

PORCHLIGHT **MUSIC** THEATRE

THE

GALA

ICONS

*CELEBRATING THE
WORK OF*

ALAN MENKEN

ANTHONY RAPP & FELICIA P. FIELDS
honorary co-chairs

MICHELLE & STEVE CUCCHIARO
co-chairs

GENEVIEVE THIERS & DAN RATNER
co-chairs

2026 SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

ABOUT PORCHLIGHT MUSIC THEATRE

Porchlight Music Theatre illuminates the past, present, and future of the American art form through live performance, youth education, and outreach programs that positively impact and connect us to our community. As a nationally recognized cultural institution in Chicago, Porchlight fosters empathy, inclusion, and community by exploring the human experience through the unique lens of music theatre.

The "Chicago Style" Aesthetic

What sets Porchlight apart is our dedication to "Chicago Style" of theatre – an intimate, visceral, storefront-inspired aesthetic built on raw passion and do-it-yourself grit. Our productions emphasize emotionally honest, visceral storytelling that strips classic and contemporary musicals down to their vivid human core, putting the audience at the very center of the experience.

Education & Community Engagement: Amplifying New Voices

Artistic excellence belongs to everyone. Porchlight's process-based youth programs (ages 4–17) and adult classes build unstoppable confidence, deep collaboration, and resilient ensembles.

- **Access & Inclusion:** We break down financial barriers. Through robust scholarships and financial aid, we ensure our classrooms are radically inclusive, welcoming students of all physical, learning, and socioeconomic backgrounds.
- **Transforming Classrooms:** In partnership with local schools like Lincoln Elementary and community institutions like the Chicago Youth Centers, Porchlight Teaching Artists embed directly into the community, empowering youth to create and perform their own original musicals.



ABOUT THE ICONS GALA

THE ICONS GALA is where Chicago celebrates music theatre legends.

Porchlight's ICONS Gala isn't just a fundraiser, it's one of the defining events in Chicago theatre. Each year, we honor an artist whose work has left a lasting mark on American music theatre—visionaries who have shaped the industry and inspired generations. Past ICONS include legends like Raul Esparza, Joel Grey, Hal Prince, Donna McKechnie, Elaine Stritch, Leslie Uggams, and the incomparable Chita Rivera.

This year, we are honored to celebrate the work of Oscar, Grammy and Tony Award-winning composer, Alan Menken.

HONORING

ALAN MENKEN

2026 ICON AWARD RECIPIENT

HONORING

TAMARA & JAY SIMS

2026 LUMINARY AWARD RECIPIENTS

WHO'S WHO



The ICONS Gala is our premier fundraising event, welcoming hundreds of enthusiastic theatre lovers and patrons of the arts to celebrate the art of music theatre and honor its most iconic stars. This is where Chicago comes together, to celebrate artistry, elevate excellence, and invest in what's next.

Our community of dedicated supporters are **socially conscious changemakers, business professionals, community leaders and arts advocates from diverse communities all over the city**, and many guests even travel from across the country to attend the event. The ICONS Gala provides donors and sponsors with the special benefits outlined in this packet as well as the satisfaction of supporting access to local arts programming and quality award-winning live performances.

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS & BENEFITS

At Porchlight Music Theatre, our sponsors are more than changemakers— they're part of our inner circle.

By sponsoring The ICONS Gala, you and your guests will experience an unforgettable event while making a meaningful impact. Your support helps sustain Chicago's premier home for music theatre and expands access to arts education and programming across every corner of the city.

PRESENTING SPONSOR

\$50,000

(\$45,000 tax deductible)

Presenting Sponsor benefits include:

- Two VIP Tables (20 seats) with prime placement
- Premium recognition on all event materials (print and digital)
- Exclusive opportunity to speak during the gala program (or present an award)
- Opportunity to host VIP guests and Porchlight artists at your tables
- Full page advertisement or profile in the ICONS Gala program
- Recognition in all press releases and media coverage
- Dedicated social media spotlight and inclusion in all gala related emails
- Private dinner for 8 with Artistic Director Michael Weber

MARQUEE SPONSOR

\$25,000

(\$22,500 tax deductible)

Marquee Sponsor benefits include:

- One VIP Table (10 seats) with prime placement
- Premium recognition on all event materials (print and digital)
- Opportunity to host VIP guests and Porchlight artists at your tables
- Full page advertisement or profile in the ICONS Gala program
- Recognition in all press releases and media coverage
- Dedicated social media spotlight and inclusion in all gala related emails

PREMIERE SPONSOR

\$10,000

(\$7,500 tax deductible)

Premiere Sponsor benefits include:

- One VIP Table (10 seats) with prime placement
- Recognition on all event materials (print and digital)
- Opportunity to host VIP guests and Porchlight artists at your tables
- Half page advertisement or profile in the ICONS Gala program
- Recognition in all press releases and media coverage
- Inclusion in social media spotlight and inclusion in all gala related emails

SIGNATURE SPONSOR

\$5,000

(\$3,500 tax deductible)

Signature Sponsor benefits include:

- Half Table (6 seats) with prime placement
- Recognition on all event materials (print and digital)
- Quarter page advertisement or profile in the ICONS Gala program
- Recognition in all press releases and media coverage

SPOTLIGHT SPONSOR

\$2,500

(\$2,000 tax deductible)

Spotlight Sponsor benefits include:

- Two tickets to the ICONS Gala
- Recognition on all event materials (print and digital)
- Quarter page advertisement or profile in the ICONS Gala program
- Recognition in all press releases and media coverage

LIMELIGHT SPONSOR

\$1,000

(\$750 tax deductible)

Limelight Sponsor benefits include:

- 1 ticket to the ICONS Gala
- Recognition on all event materials (print and digital)
- Recognition in all press releases and media coverage

**Please note, per IRS Guidelines DAF payments cannot be accepted for Gala Sponsorships*

To Become A Sponsor

To discuss sponsorship opportunities or answer any questions, please contact Porchlight at – development@porchlightmusictheatre.org



BIOGRAPHIES & PARTNERS



ALAN MENKEN 2026 Icon Award Recipient

Legendary composer Alan Menken has created some of the most beloved songs and musical scores of our time, with his unique voice as a composer capturing the imagination of audiences for over 35 years.

Known for his music on stage and screen, he is noted for his multiple works with the Walt Disney company (*The Little Mermaid*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Aladdin*), as well as Broadway stage musicals *Sister Act* and *Little Shop of Horrors*. With eight Academy Awards, Alan has received more Oscars than any living person, and is the recipient of numerous other awards including Golden Globes, Grammys, Drama Desk Awards, and a Tony Award.



TAMARA & JAY SIMS 2026 Luminary Award Recipients

Tamara and Jay Sims are among Porchlight Music Theatre's most devoted champions—philanthropic leaders, tireless volunteers, and beloved members of the Porchlight family for more than two decades.

Their service to Porchlight has been nothing short of extraordinary. Tamara has served on the Porchlight Board since 2012 and has held critical leadership roles, serving as Board Secretary, Gala Chair, and has been an active member of both the Development and Marketing Committees—shaping the organization's growth and helping ensure its artistic mission thrives. Whether guiding strategy in the boardroom or rallying support at a fundraiser, their shared commitment has been a driving force behind Porchlight's continued success.

And then there's the role only Tamara could fill: the organization's beloved "unofficial lobby greeter," welcoming audiences before every performance with her signature warmth, infectious smile, and boundless enthusiasm. For countless patrons, Tamara is the first face of Porchlight—a personal ambassador who makes every guest feel like family from the moment they walk through the door.

Beyond their dedication to the stage, Tamara and Jay are proud owners of Elegant Event Lighting, which they have led since 2008. Tamara is a respected voice in the events industry, serving as Membership Committee Chair of NACE Chicago and maintaining active memberships with WIPA Chicago and MPI Chicago. Their professional expertise and generous spirit extend seamlessly into everything they do for the arts community.

Together, Tamara and Jay embody the very best of what it means to give back. Their unwavering commitment to Porchlight Music Theatre, to the performing arts, and to the broader Chicago community has made them indispensable leaders, advocates, and friends—and their impact will be felt for generations to come.

2026 PARTNERS

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