concert

Saturday, October 16, 2021 at 8:00 pm

Sunday, October 17, 2021 at 3:00 pm

These are the 1,037th and 1,038th performances in Koerner Hall

Cynthia Dale, Phyllis
Ma-Anne Dionisio, Sally
Eric McCormack, Buddy
Marcus Nance, Ben
Jenni Burke, Emily
Mary Lou Fallis, Heidi
Denise Fergusson, Solange
Lorraine Foreman, Hattie
Ben Heppner, Dmitri
Roger Honeywell, Roscoe
Charlotte Moore, Carlotta
Jackie Richardson, Stella
Avery Saltzman, Theodore
Gabriel Antonacci, Young Buddy
Tess Bengner, Young Phyllis
Katelyn Bird, Young Heidi
Andrew Broderick, Young Ben
Kimberly-Ann Truong, Young Sally

Book by **James Goldman**

Music and lyrics by **Stephen Sondheim**

Directed by **Richard Ouzounian**

Music Director **Paul Sportelli**

Designer **Nick Blais**

Choreography by **Genny Sermonia**

Produced originally on Broadway by **Harold Prince**

Orchestrations by **Jonathan Tunick**

Special arrangements with **Cameron Mackintosh and Music Theatre International**

Stage Manager **Kevin Bowers**

Assistant Director **Thomas Alderson**

Dinner sponsor



Dessert Reception sponsor



Media sponsors



Paul Sportelli, Music Director
David Atkinson, Associate Music Director, keyboard & celeste
Kathryn Sugden, concertmaster
Luri Lee, violin
Jessy Kim, violin
Hee-Soo Yoon, violin
Hezekiah Leung, viola
Amahl Arulanandam, cello
Ross MacIntyre, bass
Andy Ballantyne, piccolo, flute, alto flute, E flat clarinet, B flat clarinet, soprano saxophone & alto saxophone
Colleen Allen, piccolo, flute, clarinet & alto saxophone
Michele Jacot, flute, clarinet, bass clarinet & tenor saxophone
Peter Voisey, oboe, english horn, clarinet & tenor saxophone
Dennis Kwok, flute, clarinet, bassoon & baritone saxophone
Jason Logue, trumpet
Bradley Cairns-Digel, trumpet
Laura Kuri, trumpet
Christine Passmore, horn
Rob Somerville, trombone
Kyle Orlando, trombone
Kelsey Grant, bass trombone
Erica Goodman, harp
Ted Quinlan, guitar
Tom Jestadt, drums
Mario Perez, percussion
Benjamin Kersey, rehearsal pianist

On February 1, 2019, I sent Mervon Mehta an email proposing a crazy idea: an all-star, all-Canadian production of *Follies* in concert to celebrate the 90th birthday of its composer, Stephen Sondheim, in 2020.

He loved the idea and by October of that year we were on our way. The actors we approached were all anxious to participate and tickets started flying off the shelves as soon as they were put on sale.

Then along came COVID-19 and all bets were off.

Well, not ALL bets, because the courageous and resourceful Mr. Mehta did not cancel the show, he *postponed* it to October 2021 and now – four pandemic waves and a few cast changes later – we can proudly declare in the words of one of the show's songs, "I got through all of last year, and I'm here."

Follies is about survival. It is also about finding the truth and learning to live with it. Those are two things we all understand and appreciate now more than ever.

But it is also about the power of performance, the resilience of artists, and the magic that exists when people get together in a theatre.

I have loved this musical ever since I first saw the original production on Broadway in 1971 – a stage struck kid who came down on his day off from summer stock every week to buy standing room for a show that – even then – he knew had caught lightning in a bottle.

I would like to offer you that same lightning right now. Welcome it, savour it, let it fill your spirit. And when it is over, proudly proclaim its mantra: "I'm still here."

- Richard Ouzounian

Cynthia Dale, Phyllis



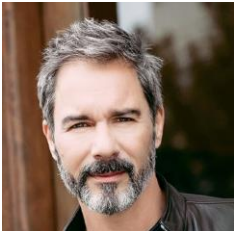
Cynthia Dale began her career at the age of five in a production of *Finian's Rainbow* at the Royal Alexandra Theatre. Since then, she has worked extensively in theatre, television, and film. 12 seasons at the Stratford Festival credits include Charlotte Malcolm (*A Little Night Music*), Fosca (*Passion*), Myra Arundal (*Hayfever*), Red Queen (*Alice Through the Looking Glass*), *Outside Looking In-a Concert*, Dorothy Brock (*42nd Street*), Edythe Herbert (*My One and Only*), Nellie Forbush (*South Pacific*), Maggie (*Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*), Sarah Brown (*Guys and Dolls*), Reno Sweeney (*Anything Goes*), Eliza (*My Fair Lady*), Maria (*The Sound of Music*), Aldonza (*Man of La Mancha*), Annie Sullivan (*The Miracle Worker*), Bianca (*The Taming of the Shrew*), Guinevere (*Camelot*), *The Mikado*, and *The Gondoliers*. Other theatre credits include *Fun Home*, *Sweet Charity*, *Syncopation*, *Tamara*, *Pal Joey*, and *Dames at Sea*. Film and television credits include *Street Legal*, *A Broken Life*, *The Boy in Blue*, *Heavenly Bodies*, *Moonstruck*, *Spenser for Hire*, *Taking the Falls*, *Thanks of a Grateful Nation*, *Witness To Yesterday*, *Barnum*, *Made in Canada*, *Triple Sensations*, and *The Cynthia Dale Special*. She has performed with the National Arts Centre Orchestra and the Kitchener/Waterloo Symphony, and has recorded three CDs *...to dream*, *More...*, and *Enchanted*.

Ma-Anne Dionisio, Sally



Philippine-born Canadian actress, Ma-Anne Dionisio, is a Dora Award winner for Outstanding Performance in a Leading Role for her portrayal of Diana in the Mirvish-presented production of *Next to Normal*. She is best known for her role as Kim in the Canadian premiere production of *Miss Saigon*, for which Toronto's Princess of Wales Theatre was built. She has since reprised the role in Sydney's Capitol Theatre, London's Theatre Royal Drury Lane, and Toronto's Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts. The three-time Dora Mavor Moore award nominee for Best Actress in a Musical garnered her most recent nomination for her role as Grizabella in *Cats* (Panasonic Theatre). Some of her other theatre credits include Eponine in *Les misérables* (international and US national touring companies), Bertrande in *Martin Guerre* (London's Prince Edward Theatre), Maria in *West Side Story* (Stratford Festival), Mary Magdalene in *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Starlight Theatre), Dot in *Sunday in the Park With George* (Equity Showcase), Sandy in *Grease* (Elgin Theatre), Little Girl/ Meili cover in *Flower Drum Song* (Broadway revival), Winnie in *Colours in the Storm* (Grand Theatre), and Donna in *Mamma Mia* (RainbowStage). Film credits include *The Waiting Room* (TimeLapse Pictures), *In Her Mother's Eyes* (HERetic Films), and the animated film, *Mirabelle and Me*. TV credits include *Schitt's Creek* (CBC), *Remedy* (Global), and *Flashpoint* (CBS/CTV).

Eric McCormack, Buddy



Eric McCormack spent his 20s in theatres across Canada, including five seasons with the Stratford Festival. On Broadway, he starred in Tony Award nominated productions of *The Music Man* and Gore Vidal's *The Best Man*.

Over 30 years, he has played lead roles in dozens of films and TV series, including *Lonesome Dove*, *Trust Me*, *The Andromeda Strain*, and, recently, *Atypical* on Netflix. He was a producer and director on *Perception* from 2012-14, starring as a neuroscientist living with schizophrenia. He also pulled triple duty as a director, producer, and star of the all-Canadian Netflix hit

Travelers, receiving a 2019 Canadian Screen Award nomination. He recently completed his 11th season as Will Truman on NBC's *Will and Grace*, for which he has been nominated for six Golden Globes and four Emmy Awards, winning the Emmy for Lead Actor in a Comedy in 2001.

Mr. McCormack and Janet, his wife of 21 years, are actively involved with many charitable organizations including the Elton John AIDS Foundation, Project Angel Food, the Rape Foundation, and the ASPCA. He has performed his one-man show *The Concert I Never Gave (except, like, 2,000 times in my bedroom)* in Toronto, Vancouver, and Los Angeles, raising money for Stand Up 2 Cancer, ReThink Breast Cancer, and Prostate Cancer Canada.

Mr. McCormack was honoured with a star on Canada's Walk of Fame in 2010 and on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 2018. Last year he was awarded an Honourary Doctorate from his alma mater, Ryerson University.

Marcus Nance, Ben



Marcus Nance is equally at home in musical theatre, concert, and cabaret. *The New York Times* described him as “a thrillingly powerful bass-baritone” while *The Globe and Mail* commented on his “rich voice and strong stage presence.” He has spent 10 seasons at the Stratford Festival, where his credits include Caiaphas in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, Queequeg in *Moby Dick*, and Montgomery in *My One and Only*. New York audiences saw Nance on Broadway as Caiaphas in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, in Baz Luhrman's Tony Award-winning production of *La bohème*, in New York City Centre ENCORES! productions of *Kismet* and *Of Thee I Sing*, and as Alidoro in *Cenerentola* with New York City Opera Education. Recent projects include directing and performing in *Why We Tell the Story Cabaret* at the Stratford Festival, *So How's it Been?* for Here for Now Theatre, barge concerts at Stratford Summer Music, *Voice of a Preacher's Son* for Stratfest@home, and television appearances on *Murdoch Mysteries*, *Departure*, and *Mayday*. Nance has been nominated for a Dora Award for best performer in a musical for Atom Egoyan's *Elsewhereless*, a Juno Award for Classical Album of the year for *Dark Star Requiem*, and a My Entertainment Award for Judge Turpin in the Shaw Festival's production of *Sweeney Todd*.

Jenni Burke, Emily



Jenni Burke is a Canadian actress, singer, and cabaret artist who has had a diverse career spanning from screen, television, and stage. She has performed to rave reviews and in venues across Canada. Select stage credits include *Bang Bang*, *Chicago*, *King Lear*, *Twelfth Night*, *Intimate Apparel*, *The Vagina Monologues*, *The New Canadian Curling Club*, *Mamma Mia*, *The Wars*, *All Shook Up*, and *The Drowsy Chaperone*. Recent television and film credits include *Kim's Convenience*, *Private Eyes*, *Kids in the Hall*, *Say Yes to Christmas*, *Colors of Love*, *Odd Squad*, *Overlord and the Underwoods*, and *Reacher*. Ms. Burke recently starred in a film called *Pattern* and her other film credits include *Music Man*, *Undercover Brother Half Baked*, and *Rookie Blue*. She is also known for hosting a successful cabaret collective called *Curtains Down* at the Pantages Hotel Martini Lounge in Toronto and performing her own act in the Global Can-West Cabaret Festival to glowing reviews. She is a graduate of Musical Theatre Performance of Sheridan College and has received Betty Mitchell, Dora, and Evie award nominations for ensemble and supporting actress.

Mary Lou Fallis, Heidi



Mary Lou Fallis holds a unique position in the music scene as “Canada's foremost musical comedienne.” Known to thousands of viewers and listeners across the country for the *Bravo!* television series *Bathroom Divas*, her *CBC Radio* series *Diva Diaries*, and to hundreds of theatre goers for her *Primadonna* series of one-woman shows, in her inimitable way, she has re-invented the classical music comedy genre.

Ms. Fallis is best known as the creator and interpreter of very original one-woman shows: the ACTRA award-winning and Dora nominated *Primadonna*, based on her own life as a singer; its two sequels – *Primadonna's First Farewell Tour* and *Primadonna Does More With Less*, which was premiered at the Guelph Spring Festival; *Emma, Queen of Song* about the real-life Canadian diva, Emma Albani; *The Mrs. Bach Show* hosted by Anna Magdalena, wife of J.S. Bach; and *Ms. Mozart*, the story of Wolfgang's sister Nannerl (created for the 1991 Mozart bicentennial). The latest incarnations are *Primadonna on a Moose*, turned into a popular CD with members of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, and *Primadonna Goes Camping*, premiered outdoors on a wilderness Lake in Haliburton at the Forest Festival.

Ms. Fallis was the music producer of the Gemini Award-winning *Bathroom Divas*, a six-part reality TV series that quickly developed a cult following. Opera's answer to *American Idol*, *Bathroom Divas* featured Ms. Fallis as part of a jury selecting the grand prize winner from hundreds of hopefuls in a nation-wide challenge.

Ms. Fallis now lives in Port Hope Ontario with her husband and a very woolly dog named Percy.

Denise Fergusson, Solange



62 years ago, Ms. Fergusson's long career as actor, director, singer began with Bristol Old Vic's Theatre Company. She returned to a developing Canadian regional theatre scene of resident companies and for years acted in over 150 leading roles: Gertrude (*Hamlet 4x* plus NAC national tour), Sarah Bernhardt (*Memoir*), Marguerite Gautier (*Camino Real*), Masha (*Three Sisters*), Arkadina (*Seagull*), Celimene (*Misanthrope*), Elvira (*Blithe Spirit*), Silvia (*Recruiting Officer*), Amanda (*Glass Menagerie*), Kate (*Taming of the Shrew*), Pegeen (*Playboy of the Western World*), and Barbara (*Major Barbara*).

She was in the first professional season of Shaw Festival as Lavinia (*Androcles and the Lion*) and her seven seasons at Stratford Festival included Helena in *Midsummer Night's Dream*. Her other credits include Soulpepper Theatre's Enid (*Chorus of Disapproval*), cabarets, TV and radio dramas, and a performance at the White House. Among her recent credits are Apple Channel's *Ghost Writer* and recent feature *Crisis Point*. Favourite musical theatre roles include Frl. Schneider (*Cabaret*), Jenny (*Threepenny Opera*), and Metella (*La Vie Parisienne*) at Stratford; Mama Rose (*Gypsy*), Jenny, Mrs. Peachum (*Threepenny Opera* and *Beggar's Opera*), Marilla (*Anne of Green Gables*), Aunt Elizabeth (*Emily of New Moon*), Madam Dubonnet (*The Boyfriend*), and Mona Kent (*Dames At Sea*). She has taught and directed in just about every major university theatre department in Canada and at her alma mater, Carnegie Mellon. She was the first acting department head of CCPA and acting teacher for the Charlottetown Festival Young Company. She also often taught as a guest artist and directed at George Brown Theatre School. She is currently teaching acting online for Eclipse Theatre. Ms. Fergusson celebrates all those senior theatre artists who proudly proclaim "I'm Still Here" and act as a mentor for future generations of performers.

Lorraine Foreman, Hattie



With *Follies*, Lorraine Foreman is celebrating her seventieth year in the theatre. Born in Vancouver, she started her career with "Theatre under the stars" and Totem Theatre as their resident ingénue in dramas and comedies. When she was ready, she moved to London, England, appearing in the hit West End musical *Wedding in Paris*. She started working in cabaret at the Astor Club and Pigalle and added Rome, Italy, and Beirut, Lebanon, to the list.

Coming back to Canada, she was involved in the early years of television in a new show called *Country Hoedown* as well as many more drama shows. As member of the Stratford, Shaw, and Charlottetown festivals, her highlights include taking *Anne of Green Gables* to her adoring fans on a three-month tour of Japan.

She has worked in repertory theatre in every province in Canada, running the gamut from Jocasta in *Oedipus Rex* to the Reverend Mother in *Nunsense*. On Broadway, she starred in the award-winning *Oklahoma*, choreographed by Agnes DeMille, as well as *Kiss of a Spider Woman* and *Showboat*, directed by Hal Prince.

After Touring with *Showboat*, Ms. Foreman decided to take some time off to see the rest of the world. Her adventure tours took her to China, India, Morocco, Vietnam, and Indonesia, while her later years have been spent with the Drayton Festival. Hanging up her tap shoes at 87, she played Sister Mary Theresa in *Sister Act* for eight shows per week. Her last cabaret performance was a show about her life, called *I Hear Music*, performed at Stratford and The Bistro in Toronto.

Ben Heppner, Dmitri



Ben Heppner is renowned worldwide for his portrayals in the dramatic tenor repertoire. His illustrious career has taken him to opera stages and concert halls around the world. He is acclaimed for the beauty of his voice, incisive musicianship, and his generosity with his audience. His performances on the opera stage, in concert with the world's leading orchestras, in the most prestigious recital venues, and in recordings have set new standards in his demanding repertoire.

Heppner studied music at the University of British Columbia. He first gained national attention in 1979 as the winner of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation Talent Festival. He is a 1988 winner of the Metropolitan Opera auditions and received Grammy Awards in 1998 for his recording of *Die Meistersinger* on London/Decca records and in 2001 for his recording of *Les Troyens* with the London Symphony Orchestra on LSOLive. Ben Heppner is a Companion of the Order of Canada.

Ben Heppner and his wife live in Toronto. He has three grown children and five of the most adorable, witty, and intelligent grands the world has ever seen. Heppner loves drinking coffee on the deck and touring the countryside on his motorcycle.

Roger Honeywell, Roscoe



Roger Honeywell began his performing career here in Toronto after training at Ryerson Theatre School and Claude Watson School for the Arts. He has been an acting member of the Stratford Festival and of the Shaw Festival, and has performed in theatres across the country. After winning the Dora Award for his portrayal of Martin Guerre in Leslie Ardens's *The House of Martin Guerre*, he decided to make a career shift into the world of opera. In 2000, Richard Bradshaw welcomed him into the Ensemble Studio of the Canadian Opera Company. For the last 20 years, Mr. Honeywell has been seen in theatres across the globe, including the Metropolitan Opera, Covent Garden, The Chicago Lyric Opera, Los Angeles Opera, Theatre du Chatelet Paris, Toulouse, Opera Rio de Janeiro, Opera Santiago Chile, Santa Fe Opera, Glimmerglass, Vancouver Opera, Calgary Opera, Opera de Montreal, Opera on the Avalon, and of course where it all started, the Canadian Opera Company. His range of repertoire is extensive, including works by Puccini, Verdi, Wagner, Strauss, Janáček, and Britten. A champion of new works, he has been heard in world premiers by composers such as Thomas Addis, John Adams, Tan Dun, Richard Daneilpour, Ricky Ian Gordon, John Estacio, Bramwell Tovey, Jennifer Higdon, and Paul Moravec. Currently, he is working on a new operatic adaptation of the novel *A Thousand Acres* by Jane Smiley with music by Kristen Kuster and libretto by Mark Campbell, which will be presented next summer. He is thrilled to be apart of this production of *Follies* and is happy to be working with many old friends.

Charlotte Moore, Carlotta



Charlotte Moore has been a staple of the Canadian musical theatre for over 40 years. She won her first Dora Mavor Moore Award in 1990 for *The Rocky Horror Show* and was nominated exactly 30 years later for Sondheim's *Sunday in the Park With George*. She has appeared at the Shaw Festival (including Sondheim's *Merrily We Roll Along*) and The Charlottetown Festival (most recently as Marilla Cuthbert in *Anne of Green Gables* – in which she appeared nine times), and has worked across the country in such beautiful theatres as The Grand Theatre London (*Cabaret*, *Side By Side By Sondheim*, Robin Phillips's *Grand Theatre Company*), Halifax's Neptune Theatre (Mama Rose in *Gypsy*), and many more.

She has worked many times with Drayton Entertainment (*Blood Brothers*, *Annie*) and also for Mirvish Entertainment (*Hairspray*, Fantine in *Les misérables*, and Aunty Em in *The Wizard of Oz* – Ed Mirvish Theatre and US/national tour). She has also been a stalwart supporter of new Canadian musicals for all of those 40 years, appearing in many world premieres and workshops.

Ms. Moore appears on the cast album for *Stan Rogers – A Matter of Heart*, and has two solo albums to her credit: *Friends of Mine – Songs From Canadian Musicals* and *Long Road Back* (all original material). Her brand new album, *Some Comfort Here*, with Mark Camilleri, is about to be released!

What an absolute thrill it is to be part of this remarkable evening. Enjoy!

Jackie Richardson, Stella



Jackie Richardson is one of Canada's most highly regarded stars of gospel, jazz, and blues, also well known for her of stage, screen, and studio work. Her awards and nominations include Junos, Geminis, Jessie and Bessie's, Maple Blues, and a Canadian Black Achievement Award for the Arts. Her unforgettable roles have ranged from theatre performances in *Ain't Misbehavin'* (Dora) and *Cookin' At the Cookery* as Alberta Hunter (Dora); film performances in *Turning to Stone* as Dunk (Gemini) and *Sins of the Father* (NAACP); as well as her role as Jazz on the popular children's TV series *Doodle Bops*. She has starred opposite Christopher Reeve, Sidney Poitier, Jane Seymour, and Keifer Sutherland, and has also hosted radio, television, and stage shows.

Ms. Richardson has also performed or recorded with countless musicians and ensembles, including Salome Bey, Doug Riley, Ray Charles, Alannah Myles, Céline Dion, Anne Murray, Oliver Jones, Andrew Craig, Molly Johnson, Divine Brown, Debra Cox, Mavis Staples, Guido Basso, Maureen Forester, Shirley Eikhard, Albert Schultz, Brent Carver, Michelle Wright, the Nathaniel Dett Chorale, Faith Chorale, Toronto Symphony, Nova Scotia Symphony, and the NAC Symphony.

In 1996, she contributed to Joe Sealy's recording, *Africville Suite*, which received a Juno nomination, and she released her first recording, *A Woman's View Through a Child's Eyes*, in 2003.

Ms. Richardson continues to perform on stage and screen throughout Canada and the United States.

Avery Saltzman, Theodore



Avery Saltzman has been in the business for 44 years since his professional debut at the Shaw Festival in 1978. He has played most theatres across Canada, many regional theatres through the USA, Broadway, Covent Garden, Royal Albert Hall, and London's West End.

Although he has not given up performing altogether, for the last 15 years he has spent most waking hours as the Co-Artistic Director of the Harold Green Jewish Theatre Company – the largest not-for-profit professional theatre company in Canada that devotes itself to telling the Jewish story.

He is honoured to be sharing the concert stage at Koerner Hall along with these fabulous artists.

Gabriel Antonacci, Young Buddy



Gabriel is so excited to be joining this concert of *Follies*. He has performed all over North America, including the first national tour of *American Idiot*, Canadian premiere of *Jersey Boys* in Toronto, eight seasons at the Stratford Festival (including *Play On!* this past summer), six seasons at the Charlottetown Festival, and more.

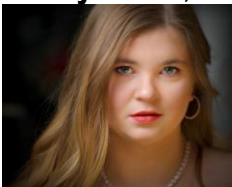
Some of his selected film credits include *Frankie Drake Mysteries*, Disney's *The Pacifier*, and *My Babysitter's a Vampire*. He is very grateful for his wife, Robin, and their dog, Bella, for helping him get through the pandemic. Also huge thanks to his agent Colin and also Richard for his support!

Tess Bengler, Young Phyllis



Tess Bengler is a Toronto-based actor. She grew up downtown in an artistic family and has been performing since before she could remember! She received a Dora Award nomination for her portrayal of Dot in *Sunday in the Park with George* (Eclipse Theatre), and her select credits include Alice in *Alice in Wonderland* (Bad Hats/Soulpepper), Lydia Wickham in *Miss Bennet's Christmas at Pemberley* (MTC, Evie nomination), Sally Bowles in *Cabaret* (The Grand Theatre), Dora Award-winning *Chasse Galarie* (Soulpepper/Storefront), Anne Shirley in *Anne of Green Gables* (Charlottetown), and three seasons at the Shaw Festival, where she performed in *Top Girls*, *The Next Whiskey Bar*, *Sweeney Todd*, *The Philadelphia Story*, *Cabaret*, and more. Her upcoming engagements include Cinderella in *Into the Woods* at the Elgin Winter Garden (Talk is Free). She is the co-founder of The Canadian Green Alliance, a not-for-profit devoted to bridging the gap between sustainability and theatre. For more information: canadiangreenalliance.com or [@canadiangreenalliance](https://www.instagram.com/canadiangreenalliance) on instagram. Enjoy the show!

Katelyn Bird, Young Heidi



Katelyn Bird is an emerging Canadian soprano entering her final year in the ADP program at The Glenn Gould School (GGS), graduating with her Honours BMus from the GGS in 2019. In November 2020, she performed the role of Annunciata in W. Bolcom's *Lucrezia* in a filmed production with the GGS. In 2019, she premiered her role as Papagena in the GGS's presentation of *The Magic Flute* in Koerner Hall. Additional performances include premiering in a commissioned work by Anna Höstman with the GGS New Music Ensemble at the 21C Music Festival and performing the role of Cecily Cardew in *Earnest, the Importance of Being*, a Canadian operetta by E. Benson and V. Davies to rave reviews, noting Miss Bird's "exceptional voice[s] ... vocal skill[s] and range" (Samantha Wu, 2019). Miss Bird is excited to perform the role of Milica in *Svadba* (Wedding) by Ana Sokolović on Mazzoleni Concert Hall's stage in November 2021.

Andrew Broderick, Young Ben



Andrew Broderick is a Toronto-based theatre artist who is thrilled to be performing along side such talent in *Follies!* A Sheridan's Musical Theatre graduate, he has been seen in a number of shows across Canada. Selected credits include *The Color Purple* (Neptune/Citadel/MTC), *Hadestown* (Citadel), *Sweeney Todd*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, and *Grand Hotel* (Shaw Festival), *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* and *The Pirates of Penzance* (Stratford Festival), *Hairspray* (Charlottetown Festival/Drayton Entertainment/Rainbow Stage), *Dreamgirls* (The Grand Theatre), and *South Pacific* (Drayton Entertainment). He would like to thank all the creatives on and offstage, agents at The Talent House, and all his loved ones who act as constant reminders to 'return home.'

Kimberly-Ann Truong, Young Sally



Kimberly-Ann "Kimmy" Truong is elated to be coming back to the stage with this dynamic cast and creative team of *Follies*. She hails from the northwest coast of BC but now calls Toronto home. She dove into TV/film this past year and will be seen in various projects releasing in 2022. Her credits include *Kim's Convenience* and *Run the Burbs* (CBC), *Y: The Last Man* (FX), *Take Note* (NBC), *My Little Pony* (Netflix), *Total Drama Island* (HBO Max), and *In the Dark* (Seagull and Starfish Productions).

Ms. Truong's theatre credits include: *Miss Saigon* on Broadway, multiple seasons at the Stratford Festival, and productions with the Grand Theatre, the Charlottetown Festival, Drayton Entertainment, and Talk is Free Theatre.

Representation is very important to Ms. Truong. She works hard as a mentor, panelist, instructor, and artistic associate to ensure that she makes a difference in every role she takes on and off the stage and screen. She gives all her love and thanks to her incredibly supportive family and loved ones.

Richard Ouzounian, Director



Richard Ouzounian has worked in the arts professionally for 49 years. During that time, he has directed, written, or performed in nearly 300 shows and had six books published.

He has served as artistic director of five major Canadian theatres, been an associate director of the Stratford Festival of Canada for four seasons, and was Harold Prince's assistant on the original Toronto production of *The Phantom of the Opera*.

He was theatre critic of the *Toronto Star*, Canada's largest daily newspaper, for 15 years, served as head of arts programming for *TVOntario* for five years, and spent 14 years as the host of *CBC Radio*'s highly popular Broadway program, *Say It With Music*.

Since retiring from the *Star* in 2015, his stage works include the Starvox mounting of *Four Chords and a Gun* in Toronto and Chicago, productions of the Canadian epic, *Napoleon*, in New York City and Seoul, South Korea, as well as a critically-acclaimed production of the Brecht-Weill *Mahagonny Songspiel* for Talk Is Free Theatre in Barrie.

In recent years at the Stratford Festival, he has directed *The Fantasticks* starring Eric McCormack and Chilina Kennedy in a newly revised version of Leslie Arden's *The House of Martin Guerre*. He also conceived and directed the 9-part series *Up Close and Musical*, which streamed last winter on the Stratford website.

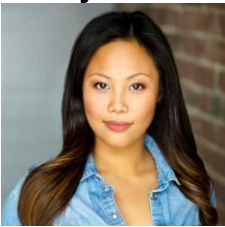
Mr. Ouzounian lives in Toronto, has been married for 44 years to his wife, Pamela, and has two children, Kat and Michael.

Paul Sportelli, Music Director



Paul Sportelli has been Music Director of the Shaw Festival of Canada in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, since 1998. He has music directed/conducted numerous Sondheim musicals at Shaw: *Merrily We Roll Along*, *Gypsy*, *A Little Night Music*, *Follies* in concert, *Sunday in the Park With George*, and *Sweeney Todd*. He has conducted on Broadway (*Aspects of Love*), music directed/conducted in Toronto (*Beauty and the Beast*, *Miss Saigon*, as well as at Soulpepper, Musical Stage Company, Studio 180, Tarragon Theatre, Young People's Theatre, and Canadian Stage), in Washington, DC (Arena Stage: *Anything Goes*, *Carousel*, *Oliver!*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *My Fair Lady*, *The Light in the Piazza*), and on tour across the U.S. and Canada (*Les Misérables*). He made his Massey Hall conducting debut in Toronto with Colin James and his Little Big Band. He is the co-writer of eight musicals to date: *Little Mercy's First Murder*, *Tristan*, *Step Right Up!*, *Nobody Told Me* (a cycle of songs), *Maria Severa*, *Oracle*, *33-1/3*, and *Erik With A K*. As a music director, Mr. Sportelli won Dora Mavor Moore Awards for his work on *Little Mercy's First Murder* (Tarragon Theatre) and *Beauty and the Beast* (Princess of Wales Theatre), and a Helen Hayes Award for his work on *Carousel* (Arena Stage). He received a Bachelor of Music degree and Performer's Certificate from Eastman School of Music, and Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees from the Manhattan School of Music.

Genny Sermonia, Choreographer



Genny Sermonia is a Filipina artist based in Toronto, Ontario. She has performed and worked creatively at the Stratford Festival, the Shaw Festival, the Elgin Winter Garden Theatres, as well as many other notable theatres across North America. Choreographic highlights include *Little Women*, *Once On This Island Jr.*, *The Barbeque King*, *A Funny Thing... Forum*; assistant choreographer: *Phantom of The Opera*, *Urinetown*; self-choreographed appearances: *The Fantasticks: In Concert*, *Odd Squad (PBS Kids)*, Best Buy Canada, McDonald's. She has also been the dance captain, and assisted and collaborated on stage and on set with some of Canada's leading choreographers and artists. It has been a dream to work along side this incredibly talented group of resilient humans. "I got through all of last year, and I'm here!" - Carlotta. This one's for Lu.

Nick Blais, Designer



Nick Blais designs across Canada in all manner of discipline and venue: theatres, parks, abandoned buildings, schools, storefronts, living rooms, and concert halls. As Head of Design for Toronto's leading immersive theatre company, Outside the March, he specializes in assembling gifted teams, creating and facilitating thematic, impactful designs, and transforming unconventional spaces into immersive, dramatic environments.

He has received Dora Mavor Moore Awards in Toronto for both set and lighting design. He was also nominated for the Virginia Myrtle Cooper award in costume design, and various other awards and nominations across the country. His design work was featured in 2011 at the Prague Quadrennial for theatre design and he was showcased in *Professional Lighting Design* magazine for his innovation in off-the-grid lighting design and site-specific scenography.

His select credits include *The Flick*, *Tape Escape*, *Dr. Silver*, *Jerusalem*, *TomorrowLove™*, *Mr. Burns*, *Terminus* (Outside the March); *Marjorie Prime*, *Hand to God*, *Aliens* (Coal Mine); *Immersive Van Gogh*, *Four Chords and a Gun* (Starvox); *Oil*, *Human Animals*, *Dissidents*, *Pomona*, *Moment* (ARC); *Kiss of the Spider Woman* (Eclipse); *Glass Menagerie* (Grand Theatre); *Bang Bang* (Factory); *Vespers* (Royal Winnipeg Ballet); *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Don Giovanni*, *L'elisir d'amore*, *Alcina*, *Ariadne auf Naxos*, *Albert Herring* (Opera Nuova); *Magic Flute*, *Madama Butterfly* (Saskatoon Opera); *West Side Story* (Citadel); and *Merrily We Roll Along*, *Brantwood* (Sheridan). Nblaisdesign.com

Kevin Bowers, Stage Manager



Kevin Bowers is thrilled to be a part of *Follies* in Concert and delighted to be working for the third time with Richard Ouzounian. During his 40+ year career in theatre, he has been fortunate to work alongside a diverse group of incredibly talented artists in all areas of performing arts.

Thomas Alderson, Assistant Director



Thomas is an actor, director, teacher, and musical theatre nerd hailing from the small town of Grand Bend, Ontario. He is a graduate of Sheridan College and holds an Honours Bachelor's Degree in Music Theatre Performance. His work as a performer, director, and assistant director has taken him all over Canada and the United States. He has worked on national touring productions and on shows with many major Canadian theatre companies, including Mirvish Productions, The Grand Theatre in London, The Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre, The Globe Theatre in Regina, The Citadel Theatre in Edmonton, Arts Club Theatre Company in Vancouver, Theatre Calgary, Neptune Theatre in Halifax, and Drayton Entertainment, among others. Favourite roles include Mordred in *Camelot*, Bud Frump in *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, Mary Sunshine in *Chicago*, and being part of the fabulous original Canadian company of *Kinky Boots*. Other favourite theatrical experiences include working as assistant to great Canadian directors Marcia Kash, Tracey Flye, Stafford Arima, and Ashlie Corcoran. His favourite musical is *Gypsy*.

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