



PORCHLIGHT MUSIC THEATRE

2019 – 2020
ANNUAL REPORT

THE CAST OF *SUNSET BOULEVARD* (2019). PHOTO BY MICHAEL COURIER

SPEAKING ON PORCHLIGHT IN 2020

"Never has so much been done with so little by so few to benefit so many. I've seen and written about a lot of wonderful Chicago theater during this pandemic. But no company in America's greatest theater city has done more or continually done it as well."

- Mike Fischer, dramaturg and former theater critic for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

WHO WE ARE

MISSION

Porchlight Music Theatre, Chicago's home for music theatre, illuminates the past, present, and future of this American art form through live performance, youth education, and outreach programs that positively impact and connect us to our community.

VISION

A nationally recognized cultural institution in Chicago, Porchlight brings people together to explore the human experience through the art of music theatre, fostering empathy, inclusion, and community.

VALUES

- We believe that all voices and life experiences are essential to portraying on stage a complete picture of the human experience.
- We are firmly committed to the music theatre genre presented as an intimate experience.
- We treat artists, staff, volunteers, and audiences with respect and dignity, inviting all into our artistic home.
- We strive to be inclusive with representation in all aspects of our organization.
- We invest in the future of music theatre through nurturing and mentoring the next generation of artists and audiences.
- We ensure long-term organizational stability through prudent collaborations, strategic alliances, and sound fiscal planning.

PORCHLIGHT MUSIC THEATRE

Performance Space

Ruth Page Center for the Arts
1016 N. Dearborn St.
Chicago, IL 60610

Office, Studios & Scenic Shop

4200 W Diversey Ave.
Chicago, IL 60639

773.777.9884

PorchlightMusicTheatre.org



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[/PorchlightMusicTheatre](https://www.youtube.com/PorchlightMusicTheatre)



[@PorchlightMT](https://www.instagram.com/PorchlightMT)



LYDIA BURKE,
SOPHISTICATED LADIES (2020)
PHOTO BY MICHAEL COURIER

AFFIRMATIONS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Porchlight reaffirms our total commitment to justice, equity, diversity, access, and inclusion as we advance our mission both on and off the stage. These principles are not only essential to Porchlight's future vitality, relevance, and sustainability, they are critical to creating a more just and accessible industry for a better society.

Porchlight values its audiences, artists, technicians, staff, board, donors, community partners, teachers, students, and volunteers, and the uniqueness each brings to the tapestry of our art. We treat one another fairly and honor each other's experiences, beliefs, perspectives, abilities, and backgrounds, regardless of race, religion, language, immigration status, sexual orientation, gender identification, ability status, socio-economic status, national identity, or other identity markers.

Porchlight recognizes the history of oppression and injustice that has resulted in ongoing disparities for those who were brought here against their will or migrated from their homeland, as well as for those who have lived on this land for centuries. Truth and acknowledgment are critical in building mutual respect and authentic connections across all barriers of heritage and difference. This statement is one small step in acknowledging the history that brought us to this place and time, and to help us seek understanding of our place within that history:

"With humility and respect for the original caretakers of the land, we recognize that, at its performance home at The Ruth Page Center for the Arts, Porchlight inhabits the land of the Council of the Three Fires: the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi Nations, and many other tribes such as the Miami, Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Sac, and Fox who also call this land their home. We honor the sacred lands of all indigenous American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and First Nations peoples, and we humbly strive to create authentic collaborations that make space for and give voice to their rich culture and traditions."

Porchlight is committed to aligning our values to our business practices. We are conscious of the need to promote diversity within our staff, board, production companies and audiences, as well as to ensure fairness, justice, and inclusivity in our policies and procedures. We recognize this evolution is an ongoing process, and we invite you to follow our goals, progress, and ways to get involved at PorchlightMusicTheatre.org.



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RESPONDING TO A MOST UNUSUAL YEAR

A MESSAGE FROM THE STAFF

Before we welcome the much-needed new year, we'd like to take a moment to reflect on 2020, the year that up-ended how we all live, work, and play, including those of us who create, sustain, and enjoy the art of music theatre. It was both a challenging and an inspiring 2019/2020 season and one we will not soon forget. So here are 10 things, in no specific order, of which we are most proud:

1. Celebrating Porchlight's 25th anniversary.

Since our humble storefront beginnings in 1995 we have seen a lot of changes in Chicago theatre. We are grateful to be here, thriving as the center for music theatre in Chicago. We celebrated by putting together a year-long celebration, culminating with PorchlightPalooza, seamlessly and gracefully led by our tenacious co-chairs Rick & Deann Bayless and Bill Kurtis & Donna LaPietra. [You can check out a timeline of our quarter-century history at our website.](#)

2. Launching PorchlightOnline, Chicago's most robust and exciting selection of free and premium musical programs.

We couldn't let a pandemic keep us from continuing to fulfill our mission. Immediately in the spring, Porchlight altered course and presented a wide range of new, free programs including *Porchlight by Request* (command performances for essential workers and, eventually, all who love a good show tune), *Sondheim @ 90 Roundtable*, *WPMT Presents: Classic Musicals from the Golden Age of Radio*, *Movie Musical Mondays*, and more. If you didn't catch them this past year, all programs are accessible at [our website](#) and many via podcast. [You might want to subscribe to our YouTube channel, too!](#)

3. Transforming the 25th anniversary ICONS Gala into *PorchlightPalooza*.

What was to be a traditional gala affair at The Ritz-Carlton was re-imagined to be a star-studded three-day virtual celebration of our anniversary milestone and of the career of legendary actor Joel Grey, who joined in the festivities via Zoom to be honored with the 2020 ICON Award.

4. Bringing Porchlight to more areas of our city than ever before.

Free outdoor concerts in Washington Square Park and Bridgeport, youth programs in North Lawndale and South Shore, summer camps in Hermosa and Lincoln Park. It's not only about our performances in the Gold Coast.

5. Eleven Jeff Award nominations.

While Porchlight has been an Equity theatre for 15 years, the 2019/2020 season was our first year in the Large Theatre tier for Jeff Committee judging. In a season that included just two mainstage shows, Porchlight nabbed 11 nominations — three for *Sunset Boulevard* and eight for *Sophisticated Ladies*, which took home the night's most coveted award, Best Ensemble!



A MESSAGE FROM THE STAFF (continued)

6. New collaborations, at home and around the world.

Before and after “lockdown,” Porchlight has been expanding our offerings and broadening our horizons with creative partnerships. We were excited to invite Chicago troupe The Ruffians to present their utterly unique holiday show, *Burning Bluebeard*. Later in the season we teamed up with the gracious Hershey Felder who continues to donate 50% of the revenue from Porchlight purchases of his “Live from Florence” series to our organization. The world has gotten even smaller, and we are excited for the possibilities.

7. Working for positive change.

Throughout this time of creative output, as an institution we have also been examining how we can be a better leader in our community. This year brought an intense focus to the issues of social injustice and racial inequity, and further acknowledgement that we all need to be part of the solution. We are an intentionally diverse, equitable, and inclusive company, and we always strive to deepen our understanding and improve our practices to join with others leading this initiative in American theatre. Follow our progress, meet our new EDI Advisory Committee and learn more [at our website!](#)

8. Our teamwork. In bowling, and things more serious.

Way back in January we had our staff holiday party (all together, in-person!) at the Diversey River Bowl. Over rounds of pizza, jalapeno poppers and fries – ok, and beer – we learned who knew the difference between three strikes in a row and something you eat at Thanksgiving. We are grateful to be among colleagues who are not only fun, but who can respond to a year of gutter balls with such creativity and resilience.

9. Launching a new corporate logo.

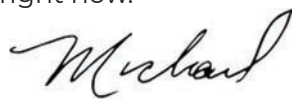
Did you notice? It was a low-key introduction, but this spring we transitioned to a new corporate identity. We would have made a bigger splash about it in normal times, so we wanted to at least call your attention to it here. A fresh look for a company on the move.

10. Our supportive Porchlight family.

You astounded us with your generosity and support this year. From surprise, anonymous donors to the many artists who gave of their time participating in *Porchlight by Request* to the thousands of people who engaged with our virtual programs to all involved with our amazing live performances earlier in the season. Thank you!

We dearly hope to connect with you soon. Until we can gather, we always love to hear from our friends and neighbors. Drop us a line and let us know how you’re doing and what virtual Porchlight entertainment is catching your eye right now.

On behalf of our entire team, we wish the best to you and yours for a wonderful new year,



Michael Weber,
Artistic Director



Jeannie Lukow,
Executive Director



KEEPING THE PORCHLIGHT SHINING BRIGHT

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

If there is one certainty in life, it is that nothing is certain. This past year has proven that axiom in startling ways. But it is our response to a crisis that reveals our deepest truth, and this year we've learned just how resilient and resourceful Porchlight Music Theatre is, and just how much our audiences need and value us.

Nimble adapting to the pandemic shutdown of our industry, Porchlight remained dedicated to keeping our audiences and supporters engaged and entertained, providing comfort and connection through a range of programming unmatched in our community. The staff's top 10 list is chock-full of pandemic-era achievements — and all that came after six months of hugely successful in-theatre performances.

Despite the amazing ways Porchlight has responded and prevailed so far, the challenges of 2020 remain painfully real and will continue to impact us for months and years to come. Our dedicated leadership and staff have made tough decisions and personal sacrifices to sustain the company and ensure we can have a strong return, eventually, to business as usual.

The new year will undoubtedly be filled with even more obstacles to overcome, but I'm confident that, with the generous support of Porchlight family members like you, we will emerge stronger, smarter, and more committed than ever to being the safe and welcoming beacon of our namesake, the Porchlight, Chicago's home for musical theatre.

On behalf of the entire board, I wish you a healthy happy new year and invite you to join us in celebrating and supporting the future of Porchlight Music Theatre.



Tony Gibson,
Board Chair



2019 ICONS GALA
PHOTO BY MICHAEL COURIER



MEET THE TEAM

MEET THE TEAM

STAFF

Jeannie Lukow
Executive Director

Michael Weber
Artistic Director

August Compton
Audience Services Manager

Lisa Torgerson
Development Director

Mandy Katz
Development Associate

Christopher Pazdernik
Casting & Company Manager

Rebecca Singer
Education Director

Dan Thomas
Finance & HR Manager

Austin Packard
Marketing Manager

Alex Ryan
Production & Operations Director

SHOUT Marketing & Media Relations
James Juliano & Jill Evans La Penna
Marketing & Media Representatives

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tony Gibson
Chair

Brian Troy
Vice Chair

Gretchen Upholt
Treasurer

Jonathan Klein
Secretary

Michelle Freeman Cucchiaro
Brenda Didier
Rhona Frazin
Mark Hudson
William Gilmer
James Jensen
Charles Laff
Steve McDonagh
Sara Siegall
Tamara Sims

EX OFFICIO

Jeannie Lukow
Michael Weber

EMERITAE

Mary Kay Conley
Rhoda Reeling

ARTISTIC ADVISORY BOARD

Wm. Eric Bramlett
John Bucchino
E. Faye Butler
Cheri Coons
Kevin Depinet
William Finn
Joel Grey
Larry Grossman
Linda Kline
Jesse Klug
Sean Allan Krill

Dominic Missimi
Jill Moore-Pancrazi
Lonny Price
Hollis Resnik
Bill Russell
Chuck Smith
Walter Stearns
Bob Walton
Jim Walton
Maury Yeston

PORCHLIGHT YOUNG PROFESSIONALS (PYP)

Founding Members

Lanie Bayless
August Compton
Cody Czmyr
Olivia Havens
Carolyn Isaac
Rosie Schultz
Becca Sheehan

"I'm proud and excited to be a founding member of the Porchlight Young Professionals. Although this year threw a wrench into our ability to gather, we're looking forward to getting back in gear next season, and we're excited to see what Porchlight has in store. Our PYP events at the theatre are always so much fun!"

- **Carolyn Isaac,**
Porchlight Young Professional

2019-2020 COMMITTEES

25TH ANNIVERSARY

Rick & Deann Bayless *Co-chairs*
Bill Kurtis & Donna LaPietra *Co-chairs*

Lanie Bayless & Kevin Sullivan
Scott Bobek
Joyce Chelberg
Elaine Cohen & Arlen Rubin
Susan Cohn
Mary Kay Conley
Cheryl Cooke
Brian Donlan & Todd Arp
Sondra Epstein
Yusef Garcia
Brenda & Jim Grusecki
Francie Harrington
Joe Higgins
Mark Hudson & Russell Johnson
Jared Kaplan & Maridee Quanbeck
Ruth Kaufman
Jean Klingenstein
Whitney Laskey
Alan Matsumura & Laura Erickson
Corinne & Bill McClintic
Katina Panagopoulos
Rhoda Reeling
Denise McGowan Tracy
Richard Turner
Diane & Chris Whatton

BOARD DEVELOPMENT & NOMINATING

Michelle Cucchiaro
Bill Gilmer *Chair*
Jon Klein

Chuck Laff
Jeannie Lukow
Steve McDonagh

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Lesley Bramson
Elaine Cohen
Cheryl Cooke
Michelle Cucchiaro
Rhona Frazin *Chair*
Francie Harrington
Joe Higgins
Jim Jensen

James Juliano
Alan Matsumura
Bill Melamed
Boyce Moffit
Katina Panagopoulos
Alan Spaeth
Denise McGowan Tracy
Michael Weatherspoon

DEVELOPMENT

Rhona Frazin
Art Garwin
Lisa Torgerson
Tamara Sims
Brian Troy *Chair*

EDUCATION

Emily Carroll
Brenda Didier
Tony Gibson
Brenda Grusecki
Laura Steinfeld Hamilton
Karen Jaffe
Michelle Lauto
Linda Madonia
Sara Siegall
Rebecca Singer
Marcie Stein

FACILITIES

James Brault
Yolanda Deen
Lee Dickson
Jim Grusecki
William James
James Jensen

Chuck Laff *Chair*
Jeannie Lukow
Donald Ratner
Alex Rhyan
Arlen D. Rubin
Michael Weber

FINANCE

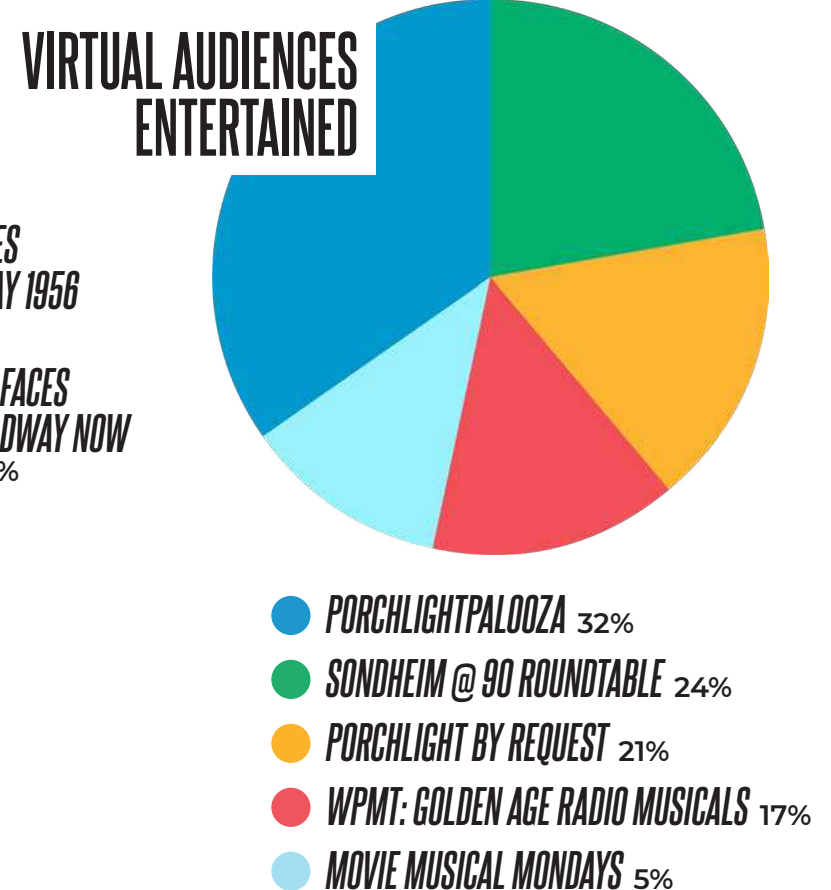
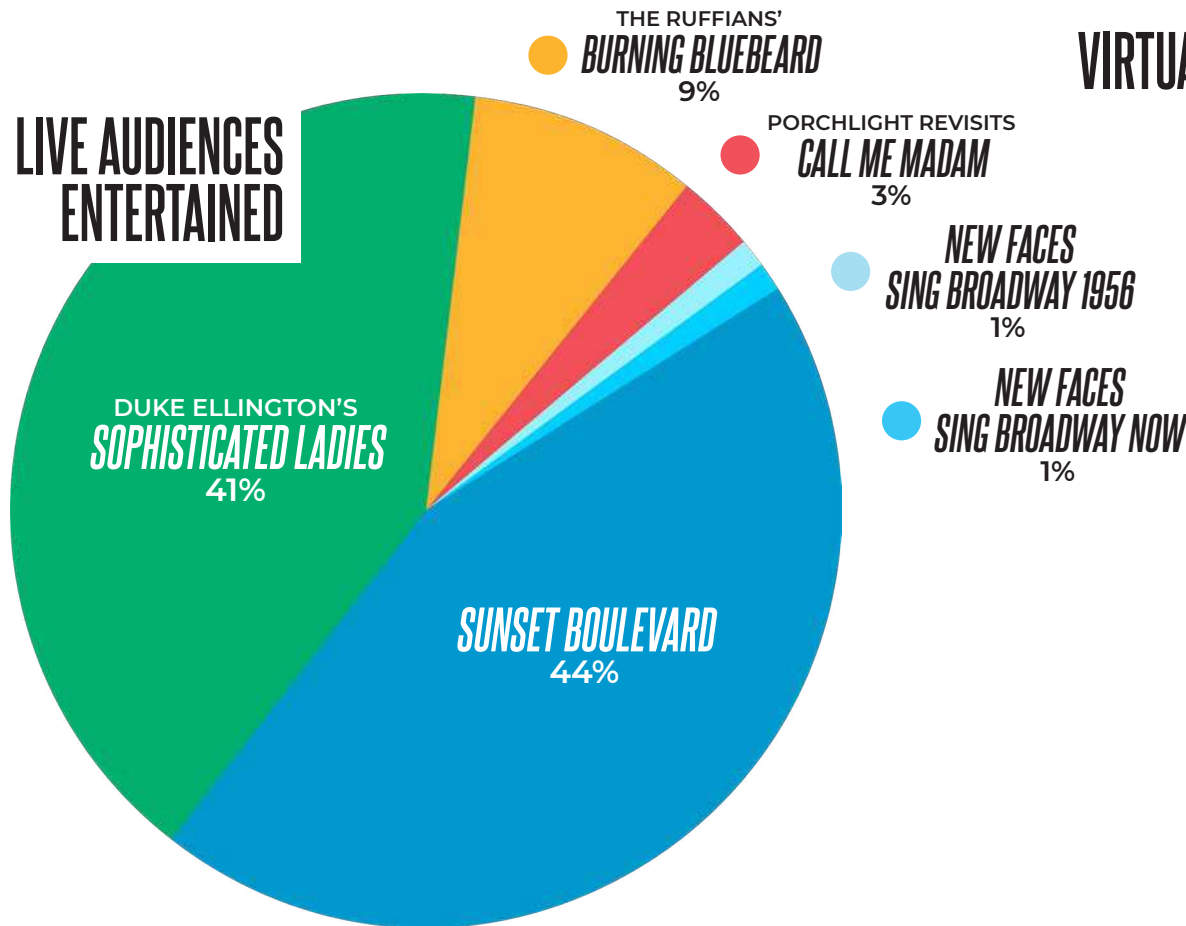
Tony Gibson
Jim Jensen
Jeannie Lukow
Dan Thomas

Brian Troy
Gretchen Upholt *Chair*
Michael Weber



THE 2019-2020 SEASON

OUR 2019-2020 YEAR AT-A-GLANCE



ARTISTS & STAFF EMPLOYED

297 PERFORMERS,
MUSICIANS, CREATIVES &
TECHNICIANS
11 TEACHING ARTISTS
20 STAFF

STUDENTS ENGAGED

45 THROUGH YOUTH PROGRAMS
11 WITH FULL SCHOLARSHIPS
300 GIVEN FREE PERFORMANCE
TICKETS
75 THROUGH IN-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

28 THROUGH FREE CHICAGO YOUTH
CENTER CLASSES

1,000+ VIA FREE CYC LIVE VIRTUAL
CONCERTS

200 THROUGH COLLABORATIONS
WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF
CULTURAL AFFAIRS

HOLLIS RESNIK IN SUNSET BOULEVARD

**"Transfixing...strong...you really should
come watch (Hollis Resnik) fly."
- Chris Jones, Chicago Tribune**

2020 Jeff Award Nominees

Performer in a Principal Role - Musical

Hollis Resnik

Performer in a Supporting Role - Musical

Larry Adams

Projection Design

Anthony Churchill

PHOTO BY JOE MAZZA / BRAVE LUX

October 11 – December 8, 2019

Ruth Page Center for the Arts

Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber

Book & Lyrics by Don Black & Christopher Hampton

Based on the film by Billy Wilder

Direction by Michael Weber

Choreography by Shanna Vanderwerker

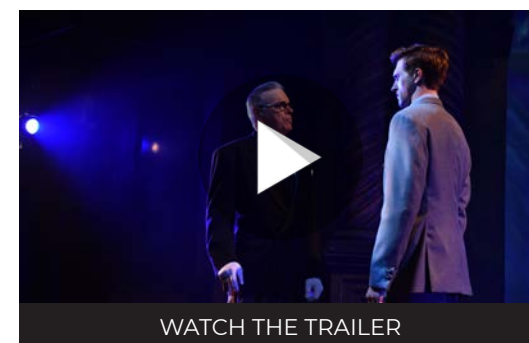
Music Direction by Aaron Benham

In a "grand-scale, yet winningly intimate production" (Hedy Weiss, WTTW), this masterpiece of obsession, romance and the golden age of Hollywood starred one of the most celebrated leading ladies of Chicago theatre: Hollis Resnik. Making her Porchlight Music Theatre mainstage debut, Resnik shone in a cast of jewels as "the revelation we all expected her to be" (Aaron Hunt, *NewCity*).

This work is a gripping portrait of silent-screen goddess Norma Desmond and the fantasy world she inhabits in her mansion on L.A.'s famed Sunset Boulevard. When an impoverished screenwriter, Joe Gillis, on the run from debt collectors, stumbles into her reclusive domain he is persuaded to work on Norma's "masterpiece," a screenplay that she believes will put her back in front of the cameras. Seduced by Norma and her luxurious lifestyle, he finds himself trapped in her clutches until his love for another woman leads him to try and break free with shattering consequences.



"It was a great experience. I had a wonderful director, a great costume designer, a terrific choreographer and an extremely wonderful cast; the whole rehearsal room was full of life! It was a real pleasure and I was lucky to get the opportunity. Porchlight took care of us all and I'm very grateful for that. Thank you to everyone who supports the work at Porchlight!" - Hollis Resnik



HOLLIS RESNIK IN SUNSET BOULEVARD

By The Numbers

7,679

Total
Attendance

46

Total
Performances

56

Total Company
Members

3

Jeff
Nominations

Featuring

Hollis Resnik ("Norma Desmond"), Billy Rude ("Joe Gillis"), Michelle Lauto ("Betty Schaefer"), Larry Adams ("Max Von Meyerling"), Joe Giovannetti ("Artie Green"), David Girolmo ("Cecil B. DeMille"), McKinley Carter ("Norma Desmond" standby); Anna Brockman (1st Harem Girl - "Dawn," "Waitress-Jane," Stand-in "Hedy Lamar," Beautician #1), Marcellus Burt ("Cliff," Salesman, Young Guard, u/s "Artie" and Finance Men), Justin Cavazos (1st Finance Man - "Glenn," Salesman, "Adam"), Laz Estrada (2nd Finance Man - "John," Salesman, Actor #4, Paramount Staff), Brian Healy (Young Writer "Adam," "Mary," Salesman, "Richard," Paramount Staff/"Victor Mature," u/s "Joe Gillis"), Alex Jackson ("Myron," Salesman, Stand-in "Victor Mature," u/s "Manfred"), Molly Kral ("Lisa" - Sheldrake's secretary, "Sandy," "Heather," Psychiatrist, u/s "Norma"), Mandy Modic ("Mary," "Danielle-Dawn," Paramount Staff, Masseuse #1), Michelle Owens ("Joanna," "Edith Head," Astrologer), Shane Roberie ("Sheldrake," ensemble), Danny Spagnuolo ("Sammy," "Manfred," u/s "Sheldrake," dance captain), Laura Sportiello (3rd Harem Girl - "Katherine," "Larissa," Paramount Staff/ "Hedy Lamar," Masseuse #2, u/s "Betty") and Ambria Sylvain (2nd Harem Girl - "Anita," "Jean," Paramount Staff, Beautician #2)

Production Team

Design: Kevin Barthel (wig), Anthony Churchill (projection), Maggie Fullilove-Nugent (lighting), Robert Hornbostel (sound), Jeff Kmieciak (scenic), Bill Morey (costume), Catherine Allen (production manager), Michael Hendricks (stage manager), and Christopher Pazdernik (assistant director). Assistant Stage Management: Jackie Robinson, Hai Alvarez-Millard, and Charlene Walkanoff. Technical: Jamie Davis (audio engineer), Bek Lambrecht (technical director), and Samantha Treible (wardrobe supervisor)

Musicians

Aaron Benham (conductor/keyboard), Marcel Bonfim (bass), Desiree Miller (cello), Celeste Park (violin 2), Kedgrick Pullums (reeds), Anthony Scandora (drums) and Elena Spiegel (violin 1)

Ms. Resnik's performance was sponsored by Virginia and Gary Gerst.

Special thanks to June Golin for production support.



DUKE ELLINGTON'S SOPHISTICATED LADIES

2020 Jeff Award Winners
Ensemble/Musical or Revue
 Performer in a Revue - Lorenzo Rush, Jr.
 Music Direction - Jermaine Hill

2020 Jeff Award Nominees
Best Production - Musical or Revue
Director/Musical or Revue
 Brenda Didier & Florence Walker-Harris
Choreography
 Brenda Didier & Florence Walker-Harris
Costume Design - Theresa Ham
Performer in a Revue - Donica Lynn



January 24 – March 6, 2020

Ruth Page Center for the Arts

Music by Duke Ellington Direction & Choreography by Brenda Didier & Florence Walker-Harris
 Concept by Donald McKayle Music Direction by Jermaine Hill

We think it's safe to say this Porchlight production brought the house down and the sold-out audiences to their feet. A celebration worthy of the artist many consider "the most important composer in the history of jazz," this show captivated Chicago audiences last winter. Audiences were treated to a high-energy salute to "The Duke," from his early days at Harlem's legendary Cotton Club through growing success at Carnegie Hall, on Broadway, in Hollywood and around the world. Little did we know we would be savoring those memories these many months later during a global pandemic. From the flawless cast to the unstoppable band to set and design that transformed the Ruth Page Center into Chicago's hottest music spot, this show was magic!

"Not to be missed...dynamic...joyous and thrilling."

Chris Jones, *Chicago Tribune*

"Pure fire and joy."

Catey Sullivan, *Chicago Reader*

"Energizing from beginning to end!"

Art "Chat Daddy" Sims, *WVON*



"Collaborating with Brenda and Flo was a dream come true; they are two of the kindest, most talented, giving, loving, open, and visionary director/choreographers I have ever worked with. The cast was also exceptional; they gave so much of themselves and their artistry really made the show what it was: a truly collaborative ensemble experience. The entire production was an example of what Porchlight does so well: highlighting Chicago artists doing the kind of work that makes Chicago one of the great theatre cities in America!" - **Jermaine Hill**



WATCH THE TRAILER



FIRST REHEARSAL

DUKE ELLINGTON'S SOPHISTICATED LADIES

Featuring

Lydia Burke ("The Danseuse"), Donterrio Johnson, ("The Jazzbo") Molly Kral ("The Soubrette"), Donica Lynn ("The Chanteuse"), John Marshall Jr ("The Hipster"), Lorenzo Rush Jr ("The Raconteur"), Eustace J. Williams ("The Danseur"); Shantel Cribbs, Madison Piner, Jenna Schoppe and Terri K. Woodall ("Sophisticated Ladies"); Chuckie Benson, Tristan Bruns, Kaimana Neil and Joey Stone ("Sophisticated Gentlemen"); Ariel Dorsey (swing "Sophisticated Lady"), De'Jah Jervai (u/s "Chanteuse") and Darren Patin (swing "Sophisticated Gentlemen")

Production Team

Design: Kevin Barthel (wig), Theresa Ham (costume), Robert Hornbostel (sound), Denise Karczewski (lighting), Caitlin McCarthy (properties), Angela Weber Miller (scenic) / Catherine Allen (production manager), Matthew McMullen (stage manager) / Assistant Stage Management: Joaquin Gomez, Austin Kopsa (swing), Sean Michael Mohler, Jackie Robinson, Mary Zanger / Technical: Matthew Chase (sound design assistant), Jamie Davis (soundboard engineer), Samantha Treible (wardrobe supervisor), Rachel West (master electrician)

Musicians

Jermaine Hill (conductor/keyboard), Marcel Bonfim (bass), Jonathan Golko (reeds 2/bass), Darius Hampton (reeds 1), Justin Kono (percussion), Stephanie Lebens (trombone) and Sam Wolsk (trumpet)

Allstate was the principal sponsor for community outreach for Sophisticated Ladies.

By The Numbers

7,207	Total Attendance	35	Total Performances		
46	Total Company Members	8	Jeff Nominations	3	Jeff Awards



THE RUFFIANS' **BURNING BLUEBEARD**

CHICAGO'S HOLIDAY LEGEND!

"Our best, most unique Chicago theatre tradition...joyous!"

Max Maller, *Chicago Reader*

"Funny, macabre and frightfully delightful."

Julia W. Rath, *AroundtheTownChicago.com*

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL COURIER

December 13 – 27, 2019

Ruth Page Center for the Arts

Written by Jay Torrence Choreography by Leah Urzendowski
Direction by Halena Kays Additional 2019 Choreography by Ariel Etana Triunfo

Porchlight Music Theatre was proud to play host to, and ourselves be captivated by, the Chicago legend *Burning Bluebeard*. Created and performed by the critically acclaimed theatre troupe The Ruffians, Porchlight brought the show to the Gold Coast for the first time in its eight-year history. *Burning Bluebeard* is a physical-performance phenomena inspired by the true story of Chicago's former Iroquois Theatre and the unforgettable events that resulted in tragedy for 600 theatergoers at Christmastime in 1903. A vaudevillian musical delight with a story that excavates the poetic and poignant remains of a piece of Chicago's rich history, *Bluebeard* left audiences with an unforgettable experience.

Featuring

Pamela Chermansky ("Fancy Clown"), Anthony Courser ("Henry Gilfoil"), Jay Torrence ("Robert Murray"), Leah Urzendowski ("Nellie Reed"), Ryan Walters ("Eddie Foy") with Crosby Sandoval ("Faerie Queen")

Production Team

Maggie Fullilove-Nugent (lighting design), Robert Hornbostel (associate sound design), Jeffrey D. Kmiec (set design), Bill Morey (costume coordination), Mike Tutaj (original sound design) / Sam Moryoussef (production manager), Justine Palmisano (stage manager), Tristan Chiruvolu (assistant stage manager)



Disney

FREAKY Friday

A NEW MUSICAL

CANCELLED

April 10 – May 24, 2020

Ruth Page Center for the Arts

Book by Bridget Carpenter

Music by Tom Kitt, Lyrics by Brian Yorkey

Based on the novel by Mary Rodgers & the Disney films

Direction by Tammy Mader

Music Direction by Linda Madonia

Choreography by Shanna Vanderwerker

Porchlight was excited to present the Chicago premiere of Disney's newest musical comedy for the whole family, *Freaky Friday*. We were in the final phases of rehearsing and preparing the production, when Covid changed the plans. Though we were forced to cancel the production before its opening, many talented artists put a lot of time and love into it. So we want you to know it would have been another awesome Porchlight production. Who doesn't want a modern story of an overworked mother and her teenage daughter who magically swap bodies and, with hilarious results, have only one day to put things right again before Mom's big wedding?

Featuring - Maya Lou Hlava ("Ellie"), Cory Goodrich ("Katherine"), Christopher Wayland ("Mike"), Ethan Warren ("Adam"), Ian Michael Pinski ("Fletcher"), Joe Scott ("Fletcher"), Ty Schirmer ("Parker," ensemble, u/s "Adam"); Derek Fawcett (M1: "Grandpa George" "Mr. Blumen," "Señor O'Brien"), Ziare Paul-Emile ("Savannah," teen ensemble), Erin Parker ("Grandma Helene," "Mrs. Luckenbill," "Mrs. Time," u/s "Katherine"), MacKay Whalen ("Gretchen," teen ensemble, u/s "Ellie"); Myrrh Gobenciong ("Wells," teen ensemble), Jenna Schoppe ("Torrey," ensemble/dance captain), Elliot Sagay ("Pastor Bruno," "Dr. Ehrin," "Officer Kowalski," u/s "Mike"), Nina Jayashankar ("Hannah," teen ensemble, u/s "Savannah"), Jayla Williams-Craig ("Ms. Meyers," "Journalist," "Officer Sitz," u/s "Torrey"), Natalie Wiley ("Laurel," teen ensemble, u/s "Gretchen" and "Hannah"), Jonathan Warner ("Louis," "Photographer," teen ensemble, u/s "Parker" and "Wells"); Shane Roberie (male swing), Catherine Reyes McNamara (female swing)

Production Team - Design: Rueben Echoles (costume), Robert Hornbostel (sound), Denise Karcewski (lighting), Kristen Martino (scenic) / Catherine Allen (production manager), Jackie Robinson (stage manager) / Assistant Stage Management: Audrey Klein, Austin Kopsa (swing), Sean Michael Mohler, Bri Wolfe (child supervisor), Mary Zanger, / Technical: Matthew Chase (sound design assistant), Jamie Davis (audio engineer), Bek Lambrecht (technical director), Samantha Treible (wardrobe supervisor), Rachel West (master electrician)

Musicians - Linda Madonia (conductor/keyboard), Marcel Bonfim (bass), Cara Hartz (reeds), Lior Shragg (drums), and Greg Strauss (trumpet)

Anne and Greg Taubeneck were production sponsors for Disney's *Freaky Friday*.



A LOOK BACK AT *FREAKY FRIDAY*

MAYA LOU HLAVA, CORY GOODRICH
PHOTO BY ANTHONY LA PENNA



PORCHLIGHT REVISITS

One of our most popular offerings, the Porchlight Revisits series celebrates the rarely seen musical gems of The Great White Way! It's here you get to discover the "lost musicals" of Stephen Sondheim, Cole Porter, Kander and Ebb and more when Chicago's finest music theatre talent dust off these treasures and escort you to the world of Broadway's past.

The experience begins with **Behind the Show Backstory**, an entertaining and informative multimedia presentation created and hosted by Artistic Director Michael Weber. This introduction to the evening's production includes the show's creative history, its critical and audience reception, and juicy backstage stories.



"The most astonishing aspect of *Call Me Madam* was that such high production value was poured into a three performance run!"

Amy Munice, *PictureThisPost.com*

November 20 & 21, 2019

Ruth Page Center for the Arts

Book by Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse
Music and Lyrics by Irving Berlin

Direction by Christopher Pazdernik
Musical Direction by Micky York
Choreography by Jenna Schoppe

Powerhouse performer Donica Lynn gave Ethel Merman a run for her money in Porchlight's hit production. Made all the more timely in an election season, this satire on politics and foreign policy spoofs America's penchant for lending billions of dollars to needy countries. The combined talents who penned *Annie Get Your Gun* and *The Sound of Music* created the work for Merman, the original "Hostess with the Mostess" on the Ball," who played Sally Adams, a well-meaning but ill-informed socialite who is appointed United States ambassador to the fictional European country of Lichtenburg, charming the local gentry and, of course, falling in love.



"Call Me Madam was the completion of a fully realized circle for me with Porchlight. I initially auditioned for PMT in 2013 with the hopes of being in a Revisits show, so to not only be in the show but to take on Ethel Merman's iconic role of Sally Adams truly solidified for me that I'm not in a box as only a vocalist but seen as an actor as well. I'm grateful to Michael and Mona Heath for aiding in producing the piece and Chris Pazdernik for seeing outside of that box so many actors in Chicago can be placed in, either by race, age, color, gender, or at times fear. Call Me Madam confirmed that I am capable, ready, and fearless, with one of the most giving scene partners and casts ever; I wish it was a full-fledged run!" - Donica Lynn

porchlight **REVISITS**

Irving Berlin's CALL ME MADAM

Featuring

Donica Lynn ("Sally Adams"), Matthew Keffer ("Cosmo Constantine"), Nik Kmiecik ("Kenneth Gibson"), Laura Savage ("Princess Maria"), Bill Larkin ("Senator Wilkins"); Chris Baum ("Senator Gallagher"), Cortez Johnson ("Senator Brockbank"), Elliot Sagay ("Pemberton Maxwell"); Steve McDonagh ("Sebastian Sebastian"), Tom Shea ("Senator Gibson"/"Duke of Otto"/ensemble), Michelle McKenzie-Voigt ("Secretary"/"Duchess Sophie"/ensemble); Connor Giles (featured dancer/ensemble) and Taryn Skoda (featured dancer/ensemble)

Roosevelt Ensemble Apprentices

Adit Marciano, Drew Mitchell, Tanner Garmon, Ashton Norris, Katie Kotila and Emma Murphy
Porchlight is proud to partner with Roosevelt University's Chicago College of Performing Arts and to engage students as performing apprentices.

Production Team

Keegan Bradac (sound designer), Rueben Echoles (costume designer), Rachel West (lighting designer), Kaitlin Moser (stage manager), Hai Alvarez-Millard, Jack Breslow (apprentice), Sean Michael Mohler (assistant stage managers), Jamie Davis (audio engineer), Samantha Treible (wardrobe supervisor)

Musicians

Micky York (conductor/keyboards), Mike Leavens (trumpet), Mike Matlock (reeds) and Tyler Shields (percussion)

Call Me Madam was sponsored by Michael and Mona Heath.



A group of Broadway performers are singing on stage. A woman in a bright orange dress is in the center, singing into a microphone with her arm raised. Other performers in formal attire are around her, also singing. The background features a large screen displaying the word 'QUEEN' and a blue curtain.

NEW FACES SING BROADWAY

The New Faces Sing Broadway series takes you in a musical time machine from the start to the finish of one Broadway season. Peppered with photos and films of the era in an exciting multimedia presentation, trivia games with prizes, sing-alongs, and more, a favorite celebrity host introduces you to the next generation of music theatre artists while serving as your guide to the stars, songs, and stories of a full season on the Great White Way!

Many of the artists who have appeared in New Faces Sing Broadway since its debut at Porchlight in 2015 have continued their careers on film, television and local and national stages including Broadway.

NEW FACES SING BROADWAY

During the 2019-2020 season, Porchlight produced two of the usual three editions. The planned spring edition was postponed to the new season as a virtual offering.



Direction by Brianna Borger
Music Direction by Chuck Larkin
Hosted by Angela Ingersoll

The ten featured artists wowed the audience, and host Angela Ingsoll, legs folded beneath her and alive with vulnerable Judy Garland realness, delivered a "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" that left them speechless. *New Faces Sing Broadway 1956* featured hit songs from *My Fair Lady*, *The Most Happy Fella*, *Bells Are Ringing* and more!

Featuring Bryce Ancil, Ben Barker, Grace Bobber, Lydie Burke, Justine Cameron, Carl Herzog, Juan Gonzalez Machain, Jennifer Ledema, Eunice (Yoo-Mi) Park and Ken Singleton

Stage Manager: Sean Michael Mohler
Sound Board Operator (Arts Club): Warren "Levon" Jackson

Veteran Chicago actor Cory Goodrich brought her brand of homespun acoustic awesomeness to *New Faces Sing Broadway NOW* (2020) which featured ten stellar up-and-comers singing the hit songs from *Dear Evan Hansen*, *Hamilton*, *Frozen*, *Wicked*, *Hadestown*, *Six*, *Tina*, *Come From Away* and more!

Featuring Emily Agy, Alli Atkinson, Barry DeBois, Laz Estrada, Nina Jayashankar, Becky Keeshin, Christopher Kelley, Michael E. Martin, Sam Shankman and Jayla Williams-Craig

Stage Manager: Sean Michael Mohler
Sound Board Operator (Arts Club): Warren "Levon" Jackson



Direction by Johanna McKenzie Miller
Music Direction by Tom Vendrafreddo
Hosted by Cory Goodrich

"The engaging and talented young musical performers we saw in each of the shows thrilled us with their voices, acting skills, and enthusiasm in each song they sang. How can one not walk away from these evenings both elated and thankful at the same time. They are the future of musical theatre without doubt!" - Lynn & Paul Wellen, Subscribers

The 2019-2020 New Faces Sing Broadway series was sponsored by Elaine Cohen and Arlen D. Rubin.



WATCH A CLIP

LYDIA BURKE,
NEW FACES SING BROADWAY 1956 (2019)

"I am so grateful I had the opportunity to participate in New Faces Sing Broadway not only because I was able to work with and learn from incredible industry professionals, but because it's led to so many other professional opportunities as well! I know I would not be where I am currently without New Faces!" - Lydia Burke



CORY GOODRICH,
NEW FACES SING BROADWAY NOW (2020)
PHOTOS BY AUSTIN PACKARD



PORCHLIGHT, VIRTUALLY

In addition to Porchlight Music Theatre's robust presence on social media platforms Facebook and Instagram, regularly posting events, special shout outs, Christopher Pazdernik's curated Spotify playlists, #TBTs, and more, Porchlight also launched a complete series of free virtual offerings available on many streaming platforms including podcasts and YouTube in spring 2020. Several of the offerings have continued into this season, and you can watch past episodes [at our website](#) and [on our YouTube channel](#)!

PORCHLIGHT, VIRTUALLY

Some of the free offerings in the 2020 season included:

Porchlight By Request

Beginning April 7 and continuing for more than 50 requests, Porchlight's popular "by request" series had fans of music theatre requesting a show tune with a dedication and, in a "command performance," a favorite Porchlight artist happily complied. *Porchlight By Request* submissions were received from around the United States with dedications to family members, front-line responders, teachers, and others.

Sondheim @ 90 Roundtable with host Michael Weber

Porchlight Music Theatre's 25th Anniversary season continued with its new free virtual series *Sondheim @ 90 Roundtable* via YouTube, Facebook and podcast. The series, created and hosted by Artistic Director Michael Weber, gathered talents from Chicago, Broadway, and the world of theater to discuss each of the musical stage works of Stephen Sondheim in celebration of his 90th birthday year.

Debuting in April, each *Sondheim @ 90 Roundtable* episode focused on a specific Sondheim musical in conversation with special guests supported by videos of live and filmed performances, providing an engaging and informative overview of that week's production, and Sondheim's impact on the performing arts. Programs and guests included:

West Side Story (April 25)

Gary Griffin, Mark Hoebee, Diana Martinez

Sunday in the Park with George (May 2)

Nick Bowling, David Cromer, Heidi Kettenring

Follies (May 9)

David H. Bell, Gary Griffin, Hollis Resnik

Gypsy, A Musical Fable (May 16)

Klea Blackhurst, E. Faye Butler, Marc Robin

Sweeney Todd (May 23)

Jim Corti, David Girolmo, James Earl Jones II

Into the Woods (May 30)

David Cromer, Sean Allan Krill, Jessie Mueller

Merrily We Roll Along (June 13)

Marcia Milgrom Dodge, Chris Jones, Lonny Price

Pacific Overtures (June 20)

Amanda Green, Telly Leung, Richard Manera

Anyone Can Whistle (June 27)

Victoria Bussert, Cheryl Coons, Christopher Pazdernik

[Explore our full playlist with additional episodes at YouTube.com/PorchlightMusicTheatre](https://www.youtube.com/porchlightmusictheatre)



PORCHLIGHT, VIRTUALLY (continued)

I'll Drink to That

Porchlight Music Theatre offered *I'll Drink to That*, a complementary series to *Sondheim @ 90 Roundtable*, hosted by Porchlight Board Member and Hearty Boy Steve McDonagh. Each week, McDonagh shared a cocktail recipe that pairs with that Saturday's *Sondheim @ 90 Roundtable* episode.

Movie Musical Mondays

Each Monday starting in May 2020, a noteworthy host and special guest joined 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. *Movie Musical Mondays* discussion topics, hosts, and guests for the 2020 season included:

***Hair* (May 11)**

Christopher Pazdernik & Michelle Lauto

***Grease* (May 18)**

August Compton & David Fiorello

***The Music Man* (May 25)**

Jeannie Lukow & Mark David Kaplan

***Hairspray* (June 15)**

Alex Rhyan, E. Faye Butler, & Lillian Castillo

***The Wiz* (June 22)**

Christopher Chase Carter & James Earl Jones II

***Newsies* (June 29)**

Rebeccah Singer & Laura Savage

***Chicago* (July 6)**

Frankie Leo Bennett & Nicole Kyoung-Mi Lambert

***Mary Poppins* (July 13)**

Linda Madonia & Emilie Lynn

***Dreamgirls* (July 20)**

Darilyn Burtley & Eric Lewis

***42nd Street* (July 27)**

Kayla Boye & Erica Evans

***Hello, Dolly!* (August 3)**

Elya Faye Bottiger & Mitchell J. Fain

***The Sound of Music* (August 10)**

David Fiorello & Cory Goodrich

***Cabaret* (August 17)**

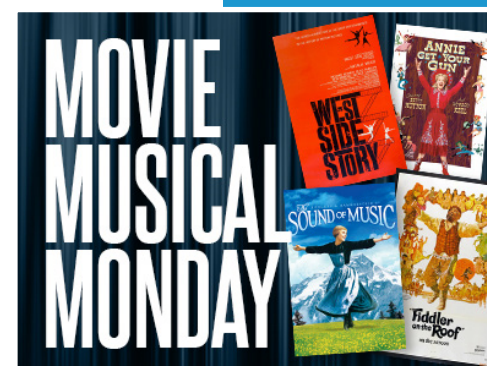
Christopher Pazdernik & Hollis Resnik

***High School Musical The Series* (August 31)**

Ben Ballmer, Alma Gonzalez, Mandy Katz & Olivia Schierbeck-Jones

WPMT: Classic Musicals from the Golden Age of Radio

Every Tuesday, beginning August 11, fans were treated to *WPMT: Classic Musicals from the Golden Age of Radio*. Artistic Director Michael Weber introduced 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.





EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Our education initiatives saw huge growth last year as Porchlight — after nearly 10 years of offering professional and youth training — welcomed its first full-time Education Director, Rebecca Singer. With expanded programs for youth/schools, professionals, and fans of all ages, Porchlight was particularly pleased to welcome more children than ever from across the city to engage with the confidence-building, eye-opening art of music theatre.

For Youth - Our students built self-confidence, thought creatively, and sang and danced their way through the year in classes and camps for ages 7-17. Our youngest actors (ages 7-10) learned “Broadway Basics,” our intermediate students (ages 11-13) studied harmony and ensemble in “Music Theatre Bootcamp,” and our most advanced young artists (ages 14-17) created a full production in “Advanced Musical Theatre Performance.”

“You were able to find ways both to meet her interests and also help her stretch and try new things—and as a result she really grew as a person due to this class. She had never written a scene or play before, for example. And even being on screen for the short time that she was during the final show caused her to stretch out of her comfort zone. But she was able to do it because of the supportive environment you all created. As I’ve said to you before, that you were able to do all this in this challenging situation makes it even more amazing.” - **Sarah L., Spring 2019 Class Parent**

For Pros - Porchlight for the Professional saw an increased variety of classes offered including “Shred my Book” with our own Casting & Company Manager Christopher Pazdernik and “Music Theatre Scene Study” with one of the stars of our sold-out *Sophisticated Ladies*, Donterrio Johnson. Our virtual masterclass series is reaching more Chicago professionals than ever!

For Fans - This year to celebrate Sondheim’s illustrious career, we offered a virtual three part series with Cheryl Coons. “Finishing the Hat,” Parts I and II plus “Look, I Made a Hat” kept us connected and engaged even from afar.

For Schools - Porchlight’s in-school programming has grown and changed over the year to accommodate virtual *Mary Poppins, Jr.* rehearsals, Zoom masterclasses, and the launching of our in-school residency program, “Sing Out!”. We also welcomed more than 300 students and community partners to our productions of *Sunset Boulevard* and *Sophisticated Ladies*, accompanied by post-show talkbacks with the cast.

For Communities - We grew our partnership with Chicago Youth Centers to serve students even during the stay-at-home order. In the spring we offered two “Make Your Own Musical” classes through Fellowship House in Bridgeport for grades 2-8 and one at Crown Center in the South Shore community for students 9-16 years old. Students created their own musicals around songs, dances, and their own writings. Heading into the current season, we are growing the program into Sidney Epstein Center in North Lawndale with two additional classes.



“Cheri is a superb leader. Her extensive preparation made the class very informative and enjoyable. This class was the highlight of my week. She had my full attention for two hours every week.”
- **Barbara Morgenstern,**
“Finishing the Hat” participant

PORCHLIGHT SUMMER CAMP (2020) | PHOTOS BY AUSTIN PACKARD

COMMUNITY EVENTS

25th Anniversary Season Preview Concert

September 7, 2019 – Washington Square Park

Porchlight audiences and community members enjoyed a free, one-hour outdoor concert featuring songs from the upcoming season and other Broadway favorites. Performers included Porchlight alumni Justin Brill, Darilyn Burtley, Michelle Lauto, Yando Lopez and Music Director Linda Madonia, with Audio Engineer Robert Hornbostel. Attendees also had the opportunity to meet and mingle with the artists and Porchlight staff, as well as enter a subscription raffle and win prizes!

Sophisticated Ladies Concerts

February 4, 11 & 18, 2020 – Chicago Youth Centers

Sophisticated Ladies' Music Director Jermaine Hill and performers De'Jah Jervai, Molly Kral and Lorenzo Rush, Jr. joined audiences at three CYC locations to share music from the show.

Juicebox at the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events

March 6 & 7, 2020 – Chicago Cultural Center & Garfield Park Conservatory

Teaching artists Becky Keeshin, Will Wilhelm, and Michael McBride brought two interactive and fun music theatre storybook performances to 400 Chicago children aged five and under.

Porchlight Friday Night Concerts

May 15-July 10, 2020

Virtual content with custom performances, interviews, activities, and more made especially for our students at Chicago Youth Centers.

Virtual Field Trips

July 10-August 28, 2020

While CYC students missed our performances of *Freaky Friday* in person, we made the best of it! To replace the cancelled performances, we gave them a once-a-week virtual field trip. A Porchlight teaching artist joined campers every Friday to teach songs, dances, and answer questions about life as an artist!



YANDO LOPEZ, SEASON PREVIEW (2019)
PHOTOS BY AUSTIN PACKARD



PORCHLIGHT FRIDAY NIGHT



YOUR SUPPORT, WITH OUR GRATITUDE

Your support helps us reimagine what is possible, push the walls of our imaginations, and dream a bright future for Porchlight. Thank you.

25TH ANNIVERSARY ICONS GALA, TURNED PORCHLIGHTPALOOZA

To celebrate and commemorate our 25th Anniversary, instead of the in-person gala at The Ritz-Carlton planned for late March, we held *PorchlightPalooza*, a three-day virtual festival Friday, August 21-Sunday, August 23. Free and open to all, the celebration included performances from Chicago's best music theatre talents and highlights from our award-winning history.

The event culminated with an exclusive interview hosted by legendary newsman Bill Kurtis with multi-award winning star of stage, screen and more, Joel Grey, who was honored with Porchlight's 2020 ICON Award.

The Luminary Award for Exemplary Leadership and Support of Music Theatre in Chicago was presented to Elaine Cohen and Arlen D. Rubin for their continued support of Porchlight, especially their sponsorship of the *New Faces Sing Broadway* series.

There were special surprise appearances from artists saluting Joel Grey's influence on music theatre including Bob Balaban, Kristin Chenoweth, Raul Esparza, Bernadette Peters, Lonny Price, Chita Rivera, Paul Oakley Stovall, and more.

Going virtual gave us the opportunity to cast a wide net and reach people across the country, and we exceeded our fundraising goal and raised over \$225,000. The event set a new benchmark for the ICONS Gala and we are excited to see who the next celebrity ICON will be!



25TH ANNIVERSARY CO-CHAIRS RICK & DEANN BAYLESS, DONNA LAPIETRA & BILL KURTIS.
PHOTO BY MICHAEL COURIER

"We are so proud of what Porchlight has accomplished. With PorchlightPalooza, we were able to still host three nights of a great event that I was able to enjoy from home with Bill and all my friends, virtually."

- Donna LaPietra, 25th Anniversary Co-Chair

"As Rick and I watched each night, singing along to each number which would not be allowed normally, we could not prevent ourselves from smiling the entire time! Porchlight's artists and staff provided three unforgettable nights of entertainment that I cannot get out of my head."

- Deann Bayless, 25th Anniversary Co-Chair

YOU AND YOUR GUESTS ARE INVITED!

CELEBRATE PORCHLIGHT'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY AT
PORCHLIGHT PALOOZA
A THREE-NIGHT SILVER ANNIVERSARY VIRTUAL FUNDRAISING EVENT
FEATURING BROADWAY LEGEND AND ICON AWARD HONOREE
JOEL GREY

AUGUST 21-23, NIGHTLY AT 7PM CDT
AN ENTERTAINMENT-PACKED, THREE-EPIISODE FUNDRAISING EVENT
FEATURING PERFORMANCES AND SURPRISE APPEARANCES BY YOUR
FAVORITE MUSIC THEATRE ARTISTS, DREAMY RAFFLE PRIZES AND MORE!

FEATURING CELEBRITY GREETINGS FROM

KRISTIN CHENOWETH	RAUL ESPARZA	JOSH GAD	MANDY PATINKIN	BERNADETTE PETERS	TONYA PINKINS	CHITA RIVERA
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AND MORE!

AND THE PRESENTATION OF
THE LUMINARY AWARD TO
ELAINE COHEN & ARLEN D. RUBIN

WE CAN'T WAIT TO CELEBRATE OUR 25 YEARS WITH YOU!
FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
PORCHLIGHTMUSICTHEATRE.ORG/PALOOZA

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PORCHLIGHT PALOOZA
A THREE-NIGHT SILVER ANNIVERSARY VIRTUAL FUNDRAISING EVENT
FEATURING BROADWAY LEGEND AND ICON AWARD HONOREE
JOEL GREY

NIGHT ONE
FRIDAY, AUGUST 21
7PM CDT

RIGHT

NIGHT ONE OF PORCHLIGHTPALOOZA

WAYS TO SUPPORT PORCHLIGHT

Our Porchlight community supports us in a variety of ways that allow us to inspire and entertain and helps us ensure the future of music theatre in Chicago.

The Annual Fund

Porchlight counts on the hundreds of individuals who make unrestricted contributions to Porchlight each season in order to produce the highest quality, most exciting music theatre featuring the most talented performers, designers, and technicians. Ticket sales only cover 50% of our nonprofit's budget—and that's in a normal year with in-person performances. During this challenging time, our generous supporters make all the difference in our ability to shine.

The Songbook Society

Members of the Songbook Society are music theatre lovers who have a strong appreciation for the excellence of music theatre and enjoy getting to know others who share the same enthusiasm and passion for Porchlight. Members serve as advocates and enjoy special inside access and unique opportunities that deepen their engagement with us.

The George K. Sargent III Cash Reserve Fund

Achieving financial stability is the key to expanding programming, innovating, taking artistic risks, and weathering economic downturns. A cash reserve fund is an important strategic goal championed by long-time board member Kim Sargent who passed away in June 2019, but his legacy of strong fiscal stewardship continues to inspire all of us at Porchlight. We have established this fund in his memory.

The Rachel Rockwell Memorial Fund: Supporting Fierce Women Behind the Table at Porchlight Music Theatre

This fund was established by Porchlight board member, Brenda Didier, to recognize, employ, and support women in artistic leadership positions at Porchlight Music Theatre in memory of theatre director, choreographer, and performer, Rachel Rockwell.

The Christopher N. Tisone Memorial Stage Management Fund

Through the generosity of the Tisone family this fund supports a combination of both seasoned stage managers as well as stage managers newer in their careers who are working on Porchlight productions in a given year.

Planned Giving

Planned giving is a way to make a future gift through your financial and estate plans. Your gift may provide tax benefits for you or your loved ones, and it will ensure that the enjoyment and enrichment you've experienced at Porchlight is available for generations to come. Through your future gift, you can continue to support Porchlight's artistic work and exceptional arts education and outreach programs. When you decide to include Porchlight in your estate plans, you become a member of Porchlight's Director's Circle.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL COURIER

"We are grateful to have the extraordinary Porchlight giving our city the best of musical theater. In past years, Porchlight staff and artists generously shared their talents with us in creating live performances that entertained and delighted us. This year, we are giving as generously as we can to ensure that our theater is ready to perform as soon as possible."

**- Jeremy Eden & Nancy Marder,
Songbook Society Donors**

OUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTORS

The following reflects contributions received between 9/1/19 and 8/31/20. For more information about how you can support our work on stage and in the community, please contact Jeannie Lukow, Executive Director, at jeannie@porchlightmusictheatre.org.

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Iris Witkowsky
Dean Yannias
Melissa Young
Ron and Judie Zoromski

FY20 FINANCIALS

Statement of Financial Position*

ASSETS	AUG 31, 2020	AUG 31, 2019
Current Assets		
Cash	\$338,348	\$385,157
Investments	\$3,136	\$9,326
Accounts Receivable	—	\$8,421
Pledges Receivable	\$59,471	\$100,000
Prepaid Expenses	\$39,865	\$54,324
Other Current Assets	\$25,729	\$12,171
Total Current Assets	\$466,614	\$569,399
Other Assets		
Property & Equipment, net	\$6,765	\$5,793
Total Assets	\$473,379	\$575,192
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$19,612	\$17,407
Accrued Liabilities	\$16,662	\$17,644
Accrued Interest	\$457	—
Deferred Revenue	\$75,870	\$158,723
Total Current Liabilities	\$112,600	\$193,775
Long-Term Liabilities		
PPP Loan	\$135,645	—
Total Long-Term Liabilities	\$135,645	—
Total Liabilities	\$248,245	\$193,775
Net Assets		
Without Donor Restrictions		
General Operating	\$49,693	\$186,417
Board Designated "Sargent" Fund	\$50,344	—
With Donor Restrictions	\$125,096	\$195,000
Total Net Assets	\$225,133	\$381,417
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$473,379	\$575,192

*Pre-audit financials for Fiscal Year ended August 31, 2020.



BETHANY THOMAS,
CHICAGO SINGS 25 YEARS OF PORCHLIGHT (2019)
PHOTO BY MICHAEL COURIER

FY20 FINANCIALS (continued)

Statement of Activities*

REVENUE	FY20 <small>Sep 1, 2019 – Aug 31, 2020</small>
Earned	
Production Revenue	\$744,326
Education Revenue	\$22,223
Other Earned Revenue	\$43,083
Total Earned	\$809,632
Contributed	
Individual Giving	\$322,545
Grants	\$194,665
Events, net of expenses	\$193,663
Corporate Support	\$13,903
Total Contributed	\$724,776
Total Revenue	\$1,534,408
EXPENSES	
Program	
Production Expenses	\$1,060,959
Education Expenses	\$47,731
Total Program	\$1,108,690
Management & General	\$381,654
Fundraising	\$200,348
Total Expenses	\$1,690,692
Changes in Net Assets	\$(156,284)

*Pre-audit financials for Fiscal Year ended August 31, 2020.



LAZ ESTRADA,
NEW FACES SING BROADWAY NOW (2020)
PHOTO BY AUSTIN PACKARD

SPECIAL THANKS

To those who made our
2019–2020 year a little (or a lot) better

Yetunde Allison
Tina Ayala
Ben Ballmer
Ana Belaval
Dalton Brown
Rachel Cantzler
Ryan Cassell
Janet Davies
Maggie Dickinson
Roberta Douglas
Jordan Fleming

Alma Gonzalez
Ricky Harris
Noel Hartman
Dushunda Henderson
Clarence Hogan
Mandy Katz
Elana Kennedy
Austin Kopsa
Katie Matteson Campagna
Irina Goldman
Paul Lisnek

Simon Lukow
Merril Prager
Olivia Schierbeck-Jones
Natalie Skyrd
Alan Spaeth
Don Sprague
Venetia Stiffler
Clintina Taylor
Larry Trice
Mike Vasquez



Performance Space

Ruth Page Center for the Arts
1016 N. Dearborn St.
Chicago, IL 60610

Office, Studios & Scenic Shop

4200 W Diversey Ave.
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