2020—2021 SEASON REIMAGINED



W H A R T O N
C E N T E R
FOR PERFORMING ARTS



ONE-OF-A-KIND EXPERIENCES

No two Wharton Center audiences are alike. Just as every seat provides a unique view of the stage, every audience member's background influences how they interpret the show. In sets, we see our communities, our towns, our homes. In characters, we see our friends, our families, ourselves.

Our experience is different from the person sitting next to us—and that's what makes a live performance so awe-inspiring. It's the feeling of seeing a one-of-a-kind show with a community that not only shares your love for the arts, but also believes in the importance of supporting them.

Be a part of the community by joining Wharton Center as a season subscriber or renewing your subscription. As a subscriber, you'll be able to select all five Broadway events or five or more Performing Arts events with guaranteed priority seating at a special subscriber rate. You will gain first access to events added throughout the year, ongoing savings on tickets, and special discounts at local retailers and restaurants with Wharton Center's Subscriber Discount Card. When you take a seat at Wharton Center, you're not just seeing a show, you're joining a community.



Cats, the record-breaking musical spectacular by Andrew Lloyd Webber that has captivated audiences in over 30 countries and 15 languages, is now on tour across North America!

Audiences and critics alike are rediscovering this beloved musical with breathtaking music, including one of the most treasured songs in musical theater— "Memory." Winner of 7 Tony Awards® including Best Musical, Cats tells the story of one magical night when an extraordinary tribe of cats gathers for its

BROADWAY AT WHARTON CENTER

East Lansing engagement is welcomed by B-Dry System of Central & West Michigan, Inc.; The Centennial Group; Delta Dental of Michigan; Farm Bureau Insurance; Portnoy & Tu, DDS and Retailers Insurance Company.

PHOTO BY MATTHEW MURPHY

annual ball to rejoice and decide which cat will be reborn. The original score by Andrew Lloyd Webber (The Phantom of the Opera, School of Rock, Sunset Boulevard), original scenic and costume design by John Napier (Les Misérables), all-new lighting design by Natasha Katz (Aladdin), all-new sound design by Mick Potter, new choreography by Andy Blankenbuehler (Hamilton) based on the original choreography by Gillian Lynne (Phantom) and direction by Trevor Nunn (Les Misérables) make this production a new Cats for a new generation!

COBB GREAT HALL JULY 7-13, 2021* From the producer of The Lion King and Aladdin, Frozen, the Tony®-nominated Best Musical, is now on tour across North America, and the critics rave, "It's simply magical!" (LA Daily News). Frozen features the songs you love from the original Oscar®-winning film, plus an expanded score with a dozen new numbers. An unforgettable theatrical experience filled with sensational special effects, stunning sets and costumes, and powerhouse performances, Frozen is everything you want in a musical: It's moving. It's spectacular. And above all, it's pure Broadway joy. THE HIT BROADWAY MUSICAL WEDNESDAY, 7:30PM WHARTON CENTER THURSDAY, 2:00PM & 7:30PM OC FRIDAY, 8PM East Lansing engagement is welcomed by Auto-Owner. B-Dry System of Central & West Michigan, Inc.; Delta D Michigan; Farm Bureau Insurance; Grewal Law PLLC; a National Life Insurance Company. SATURDAY, 2PM & 8PM SUNDAY, 1PM (🎒 by request) & 6:30PM PHOTO: CAROLINE BOWMAN (ELSA) AND THE COMPANY OF FROZEN NORTH AMERICAN TOUR * SUBSCRIBER PERFORMANCES. DISNEY'S FROZEN FULL RUN: JULY 7-18



CLASSICAL

ALISA WEILER STEIN & INON BARNATAN

COBB GREAT HALL THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2021, 7:30PM

Two of today's most acclaimed artists are a dream team in this very special performance. Cellist Alisa Weilerstein's impassioned performance style and breathtaking technique has garnered fans around the world. Called "Yo-Yo Ma's heiress apparent as sovereign of the American cello" by New York Magazine, she has met her musical match in Inon Barnatan, a pianist whose sincerity and expressiveness are rivaled only by his astonishing technical abilities. When these two artists come together, "Their interpretations were like a series of marvelously expressive close-ups: every note and phrase pinned to an exact emotion." (Boston Globe). The performance features an all-Beethoven program of beloved sonatas - a perfect night of music. Sponsored by MSU Federal Credit Union with additional National Life Insurance Company. oort from Jackson Media sponsor: WKAR



COBB GREAT HALL TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2021, 7:30PM

Undeniably the reigning virtuoso of the violin, Itzhak Perlman enjoys superstar status rarely afforded a classical musician. Beloved for his charm and humanity as well as his talent, he is treasured by audiences throughout the world who respond not only to his remarkable artistry, but also to the irrepressible joy he finds in making music. This new program is the culmination of many years of Mr. Perlman being urged to share the story of his life and career through anecdotes, musical pieces and personal photos from his archives. It is a first-ever experience for audiences to learn more about the extraordinary 13-year-old boy who became a household name over 60 years ago.

Sponsored by MSU Federal Credit Union with additional support from Jackson National Life Insurance Company; Mayberry Homes and ProAssurance Casualty Company.

Media sponsor: WKAR

VARIETY



PASANT THEATRE TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2021, 7:30PM WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 2021, 7:30PM THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2021, 7:30PM

The first name in comedy since 1959, Second City cuts to the quick in their new show that takes on our great, big, dysfunctional nation! The lauded company is sending up and celebrating America's imperfections and eccentricities in a hilarious two-act revue that unites sketch comedy, music, and improv. We can guarantee audiences will be in total agreement over one thing: laughter is the funniest common denominator!

Fresh, fast, and always spectacularly funny, Second City is celebrating sixty years of producing cuttingedge satirical revues and launching the careers of generation after generation of comedy's best and brightest.

Sponsored by MSU Federal Credit Union. Media sponsor: Michigan Radio

COBB GREAT HALL THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 2021, 7:30PM

True stories, told live and without notes. The Moth celebrates the ability of stories to honor both the diversity and commonality of human experience, and to satisfy a vital human need for connection. Hugely popular each week on NPR stations across the country, along with the equally popular Moth podcast, The Moth is a community where entertainment and enlightenment merge. The Moth Mainstage features five tellers who develop and shape their stories with Moth directors. Don't miss The Moth's return to Wharton Center!

Sponsored by The Doctors Company with additional support from Grewal Law PLLC and Piper & Gold Public Relation

A co-presentation with Michigan Radio.

RENÉE ELISE GOLDSBERRY

COBB GREAT HALL SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 2021, 8PM

Broadway superstar Renée Elise Goldsberry received the Tony Award®, Grammy Award®, Drama Desk Award and Lucille Lortel Award as Angelica Schuyler in Lin-Manuel Miranda's blockbuster, Hamilton. She made her Broadway debut in The Lion King and was the last 'Mimi' in Rent. She has appeared in Baz Luhrmann's The Get Down for Netflix and shot the title role for HBO's The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks opposite Oprah Winfrey. Currently starring in the Netflix series Altered Carbon, she continues to captivate audiences with magnetic allure on both stage and screen. A Detroit native, Ms. Goldsberry returns to Michigan to perform Broadway and Hollywood classics in her first appearance at Wharton Center.

Sponsored by The Doctors Company with additional support from Jackson National Life Insurance Company; L.O. Eye Care; Maner Costerisan; and Retailers Insurance Company.

Media sponsor: Michigan Radio





COBB GREAT HALL TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 2021, 7:30PM WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23, 2021, 7:30PM

More than 35 million people around the world have experienced the smash-hit phenomenon that is Blue Man Group ... and now it's your turn! It's everything you know and love about Blue Man Group - signature drumming, colorful moments of creativity and quirky comedy-the men are still blue, but the rest is all new! Featuring pulsing, original music, custommade instruments, surprise audience interaction and hilarious absurdity, join the Blue Men in a joyful experience that unites audiences of all ages.

Sponsored by The Doctors Company with additional support from Auto-Owners Insurance; B-Dry System of Central & West Michigan, Inc.; The Christman Company; Jackson National Life Insurance Company; and Plante Moran, PLLC. Media sponsor: Michigan Radio

SUPPORTING THE ARTS FOR ALL

Representation matters: in performances, in audiences, and in opportunities to create. It's what builds the captivating connection between the seats and stage, and it's what builds the link between Wharton Center and our community.

Wharton Center is committed to diverse programming. Through community initiatives like Seats 4 Kids, Take it from the Top summer camps, the Act One School Series, and Sensory-Friendly Performances, we're dedicated to keeping the performing arts accessible and inclusive. We create safe spaces where everyone feels welcome, respected and represented- spaces where the arts can thrive.

By giving back to Wharton Center, you're providing a wealth of opportunities: giving a child a chance to see their first live show, keeping up a state-of-theart atmosphere, and bringing global programming to our community. Give today- because the arts flourish when they are shared.

Explore ways to support on Wharton Center's website to learn more about community programs, volunteering, and giving.





BECOME A CIRCLE MEMBER

Your investment in Wharton Center brings the power of performing arts to our community and provides innovative arts education programs for close to 30,000 learners each season through our Institute for Arts & Creativity. In recognition, you receive benefits* such as:

- Priority seating before the general public
- Access to our private Donor Lounge
- Access to preferred parking
- Opportunity to meet artists

Add your gift to your order form, or donate online at: whartoncenter.com/support

*Benefits do not apply to all membership levels. Please refer to Circle Membership Level overview at: whartoncenter.com/support/individual/circle-membership.

CHANGE A LIFE

We believe that art is integral to living a richer, fuller more purposeful life. Introducing a child to performing arts will add to their personal story and create an opportunity to change their life.

Your gift to the Seats 4 Kids Fund ensures more children will have the chance to experience live theatre. Your gift provides free tickets to economically challenged youth and families as well as tickets for individuals with autism spectrum disorder and their families to attend Sensory-Friendly Performances. Last season, the Seats 4 Kids fund over 4,500 tickets were distributed to K-12 students and families through your generosity.

Please support Seats 4 Kids today with a gift on your order form. Every gift makes a difference.

Wharton Center is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization. To learn more about these programs and other ways to inspire and connect with our community through Wharton Center, please visit whartoncenter.com/support

JAZZ



COBB GREAT HALL WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 2021, 7:30PM

"Branford Marsalis' quartet has been a model of daring, unapologetic artistry for the past three decades." —Jazziz

"His quartet, featuring Eric Revis on bass, drummer Justin Faulkner, and pianist Joey Calderazzo, has become an institution." —PopMatters

After four decades in the international spotlight, saxophonist Branford Marsalis is far from slowing down. From his early acclaim bringing new energy and new audiences to jazz, he has refined and expanded his talents and his horizons as a musician, composer, bandleader and educator – a 21st-century mainstay of artistic excellence. A multi-Grammy® winner and NEA Jazz Master, he is joined by the Branford Marsalis Quartet, a thriving ensemble together for over three decades.

Sponsored by MSU Federal Credit Union with additional support from Governmental Consultant Services; Jackson National LIfe Insurance Company; and Lansing Board of Water and Light.

Media sponsor: WKAR

THEATRE



MEOW MEOW

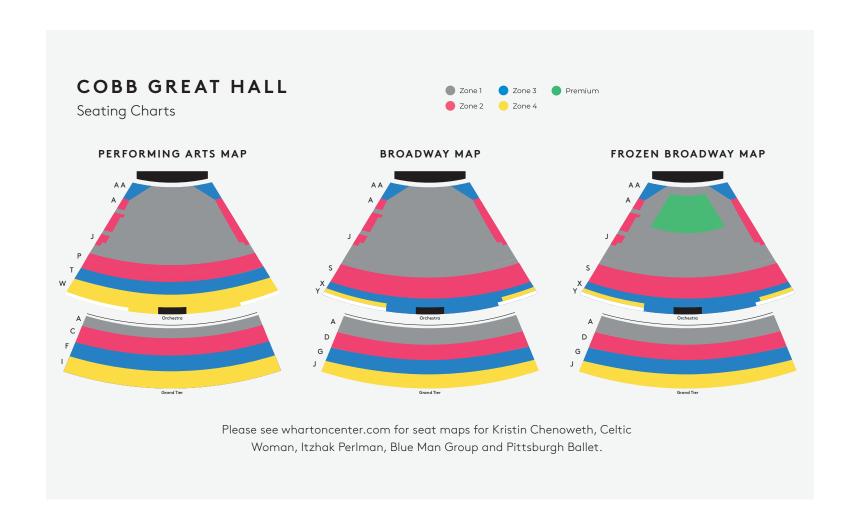
PASANT THEATRE TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 2021, 6PM AND 9PM

"There are not many women who can stun an audience into pin-drop silence with an exquisitely delivered torch song one moment and rock the rafters with laughter the next."

-The Evening Standard (UK)

Named top ten Best of Cabaret by *Time Out New* York, "Cabaret diva of the highest order" by the New York Post, and "A phenomenon" by the Australian press, the "post-post-modern cabaret diva" Meow Meow has wowed audiences globally with her unique brand of kamikaze cabaret and performance art exotica. Adult themes and content.

Sponsored by MSU Federal Credit Union. Media sponsor: Michigan Radio



^{*}Please note that performer participants will vary. Wharton Center does not guarantee any specific artist or company member's participation. See whartoncenter.com for schedule changes and updates throughout the season. No need to RSVP for Insight Previews or After Chats. Only available for the first Thursday of extended Broadway runs.

SEASON CALENDAR

APRIL 2021

An Evening with Branford Marsalis

Alisa Weilerstein & 15 Inon Barnatan

Meow Meow 27

MAY 2021

4 An Evening with Itzhak Perlman

11-16

18-20 The Second City Hits Home

JUNE 2021

The Moth Mainstage 18 Renée Elise Goldsberry 22-23 Blue Man Group

JULY 2021

7-18 Disney's Frozen

SEPTEMBER 2021

14-19 Pretty Woman: The Musical

> *SF = Sensory-Friendly Performance Sensory-Friendly Performances are generously sponsored by Delta Dental of Michigan with additional support from AF Group and Peckham, Inc.

HELPFUL INFORMATION

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT:

Wharton Center offers a diverse selection of arts entertainment. Not all productions may appeal to or be appropriate for every person or for all ages. Patrons are responsible for making informed decisions regarding their ticket

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES: Many Wharton Center programs are offered for youth and families. Ticket polices may vary based on program; in general, a ticket is required regardless of age. Please review this brochure for age recommendations or contact Wharton Center's Ticket Office for more information regarding age appropriateness and/or ticket policies for each performance.

PARKING: Detailed directions and parking information will be mailed with your tickets. Any last-minute changes to parking information will be noted in the "Tips" email sent prior to your performance. Additional information regarding Wharton Center Policies is available on Wharton Center's website: whartoncenter.com/plan-your-visit

SECURITY: The safety and security of all patrons, artists, staff, and volunteers are our top priority. Increased security measures may be in place for many of our performances, including bag checks and metal detectors. For specific information relevant to an event you plan to attend, please follow the links in our "Tips" email sent prior to each performance. Please note, concealed weapons and firearms within the facility are prohibited by Michigan Compiled Laws, Section 28.45o(1) (f).

START TIME AND LATECOMERS: Wharton Center and guest artists work together to minimize distractions once a program begins. Latearriving patrons may be seated at the rear of the theatre OR not at all once the performance begins. For specific information relevant to an event you plan to attend, please follow the links in our "Tips" email sent prior to each performance.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY: Our staff is trained to assist patrons through various emergency situations.

AUDIENCE COURTESY: Please be considerate of other audience members and refrain from cell phone and smart device use and eating within the theatre when performances are in progress.

Call (517) 884-3119 for more information on the above services or to inquire about additional Patron Services at Wharton Center.

ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

Please alert the Ticket Office when requesting any of the following services with your ticket order.



Barrier-Free Parking Drop-off Location Curb to Seat Service Accessible Seating Accessible Restrooms



oc Services for patrons and visitors who are deaf or hard of hearing:

Assistive Listening Devices Open Captioning? Sign Language Interpretation*

Services for patrons and visitors who are blind or have low vision:

Audio Description*



Service Animals:

Service animals as defined by the American with Disabilities Act are permitted into the theaters and must remain on a leash or in a harness at all times. A service animal must sit under the guest's seat or at his/her feet and is not permitted to sit in the aisle or on seats. A guest whose service animal poses a threat to the safety of other Wharton Center guests and/or staff may be asked to escort the animal off the premises.

Sensory Kits:

Fidgets, noise-canceling earphones, and small weighted lap mats are available at all Wharton Center performances and may be checked out at the Patron Services Desk.

*Visit whartoncenter.com/plan-your-visit/accessibility for more information on specific dates these services are offered.

