

PORCHLIGHT MUSIC THEATRE

2 0 2 2
ICONS
G A L A

Friday, September 23
The Ritz-Carlton, Chicago

SUBSCRIPTIONS & SINGLE TICKETS ON SALE FOR PORCHLIGHT'S 2022-2023 SEASON

MAINSTAGE



RENT

NO DAY BUT TODAY!

OCT 29 - NOV 27, 2022



CABARET

**IN HERE,
LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL.**

JAN 14 - FEB 12, 2023

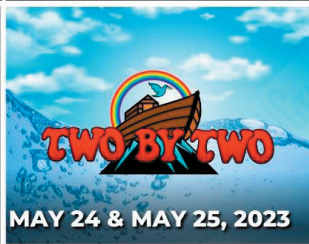


**ERNEST
SHACKLETON**
Loves Me

**CHICAGO PREMIERE OF THE HIT
OFF-BROADWAY MUSICAL!**

MAY 6 - JUNE 1, 2023

PORCHLIGHT REVISITS
RETURNS WITH THREE NEW PRODUCTIONS



NEW FACES SING BROADWAY

MEET CHICAGO'S UP-AND-COMING TALENT IN A MUSICAL JOURNEY
THROUGH A SELECT BROADWAY YEAR



FALL 2022



WINTER 2023



SPRING 2023

**PORCHLIGHT
MUSIC THEATRE**

Subscriptions & Single Tickets Now On Sale!

All performances take place in Chicago's Gold Coast at The
Ruth Page Center for the Arts, 1016 N. Dearborn.

PorchlightMusicTheatre.org



ICONS

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the 2022 ICONS Gala. This event is the first of Porchlight's 28th season of being Chicago's home for music theatre. Tonight is not only a celebration of our dynamic honorees, it is also a celebration of you, our partners and friends, who have helped us make it to this benchmark. Thank you for being here and helping us make this night memorable.

Both of our honorees this evening have used their careers and unique talents to not only inspire but to advance the work of organizations and individuals who invest in the greater good of us all. Beyond the lives that she's touched through her acclaimed performances in American theatre classics, Donna McKechnie has participated at countless events for non-profit organizations, like ours, to help them raise funds to increase their organization's capacity and draw positive publicity to their cause. Dan Ratner, and his organization, Public Good, tell the stories of people who make a difference in the world to draw support from corporate leaders, thereby helping millions of people through these partnerships.

This year Porchlight wants to partner with organizations that create that fabric of Chicago's rich communities, leaders in the corporate industry who have hearts for social enterprise, and individuals who know the power of the arts to impact societies, inspire thought and make a difference in the lives of people from one to 101.

The state of the global economy is affecting all of us. If we've learned anything over the last few years, it's that we have the strength to overcome any obstacle as long as we work together.

Partner with us. Partner with us this evening by raising your paddle. Partner with us this fall by subscribing to our dynamic season and reliving the joy of being connected with strangers through the thread of visceral resonance that can only happen in live theater. Partner with us by introducing Porchlight to your friends, family and colleagues.

Thank you for joining us and for being an advocate for Porchlight and the arts.

The Program

WELCOME

Joe Higgins & Scott Hoesman, Gala Chairs
Cortney Hall & Matthew Rodrigues, Hosts

PERFORMANCE

“A Grand Night for Singing” from *State Fair*
performed by Christopher Chase Carter, Gilbert
Domally, Kelly Felthous, Reneisha Jenkins, Hanah Rose
Nardone and Will Skrip

THE LUMINARY AWARD

Presented to Dan Ratner

by Jeannie Lukow, *Executive Director*

MOMENT OF GRATITUDE

Evin Marie Rayford, *Development Director*

DINNER

PERFORMANCES

“How to (Succeed)” from *How to Succeed
in Business Without Really Trying*
performed by Christopher Chase Carter,
Gilbert Domally, Kelly Felthous, Reneisha Jenkins,
Hanah Rose Nardone and Will Skrip

“Lovely” from *A Funny Thing
Happened on the Way to the Forum*
performed by Christopher Chase Carter,
Gilbert Domally and Will Skrip

“[I Can't Get No] Satisfaction” from *Hullabaloo*
performed by Christopher Chase Carter and
Kelly Felthous with Gilbert Domally, Reneisha Jenkins,
Hanah Rose Nardone and Will Skrip

“Turkey Lurkey Time” from *Promises, Promises*
performed by Kelly Felthous, Reneisha Jenkins and
Hanah Rose Nardone

LIVE AUCTION

Chefs Rick Bayless and Gale Gand

DONNA McKECHNIE

“At The Ballet” & The Making of *A Chorus Line*

PADDLE RAISER

Supporting Chicago's Home For Music Theatre

Lanie Bayless and Cody Czmyr, Porchlight Young Professionals

PERFORMANCES

“You Could Drive a Person Crazy” from *Company*
performed by Kelly Felthous, Reneisha Jenkins and
Hanah Rose Nardone

“New York, New York” from *On the Town*
performed by Christopher Chase Carter, Gilbert Domally
and Will Skrip

“One” from *A Chorus Line*
performed by Christopher Chase Carter, Gilbert Domally,
Kelly Felthous, Reneisha Jenkins, Hanah Rose Nardone
and Will Skrip

CELEBRATING DONNA McKECHNIE

The Icon Award

presented by Michael Weber, *Artistic Director*

In Conversation

Donna McKechnie and WGN's Paul Lisnek

CLOSING REMARKS

Cortney Hall & Matthew Rodrigues, *Hosts*

The Honorees

THE
ICON
Award

*For Renowned Contributions to the
Art of Music Theatre in America
presented to*

DONNA McKECHNIE
Multi Award-Winning Performer

*The ICON Award is the highlight of the
annual ICONS Gala and was most recently
awarded to Chita Rivera and Joel Grey.*



Photo by Bill Westmoreland

THE LUMINARY Award

*For Exemplary Leadership and
Support of Music Theatre in Chicago
presented to*



DAN RATNER
CEO, Public Good
Founder, The Ratner Foundation

The Luminary Award recognizes an outstanding individual, family or family foundation with a history of philanthropic and volunteer leadership. Past recipients include Jim Jensen, Jean Klingenstein, Elaine Cohen & Arlen Rubin and The Bayless Family Foundation.

Full bios viewable at our website,
PorchlightMusicTheatre.org/icons

The Auction

**A private pre-show cocktail party
hosted by Michael Weber and
VIP tickets to the performance**

Porchlight Mainstage Experience for 20 Guests

Value:
\$3,500

Opening Bid:
\$500

Go behind the scenes of *RENT*, *Cabaret* or *Ernest Shackleton Loves Me* with an exclusive Mainstage experience available ONLY to one (or maybe more!) lucky bidders here tonight! You and a guest will have the opportunity to experience the production process and then 20 guests will attend a performance in VIP seats. The experience begins with you and a guest attending the first rehearsal meet & greet, final dress rehearsal and opening night for one Mainstage show to see how the characters and production develop over the rehearsal process.

Once the show opens, on a mutually agreed date, up to 20 of your friends, family members and colleagues are treated to a pre-show wine and cheese reception and a fascinating tour of the stage before seeing the performance, with each guest getting unlimited access to complimentary concessions during the show. Guests will walk away with swag bag of Porchlight merchandise, having enjoyed insider access and an amazing performance. Be a part of the action this season!

Donated by

*Porchlight Music Theatre,
The Ruth Page Center for the Arts*

Nationally acclaimed chef and TV personality brings the fun to you with a two-hour cooking and tasting experience

In-Home “Chocolate 101” Cooking Party for 12 Guests with Gale Gand

Value:
\$2,000

Opening Bid:
\$750

Chef Gale Gand is a nationally acclaimed pastry chef, restaurateur, cookbook author, television personality, teacher, entrepreneur, and mother who has been recognized as Outstanding Pastry Chef of the Year by The James Beard Foundation and by *Bon Appetit* magazine, as well as being inducted into the Chicago Chefs Hall of Fame. For eight years, Gale hosted the Food Network series “Sweet Dreams,” the first nationally televised all-dessert show anywhere. With this exciting opportunity, she’ll bring her knowledge, skills and humor to your home (or virtually!) for up to 12 guests with “Chocolate 101”.

Chef Gale will demonstrate chocolate desserts plus teach the history of chocolate: how it’s grown, harvested, and made into bars. The class lasts about two hours and Chef Gale provides ingredients, equipment and tastes. You provide an oven and cooktop, plates, forks and desired beverages or additional noshes. Perfect for six couples or a “Girl’s Night” event! Includes two bottles of champagne to get the party started!

Donated by
Chef Gale Gand

**THREE weekends of fun in the
second-to-none city**

Ultimate Chicago Experience

Value:
\$2,500

Opening Bid:
\$750

Experience our beautiful Chicago with three unique city stays! Spend the day exploring the Museum of Contemporary Art before checking into The Ritz-Carlton for your overnight stay. Head up to Lincoln Park for dinner at Galit, a Middle Eastern restaurant with a four-course choose-your-own adventure menu. The next morning you'll enjoy brunch in the Ritz's exclusive Club Lounge.

With the next city weekend, which includes a two-night stay at the Ambassador Chicago, you'll enjoy top performing arts. Take in performances at the Lyric Opera of Chicago and The Joffrey Ballet, dinner at 3rd Coast Cafe and cocktails at Winter's Jazz Club.

Your final adventure is exciting in any season: in cooler weather, spend a day at Soldier Field watching the Chicago Bears take on the Minnesota Vikings (date TBD), warming up in their exclusive Club Lounge and leaving with a Bears swag bag. If it's summertime in Chicago, then it's baseball season and you'll have two tickets to a Cubs game at Wrigley Field before heading just around the corner for an upscale dinner and cocktails at PR Italian Bistro.

Donated by *Ambassador Chicago, Lanie Bayless, Galit, Joffrey Ballet, Lyric Opera of Chicago, MCA, PR Italian Bistro, Ritz-Carlton, Chicago, Winter's Jazz Club, Chicago Bears and 3rd Coast Cafe*



Each dish is inspired by a popular musical with backstory from Michael Weber

Chef's Tasting Dinner for 10 Guests with Rick Bayless - at his home!

Value:
Priceless

Opening Bid:
\$1,000

Enjoy seasonal dishes inspired by popular musicals, created by "Top Chef" Rick Bayless with wife Deann in their beautiful Chicago home. Depending on time of year, you and your guests can explore their sun-soaked 1,000 square-foot backyard production garden featuring a bounty of specialty salad greens, edible flowers and herbs destined for their eateries, or, you can opt to be inside around the fireplace where you can experience the delights of the Bucktown home they've been curating for the last 25 years. Either way, there will be lots of margaritas! After a dish is introduced by Bayless, PMT Artistic Director Michael Weber takes over to regale the party with the fascinating history behind the inspiration musical. Includes two bottles of premium tequila to take home tonight and whet your appetite!

Donated by *Rick & Deann Bayless*

Two mixed cases of ultra premium wine

Porchlight Wine Cellar

Value:
\$1,000

Opening Bid:
\$300

We're still making up for pandemic lost time when it comes to enjoying the company of friends and family, and Porchlight has the libations for your next gathering covered with two mixed cases of ultra premium wine selected exclusively for you by Porchlight's board of directors and staff. You'll enjoy some of their favorites such as Veuve Clicquot Yellow Label, The Prisoner 2019 Napa Valley and the not-available-in-stores Joseph Phelps Pastoral Vineyard 2013 Chardonnay, just to name a few.

Donated by *Porchlight Board of Directors & Staff*

GOAL: \$50,000

Paddle Raising

FOR PORCHLIGHT

Porchlight is at a pivotal point in its history and your generosity can make a big difference!

LEVELS & IMPACT

\$10,000

Plays a leading role in creating the art you see on the stage, and enjoys insider access into the entire creative process of mounting a Mainstage production.

\$5,000

Deepens our generous support to youth education scholarships, in-school and after-school programs and community organizations like Chicago Youth Centers.

\$2,500

Supports the “Porchlight Revisits” series of lesser-known musicals in limited run, the only one of its kind in Chicago.

\$1,000

Helps bring the *Broadway in your Backyard* summer concert series to more area parks, allowing access and engagement among underserved groups.

\$500

Supports one deserving child with a summer camp scholarship.

\$250

Brings a Lunch & Learn program to a local senior or community center.

\$100

Every donation is an affirmation of our work and mission!

Entertainment

PERFORMERS

Christopher Chase Carter, Gilbert Domally, Kelly Felthous,
Reneisha Jenkins, Hanah Rose Nardone and Will Skrip

CHOREOGRAPHY

Christopher Chase Carter, Kelly Felthous, Reneisha Jenkins
and Jenna Schoppe

MUSICIANS

Linda Madonia, *Music Director & Keyboards*

J. Golko, *Reeds*

Marcel Reimão Bonfim, *Bass*

Justin Akira Kono, *Drums*

PRODUCTION TEAM

Michael Weber, *Director*

Jenna Schoppe, *Choreographer / Associate Director*

Frankie Leo Bennett, *Producing Artistic Associate*

Bob Kuhn, *Costume Coordinator*

Andrea Enger and Mia Maccarella, *Production Assistant*

Matthew R. Chase, *Audio Engineer*

Alex Rhyan, *Director of Production*

Full artist bios viewable at our website,
PorchlightMusicTheatre.org/icons

2022 ICONS
Gala Team

CHAIRS

Joseph Higgins & Scott Hoesman



HOSTS

Cortney Hall & Matthew Rodrigues,
Co-Hosts of "Chicago Today" on NBC 5



GALA PLANNING COMMITTEE

Kit Barbaro
Joseph Higgins
Scott Hoesman
Joel Rothman

Rhona Frazin
Tony Gibson
Chuck Laff
Steve McDonagh

Yessenia Sosa
Rosie Schultz
Becca Sheehan
Brian Troy

GALA VOLUNTEERS

Lynn Barlow
Lynn A. Cohen
Sara Crouse
Diane Ehrhart

Karen Epton
Miriam Ex
Don Honchell
Gintare Kemekliene
Frank Lackner

Tamiko Nettles
Patricia L. Oleck
Laurie Perkins
Karin Stocker

PMT
Leadership

STAFF

Frankie Leo Bennett, *Producing Artistic Associate*
Kellie Buffington, *Development & Administration Associate*
August Compton, *Audience Services Director*
Jordan Fleming, *House Manager*
James Juliano, *SHOUT Marketing & Media Relations*
Elana Kennedy, *Box Office Manager*
Jeannie Lukow, *Executive Director*
Mike Porto, *Marketing & Communications Director*
Evin Marie Rayford, *Development Director*
Alex Rhyan, *Production & Operations Director*
Rebeccah Singer, *Education Director*
Lobo Tate, *Marketing Associate*
Dan Thomas, *Finance & Administration Director*
Michael Weber, *Artistic Director*
Oni Wright, *Design Associate*

PMT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michelle Cucchiaro	Jim Jensen, <i>Treasurer</i>	Gretchen Upholt, <i>Vice Chair</i>
Brenda Didier	Jon Klein, <i>Secretary</i>	<i>Ex Officio</i>
Jeremy Eden	Chuck Laff	Jeannie Lukow
Rhona Frazin	Mike Lowenthal	Michael Weber
William Gilmer	Cesar Rolon, Jr.	<i>Emeritae</i>
Joseph Higgins	Tamara Sims	Mary Kay Conley
Mark Hudson	Brian Troy, <i>Chair</i>	Rhoda Reeling

PORCHLIGHT YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Lanie Bayless	Cody Czymr	Rosie Schultz
Kellie Buffington	Nate Groonwald	Becca Sheehan
August Compton	Carolyn Isaac	Yessenia Sosa

ARTISTIC ADVISORY BOARD

Wm. Eric Bramlett	Larry Grossman	Chita Rivera
John Bucchino	Linda Kline	Bill Russell
E. Faye Butler	Jesse Klug	Chuck Smith
Cheri Coons	Sean Allan Krill	L. Walter Stearns
Kevin Depinet	Dominic Missimi	Bob Walton
William Finn	Jill Moore-Pancrazi	Jim Walton
Joel Grey	Lonny Price	Maury Yeston

Thank You

SPONSORS & AUCTION DONORS

3rd Coast Cafe
Ambassador Chicago
Lanie Bayless
Rick & Deann Bayless
Chicago Bears
Gale Gand
Galit

The Joffrey Ballet
Lyric Opera of Chicago
Museum of Contemporary Art
PR Italian Bistro
The Ritz-Carlton, Chicago
Ruth Page Center for the Arts
Winter's Jazz Club

SPECIAL GRATITUDE

Lynn Barlow
Chollette
Cortney Hall
Paul Lisnek
Matthew Rodrigues

Porchlight Young Professionals
The Saints
R&S Screen Printing
Rogers Park Social

We are grateful to everyone whose participation or generosity came after the printing of this program.

Business/Production Office & Performance Venue

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

Main Business Office Rehearsal Studios & Scene Shop

Workshop 4200
4200 W. Diversey Ave.
Chicago, IL 60639

773-777-9884 • www.porchlightmusictheatre.org