

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

Friday, February 16, 2018, at 8:30 pm

The Blind Boys of Alabama

Joey Williams, *Musical Director, Guitar, and Vocals*

Matt Hopkins, *Keyboards*

Steve Ray Ladson, *Bass*

Austin Moore, *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.

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.

Public support is provided by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

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Artist catering provided by Zabar's and Zabars.com

UPCOMING AMERICAN SONGBOOK EVENTS IN THE APPEL ROOM:

Saturday, February 17, at 8:30 pm

The Songs of Scott Frankel & Michael Korie

IN THE ROSE THEATER:

Tuesday, March 27, at 8:00 pm

Rosanne Cash

Randy Newman's performance, scheduled for March 26 in the Rose Theater, has been cancelled.

The Appel Room and Rose Theater are 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.



The Blind Boys of Alabama

The Blind Boys of Alabama are recognized worldwide as living legends of gospel music. Celebrated by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the Recording Academy with Lifetime Achievement Awards, inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame, and winners of five Grammy Awards, they have attained the highest levels of achievement in a career that spans over 70 years. The Blind Boys are known for crossing multiple musical boundaries with their remarkable interpretations of everything from traditional gospel favorites to contemporary spiritual material by songwriters such as Eric Clapton, Prince, and Tom Waits. The group has appeared on recordings with a number of diverse artists, including Lou Reed, Peter Gabriel, Bonnie Raitt, Willie Nelson, Aaron Neville, Susan Tedeschi, Ben Harper, Patty Griffin, and Taj Mahal.

The Blind Boys have also appeared on the Grammy Awards, *60 Minutes*, *The Colbert Report*, *The Tonight Show*, and on many other television shows. The group's most recent album, *Almost Home*, was inspired by the life stories of the two surviving founding members: Jimmy Carter and Clarence Fountain. A number of outstanding contemporary songwriters, including John Leventhal, Marc Cohn, and Valerie June, wrote original songs for the album based on interviews with the two octogenarians.

The current members of The Blind Boys of Alabama are Jimmy Carter, Eric "Ricky" McKinnie, Ben Moore, Paul Beasley, and Joey Williams.

Joey Williams

Born in Brooklyn and raised in Queens, Joey Williams (musical director, guitar, vocals) began his musical career by singing and playing his way through the deep-rooted American tradition of soul gospel with his father's quartet group, The Northern Aires. Next came a stint with the legendary Mighty Clouds of Joy, followed by his move to The Blind Boys of Alabama in 1992,

erving as their musical director from 1999 to the present. Since that time, Mr. Williams has helped bridge the gap between the Blind Boys and many other great artists, including Robert Randolph, Peter Gabriel, Ben Harper, Tom Petty, Mavis Staples, Lou Reed, Stevie Wonder, Tom Jones, Buddy Guy, Neil Diamond, Solomon Burke, and many more.

Matt Hopkins

A native New Yorker, Matt Hopkins (keyboards) began his musical journey as a child listening to the old-school records his mother and father used to play. He learned to play the piano at age 14, taking private piano lessons at the Palomba Academy of Music. Mr. Hopkins began his live performance career by playing the piano at church, and since then, has performed on tour with such artists as Jared Evan and The Blind Boys of Alabama throughout the U.S. and internationally. Influenced by such artists as Stevie Wonder, Ray Charles, Nat King Cole, and Oscar Peterson, Mr. Hopkins's talent spans multiple genres, and his goal is to have his music heard worldwide through playing and producing.

Steve Ray Ladson

Born and raised in Hopkins, South Carolina, Steve Ray Ladson (bass) grew up playing music and quickly became a multi-instrumentalist (piano, organ, guitar, and bass). He first began performing in 1996 as a part of a quartet gospel group with his brother and cousins. When he began touring with more established artists, Mr. Ladson acquired the nickname "Youngsta," as he was always the youngest touring member of those veteran acts. For the last several years, Mr. Ladson has toured with The Blind Boys of Alabama, while occasionally playing bass for Robert Randolph and the Family Band. When not on tour, he works in the studio, where he has produced recordings for several artists.

Austin Moore

Born and raised in Louisville, Kentucky, Austin Moore (drums) began performing in his church before moving to Nashville, Tennessee in 2000 to further pursue his musical career. There, he quickly earned a job as the main drummer for Black Entertainment Television's *Bobby Jones Gospel* show, where he remained until 2012. This show further opened the door into the gospel world for Mr. Moore, affording him the opportunity to meet and work with several Grammy Award-winning artists, including Rev. Milton Biggum and the Georgia Mass Choir, Donnie McClurkin, The Clark Sisters, Shirley Caesar, and his current primary gig, The Blind Boys of Alabama.

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.

Lincoln Center Programming Department

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Dorian Mueller, *House Program Coordinator*

For American Songbook

Matt Berman, *Lighting Design*

Scott Stauffer, *Sound Design*

Janet Rucker, *Company Manager*

Matt Berman

Matt Berman is the resident lighting designer for Lincoln Center's American Songbook. He recently designed the lighting for Kristin Chenoweth's *My Love Letter to Broadway* at the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre, and for "Meow Meow's Pandemonium" with the London Philharmonic Orchestra at Royal Festival Hall. Mr. Berman continues his design work for Chenoweth, Liza Minnelli, Alan Cumming, Meow Meow, Brian Stokes Mitchell, and Elaine Paige on the road. Through his work with ASCAP and several U.S.-based charities, he has designed for a starry roster that includes Bernadette Peters, Barbra Streisand, Reba McEntire, Melissa Errico, Deborah Voigt, Michael Urie, Stevie Wonder, India.Arie, Garth Brooks, Billy Joel, and Sting. His international touring schedule has allowed him to design for iconic venues such as Royal Albert Hall, Paris Opera, Royal Theatre Carré in Amsterdam, the Sporting Club in Monte Carlo, the Acropolis, the famed amphitheater in Taormina, Sicily, as well as Luna Park in Buenos Aires, and the Sydney Opera House. Closer to home, he has done work for the Hollywood Bowl, Alice Tully Hall, and Carnegie Hall. Other Broadway credits include the Tony Award-winning *Liza's at the Palace*, *Bea Arthur on Broadway* at the Booth Theatre, Nancy LaMott's *Just in Time for Christmas*, and *Kathy Griffin Wants a Tony* at the Belasco Theater.

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*.