

BROADWAY
in your Backyard

PORCHLIGHT
MUSIC THEATRE

2021

PORCHLIGHT **MUSIC** THEATRE

MICHAEL WEBER
Artistic Director

JEANNIE LUKOW
Executive Director

presents

BROADWAY *in your Backyard*

Starring

SATYA CHÁVEZ,
NIK KMIECIK,
MICHELLE LAUTO &
LORENZO RUSH JR

Director	MICHAEL WEBER
Music Director	JUSTIN AKIRA KONO
Producing Associate	CHRISTOPHER PAZDERNIK
Director of Production	ALEX RHYAN
Audio Engineer	MATTHEW R. CHASE
**Audio Engineer	JEFFERY LEVIN
Production Assistant	JOHN KOHN III
*Bass	MARCEL REIMÃO BONFIM
*Drums	ALEX WILLIAMS
Program Design	REMINGTON CLEVE

**August 7 performance only*

***July 18 & September 11 only*

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, The MacArthur Fund for Culture, Equity, and the Arts at Prince, the Dr. Scholl Foundation, and all our donors who make our work possible.

MUSICAL SYNOPSIS

Songs performed this evening will be selected from the following:

"Aquarius"	<i>Hair</i>
"Brand New Day (Everybody Rejoice)"	<i>The Wiz</i>
"Can't Help Falling in Love"	<i>All Shook Up</i>
"Defying Gravity"	<i>Wicked</i>
"Friendship"	<i>Du Barry Was a Lady</i>
"Get Happy/Happy Days"	<i>Summer Stock/Chasing Rainbows</i>
"I'll Cover You"	<i>Rent</i>
"The Impossible Dream"	<i>Man of La Mancha</i>
"It Won't Be Long Now"	<i>In the Heights</i>
"Never Met a Man I Didn't Like"	<i>The Will Rogers Follies</i>
"Old Friends"	<i>Merrily We Roll Along</i>
"One Brick at a Time"	<i>Barnum</i>
"Over the Rainbow/Look to the Rainbow"	<i>The Wizard of Oz/Finian's Rainbow</i>
"Put on Your Sunday Clothes"	<i>Hello, Dolly!</i>
"River Deep, Mountain High"	<i>Tina: The Tina Turner Musical</i>
"Shine Like the Sun"	<i>9 to 5</i>
"Together, Wherever We Go"	<i>Gypsy</i>
"Waitin' for the Light to Shine"	<i>Big River</i>
"We Go Together/Hand Jive"	<i>Grease</i>
"Who I'd Be"	<i>Shrek</i>
"Ya Got Trouble"	<i>The Music Man</i>

COVID Considerations

Porchlight Music Theatre followed all local, state and federal health and safety guidelines when when rehearsing *Broadway in your Backyard*.

LOVE TODAY'S PERFORMANCE?
JOIN US FOR MORE!

BROADWAY *in your Backyard*

FEATURING PERFORMANCE BY PORCHLIGHT FAVORITES:



**SATYA
CHÁVEZ**



**NIK
KMIECIK**



**MICHELLE
LAUTO**



**LORENZO
RUSH JR.**

UPCOMING CONCERT DATES

- **SATURDAY, SEPT. 11 AT 12PM** - Private Event for Chicago Youth Center Families
- **TUESDAY, SEPT. 28 AT 7PM** - \$45, Ambassador Hotel Chicago, 1901 N. State Parkway, 17th Floor Astor Terrace Co-presented with Ambassador Chicago

This special evening, the final performance in our summer 2021 series, takes place on the Astor Terrace and begins at **6:30PM with complimentary wine, soft drinks and light appetizers**. The evening at the celebrated hotel continues with a performance at 7PM with **Satya Chávez, Nik Kmiecik, Michelle Lauto and Lorenzo Rush Jr.**

TICKETS AND MORE AT
PORCHLIGHTMUSICTHEATRE.ORG

PORCHLIGHT MUSIC THEATRE

TIME, DATE, PERFORMERS & SCHEDULED PERFORMANCES SUBJECT TO CHANGE. SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS.

LAND RECOGNITION

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 Music Theatre 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."

- 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, inclusion and access (EDI)** as we advance our mission both on and off the stage. We are dedicated to the education and work necessary to make positive change within our organization and in our industry. In 2020, using the "We See You White American Theatre" as our guide, we completed an audit of all company materials, practices, policies and procedures to identify ways we can be a more equitable and inclusive company. The result is a multi-year EDI action plan that will be shared on our website soon. We also engaged in general EDI learning for staff and board, and this year have begun specific anti-racist training that will result in an anti-racism plan for the company. Additionally, we have formed an EDI Advisory Committee to provide feedback and recommendations on our work in this area. We encourage you to follow our goals and progress and how you may get involved at **PorchlightMusicTheatre.org**.

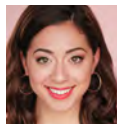
BIOS



SATYA CHÁVEZ (she/her) Porchlight: *New Faces Sing Broadway NOW* (2019). Regional: *American Mariachi* (Dallas Theater Center, Goodman Theatre, South Coast Repertory, Arizona Theatre Company); *Evocation To Visible Appearance and A Christmas Carol* (Actors Theatre of Louisville); *Undesirables* (Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center); *The Happiest Song Plays Last and Refuge* (Curious Theatre); *Othello* and *Twelfth Night* (Colorado Shakespeare Festival); *Ghost Of Lote Bravo* and *Shoe* (John F. Kennedy Center); *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Arvada Center). TV: Season 1 ABC's *American Idol* (Hollywood Week). Now Streaming: *Where Did We Sit On The Bus?* (Actors Theatre of Louisville). Up Next: *Empanada* (The Public Theater San Antonio). Represented by Paonessa Talent Agency. satyachavez.com | @satyachachachale



NIK KMIECIK (he/him) Porchlight: "Kenneth" in Porchlight Revisits *Call Me Madam*, "Chico Marx" in Porchlight Revisits *Minnie's Boys*, "Boris" in Porchlight Revisits *Can-Can*, *Chicago Sings Rock & Roll Broadway* and a 2017 New Faces. Chicago: *Once* (Paramount Theatre), *Twelfth Night* (Writers Theatre), *SS! Twelfth Night*, *SS! Macbeth*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, *Henry V* (Chicago Shakespeare), *A Christmas Carol* (Drury Lane), *The Hundred Dresses* (Chicago Children's), *Hello Again* (Theo Ubique), *Pinnocchio*, *Edward Tulane* (Filament Theatre).



MICHELLE LAUTO (she/her) Porchlight: "Betty Schaefer" in *Sunset Boulevard*, "Vanessa" in *In The Heights*, "Abigail Adams" in Porchlight Revisits *1776*, *Broadway by the Decade*, multiple editions of *Chicago Sings* and a 2016 New Face. Chicago: *Grease*, *Oklahoma*, *Ragtime*, and *Seussical* (Marriott Theatre), and *Hair* (Mercury Theater). Michelle is a 2017 Jeff Award recipient for her work in *Spamilton* (Royal George). Upcoming: Director, Porchlight Revisits *Nunsense*. michellelauto.com @michelleryanlauto



LORENZO RUSH JR (he/him) Porchlight: *Duke Ellington's Sophisticated Ladies*, *PorchlightPalooza*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Memphis* and *Ain't Misbehavin'*. Chicago/Regional: *Little Shop of Horrors* (Drury Lane Theatre), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Paramount Theatre) and *Five Guys Named Moe* (Court Theater & Skylight Music Theatre). Rush graduated with his BFA in musical theater from Western Illinois University and he is a proud member of AEA.

MICHAEL WEBER (he/him, Artistic Director) most recently directed *Sunset Boulevard* and *Gypsy* for Porchlight Music Theatre as well as the Porchlight Revisits production of *1776* and *Broadway by the Decade* for Porchlight Online. 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 *Talley'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.

JUSTIN AKIRA KONO (he/him, Music Director) Porchlight: *Sophisticated Ladies*, *Chicago Sings: Rock and Roll Broadway*, *Billy Elliot* and Porchlight Revisits *Do Re Mi*. Chicagoland: *All Shook Up* and *Freaky Friday* (Williams Street Rep), *Legends of the 50s & 60s* (Music Theater Works) and *Kiss Me Kate* (upcoming, Marriott Lincolnshire). A drummer, percussionist, keyboardist, and orchestrator of a musically wide range, Justin is currently the music director at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Downers Grove. He also plays with several Chicago-area bands including Piano Man: a Tribute to Billy Joel and Elton John, Blue Sky, a Tribute to ELO, Prairie Station, and his very own J-Pop project: Kitsune Kono.

CHRISTOPHER PAZDERNIK (any, Producing Associate & Company Manager) 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* (Associate 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 also has extensive experience in cabaret, casting, associate producing, company management, non-profit fundraising and HIV/AIDS advocacy. This is his last production as a staff member at Porchlight before he joins Theo Ubique as their Managing & Casting Director.

ALEX RYHAN (he/him, 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*. Ryhan 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.

BIOS (CONT.)

MATTHEW R. CHASE (he/him, Audio Engineer) Porchlight: Assistant Sound Designer for *Sophisticated Ladies*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *A Chorus Line* & *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*. Chicago: Sound Design for *Cooking with Bubbie & Veronica's Room* (Skokie Theatre), *Gigi's Party* (Yellow Rose Theatre), *Urinetown & Xanadu* (Columbia College Chicago), *9 to 5 & Mamma Mia!* (Golden Ticket Productions) and Assistant Sound Designer for *The Ballad of Lefty & Crabbe* (Underscore Theatre Company). A Chicago-based Theatrical Sound Designer and Audio Engineer, Matthew is also the Audio Supervisor for Timeline Theatre Company.

JEFFREY LEVIN (he/him, Audio Engineer 7/25 & 9/11) is a composer, sound designer, and musician based in Chicago. Jeffrey has contributed original music and sound designs for over 150 productions for many theatre and live event companies in and outside of Chicago. Awards and recognitions for work in theatre include two Joseph Jefferson Award wins and twelve nominations for Sound Design and Original Music. Currently running designs include *Little Mermaid Cocktail Experience*, *Mad Hatter Gin and Tea Party* (Miami), and *Dining in the Dark* with Fever USA.

JOHN KOHN III (he/him, Production Assistant) Porchlight: Debut. John has been working in theatre in various technical roles since 2006, but primarily works as a freelance lighting technician and rigger for event production companies. John is also an Emeritus Ensemble member of Stage Left Theatre.

MARCEL REIMÃO BONFIM (he/him, Bass) Porchlight: *Sophisticated Ladies*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *Memphis*, Porchlight Revisits *Do Re Mi*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, Porchlight Revisits *Woman of the Year* and multiple editions of Chicago Sings. A critically acclaimed Brazilian musician, Marcel holds a BM from Unicamp (Brazil) and a MM from DePaul University in Chicago. He has studied with renowned bass players in Brazil and the US, including Dennis Caroll, Sizão Machado, and Clark Somers; and has played for big bands, symphony orchestras, musical theater, jazz combos and Brazilian ensembles. As music director and arranger, he led the acclaimed music theater production *The Heartbeat of Brazil* in 2018. Beyond that, he performed in the official Broadway Brazil productions of *The Lion King*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, *The Addams Family* and others.

ALEX WILLIAMS (he/him, Drums) Porchlight: Debut. Taking up drums/percussion at the age of 8, and immigrating from the UK to Chicago in 2012, Alex has had a wide variety of musical experiences. He has played in ensembles such as brass bands, orchestras, big bands, rock bands and pit orchestras, both professionally and at school. Alex is currently working towards a BM in Drum Set Performance at Berklee College of Music, where he has studied with Mark Walker (Paquito D'rivera, Lyle Mays) and currently studies with Dave Dicenso (Duran Duran, Josh Groban). Alex is excited to play for a Porchlight production!

JEANNIE LUKOW (she/her, 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 is the award-winning center for music theatre in Chicago. Through live performance, youth education and community outreach we impact thousands of lives each season, bringing the magic of musicals to our theatre home at the Ruth Page Center for the Arts in the Gold Coast and to neighborhoods across the city. Porchlight has built a national reputation for boldly reimagining classic musicals, supporting new works and young performers, and showcasing Chicago's most notable music theatre artists, all through the intimate and powerful theatrical lens of the "Chicago Style."

Now in our 26th season, our quarter-century production history includes more than 70 mainstage works with 15 Chicago premieres and five world premieres. Porchlight's commitment to the past, present and future of music theatre led the company to develop the Porchlight Revisits and New Faces Sing Broadway program series, both quickly becoming audience favorites.

Porchlight's education and outreach programs serve schools, youth of all ages and skill levels and community organizations, most notably our ongoing collaboration with Chicago Youth Centers. We annually award dozens of full scholarships and hundreds of free tickets to ensure accessibility and real engagement with this uniquely American art form.

The company's many honors include 178 Joseph Jefferson Award (Jeff) nominations and 45 Jeff awards, as well as 33 Black Theatre Alliance (BTA) nominations and 12 BTA awards. In 2019, Porchlight graduated to the Large Theatre tier of the Equity Jeff Awards, and was honored with eight nominations in both technical and artistic categories and won three awards in our inaugural year in this tier, most notably Best Ensemble for *Duke Ellington's Sophisticated Ladies*.

Through the global pandemic, Porchlight has emerged as one of Chicago's leaders in virtual programming, quickly launching a host of free offerings like Sondheim @ 90 Roundtables, Movie Musical Mondays, Porchlight by Request: Command Performances and WPMT: Classic Musicals from the Golden Age of Radio. For the 2020-2021 season, Porchlight's fall schedule included all-new ticketed virtual programs including *Broadway by the Decade*, *New Faces Sing Broadway 1987*, *New Faces Sing Broadway 1961* and the return of The Ruffians' *Burning Bluebeard* as well as collaborations with Hershey Felder and L.A. Theatre Works. Porchlight continues to announce new premium and free offerings throughout 2021, and looks forward to a new season at Ruth Page starting this fall.

PORCHLIGHT STAFF

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Production & Operations Director **ALEX RHYAN**

Producing Associate & Company Manager **CHRISTOPHER PAZDERNIK**

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PORCHLIGHT MUSIC THEATRE

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August Compton

Cody Czmyr

Carolyn Isaac
Becca Sheehan

Are you culturally curious, passionate about the arts, and interested in meeting new people while championing a great cause?

Join the **Porchlight Young Professionals!** If you are a Chicago-area young professional, ages 21 to 40 years, looking for a unique and fun way to network with other young professionals, join our dynamic group! As a member, you'll be given behind-the-scenes access, enjoy a variety of opportunities to meet other young theatre lovers and arts enthusiasts, and receive invitations to exciting events, as well as being instrumental in the growth of Chicago's home for music theatre.

To learn more, contact **August Compton** at august@porchlightmusictheatre.org.

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STAY TUNED
FOR MORE

COMING THIS FALL!

SHOWS,

EVENTS,

CLASSES

AND SO MUCH MORE!

FOLLOW ALONG FOR UPDATES ON OUR

2021 / 2022 SEASON!

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Photo Credits: Top, the cast of *Sophisticated Ladies* (2020), photo by Michael Courier; middle, Donica Lynn and Jean Klingenstein at the 2019 *ICONS Gala*, photo by Michael Courier; bottom, students at Music Theatre Boot Camp (2021), photo by Austin Packard.

EDUCATION

Porchlight Music Theatre Classes for Youth, Professionals, Enthusiasts & Schools!



Get excited for Fall Classes 2021!



Check out porchlightmusictheatre.org/events/youth-classes/ for more information! Financial aid, scholarships and payment plans available. More information, as well as registration and our scholarship application may be found on our website.

Broadway BASICS

Ages 7 - 10 years
Saturdays, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm
September 25 - December 18 (no class 11/27)

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, family and friends are invited to join us for a final performance to celebrate all your young actors' work!

Musical THEATRE BOOTCAMP

Ages 11 - 13 years
Saturdays, 1:00 am - 3:00 pm
September 25 - December 18 (no class 11/27)

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!

Advanced MUSIC THEATRE PERFORMANCE

Ages 14 - 17 years
Sundays, 3:30 - 6:30 pm
September 26 - December 19 (no class 11/28)

Our most advanced actors will tackle challenging choreography, music and scene work to create a final showcase that highlights both ensemble and individual work. Actors will set individual performance goals and learn how a musical is constructed from first rehearsal to final performance.

Classes will meet at DePaul School of Music Holtschneider Performance Center • 2330 N. Halsted St.

Music Theatre Enthusiasts

Fans of all ages are welcome to join us for fun and conversational classes exploring all things Music Theatre! Stay tuned for more details about Fall Classes coming soon!

Partner with Porchlight

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 **Rebecca Singer** at rebecca@porchlightmusictheatre.org.

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Porchlight Music Theatre gratefully acknowledges the following individuals, corporations and foundations who generously gave gifts of \$100 or more to The Annual Fund, 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: July 1, 2020 through July 1, 2021. For a full list of all contributions for FY21, please consult our website at PorchlightMusicTheatre.org/Our-Contributors.

Porchlight Music Theatre appreciates all the members of the Matching Gift Corporate Program including abbvie; Allstate; Lloyd A. Fry Foundation; Peoples Gas; Pepsico; Polk Bros Foundation and The Saints.

We also thank those patrons whose contributions to the post-show collections of *Sunset Boulevard* and Duke Ellington's *Sophisticated Ladies* supported youth programs and scholarships to Porchlight's "Make Your Own Musical" Youth Summer Camp.

For information about the multiple ways of supporting Porchlight or to update and information on the following donor list, please contact **August Compton** at august@porchlightmusictheatre.org.

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DONORS

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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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