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UK Cast of Ain't Too Proud. Photo by John Persson



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## HADESTOWN

THE TONY-WINNING BEST MUSICAL

### Hadestown

FEB 7 & 8, 2025 / 7:30 PM  
FEB 8 & 9, 2025 / 2 PM

COME SEE HOW THE WORLD COULD BE.

Welcome to *HADESTOWN*, where a song can change your fate. Winner of 8 2019 Tony® Awards including Best Musical and the 2020 Grammy® Award for Best Musical Theater Album, this acclaimed new show from celebrated singer-songwriter Anaïs Mitchell and innovative director Rachel Chavkin (*Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812*) is a love story for today... and always.

Intertwining two mythic tales — that of young dreamers Orpheus and Eurydice, and that of King Hades and his wife Persephone — *HADESTOWN* is a haunting and hopeful theatrical experience that grabs you and never lets go.

### Dear Evan Hansen

MAR 18 – 20, 2025 / 7:30 PM

THE TONY® AND GRAMMY®-WINNING BEST MUSICAL THAT IS A WORLDWIDE SENSATION.

Declared “one of the most remarkable shows in musical theater history” by the Washington Post, *DEAR EVAN HANSEN* is the first musical to take a groundbreaking look — from the point of view of both the parents and young people — at our complex, interconnected, and social media-filled lives.

Evan Hansen is a high school student who always feels like he’s on the outside looking in. Evan finally gets what so many of us are searching for—the chance to finally fit in. What follows is a poignant, funny, and powerful musical about how even though it can be hard, we can find each other—and ourselves—along the way.

Including some of the most iconic musical theatre songs from the last decade, including “You Will Be Found,” “Waving Through A Window,” and “For Forever,” *DEAR EVAN HANSEN* features an uplifting score by the Tony® Grammy®, and Oscar® winning team behind *The Greatest Showman* and *La La Land*, Benj Pasek and Justin Paul, and a book by Tony Award-winner Steven Levenson.

*DEAR EVAN HANSEN* contains adult themes, including discussions of suicide.

SPONSORED BY



STOMP



### STOMP

MAY 10, 2025 / 7:30 PM  
MAY 11, 2025 / 2 PM

*STOMP*. SEE WHAT ALL THE NOISE IS ABOUT.

*STOMP* is explosive, inventive, provocative, witty, and utterly unique—an unforgettable experience for audiences of all ages. The international percussion sensation has garnered armfuls of awards and rave reviews and has appeared on numerous national television shows. The eight-member troupe uses everything but conventional percussion instruments – matchboxes, wooden poles, brooms, garbage cans, Zippo lighters, hubcaps – to fill the stage with magnificent rhythms. Year after year, audiences worldwide keep coming back for more of this pulse-pounding electrifying show. As *The Boston Globe* says, “If you haven’t seen *STOMP*, GO! If you have seen it, take someone and share the pleasure!”



## ain't too proud

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF  
THE TEMPTATIONS



### Ain't Too Proud: Proud The Life and Times of the Temptations

MAY 20 – 22, 2025 / 7:30 PM

*AIN'T TOO PROUD: The Life and Times of the Temptations* is the electrifying smash-hit Broadway musical that follows The Temptations' extraordinary journey from the streets of Detroit to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

Nominated for 12 Tony® Awards and the winner of the 2019 Tony® Award for Best Choreography, it's a thrilling story of brotherhood, family, loyalty, and betrayal during a decade of civil unrest in America. Set to the beat of the group's treasured hits, including “My Girl,” “Just My Imagination,” “Get Ready,” and “Papa Was a Rolling Stone,” *AIN'T TOO PROUD* tells the unforgettable story of the legendary quintet that *Billboard Magazine* named the greatest R&B group of all time.

### Tina – The Tina Turner Musical

JUN 20 & 21, 2025 / 7:30 PM  
JUN 21, 2025 / 2 PM

An uplifting comeback story like no other, *TINA – The Tina Turner Musical* is the inspiring journey of a woman who broke barriers and became the Queen of Rock n' Roll. Written by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Katori Hall and set to the pulse-pounding soundtrack of Tina Turner's most beloved hits, this electrifying sensation will send you soaring to the rafters.

One of the world's best-selling artists of all time, Tina Turner won 12 Grammy® Awards and her live shows were seen by millions, with more concert tickets sold than any other solo performer in music history.

“MIND-BLOWING & LIFE CHANGING!”





# WINDOWS ON OUR WORLD SERIES

Alex Cuba



Explore these  
fascinating  
& enriching  
performances!  
Artists from across our world  
bring fresh perspectives on our  
shared human experience.

## Alex Cuba OCT 23, 2024 / 7:30 PM

Cuban-Canadian singer-songwriter Alex Cuba's sugarcane-sweet melodies, pop-soul hooks, and powerful guitar riffs distinguish his work from much of the Latin music landscape. He draws his influences from a heady mix of Afro-Cuban jazz, funk, and pop that is underpinned by sanguine melodies, soul-tinged hooks, and a romantic story or two. Alex's records have earned him Latin Grammy® and Juno Awards, as well as Grammy® Award nominations. Treat yourself to a unique evening of toe-tapping rhythm, heart-felt ballads and soulful layered songs in English and Spanish.

## Stephanie Chou Quintet JAN 28, 2025 / 7:30 PM

Stephanie Chou is a Chinese-American jazz composer, saxophonist, and singer who seamlessly blends influences from her Chinese heritage with Western jazz and pop, fostering immediate cross-cultural connections and emphasizing audience engagement. She has graced prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, B.B. King's, Joe's Pub, and Miller Theater, as well as numerous international music festivals and venues. Chou's quintet features saxophone and vocals in Mandarin/English, complemented by Chinese violin (erhu), viola, and a jazz rhythm section, amplifying the universal appeal of her music to her ever-expanding fan base.



Stephanie Chou Quintet

Photo by Sherry Laine

## Terrance Simien & The Zydeco Experience FEB 15, 2025 / 7:30 PM

For over 40+ years, two-time Grammy® Award winning, 8th generation Louisiana Creole, Terrance Simien has been performing traditional Zydeco roots music. Join us for a celebration of the up-tempo sounds and syncopated rhythms of zydeco – blending blues, R&B, indigenous, soul, Afro-Caribbean, Cajun, and early Creole music. Simien and his band mates have performed nearly 10,000 concerts, touring millions of miles to over 45 countries. They've played with legends including Art Neville, Los Lobos, the late Robert Palmer, and Dave Matthews Band to name a few. Don't miss this rockin' evening of washboard, accordion, brass, and guitar performed by Zydeco masters!



Terrance Simien & The Zydeco Experience

Photo by Jim Seash

“Step Afrika! is always  
visually and musically  
exciting!”

The Washington Post

## Step Afrika! APR 25, 2025 / 7:30 PM

STEP AFRIKA! blends percussive dance styles practiced by historically African American fraternities and sororities, traditional West and Southern African dances, and an array of contemporary dance and art forms into a cohesive, compelling artistic experience. Performances are much more than dance shows; they integrate songs, storytelling, humor, and audience participation. The blend of technique, agility, and pure energy makes each performance unique and leaves the audience with their hearts pounding.



Photo by James Dean





## OPENING NIGHT! Firebird & Friends

**OCT 12, 2024 / 7:30 PM**

**Felix Mendelssohn:** Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage

**Samuel Coleridge-Taylor:** Concerto for Violin in G minor, op. 80.

**Igor Stravinsky:** The Firebird Suite

**Nathan Amaral,** violin

Appropriately, the Midland Symphony Orchestra launches our season of journey and discovery with an evening that begins as a calm voyage, progresses through lyrical enchantment, and finally builds to an imaginative fiery peak! We start with an epic 19<sup>th</sup> century sailing adventure – Mendelssohn’s delightful *Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage*, inspired by Goethe’s poetry. Traveling into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Orchestra pairs with 2024 Sphinx Competition Robert Frederick Smith Prize winner Nathan Amaral for a performance of the work that won him the prestigious award, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor’s *Violin Concerto in G minor, op. 80*. Stravinsky’s enchanting *The Firebird Suite*, made familiar to many in Disney’s *Fantasia 2000*, follows the heroic adventure of a blazing and beautiful Firebird, closing out this exciting and intrepid evening with a monumental crescendo!

## The Nutcracker

**DEC 6 & 7, 2024 / 8 PM**

**DEC 7 & 8, 2024 / 2 PM**

with **Grand Rapids Ballet**

Visions of sugar plum fairies will dance across the stage in this treasured holiday classic! The Grand Rapids Ballet returns to perform their re-envisioned production of *The Nutcracker*, played by our own Symphony Orchestra. Experience the holiday magic with Clara as she journeys to the Land of Sweets with the Nutcracker, a gift from her mysterious uncle. Featuring choreography from world-renowned Val Caniparoli, with the dancing set against a distinctive and lush storybook set created by celebrated *The Polar Express* author/illustrator Chris Van Allsburg and designed by Tony® Award winner Eugene Lee.

## Holiday Pops

**DEC 14, 2024 / 4 PM**

**Relaxed Performance / 1 PM**

**Kevin Massey & Kara Lindsay,** vocalists

The caroling Choirs of the Center and the Midland Symphony Orchestra will be joined by Broadway power couple Kara Lindsay and Kevin Massey for an evening of holiday celebration! On Broadway, Kara originated the role of Katherine in *NEWSIES* and reprised her performance in the film version, *Disney’s Newsies the Broadway Musical*; she also appeared on Broadway as Glinda in *WICKED* and Cynthia Weil in *BEAUTIFUL: THE CAROLE KING MUSICAL*. Kevin performed on Broadway in *TARZAN*, *BIG RIVER*, *MEMPHIS*, and *A GENTLEMAN’S GUIDE TO LOVE AND MURDER* as well as in numerous touring and regional roles. Together they performed in the national tours of *A GENTLEMAN’S GUIDE TO LOVE AND MURDER* and *LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE*. Don’t miss this signature event of the Great Lakes Bay region’s holiday season!

## Outer Space: The Infinite

**FEB 1, 2025 / 7:30 PM**

**Jessie Montgomery:** Starburst

**Richard Strauss:** Also sprach Zarathustra

**Eric Whitacre,** Deep Field

Discover the cosmos as you travel through billions of stars with the Midland Symphony Orchestra! Immerse yourself in the one-of-a-kind *Deep Field* experience created by Grammy® Award-winning composer Eric Whitacre – a stunning film, *Deep Field: The Impossible Magnitude of our Universe*, illuminates the astounding and powerful score. Experience extraordinary galactic imagery from the Hubble Space Telescope, immersive animation, and audience participation that invites guests to join in with the symphony via a smartphone app. Continue travelling to the edges of our universe with Jessie Montgomery’s dynamic *Starburst* and Strauss’ now iconic tone poem *Also sprach Zarathustra*, used in *2001: A Space Odyssey*.

## An Enchanting Journey

**MAR 8, 2025 / 7:30 PM**

**Mozart:** The Magic Flute

**Mahler:** Symphony No. 4

with **Detroit Opera Resident Artists**

This compelling performance will feature an elite ensemble of soloists from the renowned Detroit Opera Resident Artists and will be highlighted by excerpts from Mozart’s timeless and enchanting masterpiece, the fantasy quest *The Magic Flute*. Mahler’s spectacular *Symphony No. 4* will complete the evening with its soaring and “heavenly” soprano solo. Members of Detroit’s premier producer and presenter of opera, musical theatre, and dance accompany Midland Symphony Orchestra’s performance in an unforgettable evening of music. Join us on this journey marrying spectacular voices with equally compelling music.

## Rhapsody In Blue

**APR 5, 2025 / 7:30 PM**

**George Gershwin:** Rhapsody in Blue & Piano

**Kevin Cole,** piano

The award-winning and spectacular pianist Kevin Cole performs with the MSO, as he has done with over 100 orchestras! Regarded as the leading interpreter of George Gershwin’s piano compositions, Kevin will play the incomparable *Rhapsody in Blue*, beloved since its premiere in 1924 for its integration of jazz and classical music and considered one of the greatest symphonic achievements of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Kevin, a local artist living in Bay City, will continue to delight with Gershwin’s *Piano Concerto in F*. Kevin is the perfect soloist for our exploration of Gershwin - declares Edward Jablonski, renowned Gershwin scholar, “Kevin is the best Gershwin pianist since Gershwin himself – no one can touch him.”



CENTER  
STAGE  
THEATRE



**OUTDOOR STAGE!**  
**Rock Of Ages**  
**AUG 7 – 9 & 14 – 16, 2024 / 8 PM**  
**'80s NOSTALGIA & HEADBANDS!**

The '80s are back with this five-time Tony® Award-nominated Broadway musical and its story of a small-town girl, a city boy, and rock 'n' roll romance on the Sunset Strip! Aspiring rocker Drew dreams of glory while longing for Sherri, fresh off the bus from Kansas with stars in her eyes. When the bar where rock reigns supreme is set to be demolished by German developers, it's up to these wannabe rockers and their band of friends to save the day - and the music! *ROCK OF AGES'* electric score, accompanied by a live rock band, features all your favorite '80s rock anthems and power ballads, including: "Every Rose Has Its Thorn," "I Wanna Know What Love Is," "Here I Go Again," "We Built This City," "Don't Stop Believin'," and more!

*ROCK OF AGES* Contains adult themes and content.

Directed and Choreographed by Megan Krause Meyer  
Music Direction by Christian Heintzelman  
Book by Chris D'Arienzo  
Arrangements and Orchestrations by Ethan Popp  
*ROCK OF AGES* is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals.  
[www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

Ready to put your talents out there?  
Learn more about upcoming auditions at [midlandcenter.org/auditions](http://midlandcenter.org/auditions)

Steel  
MAGNOLIAS



**Steel Magnolias**  
**OCT 11 – 12 & 18 – 19, 2024 / 7:30 PM**  
**OCT 13 & 20, 2024 / 2 PM**

AS DELICATE AS MAGNOLIAS BUT AS TOUGH AS STEEL.

Truvy's Salon is the beauty hub of Chinquapin, Louisiana, offering hairdos, manicures — and gossip. With her over-eager assistant Annelle, Truvy caters to small-town regulars including the caring M'Lynn and her soon-to-be-married daughter Shelby, the moody Ouiser, and the affluent widow Clairee. Through witty banter and wisecracks, this hodgepodge group of women form friendships as strong as steel. Known for its cherished film adaptation starring Sally Field, Shirley MacLaine, Daryl Hannah, Olympia Dukakis, Dolly Parton, and Julia Roberts, *STEEL MAGNOLIAS* is a hilariously touching comedy-drama celebrating the bonds among a group of Southern women in a home beauty salon in northwest Louisiana.

Directed by Adam Gardner-Northrop  
By Robert Harling  
*STEEL MAGNOLIAS* is presented through special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service.

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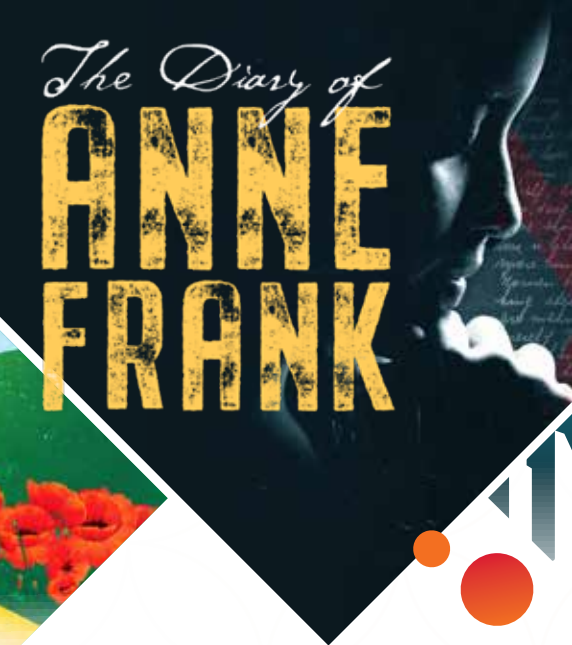
**AUDITORIUM STAGE!**  
**The Wizard Of Oz**  
**NOV 15 – 16, 2024 / 7 PM**  
**NOV 17, 2024 / 2 PM**

"WE'RE OFF TO SEE THE WIZARD!"

Travel over the rainbow with *THE WIZARD OF OZ*! This beloved tale comes to life on the Auditorium Stage featuring all the moments and music from the iconic 1939 MGM film. Follow the yellow brick road with Dorothy Gale as she encounters a host of whimsical characters on her journey to the Emerald City: good witches, the Scarecrow, the Tinman, the Lion, and a Wicked Witch of the West who will stop at nothing to get her hands on the ruby slippers. To make it home safely, Dorothy must learn an important lesson: *there's no place like home.*

Directed by Bill Anderson / Choreographed by Kelli Jolly  
Music Direction by Jim Hohmeyer  
By L. Frank Baum / Music and Lyrics by Harold Arlen and E. Y. Harburg / Background Music by Herbert Stothar  
Dance and Vocal Arrangements by Peter Howard / Orchestration by Larry Wilcox  
Adapted by John Kane for the Royal Shakespeare Company  
Based upon the Classic Motion Picture owned by Turner Entertainment Co. and distributed in all media by Warner Bros  
*THE WIZARD OF OZ* is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Tams-Witmark LLC.  
[www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

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**The Diary Of Anne Frank**  
**FEB 21, 22, 28 & MAR 1, 2025 / 7:30 PM**  
**FEB 23 & MAR 2, 2025 / 2 PM**

"DESPITE EVERYTHING, I BELIEVE THAT PEOPLE ARE REALLY GOOD AT HEART."

Playwright Wendy Kesselman breathes new life into Anne Frank's renowned diary with a transcendently powerful stage adaptation, portraying a spirited young woman confronting unimaginable horrors with wit, fierce honesty, and unwavering hope. A heartfelt drama about the lives of eight people hiding from the Nazis in a concealed storage attic, *THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK* captures the realities of their daily existence—their fear, their hope, their laughter, their grief. Each day of these two dark years, Anne's voice shines through: "When I write I shake off all my cares. But I want to achieve more than that. I want to be useful and bring enjoyment to all people, even those I've never met. I want to go on living even after my death!"

Directed by Kaeleigh Casavant  
Based on *The Diary of Anne Frank* by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett, newly adapted by Wendy Kesselman  
*THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK* is presented through special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service.

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**Merrily We Roll Along**  
**MAY 9 – 10 & 15 – 17, 2025 / 7:30 PM**  
**MAY 11 & 18, 2025 / 2 PM**

"HEY, OLD FRIEND!"

*MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG* is a thrilling and compelling showbiz fable about friendship and the high price of success. Starting from adulthood and traveling back in time to the idealistic dreams of youth, *MERRILY* charts the highs and lows of a relationship among three lifelong friends and traces every milestone of their lives for nearly two decades. With a score showcasing some of Stephen Sondheim's best-known songs, including "Good Thing Going," "Not a Day Goes By," and "Old Friends," this semi-autobiographical musical turns back the clock on friendship and the importance of staying true to one's ideals.

Directed by Chad William Baker  
Music Direction by Mike Skutt  
Choreography by Faith Dore  
Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, Book by George Furth  
Based on the Original Play by George S. Kaufman & Moss Hart

*MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG* is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. [www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com)

Note: The unique staging of this show includes seating directly on the stage for an intimate experience.



# MATRIX: MIDLAND 2024/25

Joyfully celebrating the inspiring nexus of science, history, art, and entertainment, sparking new ideas and conversations!

These presentations are just the starting point. Special activities and unique opportunities surrounding **MATRIX:MIDLAND** events are being scheduled. **Upgrade to a subscription today!** Subscribers will be notified **FIRST** about additional engaging activities!



Ben Folds



Vitamin String Quartet



Greg & Dana Newkirk  
Haunted Objects Live!



The Begging Bowl  
Haunted Objects Live!



Tim Davis, Jane Lynch, and Kate Flannery

## Ben Folds: Paper Airplane Request Tour OPENING ACT / LINDSEY KRAFT OCT 15, 2024 / 7:30 PM

Ben Folds is widely regarded as one of the major music influencers of our generation. The Emmy®-nominated singer-songwriter-composer has created an enormous body of genre-bending music that includes pop albums with Ben Folds Five, multiple solo albums, and numerous collaborative records. For the past three decades, he's toured as a pop artist, while also performing with some of the world's greatest symphony orchestras. A *New York Times* Best-Selling author and podcast host, Ben also composes for film, TV and theatre, guest stars in films and TV, and serves as the Artistic Advisor to the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC.

SPONSORED BY



## Haunted Objects Live! OCT 25, 2024 / 7:30 PM

You know them from *The Haunted Objects Podcast*, Amazon Prime's *Hellier*, and Travel Channel's *Kindred Spirits*. Now Greg and Dana Newkirk will take you on a journey through history, folklore, and true-life accounts of supernatural encounters with objects that seem to possess a life of their own. Learn the untold truth about famous paranormal cases like The Amityville Horror, discover why the infamous Dybbuk Box is scarier than the demon it's rumored to imprison, and tag along as Greg & Dana reveal how they broke the curse of the Catskills Crone, as featured in their highly anticipated new film *The Unbinding*. You'll even help the Newkirks create a haunted artifact with nothing more than the power of your mind!

## Vitamin String Quartet: The Music of Taylor Swift, Bridgerton, and Beyond OCT 26, 2024 / 7:30 PM

Long before *Bridgerton* broke the Netflix algorithm, Vitamin String Quartet (VSQ) had helped establish classical crossover as a genuine force in contemporary music. Fresh off high-profile placements in Seasons 1 and 2 of the aforementioned streaming smash, VSQ has "reached a mainstream, global audience" (*Variety*) and "charmed the world with their classical covers" (*Nylon*). *New York Observer* wrote, "VSQ's atmospheric hits have made classical versions of pop music cool." On their latest tour, VSQ have created fresh arrangements of the cultural phenomenon that is Taylor Swift, performing spellbinding and innovative renditions of Swift's music, alongside familiar hits from Billie Eilish, BTS, *Bridgerton*, The Weeknd and Daft Punk. VSQ are one of the most popular string ensembles in the world with over 2 billion streams and 7 albums charting on both Billboard Classical and Classical Crossover charts.

## Jane Lynch's A Swingin' Little Christmas featuring Kate Flannery, Tim Davis & The Tony Guerrero Quintet

DEC 11, 2024 / 7:30 PM

You may remember Jane Lynch as the Emmy® and Golden Globe-winning coach Sue Sylvester on *Glee*. These days, you can see her as the Emmy®-winning host of NBC's *Hollywood Game Show Night* or on *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, with, you guessed it, her Emmy®-winning performance as Sophia Lennon. She also appeared in Christopher Guest's *Best in Show*. You may not have seen the uber-cool Ms. Lynch in her own holiday show, *A Swingin' Little Christmas*. Known for her quick wit and improvisational skills, she brings these talents to bear in a Christmas show that features traditional favorites and original songs with Kate Flannery, Tim Davis, and the Tony Guerrero Quintet. Their holiday album, *A Swingin' Little Christmas*, hit Billboard's Top 10 Adult Contemporary chart. A Christmas single with Dick Van Dyke, "Winter's Never Cold," written by Tony Guerrero, also hit the charts.

**Haunted Objects Live! AND Jane Lynch's A Swingin' Little Christmas featuring Kate Flannery, Tim Davis & The Tony Guerrero Quintet** are offering a limited number of VIP seats! These tickets will include premium locations and exclusive interactions with the artists. Details to come closer to the events.





KIDS &  
FAMILY

## Doktor Kaboom: Look Out! Science is Coming!

JAN 17, 2025 / 6:30 PM

Grab your lab coats and safety goggles! Doktor Kaboom's one-man show reminds us that science is for everyone! Explore the wonders of the scientific method with laugh-out-loud humor and dynamic demonstrations. Audience members of all ages can prepare for laughter, learning, and an unforgettable scientific adventure!

*Recommended ages 6 – 14 and their families.*

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## Timbalooloo

MAR 9, 2025 / 4 PM

Timbalooloo is an interactive and educational musical party that introduces children to melodies, rhythms, and instruments used by musicians across the globe. The performance starts off with a problem: Oran's friend Clara was excited to come to the concert, but she fell asleep. He brought her to the concert anyway - in her bed! The kids join Oran in singing to wake her up and discover her name is Clara Net .... Oran's clarinet! With more singing, clapping, dancing and drumming, children see all of the instruments onstage come to life and learn that making music means bringing their own character, humor and emotion to their artistry.

*Recommended ages 3 – 8 and their families.*

## Dragons & Mythical Beasts

APR 19, 2025 / 6:30 PM

Calling all brave heroes! Enter a magical world of myths and legends in this interactive show for the whole family. Unveil a myriad of dark secrets and come face to face with some of the most magnificent monsters and terrifying beasts ever to walk the earth. Take your place among legendary heroes, just don't wake the Dragon...

*Recommended ages 5 and up.*

## iLuminate

APR 30, 2025 / 6:30 PM

From the moment the lights fade, you are transported into another world... where the music moves you and the visuals are unlike anything you've ever seen. Welcome to the world of *iLuminate*, named "Best New Act in America" by *America's Got Talent* in 2011. Experience the electrifying spectacle of the country's best dancers, wearing customized LED suits as they dance to vibrant music, creating extraordinary lighting effects that take viewers on an exhilarating ride!

*Recommended for all ages.*

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## RISING STARS

Every summer, Midland Center for the Arts seeks the top teen talent in the Great Lakes Bay Region for an intensive, professional-level experience and training from a Broadway Creative Team.

**SAVE THE DATE! JUN 25–27 / 2025**  
**DISNEY'S FREAKY FRIDAY THE MUSICAL!**  
Check in early 2025 for audition details!  
**midlandcenter.org/RisingStars**

YOUTH  
THEATRE

## Anne of Green Gables

DEC 12 – 14, 2024 / 7:30 PM

DEC 14 – 15, 2024 / 2 PM

This exciting new adaptation captures the charm of Lucy Maude Montgomery's enduring classic about an orphan girl, Anne Shirley. All the triumphs and tragedies that mark Anne's growth are here: her friendship with Diana, her feuds with Gilbert, the mistaken wine bottle, and the saving of Green Gables. Whether the playgoer is an "old friend" of Anne's or meeting her for the first time, this play will solidify a lasting friendship.

Adapted by Joseph Robinette from the novel by L.M. Montgomery  
Produced by special arrangement with THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY of Woodstock, Illinois

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**GRACE A. DOW MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

## Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical

APR 10 – 12, 2025 / 7:30 PM

APR 12–13, 2025 / 2 PM

**Relaxed Performance / APR 12 / 2 PM**

Inspired by the ingenious Roald Dahl, the Tony® Award-winning *MATILDA THE MUSICAL* has won 47 international awards and continues to thrill audiences of all ages. Matilda is a girl with astonishing wit and psychokinetic powers. Unloved by her cruel parents, tormented by headmistress Miss Trunchbull, and encouraged by her teacher Miss Honey, Matilda could be the school pupils' saving grace! Packed with high-energy dance numbers and catchy songs, audiences will be delighted by the story.

Book by Dennis Kelly  
Music & Lyrics by Tim Minchin

*Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.*

**RISING STARS SPONSORED BY**

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Midland Cogeneration Venture





NIGHTS OUT

## Croce Plays Croce

SEP 7, 2024 / 7:30 PM

A.J. Croce performs Croce Plays Croce, a special night of music featuring a complete set of classics by his late father Jim Croce, some of his own tunes, and songs that influenced both him and his father. This special event features such timeless songs as “Operator”, “You Don’t Mess Around with Jim”, “Time in a Bottle” (a song written for A.J.), “Rapid Roy (The Stock Car Boy)”, and “Lovers Cross”, to name a few. Classic covers may include songs by Lieber and Stoller, Bessie Smith, and other folk and roots artists.

## Straight No Chaser: Top Shelf

NOV 30, 2024 / 7:30 PM

If the phrase “male a cappella group” conjures up an image of students in blue blazers, ties, and khakis singing traditional college songs on ivied campuses... think again. Straight No Chaser (SNC) are neither strait-laced nor straight-faced, but neither are they vaudeville-style kitsch. They have emerged as a phenomenon with a massive fanbase and a long list of accomplishments including 2 RIAA Gold Certified albums, over 1.5 million concert tickets sold, over 1 billion streams on Pandora, and over 2 million albums sold worldwide. Straight No Chaser is the real deal, the captivating sound of nine unadulterated human voices coming together to make extraordinary music that is moving people in a fundamental sense ... and with a sense of humor.



## Alison Brown

JAN 26, 2025 / 3 PM

One of the most multi-faceted minds in roots music, Alison Brown is a GRAMMY®-winning musician, GRAMMY®-nominated producer, former investment banker (with an AB from Harvard and an MBA from UCLA), and co-founder of The Compass Records Group which is celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2023.

Although Alison began her musical career as a teenager in the Southern California bluegrass scene, she has built a reputation as one of today’s most forward thinking and innovative banjo players. She is known for taking the instrument far beyond its Appalachian roots by blending bluegrass and jazz influences into a sonic tapestry that has earned praise and recognition from a variety of national tastemakers including *The Wall Street Journal*, *CBS Sunday Morning*, *NPR*, and *USA Today*.

## Comedy Nights

THURSDAY / EVERY MONTH

Join us for 90 minutes of incredible laughter featuring two nationally-touring stand-up comedians – laughter has been proven to heal, reduce stress, and offer great bonding time. Join us for a monthly dose of comedy – visit [midlandcenter.org/comedy](http://midlandcenter.org/comedy) for more information.



## Pendulum Lounge

EVERY THURSDAY

Open weekly on Thursday nights from 4:30 – 8 PM, step into the Pendulum Lounge. Enjoy craft cocktails, small plates, and live entertainment! Check out our lineup of upcoming artists at [midlandcenter.org/lounge](http://midlandcenter.org/lounge).



MORE TO EXPLORE!

## Become a Volunteer

Our dedicated volunteers keep us running. Make a difference and connect with others while supporting arts and culture in the Great Lakes Bay Region! You’ll meet interesting people and may learn new skills. We have something for everyone – you can build scenery, act, sing, introduce children to science and history, and so much more. Get involved now! [midlandcenter.org/volunteer](http://midlandcenter.org/volunteer)

Questions? [volunteer@midlandcenter.org](mailto:volunteer@midlandcenter.org)

## Educators, Get Involved!

The Center is excited to welcome classrooms of any makeup or size to engage in hands-on workshops and student matinee performances.

Check out [midlandcenter.org/teacher](http://midlandcenter.org/teacher)

## Find Your Passion

The Center offers classes and camps from the visual to performing arts, including history, science, and more for adults and children 3 years and older.

## ProArts Production Program

Join our Industry Professionals in the Fall and Spring with sessions geared towards students in Grades K - 12. Perform your favorite Broadway hits, become an improv wiz, or step behind the curtain, there is something for actors of all skill levels!

Check [midlandcenter.org/youththeatre](http://midlandcenter.org/youththeatre) for audition and class announcements!

## Studio School Adult Classes

Tap into your creative side with our STUDIO SCHOOL CLASSES! Our roster of professional artists bring fun, skill-developing classes for adults to begin and advance within multiple art forms including drawing, painting, photography, ceramics, jewelry, mixed media, and more.

Visit [midlandcenter.org/studioschool](http://midlandcenter.org/studioschool)

## Choirs of the Center

Singing and being part of an ensemble are wonderful ways for kids and adults to discover skills and talents you may not know you have, while making friends and learning valuable lessons. For more information on our choirs, visit [midlandcenter.org](http://midlandcenter.org).

## Men of Music

SPRING SHOW  
APR 11 – 12 / 2025

Directed by Grace Marra  
Founded in 1936, this joyous choir performs their annual spring show on the Center’s Little Theater stage! Lend your voice and join by calling 989.631.1152.





SUPPORT  
WHAT YOU  
LOVE!



FROZEN photography by The Mattesons

## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN A STUDENT'S LIFE!

Ticket sales cover only one-third of our Center's budget. In a typical year we must raise more than \$5 million to deliver excellence on stage and in our programs for schools, children, aspiring artists, and underserved communities. Our Circle of Friends Annual Fund is vital to our mission and financial well-being, allowing us to fulfill our mission throughout the community.

Each year, donors to our Circle of Friends program help us to create educational and entertaining programming in the arts, sciences, and humanities that inspire audiences and participants of all ages. Please join your friends and neighbors in supporting this work in our community.

To make a gift, please donate online at [midlandcenter.org/donate](https://midlandcenter.org/donate) or contact our Development Office at 989.631.5930 x1401.

Please visit [midlandcenter.org/benefits](https://midlandcenter.org/benefits) to learn more.

## Capital Campaign

We are so excited for the renovations to the Center, and we hope you'll follow along the process with us! If you are interested in supporting this project or learning more, scan the QR code or visit [midlandcenter.org/campaign](https://midlandcenter.org/campaign). Your contribution will play a crucial role in shaping the future of Midland Center for the Arts. Thank you for being a part of our journey.

Help Support The Center's Transformational Renovation / [midlandcenter.org/campaign](https://midlandcenter.org/campaign)



THANK YOU!  
TO OUR RECENT  
SPONSORS



The Dr. Andrea Louise Jenkins Endowed Fund for Cultural Enrichment



Glastender, Inc / Grace A. Dow Memorial Library / Horizon Bank  
Live Oak Coffeehouse / Morley Companies / Spence Brothers  
Sport Clips Haircuts / Trombley Electric / Wilson Miller Funeral Home





# PLAN YOUR VISIT

## DIRECTIONS & PARKING

- / Midland Center for the Arts is located at 1801 W. Saint Andrews, at the corner of Eastman Avenue and West Saint Andrews Road in Midland, MI.
- / It's an easy drive! Take I-75 to US10 or via M20.
- / FREE parking on surface lots adjacent to our building. Arrive **at least** 30 minutes prior to your performance show time to ensure you have time to find a parking spot and walk in.

## GUEST SERVICES

**Our Guest Services Representatives** are happy to assist you.

- / **Visit** [midlandcenter.org](https://midlandcenter.org) to purchase anytime.
- / **Come in** person to 1801 W. Saint Andrews Road, Midland, MI.
- / **Call** us at 989.631.8250.
- / **Hours** *subject to change*  
MON – THU / 12 – 6 PM  
FRI / 10 AM – 6 PM  
SAT / 10 AM – 4 PM  
SUN / 12 – 4 PM

*The Ticket Office will also open one hour prior to curtain time on performance days.*

## STAY UP TO DATE!

- / **Information in this brochure is subject to change. Stay up to date on happenings in our theaters and museum by visiting [midlandcenter.org](https://midlandcenter.org)**
- / Please be sure that Guest Services has your correct email address on file or ask to add an email to your account so we can provide you with important updates and information regarding your event.



## IMPORTANT TICKET & FACILITY INFORMATION

### All Sales Are Final

Tickets may be exchanged up to **72 hours prior to the event** for \$5 per ticket. Subscribers receive free ticket exchanges. The value of the exchanged ticket(s) will be applied to another Center event in the 2024-2025 season. We cannot hold a credit on your account. Performances are not cancelled and refunds are not provided due to weather conditions.

### Children Policy

Everyone attending a performance must have their own ticket, regardless of age and even if you expect a child to sit in an adult's lap.

### Personal Responsibility Statement

Midland Center for the Arts offers a diverse selection of arts entertainment. Not all productions may appeal to or be appropriate for every person or for all ages. Therefore, guests are responsible for making informed decisions regarding their ticket purchases. Contact Guest Services if you have questions regarding age appropriateness.

### Processing Fees

Midland Center for the Arts applies a Processing Fee to most performance tickets. This small per-ticket fee is specifically used to maintain and upgrade our facilities. You will see the Processing Fee printed on your ticket separate from the ticket price.



## PROTECT YOURSELF FROM TICKET FRAUD

**Purchase directly from us!** Buy your tickets at the **ONLY** official sources: at [midlandcenter.org](https://midlandcenter.org); at 989.631.8250; or in person at our Ticket Office. Purchasing from an unauthorized source may put you at risk for receiving counterfeit tickets or paying more than face value for your tickets. Help us spread the word – tell your friends! **Thank you!**

## ACCESSIBILITY

We offer many accessibility services to ensure your experience at Midland Center for the Arts is an enjoyable one. **However, please note, our theaters do not have elevators and most seats/rows require the use of stairs.**



- / Free Assistive Listening Devices upon request.



- / Wheelchair Seating and Other Seating Accommodations upon request at time of ticket purchase.



- / Convenient Drop-Off Areas near entrances.
- / Relaxed Experiences that provide a welcoming environment to individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD), developmental disabilities, sensory processing disorders or PTSD; and all sensory-sensitive people and their families. Please visit [midlandcenter.org/relaxedexperiences](https://midlandcenter.org/relaxedexperiences) for more information.



For questions about accessibility, or if you need assistance or an accommodation, please contact Guest Services at [guestservices@midlandcenter.org](mailto:guestservices@midlandcenter.org) or 989.631.8250.

## GUEST AMENITIES

- / **Free Booster Seats** – We have a limited number available upon request. Personal booster seats are permitted in the theater.
- / **Food and Beverages** – Light snacks and beverages are available at concessions. Cash and credit are accepted. Lounge will be open one hour prior to curtain for most Auditorium events.
- / **Local Attractions** – Visit downtown Midland just one mile away, featuring many great restaurants, shops and hotels. The Center shares a campus with the 100-acre Dow Gardens and Whiting Forest, featuring the longest canopy walk in the nation.
- / **Join us in the Pendulum Lounge!** – THE PLACE for free performances every Thursday evening with a small plate menu; our Pendulum Lounge bar is also open pre-show for most Auditorium performances, offering comfortable Lounge seating and a cozy atmosphere.



PICK 4  
OR MORE & SAVE

**BUY NOW!** Visit  
midlandcenter.org/pick4  
or call Guest Services  
at 989.631.8250  
Single Tickets  
On Sale **AUG 12**

CALENDAR  
AT A GLANCE

#### BUILD A SEASON JUST FOR YOU & SAVE!

**Save up to 10% off single ticket prices** when you buy 4 or more events based on your own interests!

**You will only pay a flat \$25 processing fee on this order**, saving the individual ticket processing fees!

#### AUG 2024

AUG 7-16 / Rock of Ages

#### SEP 2024

SEP 7 / Croce Plays Croce

#### OCT 2024

OCT 11-20 / Steel Magnolias

OCT 12 / MSO Firebird & Friends

OCT 15 / Ben Folds: Paper Airplane Request Tour

OCT 23 / Alex Cuba

OCT 25 / Haunted Objects Live!

OCT 26 / Vitamin String Quartet

#### NOV 2024

NOV 15-17 / The Wizard of Oz

NOV 30 / Straight No Chaser: Top Shelf

#### DEC 2024

DEC 6-8 / The Nutcracker

DEC 11 / Jane Lynch's A Swingin' Little Christmas

DEC 12-15 / Anne of Green Gables

DEC 14 / MSO Holiday Pops

#### JAN 2025

JAN 17 / Doktor Kaboom

JAN 26 / Alison Brown

JAN 28 / Stephanie Chou Quintet

#### FEB 2025

FEB 1 / MSO Outer Space: The Infinite

FEB 7-9 / Hometown

FEB 15 / Terrance Simien & The Zydeco Experience

FEB 21-MAR 2 / The Diary of Anne Frank

#### MAR 2025

MAR 8 / MSO An Enchanting Journey

MAR 9 / TIMBALOOO

MAR 18-20 / Dear Evan Hansen

#### APR 2025

APR 5 / MSO Rhapsody in Blue

APR 10-13 / Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical

APR 11-12 / Men of Music Spring Show

APR 19 / Dragons & Mythical Beasts

APR 25 / Step Afrika!

APR 30 / iLuminate

#### MAY 2025

MAY 9-18 / Merrily We Roll Along

MAY 10-11 / STOMP

May 20-22 / Ain't Too Proud: The Life and Times of the Temptations

#### JUN 2025

JUN 20-21 / Tina - The Tina Turner Musical

JUN 25-27 / Freaky Friday