MICHAEL WEBER
Artistic Director

JEANNIE LUKOW
Executive Director

Presents

Duke Ellington’s

Sophisticated Ladies

Concept by
DONALD MCKAYLE

Based on the music of
DUKE ELLINGTON

Musical and Dance Arrangements by LLOYD MAYER
Vocal Arrangements by MALCOLM DODDS and LLOYD MAYER
Original Musical Direction by MERCER ELLINGTON

Originally Produced on Broadway by Roger S. Berlind, Manheim Fox, Sondra Gilman,
Burton Litwin and Louise Westergaard
In Association with Belwin Mills Publishing Corp. and Norzar Productions, Inc.

Music Direction by
JERMAINE HILL

Directed and Choreographed by
BRENDA DIDIER & FLORENCE WALKER-HARRIS

Allstate is the principal sponsor for community outreach for Sophisticated Ladies.

Bayless Family Foundation

25th Anniversary Season Sponsor

Special thanks to the Hearty Boys for providing cast meals.

CAST

The Danseuse.................................................................LYDIA BURKE
The Jazzbo ........................................................................DONTERRIO JOHNSON*
The Soubrette ........................................................................MOLLY KRAL
The Chanteuse .......................................................................DONICA LYNN*
The Hipster ........................................................................JOHN MARSHALL, JR.
The Raconteur ......................................................................LORENZO RUSH JR.*
The Danseur ........................................................................EUSTACE J. WILLIAMS
Sophisticated Ladies ..................................................................SHANTEL CRIBBS, MADISON PINER, JENNA SCHOPPE, TERRI K. WOODALL
Sophisticated Gentlemen ..........................................................CHUCKIE BENSON*, TRISTAN BRUNS, KAIMANA NEIL, JOEY STONE*

UNDERSTUDIES

Understudy performance will occur only with an announcement to the audience prior to the show.

The Danseuse: SHANTEL CRIBBS; The Jazzbo: JOEY STONE*;
The Soubrette: JENNA SCHOPPE; The Chanteuse: DE’JAH JERVAI;
The Hipster: KAIMANA NEIL; The Raconteur: DONTERRIO JOHNSON*;
The Danseur: CHUCKIE BENSON*; Sophisticated Ladies: ARIEL M. DORSEY
Sophisticated Gentlemen: DARREN PATIN

BAND

Piano/Conductor .......................................................................JERMAINE HILL
Reeds 1 ..................................................................................DARIUS HAMPTON
Reeds 2 ...............................................................................JONATHAN J. GOLKOFF
Trumpet .................................................................................SAM WOLSK
Trombone ...............................................................................STEPHANIE LEBENS
Bass ..................................................................................MARCEL BONFIM
Percussion .........................................................................JUSTIN KONO

*Denotes member of Actors’ Equity Association,
the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in America
^Denotes members of the United Scenic Artists IATSE,
the Union and Professional Association of Designers, Artists, and Craftspeople
MUSICAL SYNOPSIS

ACT ONE

Overture....................................................................................................................................................................The Band
“I’ve Got to Be a Rug Cutter” .........................................................................................................................Donterio, Eustace, Chuckie & Joey
“Music Is a Woman”............................................................................................................................................Lorenzo & Lydia
“The Mooch”.........................................................................................................................................................Molly
“Hit Me With a Hot Note” .................................................................................................................................Joey & Sophisticated Ladies
“Love You Madly / Perdido” .........................................................................................................................Lydia, Donterrio & Eustace
“Everything But You” .............................................................................................................................................John
“It Don’t Mean a Thing” .................. Donica, Donterrio, Eustace & Sophisticated Gentlemen
“Bli-Blip”.............................................................................................................................................................John & Molly
“Cotton Tail” .........................................................................................................................................................Sophisticated Ensemble, John & Molly
“Take the ‘A’ Train” ...........................................................................................................................................Donica & Lorenzo
“Solitude”...............................................................................................................................................................Lydia & Terri
“Don’t Get Around Much / I Let A Song Go”.......................................................................................................Lorenzo & Lydia
“Caravan”.........................................................................................................................................................Donterrio & Sophisticated Ensemble
“Something to Live For” .....................................................................................................................................Lorenzo
“Drop Me Off in Harlem” .....................................................................................................................................Donterrio, Eustace & John
“Rockin’ in Rhythm”...........................................................................................................................................Entire Company

ACT TWO

“Entr’acte”..............................................................................................................................................................The Band
“In a Sentimental Mood” ........................................................................................................................................Donica
“Beginning to See the Light” ....................................................................................................................................Lydia & Lorenzo
“Satin Doll / Just Squeeze Me”.............................................................................................................................John & Molly
“Dancers in Love” .............................................................................................................................................Donterrio, Eustace & Sophisticated Ensemble
“I’m Just a Lucky So & So” .................................................................................................................................Lorenzo w/ Tristan, Kaimana, Chuckie & Joey
“Imagine My Frustration”........................................................................................................................................Molly, John & Ensemble
“Kinda Dukish” ......................................................................................................................................................Tristan & Terri
“Ko-Ko” .........................................................................................................................................................Lorenzo, Donterrio, Eustace & Sophisticated Gentlemen
“I’m Checking Out / Do Nothin”..........................................................................................................................Donica & Lorenzo
“I Got It Bad / Mood Indigo”..................................................................................................................................Donica & Molly
“Sophisticated Lady” ..............................................................................................................................................Lorenzo & Terri
“It Don’t Mean a Thing”........................................................................................................................................Donterrio & Entire Company

SOPHISTICATED LADIES is performed with one fifteen-minute intermission.
Born on April 29, 1899, Edward Kennedy Ellington was raised by two talented, musical parents in a middle-class neighborhood of Washington, D.C. At the age of seven, he began studying piano and soon earned the nickname “Duke” for his gentlemanly ways. Inspired by his job as a soda jerk, he wrote his first composition, “Soda Fountain Rag,” at the age of 15. Despite being awarded an art scholarship to the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York, Ellington followed his passion for ragtime and began to play professionally at age 17.

Duke Ellington was a forerunner in the evolution of jazz. He formed his own small band, the Washingtonians, and left DC headed for New York. They played all over New York City’s smaller clubs and in the fall of 1927, they were asked to play at the famed Cotton Club, Harlem’s swankiest nightclub. The Cotton Club became a regular gig for Duke as the band grew to 12 musicians and changed their name to Duke and His Orchestra. Night after night, they played their music, which was also broadcast over the radio. The word spread from New York to Macon to Kalamazoo and on to the Hollywood Hills. The whole country swung to Duke’s beat and people bought his records—thousands of them. In 1939, Duke hired Billy Strayhorn, a pianist and composer. Together, they composed unforgettable music, much of it featured in our show tonight. Billy’s song “Take the ’A’ Train” was one of the greatest hits of 1941.

Ellington’s statements on race may not have been explicit or revolutionary, but his music surely speaks to racial pride. Written to mark the 100th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, in 1963, “My People” examined the evolution of black life in America over the past century and had its world premiere in—where else?—Chicago. The city may have been the most segregated in America at the time, but Ellington’s message in “My People”—staged during the Century of Negro Progress Exposition in McCormick Place—was, as always, one of optimism and hope in the face of despair. It was a message that lured Chicagoans to Ellington’s concerts to the very end.

We hope you enjoy our floor show celebration of the man and his music as much as we have enjoyed immersing ourselves into the world of “The Duke.”

— BRENDA DIDIER, JERMAINE HILL & FLORENCE WALKER-HARRIS
WHO’S WHO IN THE CAST

LYDIA BURKE
DON TERRIO JOHNSON
MOLLY KRAL

DONICA LYNN
JOHN MARSHALL, JR.
LORENZO RUSH, JR.

EUSTACE J. WILLIAMS

SHANTEL Cribbs
MADISON PINER
JENNA SCHOPPE

TERRI K. WOODALL

CHUCKIE BENSON
TRISTAN BRUNS
KAIMANA NEIL

JOEY STONE

ARIEL M. DORSEY
DE’JAH JERVAI
DARREN PATIN
LYDIA BURKE (The Danseuse) Porchlight: New Faces Sing Broadway 1956. Chicago: “May/Camille” in Junie B. Jones the Musical (Marriott Theatre), Roald Dahl’s Matilda (Drury Lane Theatre), Ghost: The Musical (Theatre at the Center), The Hunchback of Notre Damer (Music Theatre Works), In the Blood (PULSE Theatre Chicago). She is a proud graduate of Millikin University’s School of Theatre and Dance. @lydialburke

DONTERRIO JOHNSON* (The Jazzbo / u/s The Raconteur) Porchlight: “Man 2” in Ain’t Misbehavin’ and “Lopez” in Porchlight Revisits Golden Boy. Chicago: “Jude Sutter,” The Spitfire Grill (American Blues Theater); “Leading Player,” in Pippin (Venus Cabaret); “Gary Coleman,” Avenue Q (Mercury Theater); “Daveed Diggs,” Spamilton (Royal George Theatre); “Judas,” Jesus Christ Superstar (Theo Ubique), “Dan,” Next To Normal (Boho Theatre); “Mr Caldwell,” Urinetown (Boho Theatre). Tours: Lookingglass Alice, Waitress. TV: Sirens (USA), TwiceBorn (Theo Ubique); “Dan,” Chicago Fire, Fargo, Sirens. BFA in Musical Theatre (Writers Theatre). Thanks to KaCee at DDO Artist Agency and love to Patrick!

MOLLY KRAL (The Soubrette) Porchlight: Sunset Boulevard, “Tilda Mullen” in Porchlight Revisits Do Re Mi and New Faces Sing Broadway 1975. Chicago: Urinetown (Boho Theatre), Sister Act and Godspell (Marriott Theatre), Les Miserables and Cats (Paramount Theatre), Company (Writers Theatre). BFA in Musical Theatre, Western Illinois University. Love to Spencer, M&M.

DONICA LYNN* (The Chanteuse) Porchlight: “Effie” in Dreamgirls (Jeff Award, Time Out Chicago Award, Black Theater Alliance Award, African American Arts Alliance nomination, Broadway World Award nomination), Porchlight Revisits Call Me Madam, Gatecrashers, Chicago Sings: Disney, Motown, Beatles & 25th Anniversary. Chicago: Smokey Joe’s Cafe (Jeff Award nomination—Best Actress), 42nd Street, Aida, Rock of Ages, Hairspray, Cat on A Hot Tin Roof, James & the Giant Peach (Drury Lane Oakbrook); Confessions of P.L.M.P. w/Andre de Shields, A Wonder In My Soul (Victory Gardens Theatre); Barnum, The Color Purple (Mercury Theater Chicago); Caroline or Change (Court Theatre); Lady In Denmark (Goodman); Fiorello! (Timeline Theater); Duke Ellington’s Queenie Pie (Chicago Opera Theatre); Black Nativity, Sanctified (Congo Square); Ghost (Jeff Award), Footloose (Theatre at the Center). TV/Radio: Chicago Fire (NBC), Sears Craftsman Tools. Alumna of Walt Whitman and The Soul Children of Chicago, back-up singer for artists from Mariah Carey to Natalie Cole, and the Chicago Tribune’s 2016 Person of the Year in Theatre. Donica is a wife, brain cancer survivor, LGBTQ advocate, supporter of brain tumor & cancer awareness & research, and ambassador for Chicago Actors Call to Action, though her biggest role thus far has been being a mother to her three children. She thanks this creative team—including her mentor and dear friend, Brenda Didier—for including her in their vision. Represented by Stewart Talent & proud member of AEA, AGMA & SAG/AFTRA. Love to Kippy and Sahm.

JOHN MARSHALL, JR. (The Hipster) Porchlight: “Don” in A Chorus Line, Memphis and Side Show. Chicago: Yank! A WWI Love Story (Pride Films & Plays—Jeff Award nomination); Mamma Mia! and Madagascar (Marriott Theatre); Hairspray (Paramount Theatre); West Side Story (Drury Lane Theatre); Big Fish, All Shook Up and Nice Work If You Can Get It (Theatre at the Center) and Annie (Fireside Theatre). Thanks to KaCee at DDO Artist Agency and love to Patrick! @john_marshall_jr

LORENZO RUSH JR.* (The Raconteur) Porchlight: “Delray Jones” in Memphis, “Vernon Gersh” in They’re Playing Our Song, “Marcus Lycus” in ...Forum, and “Man 1” in Ain’t Misbehavin’ (Jeff Award nomination). Chicago: The Color Purple, “Audrey II” in Little Shop of Horrors (Drury Lane); “Calphas” in Jesus Christ Superstar (Paramount Theatre); “Danny” in Holiday Inn, “Big Six” in City of Angels, “Tiny Joe” in Dreamgirls (Marriott Theatre); “Big Moe” in Five Guys Named Moe (Court Theatre—Jeff Award); “Newt Lee” in Parade (Boho); “Big Moe” in Five Guys Named Moe (SkyLight Music Theater). TV/Film: Chicago Fire, Fargo, Sirens. BFA in Musical Theater, Western Illinois University. Proud member of AEA and represented by Gray Talent Group. Thanks to Samantha and Phoebe for being his motivation. To God Be The Glory.

EUSTACE J. WILLIAMS (The Danseur) Porchlight and Chicago debut. Other credits: “Hans / Emcee u/s” in Cabaret (Chicago College of Performing Arts), “Walter Lee Younger” in A Raisin in The Sun (Broward College), and “Richie” in A Chorus Line (Muse Center for the Arts). Eustace was the first
student in Broward College history to be named as an Irene Ryan Scholarship Finalist. Thanks be unto God and to his family and friends for their love and support. #TheBestIsYetToCome @blessedisejw

SHANTEL CRIBBS (Sophisticated Lady / u/s The Danseuse) Porchlight: Memphis. Chicago/Regional: The Color Purple and Beauty and the Beast (Drury Lane), Junie B. Jones (Marriott Theatre), Little Shop of Horrors (Mercury Theatre), Marie Christine (BoHo Theatre), A Jazz Happening (Ted Shawn Theatre) and SIX (The Ordway). Proud Michigan Native. Training: Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit. BFA Musical Theatre Performance, Columbia College Chicago. Philippians 4:13. #TheBaddest www.shantelcribbss.net @shandyreneef

MADISON PINER (Sophisticated Lady / Dance Captain) Porchlight debut. Chicago: Something Rotten, Footloose, Holiday Inn and Oklahoma! (Marriott Theatre); Cabaret (Paramount Theatre); White Christmas (TATC). Originally from Austin, TX, Madison is a proud alumna of Oklahoma City University, where she received a BPA in dance performance. Endless gratitude to the incredible Porchlight team and her friends, family, and teachers for their guidance, love and support. Love you, Logan! All glory to God! 1 John 4:19.

JENNA SCHOPPE (Sophisticated Lady / u/s The Soubrette) Porchlight: choreographer for Porchlight Revists Call Me Madam, associate choreographer for Porchlight Revists Do Re Mi and The Rink, and appearing onstage in Do Re Mi, End of the Rainbow, Mack and Mabel and Pal Joey. Chicago: Miracle (Royal George Theatre), Dames at Sea (Theatre at the Center), Yank!: A WWII Love Story (Pride Films & Plays—Jeff Award, Best Choreography), Bye Bye Birdie (Drury Lane Theatre), and The Baltimore Waltz (Brown Paper Box Co.).


CHUCKIE BENSON* (Sophisticated Gentleman / u/s The Danseur) Porchlight: “Ellis McMaster” in Porchlight Revisits Woman of the Year. Chicago: “Lion” in The Wiz (Kokandy Productions—Jeff Award nomination), The Color Purple (Drury Lane), Spamilton (Royal George), Heartbreak Hotel (Broadway Playhouse), Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story (American Blues), Hair (Mercury Theatre), Rent (Theo Ubique). National Tour: Spamilton: An American Parody. Regional: Annie, Big River, Ragtime, Hairspray. IG: @chuckie.benson

TRISTAN BRUNS (Sophisticated Gentleman / Dance Captain) Porchlight debut. Chicago: tap soloist in 42nd Street (Drury Lane). TV: The Steve Harvey Show and Super Dancer Born Tonight (Chinese Television). A Chicago hoofer, he is a founding member of the Chicago Human Rhythm Project’s ensemble, BAM! (now Stone Soup Rhythms), a professional company member of M.A.D.D. Rhythms, and is the Artistic Director of Tapman Productions.

KAIMANA NEIL (Sophisticated Gentleman / u/s The Hipster) Porchlight: “Mark Anthony” in A Chorus Line and New Faces Sing Broadway Now. Chicago: Head Over Heels (Kokandy Productions) and The Wizard of Oz (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre). Currently a senior at the Chicago College of Performing Arts pursuing a BFA in Musical Theatre with a dance emphasis. @woosh_kid www.kaimananeil.com

JOEY STONE* (Sophisticated Gentleman / u/s The Jazzbo) Porchlight debut. Chicago/Regional: The Color Purple (Drury Lane), Mary Zimmerman’s Candide (Goodman Theatre and across the country), and Frank Galati’s The Snow Queen (Victory Gardens). Broadway: Motown: The Musical. National Tour: “Norman Whitfield / u/s Smokey Robinson” in Motown the Musical. Joey is very proud to be a faculty member at the Chicago Academy of The Arts, a performing arts high school in the heart of the city.

ARIEL M. DORSEY (Sophisticated Ladies swing) Porchlight: Memphis. Ariel is a Chicago native who began her formal training at the Chicago Academy for the Arts under the direction of Ana Peskevska and Randy Duncan. She went on to further her studies at SUNY Purchase College in New York where she graduated with a BFA in dance.
DE’JAH JERVAI (u/s The Chanteuse)  
Porchlight debut. Chicago: Jeff Award-winning productions of Caroline, or Change (“Radio 1,” Firebrand Theatre) and You Can’t Fake the Funk (“Funkette u/s,” Black Ensemble Theatre). A Chicago native, De’Jah is an alumni of the musical theatre programs at Columbia College Chicago, ChiArts, and the National YoungArts Foundation.

DARREN PATIN (Sophisticated Gentlemen swing) Porchlight debut. Chicago: Grand Hotel (Kokandy Productions), Speech & Debate (Brown Paper Box Co.), and Choir Boy (Raven Theatre). A Chicago based actor/drag queen (@the_ari_gato on Instagram), Darren is also a recent Columbia College Chicago graduate. He would like to thank his amazing friends, family, and community for their continued support!

BRENDA DIDIER (Co-Director/Co-Choreographer) Select Porchlight credits: A Chorus Line, Billy Elliot, Dreamgirls, Ain’t Misbehavin’; Putting It Together. Choreography: Oliver! (Marriott Theatre), The Producers (Paramount Theatre), T-Mobile’s national commercial Home for the Holidays, Cirque Shanghai (Navy Pier’s Skyline Stage) and many others throughout Chicago. Brenda is the Artistic Director/Owner of the Lincolnshire Academy of Dance (22nd season), a multiple Jeff Award recipient in both direction and choreography, and was honored with the National Youth Choreography award and the 2018 Guy Adkins Award. Much gratitude to Michael, Jeannie, Flo, Jermaine, Chris, Matt, Maddie, Tristan and the incredible creative team, band, crew and cast! Love to Mike and mom always. “I dedicate my work on this show in memory of my Uncle Richard Finney, who was a drummer and tapper and told me of dancing all night long in the dance halls during the Big Band era!”

FLORENCE WALKER-HARRIS (Co-Director/Co-Choreographer) Porchlight: Choreographer for The Scottsboro Boys and Porchlight Revisits Woman Of the Year. For Scottsboro Boys, she received the The 2017 Black Theater Alliance Katherine Dunham Award for Best Choreography and Jeff Award for Best Production of a Musical (Midsize). Chicago: Associate Choreographer, Nativity Tribute and Choreographer, The Black Nativity (Congo Square); Choreographer, Magic Tree House: A Magical Night in New Orleans (Emerald City Theater). Florence is the Artistic Director for Studio One Dance Theater and the Founder, Owner and President of FloFIYAH LLC. www.foldiyah.com

JERMAINE HILL (Music Director & Pianist/Conductor) Porchlight: Memphis. Chicago: The Color Purple (Drury Lane Theatre), The Music Man (Goodman Theatre), Too Heavy for Your Pocket (TimeLine Theatre), The Total Bent (Haven Theatre), Neil Gwynn and Madagascar (Chicago Shakespeare Theater), Ragtime (Griffin Theatre). As an actor, he has worked with Erasing the Distance, Onion Labs, appeared in commercials and industrials, and was a guest star on an episode of Chicago Med. A three-time Jeff Award nominee for music direction, he is currently an assistant professor of theatre and music director at Columbia College Chicago and an ensemble member of Griffin Theatre Company. He is a graduate of Columbia College Chicago and the New England Conservatory of Music, and is proudly represented by Gray Talent Group. jermainehillmusic.com

ANGELA WEBER MILLER^ (Scenic Design) Porchlight: A Class Act, A Gentleman’s Guide to Love & Murder. Recent Chicago: The Bar Show 2019 (Chicago Bar Association) and Over The Tavern (TATC). She is also an Artistic Associate at First Folio Theatre where she’s designed dozens of shows, most recently Sherlock’s Last Case, Henry V, and The Firestorm. A proud member of USA829, she has been nominated for some Jeff Awards, won once, and spends her “free” time parenting and gardening.

THERESA HAM^ (Costume Design) Porchlight debut. Chicago: Disney’s Beauty and the Beast (Paramount Theatre), Something Rotten! (Marriott Theatre), Matilda (Drury Lane), The Wizard of Oz (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre), Tiny Beautiful Things (Victory Gardens Theatre), Off-Broadway: Ride the Cyclone (MCC Theatre). Regional: The Alliance Theatre, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Ogunquit Playhouse, Delaware Theatre Company, Fingerlakes Opera, ACT, and 5th Ave Theatre, First Stage Children’s Theatre and Milwaukee Repertory Theatre. Upcoming: Kiss Me Kate (Marriott Theatre) and The Great Leap (Asolo Rep).

DENISE KARCZEWSKI (Lighting Design) Porchlight: A Chorus Line (Jeff nomination), Gentleman’s Guide..., Gypsy, Memphis, Merrily We Roll Along, Billy Elliot (Jeff nomination),
In the Heights, Dreamgirls. Denise was honored as a Fierce Woman Behind the Table in Chicago Theatre by Porchlight at the inaugural launch of the Rachel Rockwell fund last year. Upcoming shows include Legends at Black Ensemble Theatre—where she has been the resident lighting designer for over 20 years—and Priscilla, Queen of the Desert at Mercury Theatre. She would like to thank Michael, Brenda and Florence for the opportunity and Daryl for all of his love and support. Maya, mommy loves you!


Robert is a freelance Sound Designer, Audio Engineer, Composer and Educator based in Chicago. He graduated from Illinois State University, and has recently lectured with Fort Lewis College, University of Nebraska, Western Illinois University, and USITT. Selections of his previous work can be found at makebelieve.fm.

CAITLIN MCCARTHY (Properties Design) Porchlight: prop master, Burning Bluebeard. A multi-disciplinary artist with emphases in costume and prop design, Caitlin’s recent credits include prop design and set dressing for Every Brilliant Thing and The Recommendation (Windy City Playhouse), costume design for The Late Wedding (The Neighborhood Theatre), costume and production design for Nire Nah’s music video, Citizens of Atlantis, and production design for the short The Care and Keeping of You. caitlimccarthy.net

CATHHERINE ALLEN (Production Manager) Porchlight: Sunset Boulevard. Select Chicago: Steep Theatre (Artistic Associate), Rivendell Theatre Ensemble, About Face Theatre, Sideshow Theatre, Griffin Theatre, Route 66, Congo Square, and The Actors Gymnasium. BFA, Acting, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

MATTHEW MCMULLEN* (Production Stage Manager) Porchlight: Merrily We Roll Along and Memphis. Additional credits include Paramount Theatre, Marriott Theatre, Drury Lane Theatre, Theatre at the Center, Goodman Theatre, Silk Road Rising, Chicago Children’s Theatre, Provision Theatre Company, and Blue Man Group Chicago. Thanks to Jackie, Sean, and Joaquin. Thanks always to Missy for her long-suffering support. Proud Equity Member.


JOAQUIN GOMEZ (Asst. Stage Manager) Porchlight: Billy Elliot, Merrily We Roll Along, Memphis. Chicago: Oliver! (Marriott Theatre), Regional: Pamela’s First Musical, Theo, Oo-bla-dee (Two River Theatre); 9 to 5 (Interlochen Arts Camp). Joaquin is incredibly happy to be back at one of his favorite Chicago theatres!

SEAN MICHAEL MOHLER (Asst. Stage Manager) Porchlight: Porchlight Revisits Call Me Madam, New Faces of Broadway 1956, Porchlight Revisits Minnie’s Boys. Chicago: The Land of Forgotten Toys (workshop production, CPA Theatricals), Hands on a Hardbody (Refuge Theatre Project), The Bone House (US Premiere, Random Acts) and Strangest Things! The Musical (World Premiere, Random Acts; Best Production of a Musical—Chicago Theatre Awards). Upcoming: Freaky Friday (Porchlight). He would like to thank everyone at Porchlight for another wonderful opportunity and his family and friends for their continued love and support.

MICHAEL WEBER (Artistic Director) most recently directed Sunset Boulevard and Gypsy for Porchlight Music Theatre as well as the Porchlight Revisits production of 1776. 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.

JEANNIE LUKOW (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.
25th Anniversary Co-Chairs
Deann & Rick Bayless and Donna LaPietra & Bill Kurtis
Invite You to Join Us!

PORCHLIGHT MUSIC THEATRE’S

Silver Anniversary

ICONS Gala

MONDAY, MARCH 23
THE RITZ-CARLTON, CHICAGO
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5:30 COCKTAILS
6:30 DINNER & PROGRAM

2020 ICON AWARD
JOEL GREY
STAR OF CABARET,
CHICAGO, WICKED
& MORE!

WITH LUMINARY Awardees
ELAINE COHEN
& ARLEN D. RUBIN

Featuring an onstage conversation between Bill Kurtis and Joel Grey
on Grey’s incredible career and performances saluting
Grey’s influence on music theatre!

Tickets and info at PORCLIGHTMUSICTHEATRE.ORG/ICONS
25 Years of Chicago Music Theatre!

- **Spring 1994**
  Inspired by friends creating plays and musicals on her front porch underneath the porchlight as a child, Jill Moore and a group of dedicated friends and artists begin the planning for what will become Porchlight Music Theatre.

- **March 1995**
  Porchlight Theatre Ensemble is officially launched as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with an all-volunteer staff comprised of Artistic Director Jill Moore, Managing Director Wm. Eric Bramlett and Marketing Director Jeannie Lukow.

- **July 1995**
  The first official fundraiser, “A Porchlight Summer Night,” is held at Theatre Building Chicago.

- **August 1995**
  The first season opens with the original play Women Who Love Science Too Much at Red Bones Theater.

- **October 1995**
  The company produces its first musical, Macabaret, in the basement of the OBar.

- **April 1997**
  Managing Director Bramlett is named interim artistic director after Moore relocates to LA with Lukow assuming the role of managing director.

- **September 1998**
  L. Walter Stearns is tapped to be the company’s new artistic director with Eugene Dizon as music director.

- **April 1999**
  In collaboration with producer Fred Solari, Porchlight presents the Chicago premiere of William Finn’s Falsettos, the company’s first extended run, playing for four months at The Athenaeum Theatre.

- **September 2001**
  Porchlight takes up residence at The Theatre Building (now Stage 773). Its first production in the new digs is Sondheim’s A Little Night Music.

- **October 2004**
  The 10th anniversary season — Porchlight’s first as an Equity company — garners 10 nominations and five trophies at the 2005 Equity Jeff Awards.

- **February 2007**
  The Teapot Scandals by Jon Steinhagen is Porchlight’s first world premiere musical, followed by the wildly successful Ragtime which moves from the Theatre Building to Chicago’s Apollo Theater for an extended summer run and nabs the company’s first Best Production-Musical trophy at the Equity Jeff Awards.

- **June 2011**
  Veteran Actor/Director Michael Weber takes the helm as artistic director, beginning a new phase of artistic expansion. Stearns and Dizon go on to run Chicago’s Mercury Theatre.

Continued on next page. Learn more at PorchlightMusicTheatre.org
Porchlight Music Theatre

July 2011
Porchlight launches the Guy Adkins Award for Excellence in the Advancement of Music Theatre in Chicago, and bestows the inaugural award on Walter Stearns.

October 2011
Porchlight moves its office, rehearsal and storage to the former Hammond Organ Factory on W. Diversey where it expands to three rehearsal studios and a scenic shop.

September 2012
The School at Porchlight is launched, providing music theatre training for professionals, immersion programming for enthusiasts, and the first steps toward education and programming to Chicago's youth.

September 2013
The “Porchlight Revisits” staged concert series of rarely seen musicals debuts with Anyone Can Whistle starring Rebecca Finnegan. That season’s Mainstage hit, Ain’t Misbehavin’, takes top honors at the Jeff Awards, beginning a consecutive 5-year run of Best Production awards.

September 2014
Jeannie Lukow joins the staff as the company's first Executive Director, parlaying Weber’s artistic successes into a five-year period of unprecedented growth.

September 2015
The “New Faces Sing Broadway” revue series debuts at Chicago’s Uptown Underground.

September 2016
Porchlight's season opener, In The Heights, attracts record attendance and critical acclaim, and enjoys four extensions, running for 78 performances.

June 2017
The “Make Your Own Musical” summer camps for ages 7-13 launch with more than 50% of the students receiving full or partial scholarships.

September 2017
Porchlight moves to its current performance venue at The Ruth Page Center for the Arts in Chicago's Gold Coast, opening the season with Billy Elliot the Musical.

August 2018
The first Luminary Award for Exemplary Leadership and Support of Music Theatre in Chicago is presented to longtime board member Jim Jensen.

August 2019
Porchlight launches its silver season with Chicago Sings 25 Years of Porchlight, a concert spectacle at the Museum of Contemporary Art. Year-long celebrations are planned by a distinguished anniversary committee co-chaired by Rick & Deann Bayless and Donna LaPietra & Bill Kurtis.

Proud of our Past and Excited for the Future: Join Porchlight on this Magical Musical Journey!

For our full timeline and history, as well as more on our 25th Anniversary Season, visit PorchlightMusicTheatre.org
Join Us for the rest of this celebratory season and beyond! We look forward to sharing more special moments with you.

There is much to celebrate this Silver Anniversary season, and we are filled with gratitude for the artists who create the work, the audiences who create the conversation, and the community who create the support for Porchlight to be Chicago’s center for music theatre. As we look ahead to the next season and the next 25 years, we are excited to continue this wonderful legacy with you.

Celebrate With Us All Season Long!

See how you can support the future of Porchlight Music Theatre at PorchlightMusicTheatre.Org/Support
## ARTISTIC STAFF

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Artistic Director</td>
<td>MICHAEL WEBER</td>
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<tr>
<td>Director/Choreographer</td>
<td>BRENDA DIDIER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director/Choreographer</td>
<td>FLORENCE WALKER-HARRIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Director</td>
<td>JERMAINE HILL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant Choreographer</td>
<td>ANDREW WATERS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Costume Designer</td>
<td>ANGELA WEBER MILLER^</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lighting Designer</td>
<td>DENISE KARCZEWSKI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sound Designer</td>
<td>ROBERT HORBOSTEL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Sound Designer</td>
<td>MATTHEW R. CHASE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Properties Designer</td>
<td>CAITLIN MCCARTHY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wig Designer</td>
<td>KEVIN BARTHEL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dance Captains</td>
<td>TRISTAN BRUNS &amp; MADISON PINER</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Production Manager</td>
<td>CATHERINE ALLEN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage Manager (through 2/9)</td>
<td>MATTHEW MCMULLEN*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asst. Stage Manager / Stage Manager (as of 2/12)</td>
<td>JACKIE ROBINSON*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asst. Stage Manager (as of 2/12)</td>
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<td>JOAQUIN GOMEZ &amp; SEAN MICHAEL MOHLER</td>
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<td>AUSTIN KOPSA</td>
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<td>Master Electrician</td>
<td>RACHEL WEST</td>
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<td>Audio Engineer</td>
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<td>Master Carpenters</td>
<td>WILL HUGHES &amp; MARIAH PENDLETON</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scenic Artists</td>
<td>JENNA HOUCK &amp; PAIGE WILSON</td>
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ABOUT PORCHLIGHT MUSIC THEATRE

Porchlight Music Theatre is a professional music theatre in Chicago. We believe in the essential intersection of music, dance, and drama. Join us to experience the magic of live theatre and make memories with friends and family. We are committed to bringing the best in music theatre to our city, while celebrating our shared humanity and cultural heritage. We are also dedicated to providing music theatre education to more local students, both in schools and via community outreach programs. We are proud to call Chicago our home and to serve our community with passion and dedication.

This is a special moment, a time of reaching new audiences and supporters, and of firmly establishing Porchlight as the cultural institution that elevates our city's spirits and celebrates our shared humanity. Our 25th Season is dedicated to dedicated individuals and organizations, and through our own youth programs—than ever before.

We are grateful to our partners and supporters who have helped us grow and thrive, including: Wm. Eric Bramlett, John Bucchino, Kevin Depinet, Francie Harrington, and Vern Broders, E. Faye Butler, Cheri Coons, Michelle Cucchiaro, and many others.

We would also like to acknowledge the contributions of the following organizations and businesses who have supported us:

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About Porchlight Music Theatre

The 25th Anniversary Season is Dedicated to the Memory of George K. “Kim” Sargent, III

Porchlight is at a pivotal point in its history—thriving in a new performance home in the Gold Coast, welcoming our growing subscriber and donor base, and bringing more Chicago youth to the theatre through our community outreach programs, as well as providing music theatre education to more local students—in schools, via community organizations, and through our own youth programs—than ever before.

This is a special moment, a time of reaching new audiences and supporters, and of firmly establishing Porchlight as the home for music theatre in Chicago—a valued cultural institution that elevates our city’s spirits and celebrates our shared humanity through the essential intersection of music, dance and drama. Join us!

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Porchlight Music Theatre gratefully acknowledges the following individuals, corporations, and foundations who generously gave gifts of $100 or more to The Annual Fund, The Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Cash Reserves Challenge Grant, 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: December 30, 2018 through December 30, 2019. For a full list of all contributions for FY19, please consult our website at PorchlightMusicTheatre.org/Our-Contributors.

We also thank those patrons whose contributions to the post-show collections supported youth programs and scholarships to Porchlight's “Make Your Own Musical” Youth Summer Camp.

For information about the multiple ways of supporting Porchlight, please contact Lisa Torgerson, Development Director, at lisa@porchlightmusictheatre.org or call 773.777.9884. We endeavor to make this listing as accurate as possible. Should you detect an error, please contact Rachel Cantzler, Development Manager, at rachel@porchlightmusictheatre.org.

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This program is partially supported by a CityArts Grant from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs & Special Events
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December 30, 2018 through December 30, 2019

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Jackie Bryant
Michelle and Steve Cucchiaro
Mickey Cucchiaro
Mike and Kathy Donland
Rhona Frazin
William Gilmer
Jim Jensen
Bill Kurtis and Donna LaPietra
Donald Sprague and Ray Grant
The Gretchen Upholt Family
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**Gifts were made in memory of:**
Frank S. Alschuler
Mona Barth
Deacon James W. Bradford
Bruce Chelberg
Curtis Crotty
Joe Dixius
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Chuck Sisson
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‡ Deceased
++ Members of the Directors Circle—to learn more about planned giving, see the website or contact Lisa Torgerson, Director of Development, at Lisa@PorchlightMusicTheatre.org or 773.777.9884.
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Rehearsals: Sats & Suns, April 4 - May 16
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