



PORCHLIGHT
MUSIC THEATRE

2020 - 2021
ANNUAL REPORT

CHICAGO SINGS ROCK N' ROLL BROADWAY (2021) CHERISE THOMAS.
PHOTO BY CHOLLETTE

SPEAKING ON PORCHLIGHT IN 2021

"No theater company in Chicago met the challenges of a world-wide pandemic like Porchlight Music Theatre. With unparalleled virtual programming including its Sondheim @ 90 series, Movie Musical Mondays, performing musical requests from fans to raise funds and so much more; Porchlight found its way to entertain and sustain. Truly a model of business savvy in an artistic world which is to be greatly admired."

Paul Lisnek, Host, Behind the Curtain on the WGN Radio Podcast Network,
Host, Comcast Network and WGN-TV



CIERA DAWN,
NEW FACES SING BROADWAY 1987 (2020)
PHOTO BY CASTLELIGHT PRODUCTIONS

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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

Box Office & Performance Space
Ruth Page Center for the Arts 1016 N.
Dearborn St.
Chicago, IL 60610

Administrative & Production Facility
4200 W Diversey Ave.
Chicago, IL 60639

773.777.9884

[PorchlightMusicTheatre.org](https://porchlightmusictheatre.org)

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

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

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



Broadway in your Backyard (2021)
PHOTO BY JUSTIN KOCHER

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 box office & performance space 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 recognize the sacred lands of all indigenous American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and First Nations peoples."

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.

GROWING STEADILY, REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

A MESSAGE FROM THE STAFF

We believe in an attitude of gratitude, so we'd like to again share our Top 10. We're grateful, in 2020-2021, for:

1. Bringing — live and virtually — Porchlight's signature brand of thoughtful, engaging and uplifting music theatre to more than 20,000 patrons.

2. Thriving youth education programs, with very few pivots to virtual learning.

These kids gathered in fall, spring and summer to create, bond and take a break from their screens.

3. Vaccines and, soon, therapeutics.

4. Uploaded 52 new episodes of our weekly WPMT: Classic Musicals from the Golden Age of Radio.

Our program — now 80 episodes strong — has been downloaded 4288 times and even picked up by Derek McLellan's Canadian radio program, "Tin Pan Alley."

5. Our Sondheim @ 90 Roundtable discussions.

Which have been downloaded more than 4180 times by viewers around the world.

6. Introducing Porchlight to Chicagoland neighborhoods.

From Rogers Park to South Shore, our new *Broadway in your Backyard* concert series broke attendance records along the way.

7. Staying connected with core supporters.

Through our Movie Musical Mondays conversations which will be returning in 2022 both live and, soon, in podcast form.

8. Making new friends through our Porchlight By Request command performances.

Which helped celebrate essential workers and ardent fans.

9. Deepening our artistic toolbox and being the leader in Chicago virtual entertainment.

With video projects like *Broadway by the Decade*, *New Faces Sing Broadway*, *Chicago Sings Rock & Roll Broadway* and virtual partnerships with Hershey Felder, The Ruffians, L.A. Theatre Works, Kayla Boye, Shoshana Bean and more.

10. Your support.

You tuned in, you downloaded, you came out with your lawn chairs to enjoy, you made a donation. We couldn't ask for more.

On behalf of our entire Porchlight staff,
thank you and best wishes for 2022!



PUMP:BOYS & DINETTES, OPENING NIGHT (2021)
PHOTO BY JAMES JULIANO

Michael Weber
Artistic Director

Jeannie Lukow
Executive Director

KEEPING THE PORCHLIGHT SHINING BRIGHT

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

For arts organizations nationwide the past year has been one of the most challenging, and Porchlight is no exception. After the lockdowns, business interruptions and pivoting of 2020, we settled into a virtual rhythm for the 2020-2021 year that, gratefully, gave way to a summer of live performance. Virtual programs kept our loyal supporters and all lovers of music theatre engaged, entertained and educated during the long winter months. And *Broadway in your Backyard* brought Porchlight — live — to neighborhood parks across the city last summer. Your support of these programs and more proved that the love of music theatre in general and of Porchlight Music Theatre in particular is alive and well. Thank you.

The joy that we experienced this summer and fall as we began to gather again in person, is now giving way to even more pandemic and economic challenges. The impact of the past two years is far from over and many uncertainties lie ahead. We are in the process of building back the company that has enthralled and entertained for more than 25 years. We need your support now more than ever. We are asking those of you who love Porchlight Music Theatre to join us in reinvigorating the wonderful organization that has brought you so much pleasure over the years. The need is very real, and we invite you to become part of the next phase of growth for this organization – the best theatre company in Chicago dedicated to the uniquely American art form of music theatre. When you're ready, attend a performance with friends (we promise *Blues in the Night* will warm you up this winter), renew your season subscription, donate at our website. Be part of the bright future we see ahead...it will be here soon.



Brian Troy
Chair, Board of Directors



2021 ICONS GALA
PHOTO BY ANTONIO DICKEY



2021 ICONS GALA
PHOTO BY ANTONIO DICKEY



2021 ICONS GALA
PHOTO BY ANTONIO DICKEY



MEET THE TEAM

MEET THE TEAM

CURRENT STAFF

Jeannie Lukow ‡

Executive Director

Michael Weber †

Artistic Director

Artistic/Production:

Rashaad A. Bond † ^

Producing Artistic Associate

Alex Rhyan †

Production & Operations Director

Audience Services:

August Compton ‡

Audience Services Director

Elana Kennedy ‡

Box Office Manager

Jordan Fleming ‡

House Manager

Development:

Kellie Buffington ‡

Development & Administration Associate

Carmen J. Gonzalez ‡

Institutional Advancement Director

Evin Marie Rayford ‡ ^

Development Director

Education:

Rebecca Singer ‡

Education Director

Finance & Administration:

Dan Thomas †

Finance & HR Manager

Marketing:

SHOUT Marketing & Media Relations

James Juliano † & Jill Evans La Penna ‡

Marketing & Media Representatives

Justin Kocher †

Marketing Associate

Lobo Tate † ^

Marketing Associate

2020-2021 LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tony Gibson †

Chair

Brian Troy †

Vice Chair

Gretchen Upholt ‡

Treasurer

Jonathan Klein †

Secretary

Shelley Akanji ‡

Michelle Freeman Cucchiaro ‡

Brenda Didier ‡

Jeremy Eden †

Rhona Frazin ‡

Mark Hudson †

William Gilmer †

Jim Jensen †

Charles Laff †

Michael Lowenthal ‡

Steve McDonagh †

Cesar Rolon, Jr. †

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

Lanie Bayless ‡

August Compton ‡

Cody Czmyr †

Olivia Havens ‡

Carolyn Isaac ‡

Rosie Schultz ‡

Becca Sheehan ‡

Yessenia I. Sosa ‡

"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

2020-2021 COMMITTEES

Thank you to our dedicated stakeholders for their committee service over the last year.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT & NOMINATING

William Gilmer † *Chair*
Michelle Cucchiaro ‡
Jeremy Eden †

Rhona Frazin ‡
Jon Klein †
Chuck Laff †
Steve McDonagh †

FACILITIES

Chuck Laff † *Chair*
James Brault †
Yolanda Deen ‡
Lee Dickson †

Jim Grusecki †
William James †
James Jensen †
Arlen D. Rubin †

DEVELOPMENT

Rhona Frazin ‡ *Chair*
Art Garwin †
Joel Rothman †
Tamara Sims ‡
Sue Tinnish ‡
Brian Troy †

EDUCATION

Brian Troy † *Chair*
Emily Carrol ‡
Brenda Didier ‡
Laura Steinfeld Hamilton ‡
Linda Madonia ‡
Sara Siegall ‡

FINANCE

Gretchen Upholt ‡ *Chair*
Jim Jensen †
Jeannie Lukow ‡

Brian Troy †
Michael Weber †

EQUITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION ADVISORY

Carmen J. Gonzalez ‡ *Chair*
Felton Armand †
Frankie Leo Bennett †
E. Faye Butler ‡
Ana I. Gonzalez, MA ‡
Frederick Harris †
Jermaine Hill †
Tanya Hinton ‡

James Earl Jones II †
Michelle Lauto ‡
Nitha Fiona Nagubadi
PsyD, MBA, MS, Ph.D ‡
Lorenzo Rush Jr. †
Michael Weatherspoon †
Honey West ‡
Will Wilhelm †
Aeriel Williams ‡

MARKETING & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

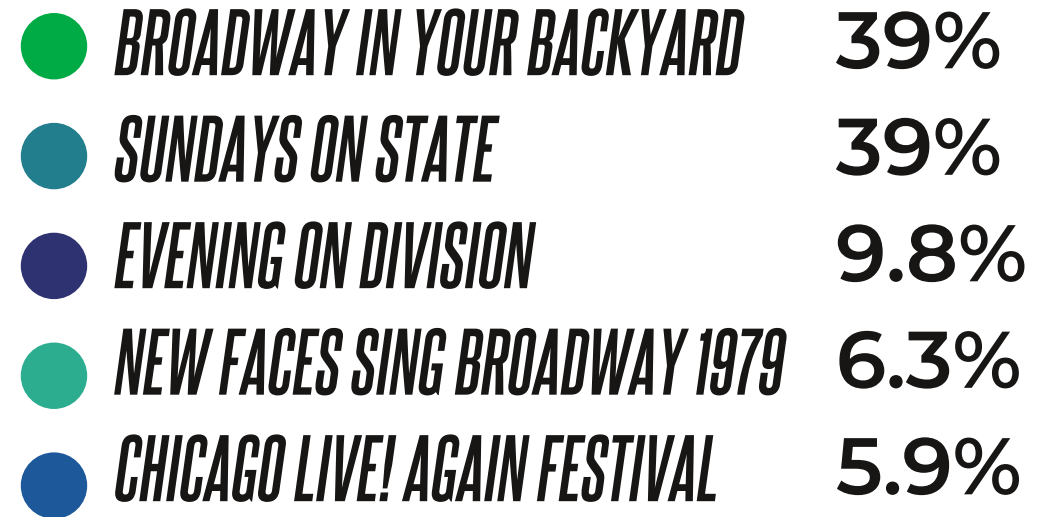
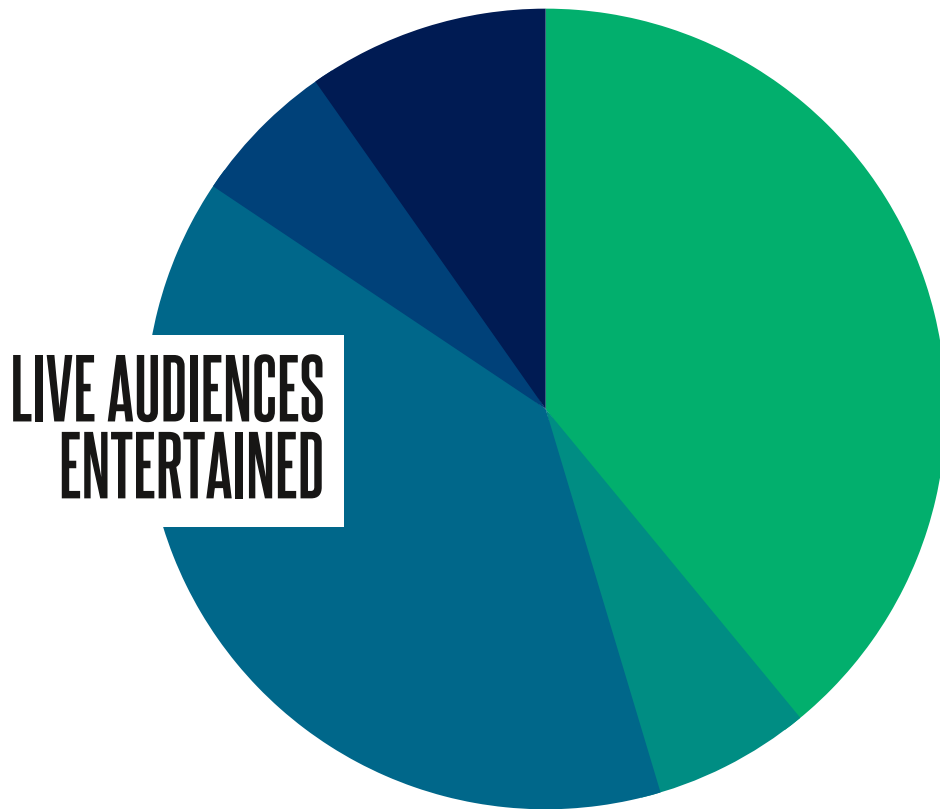
Mark Hudson † *Chair*
Elaine Cohen ‡
Michelle Cucchiaro ‡
Cody Czymr †
Jeremy Eden †
Rhona Frazin ‡
Jim Jensen †

Julie Meegan ‡
Boyce Moffitt †
Amy Osler ‡
Cesar Rolon †
Tamara Sims ‡
Annice Tatken ‡



THE 2020-2021 SEASON

OUR 2020-2021 YEAR AT-A-GLANCE



ARTISTS & STAFF EMPLOYED

124 PERFORMERS,
MUSICIANS, CREATIVES
& TECHNICIANS
14 TEACHING ARTISTS
15 STAFF

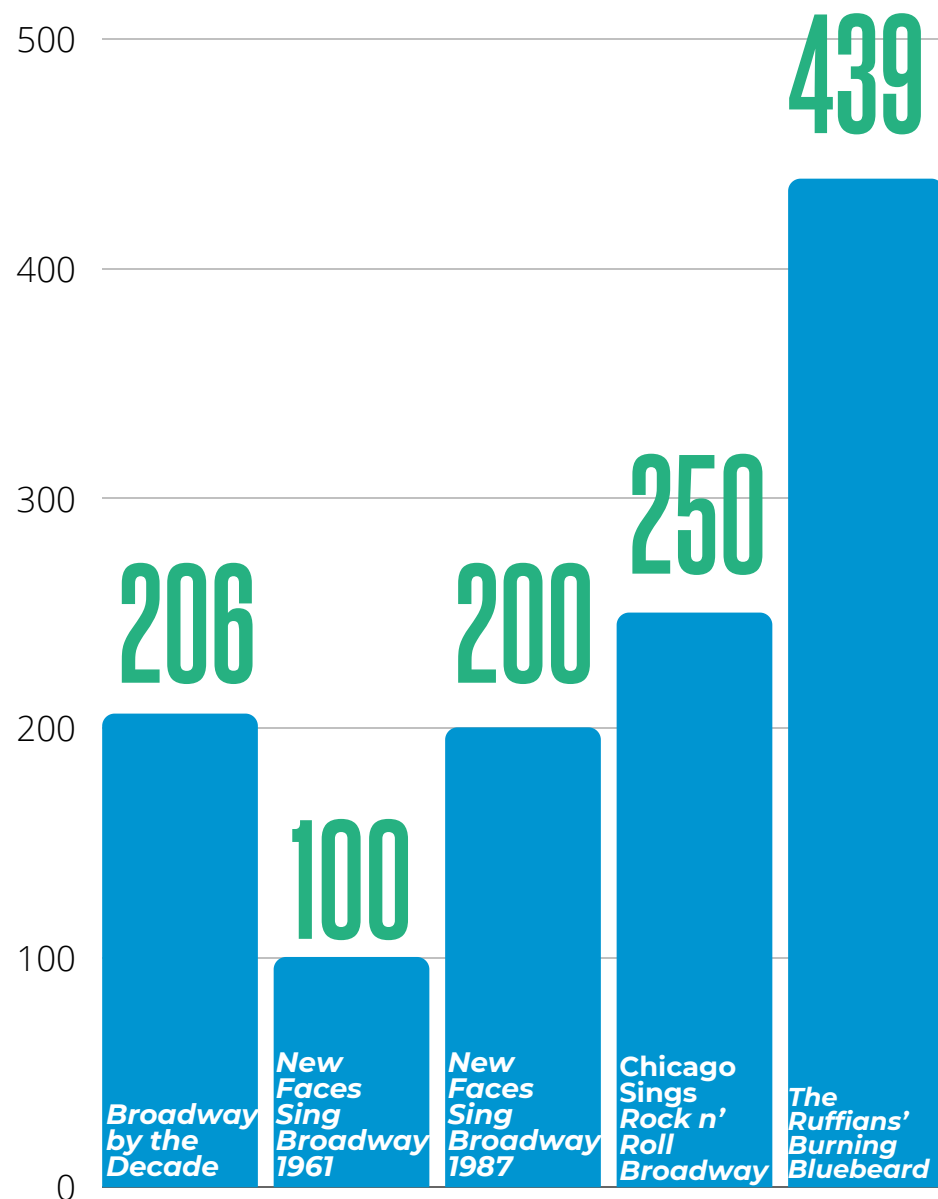
STUDENTS ENGAGED

65 THROUGH FREE CHICAGO YOUTH CENTER CLASSES
32 THROUGH YOUTH PROGRAMS
10 WITH FULL SCHOLARSHIPS
87 THROUGH IN-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

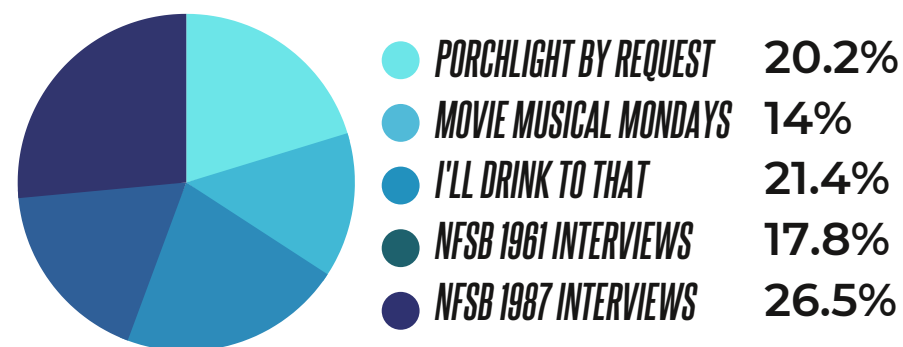
OUR 2020-2021 YEAR AT-A-GLANCE (continued)

VIRTUAL AUDIENCES ENTERTAINED

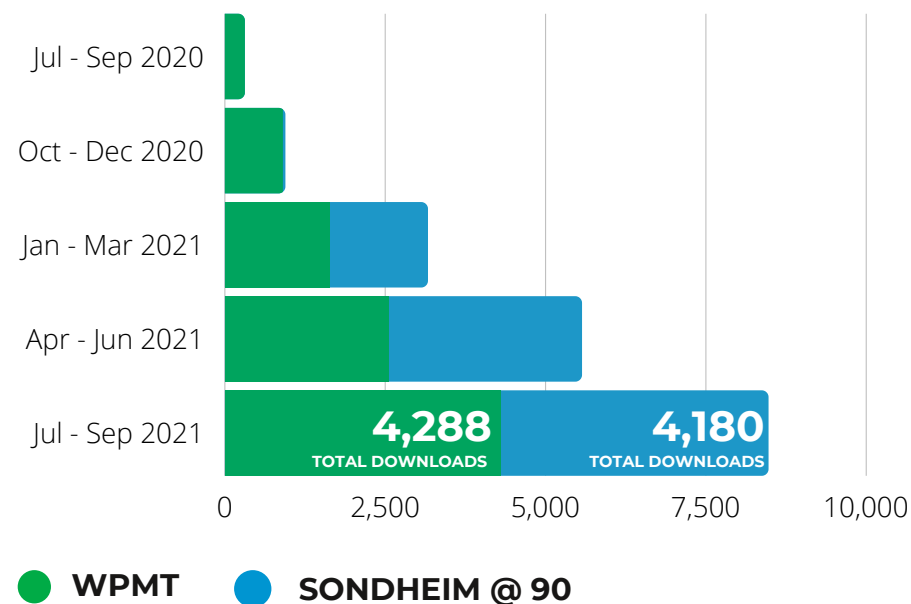
TOTAL TICKETED LIVESTREAMS



FREE VIDEO CONTENT (MEASURED BY TOTAL FACEBOOK VIEWS)



TOTAL PODCAST DOWNLOADS



Broadway BY THE DECADE

PORCHLIGHT ONLINE

"... ingeniously conceived, richly varied and vividly realized."

Hedy Weiss, WTTW, "Chicago Tonight"

"An enlightening stroll down Broadway's history ... If Ken Burns ever gets around to doing Broadway as a series, he could do much worse than to have Michael Weber as one of his hosts."

Jonathan Abarbanel, Kerry Reid and Gary Zidek
WDCB, "The Dueling Critics"

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL COURIER

September 25 - October 25, 2020

Directed by Michael Weber †

Assistant Directed by Christopher Pazdernik ‡

Music Directed by Michael McBride †

Porchlight's first virtual premium offering was *Broadway by the Decade* where Artistic Director Michael Weber took the audience on a guided tour of Broadway's musical history from the late 1800s to the present day. Weber shared the story of how the American idiom, the musical, evolved decade by decade with musical performances designed especially for this production starring Porchlight favorites performing songs from *Show Boat*, *Girl Crazy*, *Funny Girl*, *Chicago*, *Les Miserables*, *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, *Waitress* and more.

Featuring

Blu †, Neala Barron ‡, Darilyn Burtley ‡, Lucy Godinez ‡, Donterrio Johnson †, James Earl Jones II †

Michelle Lauto ‡ and Michael McBride †

Production Team

Eric Backus † (audio engineer and sound mixing), Alex Rhyan † (director of production), Christopher Pazdernik ‡ (casting & company manager), Ben Balmer † (production assistant) and Austin Packard † (videographer and video editing)



207
STREAMING TICKETS SOLD

Pronoun Key: † (he/him/his); ‡ (she/her/hers); ‡ (they, them, theirs); ‡ (any, with respect)

THE RUFFIANS' **BURNING BLUEBEARD**

CHICAGO'S HOLIDAY LEGEND!

"One of the most unusual and potent holiday shows in Chicago ...which I've long admired"
Chris Jones, *Chicago Tribune*

"This is an unforgettable one ... a spectacle"
Regina M. Belt-Daniels, *Northwest Herald*



December 4, 2020 – January 3, 2021

Ruth Page Center for the Arts

Written by Jay Torrence †

Direction by Halena Kays ‡

Choreography by Leah Urzendowski ‡

Additional 2019 Choreography by Ariel Etana Triunfo ‡

Holiday audiences around the world were treated to a streamed archival copy of *The Ruffians' Burning Bluebeard*, filmed during its 2019 Porchlight run at The Ruth Page Center for the Arts. *Burning Bluebeard* magically weaves the true story of the Iroquois Theatre fire of 1903 with music, clowning, tumbling, acrobatics and dance. It is a physical-performance phenomena inspired by the unforgettable events that resulted in tragedy for 600 theatergoers at Christmastime 1903.

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) and Tristan Chiruvolu † (assistant stage manager)



438

STREAMING TICKETS SOLD
including ticket buyers in
Canada, the UK and Germany

Pronoun Key: † (he/him/his); ‡ (she/her/hers); ǂ (they, them, theirs); ǁ (any, with respect)



NEW FACES SING BROADWAY

The pandemic did not stop Porchlight from presenting its popular *New Faces Sing Broadway* series, virtually and live, this 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 1987

November 6 - November 29, 2020

Directed by Christopher Pazdernik †
Music Directed by David Fiorello †
Hosted by Larry Adams †

200
STREAMING TICKETS SOLD

Filmed on-site at Chicago's historic Studebaker Theatre, the popular *New Faces Sing Broadway* cabaret series returned, virtually, in fall 2020 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.

Production Team

Christopher Pazdernik † (director), David Fiorello † (music director/accompanist), David Fiorello † (additional instrumentation), Alex Rhyan † (director of production), CastleLight Productions (video, editing and audio services), and Michael Weber † (artistic director)

Featuring

Anna Marie Abbate ‡, Isabella Andrews ‡
Ciera Dawn ‡, Taylor DiTola ‡, Timothy Foszcz †
Cameron Goode †, Garrett Griffin †, Parker Guidry †
Devon Hayakawa ‡ and Kelan Smith †



WATCH THE TRAILER

Tim Foszcz,
NEW FACES SING BROADWAY 1987 (2020)
PHOTO BY AUSTIN PACKARD

"Christopher Pazdernik (the director of *New Faces Sing Broadway 1987*) presses nearly every nook and corner of the Studebaker Theatre into service for this showcase of the ten fresh faces of musical theater starring in this production."
- Amy Munice,
[PictureThisPost.com](https://www.picturethispost.com)

NEW FACES SING BROADWAY 1961

April 16 - May 16, 2021

Directed by Brianna Borger ‡
Music Directed by Tom Vendrafreddo †
Hosted by Kelvin Roston, Jr. †

100
STREAMING TICKETS SOLD

Jeff-Award winner Kelvin Rolston, Jr. hosted the second installment of the 2020-21 three-production *New Faces Sing Broadway* season. Rolston and the New Faces celebrated the 1961 Broadway season with trivia, sing-alongs and performances of hit songs from *Carnival!*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *Stop the World - I Want to Get Off* and other musicals from the 1961 Broadway season filmed at the historic Studebaker Theatre.

Production Team

Brianna Borger ‡ (director), Tom Vendrafreddo † (music director/accompanist), Alex Rhyan † (director of production); Christopher Pazdernik † (casting and company manager), CastleLight Productions (video, editing and audio services) and Michael Weber † (artistic director)

Featuring

Lexie Bailey ‡, Nicole Barth ‡, Marcus Canada †,
Chloe Howard ‡, Izzie Jones ‡, Clare Kennedy ‡,
Maurice Rex Randle †, Abraham Shaw †,
Tommy Thurston † and Ben Tidwell †



Izzie Jones,
NEW FACES SING BROADWAY 1961 (2021)
PHOTO BY AUSTIN PACKARD

"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

NEW FACES SING BROADWAY 1979

Saturday, June 12, 2021

Performed at North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie with a virtual streaming after the live performance.

Directed by Brianna Borger ‡
Music Directed by Linda Madonia ‡
Hosted by Alexis J. Roston ‡

Jeff Award-winner and Porchlight's *Lady Day* Alexis J. Roston hosted the final, LIVE installment of the series, celebrating the 1979 Broadway season with songs from *Evita*, *Sweeney Todd*, *They're Playing Oursong* and other musicals from the 1979 Broadway season.

Featuring

Micah Beauvais †, Adia Bell ‡, Chloe Belongilot ‡, Wesley Anthony Clergé †, Haley Gustafson ‡, Drew Mitchell †, Mia Nevarez ‡, Laura Quiñones ‡, Christopher Ratliff †, Nathe Rowbotham †
Linda Madonia ‡ (music director, keyboards), Marcel Reimão Bonfim † (bass) and Justin Akira Kono † (drums)

Production Team

Brianna Borger ‡ (director), Linda Madonia ‡ (music director and arrangements), Alex Rhyan † (director of production), Christopher Pazdernik † (producing associate and company manager), Orel Chollette † (video director), Austin Crowley † (director of photography), Alex Groesh † (camera operator), Matt Chase † (audio engineer), Catherine Allen ‡ (production assistant) and Michael Weber † (artistic director)

The 2020-2021 New Faces Sing Broadway series was sponsored by Elaine Cohen and Arlen D. Rubin.

[Click here to view the full playlist of interviews with the cast of New Faces Sing Broadway 1979](#)

"I've seen a lot of other up-and-coming actors in Chicago perform in the 'New Faces' cabarets... I really wanted to be involved and work with the company. It's going to be an amazing opportunity."
Nathe Rowbotham, Cast Member of NFSB '79

325
TICKETS SOLD



MEET HOST ALEXIS J. ROSTON

"Musical theater fans will love *New Faces Sing Broadway 1979*, not only for its delightful celebration of Broadway shows, but also for its roster of golden-voiced artists who we will, no doubt, see and hear from again."
- Betty Mohr, *Epoch Times*



CAST OF NEW FACES SING BROADWAY 1979 (2021)

A woman with dark, curly hair and a black dress is sitting on a teal armchair in a modern living room. She is holding a cigarette in her right hand and looking off to the side. The room has a dark wood shelving unit in the background with various decorative items, a small round table with a marble top in the foreground, and a white coat hanging on a stand to the right.

PARTNERSHIPS

Porchlight partnered with several artistic organizations to provide even more engaging content for Porchlight fans.

Call Me Elizabeth (2020)
PHOTO BY KÁCHÍ MOZIE 19

PARTNERSHIPS

Hershey Felder

The generous Hershey Felder and his newly created production company, Hershey Felder - Live from Florence, partnered with Porchlight and other American theatres and arts organizations to stream its productions and retain 50% of ticket sales sold via their websites. Nearly 400 patrons viewed the programs through Porchlight.

George Gershwin Alone
September 13 - 20, 2020

Tchaikovsky
December 21 - 28, 2020

Puccini
March 14 - 21, 2021

Paris: A Love Story
November 22 - 29, 2020

Before Fiddler
February 7 - 14, 2021

L.A. Theatre Works

Porchlight, with special permission from famed L.A. Theatre Works, presented two audio presentations from L.A. Theatre Works' archives, free of charge for Porchlight's audiences. The productions aired via Porchlight were:

Working
October 16 - November 8, 2020

Zoot Suit
November 27 - December 20, 2020

FOURTH WALL LIVE

Shoshana Bean: Sing your Hallelujah
December 12, 2020

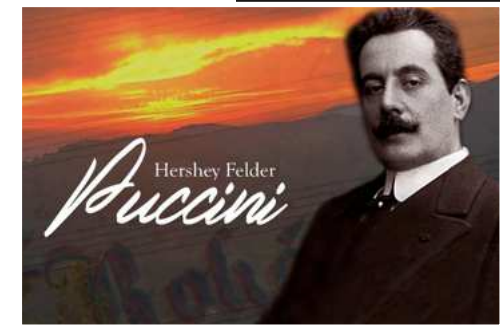
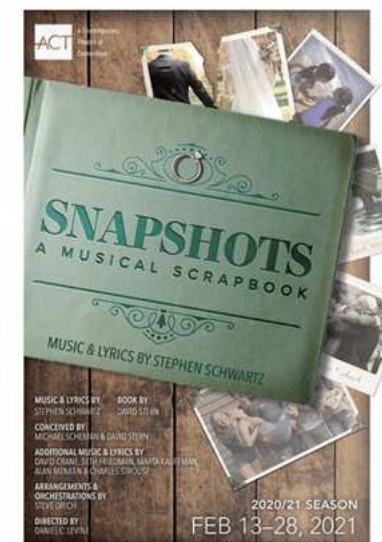
Porchlight presented this holiday concert that was broadcast live at the Apollo Theater and featured Gavin Creel, Jared Grimes, Jeremy Jordan, Shayna Steele, Connie Talbot and Daniel J. Watts.

ACT (A CONTEMPORARY THEATRE) OF CONNECTICUT

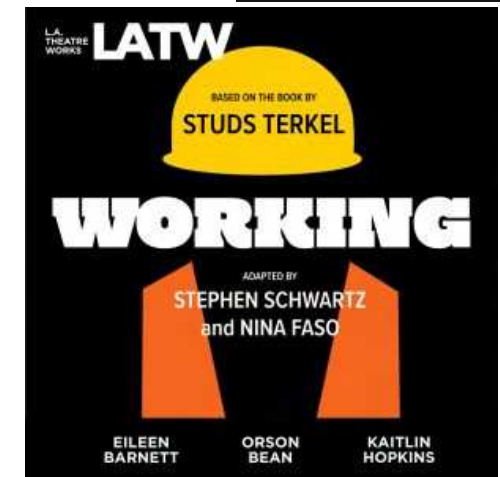
Stephen Schwartz's SNAPSHOTS: A Musical Scrapbook
February 13 - March 7, 2021

An original piece incorporating over two dozen of Mr. Schwartz's songs, including tunes from *Wicked*, *Pippin*, *Godspell*, *The Baker's Wife*, *Rage*, *Working*, *Children of Eden* and *Enchanted*.

This musical is a touching and authentic look into how we fall in love and the poignant power of trusting our hearts and memories.



Hershey Felder
PUCCINI (2021)



L.A. Theatre Works
WORKING (2021)

PARTNERSHIPS (continued)

SOUTHWARK PLAYHOUSE LONDON

Porchlight with special permission from famed L.A. Theatre Works presented two audio presentations from L.A. Theatre Works' archives, free of charge for Porchlight's audiences. The productions aired via Porchlight were:

The Sorcerer's Apprentice

March 25 - April 11

Porchlight Music Theatre in association Southwark Playhouse, London presented a new British musical written by Richard Hough and Ben Morales Frost, *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*. A new twist on the timeless poem by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe which also inspired the Dukas symphony that was memorably featured in the Disney film "Fantasia," this enchanting musical explores the extraordinary world of a sorcerer and his rebellious daughter as she discovers the explosive possibilities of her newfound magical powers.

KB PRODUCTIONS

Call Me Elizabeth

April 23 - May 9, 2021

Through an intimate conversation with a biographer, *Call Me Elizabeth* examines Elizabeth Taylor's early life, career and loves as she grapples with the culture of celebrity and her place as Hollywood's brightest star. This 70-minute non-musical drama, created by and starring Porchlight alum Kayla Boye, includes Christopher Pazdernik as associate producer and featured a world premiere song written by Chicago composer Ethan Deppe as performed by Bethany Thomas. The production partially benefited Howard Brown Health and Brave Space Alliance in honor of Taylor's advocacy and activism in the fight against HIV/AIDS.



Call Me Elizabeth (2020)
PHOTOS BY KÁCHÍ MOZIE



WATCH THE TRAILER



SEE THE AUDIENCES REACTION



PORCHLIGHT'S FREE VIRTUAL OFFERINGS

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. Several of the offerings have continued into this season, and you may watch past episodes on our website and our YouTube channel!

MOLLY CALINAN
CHICAGO SINGS *ROCK N' ROLL BROADWAY* (2021)
PHOTO BY CHOLLETTE

PORCHLIGHT'S FREE VIRTUAL OFFERINGS

Porchlight continued many of the free virtual programs it launched immediately after the start of the pandemic. Some of the free offerings in the 2020-2021 season included:

Sondheim @ 90 Roundtable with host Michael Weber

The series, created and hosted by Artistic Director Michael Weber, gathered talents from Chicago, Broadway and to the world of theatre to discuss each of the musical stage works of Stephen Sondheim in celebration of his 90th birthday year. 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. This virtual series continues to be available, free, via our website. *Porchlight By Request*



- ▶ ***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
- ▶ ***Road Show (Dec. 5)***
Deanna Dunagan, Chris Jones, Michael Mahler

- ▶ ***A Little Night Music (Dec. 12)***
Brianna Borger, Nick Bowling, Christy Chiles Twillie
- ▶ ***A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum (Dec 19)***
Anika Chapin, Ross Lehman, Linda Madonia
- ▶ ***Frog (Dec 26)***
Victoria Bussert, Christopher Pazdernik, Christie Chiles Twillie
- ▶ ***Assassins (Jan 2)***
Anika Chapin, Jermaine Hill, Stef Tovar
- ▶ ***Do I Hear a Waltz? (Jan 9)***
Cheryl Coons, Anthony Crivello, Kelli Harrington
- ▶ ***Saturday Night (Jan 16)***
Frankie Leo Bennett, Andrea Burns, Nik Kmieciak
- ▶ ***Passion (Jan 30)***
John Doyle, Judy Kuhn, Kathy Voytko
- ▶ ***Company (Feb 6)***
Raul Esparza, Robert Falls, Lonny Price
- ▶ ***The Stephen Sondheim Encyclopedia (Mar 27)***
A conversation with Rick Pender
- ▶ ***Desert Island Playlist (Apr 10)***
Roberta Duchak, Peter Filichia, John Yap



PORCHLIGHT'S FREE VIRTUAL OFFERINGS (continued)

Porchlight By Request

We asked some of our supporters to tell us their favorite show tune, then arranged for a favorite Porchlight performer to sing that request and share it with them and you!

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 paired with that week's Saturday's *Sondheim @ 90 Roundtable* episode.

Movie Musical Mondays

Each Monday, a noteworthy host and special guest joined in a Zoom conversation about a musical movie with musical and movie fans. This series got many of us through the long winter of 2021. This was formatted 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.

[View the full playlist on our Facebook page.](#)

WPMT: Classic Musicals from the Golden Age of Radio

Every Tuesday fans have been treated to *WPMT: Classic Musicals from the Golden Age of Radio* where 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.

[View the full playlist here.](#)





COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

BROADWAY

in your Backyard



August 3 – September 28, 2021

Directed by Michael Weber †

Music Directed by Justin Akira Kono †

Featuring

Satya Chávez ‡, Nik Kmiecik †, Michelle Lauto ‡, Lorenzo Rush Jr. † and Bethany Thomas ‡

Porchlight launched its new summer concert series, *Broadway in your Backyard*, featured some of the best and most popular songs ever written for musical theatre with songs from productions like *Hello Dolly!*, *The Wiz*, *Dreamgirls* and *Hairspray*. Four of Chicago's professional music theatre performers and a live pianist brought these crowd-pleasing favorites to life in neighborhood parks...no need to buy a ticket or get on the bus! The production also featured some fun and educational facts about the history of American music theatre as well as a sing-along with audience participation.

Dates & Sponsors

July 18

Washington Square Park, 901 N. Clark St.

Sponsors: Elaine Cohen and Arlen D. Rubin & Washington Square Park Advisory Council

August 3

Welles Park, 2333 W. Sunnyside Ave.

Sponsors: Bill Bergfalk & Welles Park Advisory Council

August 7

North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, Skokie

Part of the Center's "Out Back Summer Sessions" (ticketed)

August 10

Seneca Park, 220 E. Chicago Ave.

Sponsors: Marc and Maureen Schulman & Eli's Cheesecake

August 28

CYC-Sidney Epstein Youth Center, 3415 W. 13th Pl.

Sponsors: Chicago Youth Centers & Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events

Sept. 11, 2021

CYC-Rebecca K. Crown Youth Center, 7601 S. Phillips Avenue

Sponsors: Chicago Youth Centers & Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events

Sept. 28, 2021

Ambassador Chicago, 1301 N Pkwy, 60610



BROADWAY IN YOUR BACKYARD (2021)
PHOTOS BY JUSTIN KOCHER



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (continued)



EVENING ON DIVISION

Wednesday, September 8, 2021

on Division between State and Dearborn

Featuring

Lucy Godinez ‡ and Billy Rude †

Evening on Division featured a wide variety of wonderful food, a terrific selection of drinks, delightful music and a great opportunity to see neighbors and make new friends.



SUNDAYS ON STATE

July 11, Aug. 22 & Sept. 12, 2021

Featuring

Darilyn Burtley ‡ and Billy Rude †

Neighbors from every Chicago community and beyond came together for this free, interactive block party, while safely enjoying art, culture, active recreation, food and drink, shopping and local attractions in the heart of everyone's neighborhood – the Loop. Sundays on State met and exceeded the event's three primary goals of accelerating the economic recovery, uniting the community and creating joy. Porchlight Music Theatre performed to recorded music and performed Broadway and pop songs live for these outdoor performances.





EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Our education and outreach programs — classes, camps and in-school programs—saw big growth again last season, with students always having the option to easily switch to virtual when needed. We have been fortunate to see partners and families come back term after term and grow with us throughout the year.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

For Youth

Our Fall and Spring season classes and summer camps met at the DePaul School of Music in small and safe pods, putting together virtual performances to share with their family and friends. Classes focused on music theatre skills in acting, singing and dancing while also building self-confidence and collaboration chops. We were so happy to see so many families come back term after term and to offer 14 scholarships to our youth classes and camps throughout the year.

This summer we were also able to provide transportation and food assistance to students joining us from our partner organization BUILD.



For Schools

Porchlight's in-school programming has grown and expanded with our designation as a Qualified Arts Partner with Chicago Public Schools. We received a Creative Schools Fund Grant from Ingenuity to bring our signature residency, *Sing Out!*, to Gale Elementary ending in three original musicals based on folklore and myths. We brought production support to Senn High School and their production of *Working* in the spring and again in the fall to Chicago Academy Elementary with *Frozen for KIDS*.

"We were so excited when Porchlight stepped in to support Mitchell's performance of *Mary Poppins*. Everything shut down to remote and we needed extra support and expertise to keep our drama program moving forward. Porchlight came to the rescue and allowed our students to continue the experience of dramatic performance through a virtual platform. Thank you to Porchlight for your willingness to jump in and push us to remember that the 'show must go on'."

- Katherine Welsh, Principal, Mitchell Elementary School



PORCHLIGHT SUMMER CAMP (2021)
PHOTOS BY JUSTIN KCOHER

EDUCATION & OUTREACH (continued)

For Pros

Porchlight for the Professional saw an increased variety of classes offered including “Shred my Book” with Christopher Pazdernik and “Music Theatre Scene Study” with one of the stars of our sold-out *Sophisticated Ladies*, Donterrio.

For Fans

This year we were excited to offer new Enthusiast titles including “Top of Their Class: From *Bye Bye Birdie* to *Footloose*” which focused on musicals about teens co-taught by Cheri Coons and Porchlight favorite Frankie Leo Bennett.



WATCH THE FULL
BROADCAST OF
"TOP OF THEIR CLASS"

“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

For Communities

We continued our partnerships with Chicago Youth Centers with after school classes at the Crown and Epstein Centers.. Full scholarships were offered to every CYC student who wanted to attend Summer Camp and our partnership continues to grow with Community Partner tickets to mainstage shows and an even bigger expansion planned for Spring 2022.

Learn more about our community programming at
PorchlightMusicTheatre.org/community-programming/



PORCHLIGHT SUMMER CAMP (2020)
PHOTOS BY AUSTIN PACKARD



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.

GUY ADKINS AWARD RECIPIENT
FELICIA P. FIELDS (2021)
PHOTO BY AUSTIN PACKARD

CHICAGO SINGS ROCK & ROLL BROADWAY

Chicago Sings is Porchlight's highly anticipated annual fundraising concert presented by a who's-who roster of Chicago music theatre and cabaret favorites. Past concerts have celebrated the music of Disney, legendary composers, Motown and The Beatles to name a few, and includes the presentation of the Guy Adkins Award for Excellence in the Advancement of Music Theatre.

This year's Chicago Sings (virtual for the first time!) included a great cast of musical talents gathered to celebrate Porchlight Music Theatre and two American creations – Broadway and Rock & Roll - and featured the presentation of the 2021 Guy Adkins Award to Felicia P. Fields.

Featuring

Terrell Armstrong †, Adia Bell ‡, Chuckie Benson †, Blu †, Lydia Burke ‡, Ariana Burks ‡, Darilyn Burtley ‡, Molly Callinan ‡, Elisa Carlson ‡, Satya Chávez ‡, Pierce Cleaveland †, Shantel Cribbs ‡, Robin K. DaSilva ‡, Andres Enriquez †, Jillian-Giselle ‡, Lucy Godínez ‡, Allyson Graves ‡, Maya Hlava ‡, Donterrio Johnson †, Christopher John Kelley †, Heidi Kettenring ‡, Nik Kmiecik †, Michelle Lauto ‡, Eben K Logan †, Melanie Loren ‡, Alejandro Medina †, Andrew Mueller †, Jarais Musgrove †, Juwon Tyrel Perry †, David Robbins †, Billy Rude †, Laura Savage ‡, Oliver Schilling †, Aalon Smith †, Sawyer Smith ‡, Kyra Sorce ‡, TJ Tapp †, Tiffany T. Taylor ‡, Cherise Thomas ‡, Bethany Thomas ‡ and Ariel Etana Triunfo ‡

Production Team

Michael Weber † (director), Jermaine Hill † (music director, years 1960-1989), Linda Madonia ‡ (music director, years 1990-present), Isaiah Silvia-Chandley † (choreographer), Christopher Pazdernik † (producing associate & company manager), Alex Rhyen † (director of production), Denise Karczewski ‡ (lighting designer), Rachel West ‡ (lighting supervisor), Eric Backus † (audio engineer) and Orel Chollette † (videographer)

Musicians

Jermaine Hill † (conductor /keyboards), Linda Madonia ‡ (conductor/keyboards), Dave Saenger † (guitar), Greg Strauss † (trumpet), Kelsee Vandervall ‡ (cello), Chuck Webb † (bass) and Justin Akira Kono † (percussion)



SHANTEL CRIBBS, CHICAGO SINGS (2021)
PHOTO BY CHOLLETTE



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 & Director's Circle

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.

To learn more about supporting Porchlight, [visit PorchlightMusicTheatre.org/Donate](https://porchlightmusictheatre.org/Donate).



PHOTO BY MICHAEL COURIER

"Porchlight is much more than just performances. It's about building a community of diverse, culturally-forward thinkers who appreciate timeless and classic musical theater in a great city. The intimate setting Porchlight provides allows for connections not only to the performers, but also to other audience members as we laugh, cry and drop our jaws to the stunning performance we see with each show."

- **Cody Czmyr**
Porchlight Young Professional

OUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTORS

The following reflects contributions received between 9/1/20 and 8/31/21. For more information about how you can support our work on stage and in the community, please contact Kellie Buffington, Development and Administration Associate, at kellie@porchlightmusictheatre.org.

VISIONARY (\$25,000+)

Anonymous (2)
Bayless Family Foundation
James P. & Brenda S. Grusecki Family Foundation
The MacArthur Fund for Culture, Equity, and the Arts at Prince

BENEFACTOR (\$10,000-24,999)

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City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs & Special Events
Elaine Cohen & Arlen Rubin
Jeremy Eden & Nancy Marder
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Jean Klingenstein

PRODUCER (\$5,000-9,999)

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Jim West
Sharon West
Thelma West
Dean Yannias
Rebekah & Frank Zhao

FY20 FINANCIALS

Statement of Financial Position*

ASSETS

	AUG 31, 2021	AUG 31, 2020
Current Assets		
Cash	\$830,967	\$338,348
Investments	—	\$3,137
Accounts Receivable	\$66,316	—
Pledges Receivable	\$48,370	\$59,471
Prepaid Expenses	\$34,422	\$39,865
Other Current Assets	\$32,887	\$25,793
Total Current Assets	\$1,012,962	\$466,614
Other Assets		
Property & Equipment, net	\$34,573	\$11,265
Total Assets	\$1,047,535	\$477,879
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$37,214	\$19,612
Accrued Liabilities	\$4,415	\$16,662
Accrued Interest	—	\$457
Deferred Revenue	\$98,268	\$75,870
Total Current Liabilities	\$139,897	\$112,601
Long-Term Liabilities		
PPP Loan	\$135,645	\$135,645
Total Long-Term Liabilities	\$135,645	\$135,645
Total Liabilities	\$275,542	\$248,246
Net Assets		
Without Donor Restrictions		
General Operating	\$240,959	\$54,193
Board Designated "Sargent" Fund	\$50,372	\$50,344
With Donor Restrictions	\$480,662	\$125,096
Total Net Assets	\$771,993	\$229,633
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$1,047,535	\$477,879

*Pre-audit financials for Fiscal Year ended August 31, 2021.



LEXIE BAILEY
CHICAGO SINGS ROCK N' ROLL BROADWAY (2021)
PHOTO BY AUSTIN PACKARD

FY20 FINANCIALS

(continued)
Statement of Activities*

REVENUE	FY21 Sep 1, 2020 – Aug 31, 2021
Earned	
Production Revenue	\$78,402
Education Revenue	\$45,695
Other Earned Revenue	\$13,336
Total Earned	\$137,433
Contributed	
Individual Giving	\$276,416
Grants	\$133,120
One-Time Government Relief Grants	\$758,674
Events, net of expenses	\$96,937
Corporate Support	\$7,433
Total Contributed	\$1,272,580
Total Revenue	\$1,410,013
EXPENSES	
Program	
Production Expenses	\$333,531
Education Expenses	\$116,156
Total Program	\$449,687
Management & General	\$293,522
Fundraising	\$139,336
Total Expenses	\$882,545
Changes in Net Assets	\$527,468

*Pre-audit financials for Fiscal Year ended August 31, 2021.



ABRAHAM SHAW
NEW FACES SING BROADWAY 1961 (2020)
PHOTO BY AUSTIN PACKARD



Box Office & Performance Space

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

Administrative & Production Facility

4200 W Diversey Ave.
Chicago, IL 60639

773.777.9884

PorchlightMusicTheatre.org



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