

Lincoln Center's

January 24–March 27, 2018

American Songbook

Lead Support provided by PGIM, the global investment management business of Prudential Financial, Inc.

The Program

Saturday, January 27, 2018, at 8:30 pm

Matt Ray Plays Hoagy Carmichael

featuring Kat Edmonson

With special guest Bridget Everett

Antoine Drye, *Trumpet*

Marika Hughes, *Cello*

Danton Boller, *Bass*

Aaron Thurston, *Drums*

This evening's program is approximately 75 minutes long and will be performed without intermission.

Please make certain all your electronic devices are switched off.

Endowment support provided by Bank of America

This performance is made possible in part by the Josie Robertson Fund for Lincoln Center.

Steinway Piano

The Appel Room

Jazz at Lincoln Center's Frederick P. Rose Hall

Additional support for Lincoln Center's American Songbook is provided by Rita J. and Stanley H. Kaplan Family Foundation, The DuBose and Dorothy Heyward Memorial Fund, The Shubert Foundation, Great Performers Circle, Chairman's Council, and Friends of Lincoln Center.

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UPCOMING AMERICAN SONGBOOK EVENTS IN THE APPEL ROOM:

Wednesday, February 7, at 8:30 pm

Stew & The Negro Problem

Thursday, February 8, at 8:30 pm

Shelby Lynne & Allison Moorer

Friday, February 9, at 8:30 pm

Aaron Tveit

Saturday, February 10, at 8:30 pm

Rachel Bloom & Adam Schlesinger

Wednesday, February 14, at 8:30 pm

Lizz Wright

Thursday, February 15, at 8:30 pm

Justin Vivian Bond Sings The Carpenters

Friday, February 16, at 8:30 pm

The Blind Boys of Alabama

Saturday, February 17, at 8:30 pm

The Songs of Scott Frankel & Michael Korie

The Appel Room is located in Jazz at Lincoln Center's Frederick P. Rose Hall.

For tickets, call (212) 721-6500 or visit AmericanSongbook.org. Call the Lincoln Center Info Request Line at (212) 875-5766 or visit AmericanSongbook.org for complete program information.

Join the conversation: @LincolnCenter

We would like to remind you that the sound of coughing and rustling paper might distract the performers and your fellow audience members.

In consideration of the performing artists and members of the audience, those who must leave before the end of the performance are asked to do so between pieces. Flash photography and the use of recording equipment are not allowed in the building.

A Renaissance Composer Who Captured the Heartland

By James Gavin

In 1899, when composer Hoagy Carmichael was born, his native Indiana was a place of steamboats, washboards, and gin-guzzling codgers; all around him were the wide-open spaces of the Midwest. No wonder so many of his songs are snapshots of the heartlands: "Rockin' Chair," "(Up a) Lazy River," "Ole Buttermilk Sky," "Lazybones," and most famously "Stardust." Carmichael's music, said Johnny Mercer, his foremost lyricist, "is just American. It sounds like the South, like Indiana." His tunes zigzag and soar like jazz solos; the words imbue nature with human qualities. "Skylark," with lyrics by Mercer, portrays a singing bird as a soaring symbol of hope. In "Georgia on My Mind," written with his onetime roommate, Stuart Gorrell, the octave leap on "Georgia" is like an exclamation point in a song that bursts with longing for the warm embrace of home.

Carmichael left his influence all over the show-business map. He was there at the dawn of jazz, contributing songs, vocals, and piano to essential recordings by Bix Beiderbecke, Louis Armstrong, the Dorsey Brothers, and Paul Whiteman. During the swing era, Carmichael's love songs, such as "The Nearness of You" and "I Get Along Without You Very Well," became universal expressions of romance and loss.

He was almost as well known as a character actor. Onscreen he perfected a Hollywood archetype: the weathered, world-weary saloon pianist, staring up from the keyboard through a cloud of cigarette smoke. That's how he appears in *To Have and Have Not*, where he accompanies Lauren Bacall as she sings his song, "How Little We Know." The same film features "Baltimore Oriole," a dark, brooding, film noir-like story-song about tortured love. Carmichael was also a radio and recording star; his wry, offhanded singing style has inspired a long line of male jazz vocalists, notably Bob Dorough, Dave Frishberg, and John Pizzarelli.

Born in the college town of Bloomington, Hoagland Howard Carmichael grew up loving ragtime piano, a burgeoning musical sensation. Playing helped him support his impoverished family. Carmichael was smart and serious enough to earn a law degree from Indiana University; but in the early twenties, jazz took over his life. Carmichael developed a friendship with Bix Beiderbecke, the pioneering cornetist, for whom he was inspired to write a song, "Free Wheeling." Beiderbecke introduced him to Louis Armstrong, who began recording Carmichael's tunes. So did Bing Crosby. In 1930, "Stardust" exploded all over the charts, and he abandoned law for good.

In 1932, Carmichael became one of the first songwriters to work out of Manhattan's legendary Brill Building, which would replace Tin Pan Alley as the headquarters of America's hottest songwriters. Four years later he moved to Los Angeles, where Hollywood snapped him up. His collaborations with Mercer, Frank Loesser, Ned Washington, and others made him a very wealthy man. Yet he shrewdly maintained his down-home persona even as he hobnobbed with celebrity friends, collected an Oscar (for "In the Cool, Cool, Cool of the Evening," written with Mercer for the 1951 film *Here Comes the Groom*), and acquired a Beverly Hills home. "A nice shack," he declared, "but nowhere near as nice as I remember Grandma's place back home in Bloomington."

As the '50s wore on, pop music had seemingly left him behind. He ends his 1965 memoir on an uneasy note: "How appropriate Mitchell Parish's opening words [to "Stardust"] seem as I sit here trying to 'dig' the future: 'Sometimes I wonder...'" Yet by the time he died in 1981, Carmichael had seen his greatest songs come back to life, era after era. Ray Charles had made "Georgia on My Mind" an R&B hit in 1960; Willie Nelson took it to No. 1 on the 1978 *Billboard* country chart. "Skylark" opens Bette Midler's second album. On the Rolling Stones' *Live Licks*, Keith Richards performs "The Nearness of You." In recent years, Annie Lennox has recorded "Memphis in June"; Marianne Faithfull's latest CD includes "I Get Along Without You Very Well." On his 2017 collection *Triplicate*, Bob Dylan sings "Stardust."

Carmichael's songs made a deep impression on Matt Ray, a Brooklyn-based, award-winning jazz pianist and musical director for many cutting-edge figures in downtown cabaret. Tonight Ray will sing as well as play Hoagy's songs. Joining him is Kat Edmondson—a Sony Masterworks recording artist, a singing partner of Lyle Lovett, and a featured vocalist in Woody Allen's *Café Society* (2016). Once more, Carmichael's work is finding new life.

James Gavin's books include biographies of Peggy Lee, Chet Baker, and Lena Horne. He is a two-time recipient of ASCAP's Deems Taylor/Virgil Thomson Award for excellence in music journalism.

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Matt Ray

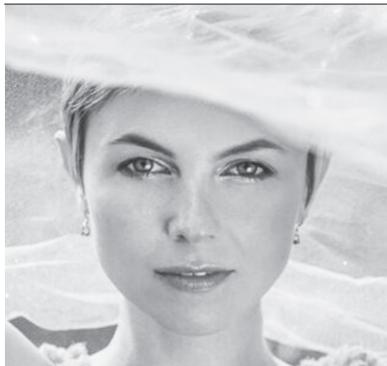


Matt Ray is a New York–based pianist, singer, songwriter, arranger, and music director whose arrangements and piano playing have been critically praised. For his work on Taylor Mac’s show *A 24-Decade History of Popular Music*, he won the 2017 Edward M. Kennedy Prize for Drama Inspired by American History. Notable live performances include playing at Carnegie Hall with Kat Edmonson, playing the Hollywood Bowl with reggae leg-

end Burning Spear, headlining his own shows at Joe’s Pub, touring the Caribbean and Central America with his piano trio as a U.S. Department of State Jazz Ambassador, performing at Lincoln Center with Joey Arias, and shows in Paris and the U.K. with Justin Vivian Bond.

Mr. Ray co-wrote songs for and performed in Bridget Everett’s one-hour Comedy Central special *Gynecological Wonder* as well as Everett’s hit show *Rock Bottom*. Other work includes music directing *The Billie Holiday Project* at the Apollo Theater in Harlem, penning a string and piano arrangement for the fifth season finale of Showtime’s *Nurse Jackie*, a month of shows at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe with Lady Rizo, and music directing Taylor Mac’s Obie award–winning play *The Lily’s Revenge* at the HERE Arts Center in New York. Mr. Ray has released two jazz albums as a leader: *We Got It!* (2001) and *Lost In New York* (2006); and one album of original pop/folk material called *Songs for the Anonymous* (2013). In addition, he has appeared on numerous albums as a sideman, including Edmonson’s *Way Down Low* (2012) and her upcoming album to be released in 2018.

Kat Edmonson



Critically acclaimed vocalist and songwriter, actor and dancer, Kat Edmonson has played major stages across the U.S., Europe, and Japan. She has appeared in major motion pictures, performed on radio and television, and released three groundbreaking albums to date. Her newest album, *Old Fashioned Gal*, is slated for release in spring 2018. The genre-defying artist appeared in Woody Allen’s film

Café Society (2016) as a jazz singer, and is featured on the official soundtrack performing her version of “Mountain Greenery.”

While promoting her chart-topping record, *The Big Picture* (2015), Ms. Edmonson appeared with Ray Benson & Asleep at the Wheel on the *Late Show with David Letterman* during the program’s final weeks. Her 2012 release, *Way Down Low*, drew critical praise. *Way Down Low* features a duet with fellow Texan Lyle Lovett of Ms. Edmonson’s original song “Long Way Home.” The Edmonson-Lovett musical kinship is also revealed in their duet of the Christmas classic “Baby, It’s Cold Outside,” recorded for Lovett’s album *Please Release Me* and performed together in 2010 on *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*.

Ms. Edmonson has been featured frequently on NPR, and performed on an episode of the nationally syndicated television show, *Austin City Limits*. She made her debut on the silver screen in the movie *Angels Sing* (2013), starring Harry Connick, Jr., and was twice a featured guest with Garrison Keillor on *A Prairie Home Companion*.

In addition to her own headline tours, Ms. Edmonson has gone on the road in support of Lovett, as well as Chris Isaak, Gary Clark, Jr., Jamie Cullum, and Shawn Colvin, and has opened shows for such luminaries as Smokey Robinson, George Benson, Michael Kiwanuka, Nick Lowe, and Willie Nelson. Her song “Lucky” has been featured in many feature films, television shows, and commercials, including the Coca-Cola “Footprints” ad from the 2014 Winter Olympics.

Bridget Everett



Bridget Everett’s film, theater and television credits include *Inside Amy Schumer*, *Lady Dynamite*, *Two Broke Girls*, *Sex and The City*, *Trainwreck*, *Girls*, and the off-Broadway smash *Rock Bottom*. More recently, Ms. Everett had leading roles in three feature films that were released in 2017, including *Patti Cake\$* and *Fun Mom Dinner*, both of which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival. Her new television show, *Love You More*,

recently debuted on Amazon to critical acclaim. Ms. Everett is not only the star of *Love You More* but also the co-creator, co-writer and co-executive producer with Michael Patrick King and Bobcat Goldthwait.

Ms. Everett continues to headline shows in the U.S. and has taken comedy festivals by storm all over the world, including the Oddball Comedy & Curiosity

Festival, the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, the Latitude Festival, Montreal's Just For Laughs, Bonnaroo, Outside Lands, Tenacious D's Festival Supreme, and SF Sketchfest. More recently, Ms. Everett returned from a London residency at the famed Soho Theatre.

Antoine Drye

Antoine Drye (trumpet) has worked across musical genres with a wide range of artists, including Ellis Marsalis, Delfeayo Marsalis, Jason Marsalis, Wycliffe Gordon, Wessell Anderson, Brian Blade, Victor Goines, John Boutte, Kermit Ruffins, Henry Butler, Daniel Lanois, Houston Person, Tim Warfield, Mark Gross, Lafayette Harris, Paul Simon, The Brand New Heavies, Mike Longo, Mark Whitfield, Taylor Mac, and Justin Vivian Bond, among many others. He has also played with Matt Ray in a range of musical settings and groups. Mr. Drye graduated from the North Carolina School of the Arts, earned his bachelor's degree at the University of New Orleans, and a master's degree from the Aaron Copland School of Music.

Marika Hughes

Marika Hughes (cello) is a cellist and singer, and has been a storyteller on The Moth. She has worked with Whitney Houston, Lou Reed, Anthony Braxton, Stevie Wonder, David Byrne, Adele, Taylor Mac, Henry Threadgill, and D'Angelo, among many others. On television she has performed on the David Letterman and Jimmy Fallon shows as well as *Saturday Night Live*. For the last 10 years, Ms. Hughes has worked with the NGO Triad Trust, making repeated trips to South Africa and Haiti as a music and self-care educator. She is a master teacher for Young Arts. A native New Yorker, Ms. Hughes has self-released three albums: *The Simplest Thing*, *Afterlife Music Radio* (both 2011), and *New York Nostalgia* (2016). She happily leads her band Bottom Heavy and The New String Quartet.

Danton Boller

Danton Boller (bass) has made his mark on the New York City music scene since arriving in 1997. Mentored by the famed Dave Brubeck Quartet bassist Eugene Wright, Mr. Boller brings musical depth with historical reference and a modern sensibility to every performance. He was a member of the Roy Hargrove Quintet and recorded two highly lauded records with the band, one of which was nominated for a Grammy. He is featured with the Roy Hargrove Quintet on the DVD release *Live at the New Morning*. Mr. Boller's versatility has led him to the stage with inimitable artists such as Bridget Everett, Taylor Mac, Alexi Murdoch, Elysian Fields, Joey Arias, Justin Vivian Bond, Matt Ray, Q-Tip, Keller Williams, Robert Glasper, Jon Fishman, Seun Kuti, Rickie Lee Jones, Kat Edmonson, and Patti Labelle. Mr. Boller leads The Sides, an instrumental cinematic soundscape project that illuminates electro, avant-jazz, dub, Afrobeat, and rock, and actively records and produces in his New York studio. He co-produced Edmonson's critically acclaimed *Way Down Low* (Sony Records)

and recently produced the 2017 *FELA aKUsTic* EP featuring Sahr Ngaujah (the lead of Broadway's *Fela!*), released on the OKAY Africa label.

Aaron Thurston

Massachusetts native Aaron Thurston (drums) is known for his tasteful, understated musicianship. He has toured more than 25 countries as a U.S. Department of State Jazz Ambassador, leading his own group, and playing in the bands of pianists Matt Ray and Richard Doron Johnson. In the mid-2000s, Mr. Thurston was a touring member of New York City indie rock darlings French Kicks. With them he honed an approach of using samples and drums in a live setting, which led to a new approach to the band's stage show based on his playing the parts of multiple musicians at once. Currently, Mr. Thurston works in Kat Edmonson's band, playing drums and percussion, and collaborating on arrangements. He acted as associate producer on Edmonson's forthcoming album, *Old Fashioned Gal*, to be released this spring. Mr. Thurston is also a premier talent booker for private events. His agency, Lucy Music, represents acclaimed New York-based bands, including Baby Soda Jazz Band and his own '80s dance cover band, The Engagements.

American Songbook

In 1998, Lincoln Center launched American Songbook, dedicated to the celebration of popular American song. Designed to highlight and affirm the creative mastery of America's songwriters from their emergence at the turn of the 19th century up through the present, American Songbook spans all styles and genres, from the form's early roots in Tin Pan Alley and Broadway to the eclecticism of today's singer-songwriters. American Songbook also showcases the outstanding interpreters of popular song, including established and emerging concert, cabaret, theater, and songwriter performers.

Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Inc.

Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts (LCPA) serves three primary roles: presenter of artistic programming, national leader in arts and education and community relations, and manager of the Lincoln Center campus. A presenter of more than 3,000 free and ticketed events, performances, tours, and educational activities annually, LCPA offers 15 programs, series, and festivals including American Songbook, Great Performers, Lincoln Center Out of Doors, Midsummer Night Swing, the Mostly Mozart Festival, and the White Light Festival, as well as the Emmy Award-winning *Live From Lincoln Center*, which airs nationally on PBS. As manager of the Lincoln Center campus, LCPA provides support and services for the Lincoln Center complex and the 11 resident organizations. In addition, LCPA led a \$1.2 billion campus renovation, completed in October 2012.

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For American Songbook

Rocky Noel, *Lighting Design*

Scott Stauffer, *Sound Design*

Janet Rucker, *Company Manager*

Rocky Noel

Rocky Noel is thrilled to be returning to American Songbook. Mostly recently he has been designing and working at Club Cumming, Alan Cumming's new club on Manhattan's Lower East Side. Mr. Noel calls New York City home, with projects here and around the globe with artists such as Kristin Chenoweth, Liza Minnelli, Barbra Streisand, Chita Rivera, Christine Ebersole, Stephanie J. Block, and Joel Grey, among many others.

Scott Stauffer

Scott Stauffer has been the sound designer for Lincoln Center's American Songbook since 1999. His Broadway design credits include *A Free Man of Color*, *The Rivals*, *Contact* (also in London and Tokyo), *Marie Christine*, *Twelfth Night*, and *Jekyll & Hyde*. Off-Broadway Mr. Stauffer has worked on *Mother Freaking Hood*, *Subverted*, *Promises*, *Hereafter*, *A Minister's Wife*, *Bernarda Alba*, *Third*, *Belle Epoque*, *Big Bill*, *Elegies*, *Hello Again*, *The Spitfire Grill*, *Pageant*, and *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*. His regional credits include productions at the Manhattan School of Music, Capitol Repertory Theatre, University of Michigan, Hanger Theatre, Berkshire Theatre Festival, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, and Alley Theatre. His concert credits include many Lincoln

Center galas, as well as the Actors Fund concerts of *Frank Loesser*, *Broadway 101*, *Hair*, and *On the Twentieth Century*. At Carnegie Hall he has worked with Chita Rivera and Brian Stokes Mitchell. As a sound engineer, Mr. Stauffer has worked on *The Lion King*, *Juan Darién*, *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*, *Carousel*, *Once on This Island*, and the original *Little Shop of Horrors*.

A Salute to American Songbook 2018 Sponsors



Kevin Yatarola

Liz Callaway at The Appel Room during last season's American Songbook

Lincoln Center's American Songbook features singers and songwriters performing a wide range of musical styles and traditions in some of our most intimate venues. It's now been sharing extraordinary musical moments for 19 seasons, thanks to the support of individual contributors, foundations, and other generous benefactors.

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As always, we could not present any of the performances on our stages without our Board of Trustees, as well as membership support from the Great Performers Circle, the Chairman's Council, and the Friends of Lincoln Center. Learn more or join now by visiting Support.LincolnCenter.org.

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