# Standard BY THE DECADE PORCHLIGHT INLINE



20|21

# PORCHI IGHT MUSIC

MICHAEL WEBER Artistic Director

JEANNIE LUKOW **Executive Director** 

presents



Starring NEALA BARRON, BLU, DARILYN BURTLEY, LUCY GODINEZ, DONTERRIO JOHNSON, JAMES EARL JONES II. MICHELLE LAUTO & MICHAEL McBRIDE

Director Music Director Associate Director Director Of Production Videographer & Video Editing Audio Engineer Production Assistant BEN BALLMER

MICHAEL McBRIDE\* CHRISTOPHER PAZDERNIK\* ALEX RHYAN **AUSTIN PACKARD ERIC BACKUS** 

MICHAEL WEBER

◆ - Music Director - Show Boat, Girl Crazy, Annie Get Your Gun, Beauty and the Beast • - Director - Next to Normal

Special Thank You to 4200 Diversey/Michael Vasquez and Ryan & Spaeth, Inc.

Porchlight Music Theatre acknowledges the generosity of Allstate, the Bayless Family Foundation, DCASE Chicago, the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, James P. and Brenda S. Grusecki Family Foundation, Illinois Arts Council Agency, MacArthur Fund for Arts & Culture at Prince, the Dr. Scholl Foundation, and all our donors who make our work possible.

# **MUSICAL SYNOPSIS**

#### **BROADWAY BY THE DECADE**

- 1920s -

"Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man" (Show Boat) | Darilyn Burtley with Michael McBride

- 1930s -

"I Got Rhythm" (Girl Crazy) | Darilyn Burtley, James Earl Jones II,
Michelle Lauto & Michael McBride

- 1940s -

"Anything You Can Do" | Michelle Lauto & James Earl Jones II
(Annie Get Your Gun) with Michael McBride

- 1950s -

"Guys and Dolls" (Guys and Dolls) | Blu & Donterrio Johnson

- 1960s -

"Don't Rain On My Parade" (Funny Girl) | Michelle Lauto

- 1970s -

"My Own Best Friend" (Chicago) | Neala Barron & Lucy Godinez

- 1980s -

"Who Am I?" (Les Miserables) | James Earl Jones II

- 1990s -

"Beauty & the Beast" (Beauty & the Beast) | Darilyn Burtley & Michael McBride

- 2000s -

"You Don't Know/I Am the One" | Blu, Neala Barron & (Next to Normal) Donterrio Johnson

- 2010s -

"She Used to Be Mine" (Waitress) | Lucy Godinez



The Ruth Page Center for the Arts

Porchlight Music Theatre is proud to be a member of the vibrant Ruth Page Center for the Arts performing arts community, and an Artist In-Residence. An incubator of artistic energy and excellence, the Ruth Page Center for the Arts carries forward the vision and mission of its founder, legendary dance icon Ruth Page, to be a platform for developing great artists and connecting them with audiences and community.

# **DIRECTORS' NOTE**

usic theatre holds a special place as one, among very few, of America's original art forms. Launching from the genre's origins in European operetta, as well as vaudeville and burlesque, Broadway by the Decade highlights the evolution of a theatrical form of expression that has made an immeasurable impact on the world. From humble beginnings as a popular form of mindless escape, the musical evolved into a medium that explored the power of musical drama to make a statement concerning social and political issues of the day. Today, it has become one of the most impressive vehicles to explore the human condition. Broadway by the Decade journeys through more than 100 years in the history of the phenomenon known as the Broadway Musical. We'll be stopping along the way to celebrate, in song, some of those productions that made a lasting impact in the decade they premiered, performed by some of Chicago's best-loved artsits. While there are far too many hit shows and top songs to cover in just 45 minutes, we hope you enjoy learning a bit of the fascinating story of this art form that America can call its own.

Artistic Director Michael Weber, director of Broadway by the Decade

#### - BLACK LIVES MATTER -

Porchlight believes Black Lives Matter and stands with others in denouncing racism, bigotry, hate and intolerance, and in reaffirming our total commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) as we advance our mission both on and off the stage. We have dedicated ourselves to the education and work necessary to make positive change within our organization and in our industry. We have begun EDI education for staff and board, and we are auditing materials, practices, policies, and procedures for ways we can be a more equitable and inclusive company. We will have a multi-year EDI action plan in place by the end of 2020. Additionally, we are forming an EDI Committee that will give feedback and recommendations on all our work in this area. We encourage you to follow our goals, progress and ways to get involved at PorchlightMusicTheatre.org.

# BIOS



NEALA BARRON Porchlight: Merrily We Roll Along....Forum, Chicago Sings. Chicago & Regional: Firebrand Theatre (Queen of the Mist), Boho Theatre (110 In the Shade - Jeff Nomination, Principal Performer; Marie Christine), Criffin Theatre Company (Raatime:

Titanic), The Hypocrites (Adding Machine), Theo Ubique Theatre (Hello Again), Kokandy Productions (Assassins; The Full Monty), Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Circle Theatre, Brown Paper Box Co., The Inconvenience, Raven Theatre, Great River Shakespeare Festival, and more. She holds a BFA in Acting from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Campaign.



BLU Porchlight: "Benny" In The Heights, "Clarence Norwood" The Scottboro Boys, "Wailing Joe" in Memphis and New Faces Sing Broadway 1985. Chicago: Jesus Christ Superstar (Paramount), Five Guys Named Moe (Court Theatre), Shrek (Marriott Theatre), and Kill

Move Paradise (TimeLine Theatre). @HeyBluBoy



DARILYN BURTLEY Porchlight: New Faces Sing Broadway NOW.
Chicago: The Last Session (Jeff Award nomination; Refuge Theatre Project); Jesus Christ Superstar & The Light in the Piazza (Lyric Opera of Chicago); Dreamgirls (Marriott Theatre) and as "Paradise" in Song

of Paradise (Chicago Shakespeare). Tours: Featured Singer on Norwegian Cruise Line. Darilyn has also appeared in commercials, industrials, film, and print modeling. She would like to thank her mother, her agent, and the rest of her loved ones who continue to inspire and encourage her in her performance journey.



LUCY GODINEZ Porchlight: "Nina Rosario" in In The Heights, "Martha Jefferson" in 1776 and New Faces Sing Broadway. Marriott Theatre: "Nancy" in Oliver! (Jeff Award Nomination), "Ariel" in Footloose; Paramount Theatre: "Serena" in Legally Blonde; Writers Theatre:

"Little Red Riding Hood" in Into The Wood; & Mercury Theatre Chicago: "Jeannie" in Hair. A graduate of Northwestern University, she is represented by Stewart Talent. lucygodinez.com



DONTERRIO JOHNSON Porchlight: 'The Jazzbo' in Sophisticated Ladies, "Man 2" in Ain't Misbehavin' and "Lopez" in Porchlight Revisits Colden Boy. Chicago: "Joe Sutter," The Spitfire Grill (American Blues Theater): "Leading Player," Pippin (Venus Cabaret): "Gary Coleman,"

Avenue Q (Mercury Theater); "Daveed Diggs,"

Spamilton (Royal George Theatre); "Judas," Jesus Christ Superstar (Theo Ubique); "Dan," Next To Normal (Boho Theatre); "Mr Caldwell," Urinetown (Boho Theatre). Tours: Lookingglass Alice, Waitress. TV: Sirens (USA), TwiceBorn, McDonald's McPick Two, @DonterrioLive



JAMES EARL JONES II Porchlight: Memphis (Bobby), Scottsboro Boys (Haywood) and Sondheim on Sondheim (Jeff Nomination - Actor in a Revue). Tours: Come From Away (1st National) & The Gershwin's Porgy & Bess (1st National). Chicago: American

Musical Theatre Project: Something in the Game (Jimmy the Goat); Chicago Shakespeare: Shrek (Donkey); First Folio: Cymbeline (lachimo); Writers Theatre: Company (Harry) & Sweet Charity (Herman & Big Daddy Brubeck): Marriott Theatre: She Loves Me (Sipos), Madagascar (Marty), Elf, October Sky, Dreamgirls, Full Monty; Lookingglass: Mr. Rickey Calls a Meeting: Court Theatre: Five Guys named Moe (Eat Moe), Satchmo at the Waldorf (U/S performed), Porgy & Bess (Crown), The Good Book, The Secret Garden; Lyric Opera Chicago & SF Opera: Porgy and Bess: Theatre at the Center: The Wiz (Lion - Jeff Nomination); Drury Lane Oakbrook: Aida (Mereb), Spamalot, Ragtime; Northlight: A Civil War Christmas (Decatur Bronson), Ravinia Festival: Annie Get Your Gun, Broadway in Chicago & Mason Street Warehouse: 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (Mitch Mahoney): Appletree Theatre: Dessa Rose (Harker). TV/Film: Pokerhouse, Chicago Med, Empire, Hot Date & Chicago Fire on NBC. James thanks his family, friends, Telsey, Chris Ashley & Stewart Talent. "For my daughter Semaje."



MICHELLE LAUTO Porchlight: "Betty Schaefer" in Sunset Boulevard, "Vanessa" in In The Heights, "Abigail Adams" in Porchlight Revisits 1776, and a 2016 New Face. Chicago: Oklahoma, Ragtime, and Seussical (Marriott Theatre), and HAIR (Mercury Theater), Michelle is a 2017

Jeff Award Recipient for her work in *Spamilton* (The Royal George), www.michellelauto.com @michelleryanlauto



DR. MICHAEL MCBRIDE Porchlight: Porchlight Palooza. Chicago: Music Director for BoHo Theatre's Big Fish (Jeff Award Recipient); Pride Arts Center The Christmas Foundling (also composer); Timber Lake Playhouse The Little Mermaid, Into the Woods, Mamma Mid., Man of

La Mancha, What a Wonderful World (Workshop premiere); Wallace Bowl Footloose; Loyola University Chicago The Boys and the Nuns (also composer), Fun Home, Violet, Cabaret, Tintypes, She Loves Me, Spring Awakening, Hot Mikado, Urinetown, Into the Woods. www.michaelscottmcbride.com @therealmcbride

# BIOS (CONT.)

MICHAEL WEBER (Director) is Porchlight Music Theatre's artistic director and most recently directed Sunset Boulevard and Gypsy for Porchlight Music Theatre as well as the Porchlight Revisits production of 1776. His productions of Gypsy. End of the Rainbow. Side Show, ... Forum, Sweeney Todd, Pal Joey and Assassins at Porchlight, Grand Hotel at Drury Lane Theatre Water Tower Place and She Loves Me at Theatre at the Center were each nominated for the Equity Joseph Jefferson Award for Best Production-Musical. Other directing credits include Living the History-125 Years of the Auditorium Theatre (starring Patti Lupone, John Mahoney, and stars of Lyric Opera of Chicago, The Joffrey Ballet, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre and others), Fifth of July and Tallev's Folly at the Oak Park Festival Theatre. The Petrified Forest at Theatre at the Center, Beauty and the Beast at Marriott Theatre, Over the River and Through the Woods at Mercury Theater, and Cirque du Symphony at Sears Center Arena. The recipient of two Joseph Jefferson Awards, he has written and directed fifteen Joseph Jefferson Awards ceremonies. Weber's regional acting credits include The Merry Widow and The Sound of Music at Lyric Opera, 42nd Street at Paramount, Annie Get Your Gun and Gypsy (both starring Patti LuPone) at Ravinia, Disney's My Son Pinocchio at First Stage Milwaukee, Around the World in 80 Days at Cleveland Playhouse, The Winter's Tale and Henry V at Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Angel Street at First Folio Shakespeare, and The Gifts of the Magi at Indiana Repertory. He served previously as artistic director of Drury Lane Theatre Water Tower Place (now The Broadway Playhouse) and Theatre at the Center. Michael is proud to serve as a pledge host on WTTW, Channel 11.

ERIC BACKUS (Sound Engineer) is a theatrical composer and sound designer. Recent Chicago credits include Plano (First Floor Theater, Steppenwolf LookOut Series), Short Shakes! Comedy of Errors (Chicago Shakespeare Theater), Every Brilliant Thing (Windy City Playhouse), Packing (About Face Theater), Wolf Play (Gift Theatre, Jeff Nomination), and The Absolute Brightness of Leonard Pelkey (American Blues Theater, Jeff Nomination). Off-Broadway: Hollow/Wave (United Solo Festival), Churchill (SoloChicago Theatre); Regional: Mark Twain's River of Song, The All Night Strut (Milwaukee Rep.), Shakespeare in Love, Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley (TheatreSquared), Legally Blonde (Northern Stage), Working: A Musical, Murder for Two (Merry Go Round Playhouse), Rock of Ages (Lake Dillon Theatre Co.). To hear some of his music, please visit ericbackus.com.

**ALEX RYHAN** (Director of Production) started out his career as a freelance technical director and production manager. He worked on more than a dozen productions at Chicago theaters including: American Theater Company, About Face Theater, Steep Theater,

Porchlight Music Theatre and Windy City Playhouse. He then became the full-time production manager at Windy City Playhouse (2017) where he helped bring to life 11 productions including the Playhouse's most acclaimed immersive production Southern Gothic. Rhyan then transitioned to Porchlight Music Theatre in 2019 as the production and operations director. He received a B.A in Theater with a concentration in Stage Management from Columbia College Chicago.

CHRISTOPHER PAZDERNIK (Associate Director) Porchlight: Call Me Madam, Minnie's Boys, Do Re Mi, Merrily We Roll Along (play), The Rink, Applause, City of Angels, Anyone Can Whistle (Director, Porchlight Revisits); Miracle on 34th Street, Chicago Sings: 25 Years of Porchlight and New Faces Sing Broadway 1991, 1972, 1985, 1975 and NOW (Director): Merrily We Roll Along (Assoc. Director/Musical Staging); Sunset Boulevard, Candide, A Catered Affair, Dreamgirls and End of the Rainbow (Asst. Director). He was also Artistic Director of Refuge Theatre Project for three seasons where he directed their hit production of High Fidelity (Jeff Awards for Best Director & Best Musical) and many others. Christopher is the Casting & Company Manager at Porchlight, and also has extensive experience in cabaret, casting, associate producing, company management, non-profit fundraising and HIV/AIDS advocacy.

AUSTIN PACKARD (Videographer & Video Editing) is Porchlight Music Theatre's marketing manager and a native of Cleveland, Ohio. He holds a BAC in Theatre Technology and Design from Bowling Green State University, and joined Porchlight Music Theatre after finishing three years in Live Entertainment at Cedar Point. In addition to Porchlight, he is a freelance graphic designer and theatrical technician, with a long standing passion for music, theatre, Stephen King, and his pets Georgie and Theo. He is proud to be a part of the Porchlight team and the Chicago theatre community.

JEANNIE LUKOW (Executive Director) is a founding member of Porchlight Music Theatre's board of directors serving on the board for 19 years, six of them as its president. She was thrilled to join the staff in September 2014 as the company's first Executive Director. Prior to taking the helm at Porchlight, Jeannie ran Bespoke Cuisine, one of Chicago's leading cooking party venues, which she co-founded/owned for 12 years. Before the hospitality/food business, Jeannie built a 15-year career in marketing communications, much of it spent in association management. Her most recent position was as Managing Director of Marketing Communications for the National Association of Realtors, one of the nation's largest trade associations. She is a native Michigander and a graduate of Michigan State University.

# **PORCHLIGHT MUSIC THEATRE STAFF**

Executive Director **JEANNIE LUKOW** 

Artistic Director MICHAEL WEBER

Development Director LISA TORGERSON

Development Associate MANDY KATZ

Production & Operations Director ALEX RHYAN

Casting & Company Manager CHRISTOPHER PAZDERNIK

Audience Services Manager AUGUST COMPTON

Education Director REBECCAH SINGER

Marketing Manager AUSTIN PACKARD

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# **EDUCATION**

Porchlight Music Theatre Education Announces Fall Schedule of Exciting Upcoming Classes for all Ages and Skills - In-Person or via zoom!



September 26 - December, 19 (ages 7-10, Saturdays 11:30 am - 1:00 pm)

Enter the world of music, drama, dance, writing, and more while practicing teamwork, communication, and problem-solving. Actors will be introduced to their actor tools, with lots of time for playing games and making new friends. At the end of the session join us for a final performance to celebrate all your young actors' work!



September 26 - December, 19 (ages 11-13, Saturdays 1:00 - 3:00 pm)

Intermediate actors build on the basics to learn about building an ensemble, singing in harmony, and creating more challenging characters. Actors will write their own story paired with musical theatre classics and new hits to share with family and friends at the end of the term!

All youth classes meet at the Menomonee Club Drucker Center, 1535 N. Dayton St., in Lincoln Park, for small in-person classes.

We will be checking temperatures, wearing masks and staying socially distant throughout class, but if you'd prefer to join us via zoom, that's an option as well.

More information, as well as registration and our scholarship application may be found https://porchlightmusictheatre.org/events/youth-classes-fall-2020.

Professional Classes continue completely on zoom and there's tons of great options!

We have Classpasses and Drop-In Rates for all of our offerings!









Each class meets for six weeks. Use code GOPRO for 15% off at checkout

Any Sondheim lovers can join us for **Finishing the Hat, Part II** and **Look, I Made a Hat** via zoom to learn about the great composer's process, collaborators and history. Each class explores a different musical and lets you peek behind the curtain!

Porchlight is also available to come to your child's classroom with our signature literacy residency, **Sing Out!**, classroom workshops and production support.

For more information or to register for any of these programs go to **PorchlightMusicTheatre.org/school** or reach out to Education Director **Rebeccah Singer** at **rebeccah@porchlightmusictheatre.org** 

# PORCHLIGHT MUSICTHEATRE

As the home for music theatre in Chicago now in its 26th season, Porchlight Music Theatre is nationally recognized for reimagining classic productions, supporting new works and showcasing musical theatre's noted Chicago veterans and rising stars. Porchlight elevates the genre by providing intimate and powerful music theatre experiences through the lens of the "Chicago Style." The 2017-2018 year marked a milestone for Porchlight as the company became an Artist In-Residence at the historic Ruth Page Center for the Arts in Chicago's Gold Coast. Porchlight's rich history includes the staging of more than 70 productions with 15 Chicago premieres and five world premieres. Through Porchlight's "Off the Porch" new works program. the musicals of the next generation are developed and given a first audience. Porchlight's education programming serves schools, young artists, hobbyists and emerging professionals. Its musical theatre summer camps returned for the fourth smash year in 2020, virtually and in-person, developing skills in young performers and offering scholarships to qualifying students. The company's many accolades include 33 Black Theatre Alliance nominations and 178 Joseph Jefferson Award nominations resulting in 42 Jeff Awards, In 2020, Porchlight Music Theatre's first year in the "Large Theatre" tier of the Joseph Jefferson Equity Awards, Porchlight was honored with 11 nominations in both technical and artistic categories.

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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# COMING UP FROM PORCHLIGHT

#### Join us for a VIRTUAL Fall Season of NEW shows and fan favorites



#### WORKING

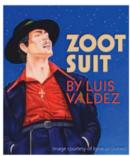
In collaboration with L.A. Theatre Works

Available for viewing: October 16 - November 8
In a special arrangement with L.A. Theatre Works, Porchlight will host the first revised and updated version of this 1970s cult classic based on the legendary book by Studs Terkel.
With a cast of twenty Working is a rousing musical for anyone who has ever punched a clock, a cow or a supervisor—or wanted to.



#### **NEW FACES SING BROADWAY 1987**

Available for viewing: November 6 - November 29
Filmed on-site at Chicago's historic Studebaker Theatre, the popular New Faces Sing Broadway cabaret series returns, virtually, this fall with host Larry Adams and a line up of up-and-coming performers from Chicago's music theatre scene. New Faces Sing Broadway 1987 is an entire Broadway season in 90 minutes and includes hit songs from Les Miserables, Into the Woods, Me and My Girl and other musicals from the 1987 Broadway season.



#### ZOOT SUIT

In collaboration with L.A. Theatre Works

Available for viewing: November 27 - December 20 In a special arrangement with L.A. Theatre Works, playwright Luis Valdez masterfully uses the Sleepy Lagoon murder case and the unrest in Los Angeles following 12 Latino youths being unjustly convicted by a biased judge to examine the zoot suit culture of the 40s. Passionate and provocative, Zoot Suit pulses with the beat of big band music and traditional Latin songs.



#### HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM PORCHLIGHT!

Available for viewing: December 11 - January 3, 2021
Porchlight Music Theatre debuts a holiday "get together," virtually, to celebrate the start of the winter season. This holiday special features Porchlight favorites performing holiday classics and winter-themed songs from a variety of music theatre productions including White Christmas, Meet Me in St. Louis and others.

# ONGOING VIRTUAL OFFERINGS

#### Porchlight continues to be a leader in FREE virtual programming



# SONDHEIM @ 90 ROUNDTABLE WITH HOST ARTISTIC DIRECTOR MICHAEL WEBER

FREE! Every other Saturday at 7 p.m.

**Stephen Sondheim's** storied career is discussed every other Saturday at 7 p.m. Central with special guests from the worlds of Chicago's theater scene. Broadway and national music theatre presenters.



Porchlight presents some complementary content, with a cocktail: *I'll Drink to That*. A new episode of this series hosted by **Porchlight Board Member and Hearty Boy Steve McDonagh** debuts each Friday before a Sondheim episode. McDonagh, in his own original way, shares a cocktail recipe, pairing it with that week's Sondheim @ 90 with host Michael Weber's episode.



#### MOVIE MUSICAL MONDAY

FREE! Every Monday at 7 p.m.

Each week a host and special guest join in a zoom conversation about a musical movie with musical and movie fans. It's like a book club for movies where attendees are asked to watch the movie before the chat and come prepared for an hour of conversation, fun facts and more.



# WPMT PRESENTS: CLASSIC MUSICALS FROM THE GOLDEN AGE OF RADIO

FREE! Every Tuesday at 1 p.m.

Debuting this past summer and continuing into fall is Porchlight's WPMT PRESENTS: Classic Musicals from the Golden Age of Radio. Artistic Director Michael Weber introduces musicals from the early to mid 20th century as they were heard on network radio programs such as *The Lux Radio Theatre* and *The Theatre Guild on the Air*, often featuring members of the original Broadway casts. A bonus feature to some of the series' episodes are special guests joining Weber in conversation about that day's broadcast. Past guests include Mitchell J. Fain (discussing *Strike Up the Band*) and Christie Chiles Twillie (discussing *Carmen Jones*) and upcoming guests include Stephen Cole (discussing *Girl Crazy*) and Tom Mula (discussing *Phantom of the Opera*).



#### PORCHLIGHT BY REQUEST

via Facebook, debut times vary

Fans of music theatre and others may request a show tune with a dedication and, in a "Command Performance," a favorite Porchlight artist customizes this song. Past Porchlight By Request videos have been dedicated to family members, front line responders, teachers and others.

More information and links are available at PorchlightMusicTheatre.org

Porchlight may change any of the above information for productions, artists, etc, due to new updates from the CDC

or local government regarding up-to-date COVID-19 precautions and instructions.

# ANNUAL SUPPORT

Porchlight Music Theatre gratefully acknowledges the following individuals, corporations, and foundations who generously gave gifts of \$100 or more to The Annual Fund, The Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Cash Reserves Challenge Grant, The Rachel Rockwell Memorial Fund for Fierce Women Behind the Table, The George K. Sargent III Cash Reserve Fund, and The Christopher N. Tisone Memorial Stage Management Fund during the period: September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020. For a full list of all contributions for FY19, please consult our website at *PorchlightMusicTheatre.org/Our-Contributors*.

We also thank those patrons whose contributions to the post-show collections supported youth programs and scholarships to Porchlight's "Make Your Own Musical" Youth Summer Camp.

For information about the multiple ways of supporting Porchlight, please contact Lisa Torgerson, Development Director, at lisa@porchlightmusictheatre.org or call 312.593.2643. We endeavor to make this listing as accurate as possible. Should you detect an error, please contact Development Associate Mandy Katz at mandy@porchlightmusictheatre.org.

#### **Our Institutional Donors**

























HARRIS FAMILY HEARTY BOYS



















Dr. Scholl Foundation





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(September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020)

**The Songbook Society** recognizes donations of \$2,500 or more for the remarkable impact these generous donors make in ensuring the future of music theatre in Chicago.

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