

Lincoln Center's

January 30–March 4, 2019

# American Songbook

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

The Program

**Saturday, February 16, 2019 at 8:30 pm**

## Desmond Child

With special guest **Lena Hall**

**Bette Sussman**, *Musical Director, Keyboards, and Vocals*

**Tabitha Fair**, *Vocals*

**Justin Benlolo**, *Vocals and Guitar*

**Ben Butler**, *Guitar*

**Richard Hammond**, *Bass*

**Alec Shantzis**, *Keyboards*

**Frank Vilardi**, *Drums*

**Clay Perry**, *Arranger*

*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.*

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Lead support provided by PGIM, the global investment management businesses of Prudential Financial, Inc.

Endowment support provided by Bank of America

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

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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, Lincoln Center Spotlight, Chairman's Council, and Friends of Lincoln Center

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Nespresso is the Official Coffee of Lincoln Center

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Artist catering provided by Zabar's and Zabars.com

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## UPCOMING AMERICAN SONGBOOK EVENTS:

*Wednesday, February 20 at 7:30 pm in Alice Tully Hall*

**An Evening with Christine Ebersole**

*Thursday, February 21 at 7:30 pm in the David Rubenstein Atrium (FREE)*

**Vuyo Sotash**

## IN THE APPEL ROOM:

*Wednesday, February 27 at 8:30 pm*

**Gaby Moreno**

*Thursday, February 28 at 8:30 pm*

**Son Lux**

*Friday, March 1 at 8:30 pm*

**Oscar Isaac**

*Saturday, March 2 at 8:30 pm*

**Martha Plimpton: All the Presidents Mann**

*Monday, March 4 at 8:30 pm*

**Joyce DiDonato: Songplay**

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

Join the conversation: @LincolnCenter

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*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. The taking of photographs and the use of recording equipment are not allowed in the building.*

## Desmond Child



Grammy-winning and Emmy-nominated songwriter-producer Desmond Child is one of music's most accomplished hitmakers. He is also a film and television producer, recording artist, performer, author, and motivational speaker. His credits appear on more than 80 Billboard Top 40 singles spanning five decades, including "Livin' on a Prayer," "You Give Love a Bad Name," "I Was Made for Lovin' You," "Dude (Looks Like a Lady)," "Livin' La Vida Loca,"

"Waking Up in Vegas." and many more. From Aerosmith to Zedd, his genre-defying collaborations include Bon Jovi, KISS, Cher, Joan Jett, Michael Bolton, Cyndi Lauper, Ricky Martin, Katy Perry, Kelly Clarkson, Carrie Underwood, Garth Brooks, Meat Loaf, Christina Aguilera, Sia, Mickey Mouse, and Kermit the Frog, selling more than 500 million records worldwide with downloads, YouTube views, and streaming plays in the billions. Mr. Child was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame and serves on its board of directors as well as the board of ASCAP. In 2018 he received ASCAP's prestigious Founders Award, celebrating 40 years as a proud member of ASCAP. He also co-founded the Latin Songwriters Hall of Fame, where he serves as chairman/CEO. Mr. Child has recently completed his upcoming autobiography *Livin' on a Prayer: Big Songs, Big Life* with David Ritz. He also wrote and co-produced "Lady Liberty" on Barbra Streisand's new album, *Walls*.

## Lena Hall



Lena Hall is a Tony Award winner and Grammy nominee who recently received widespread critical acclaim for her feature film debut as the title role in *Becks* (winner of the U.S. Fiction Award at the L.A. Film Festival). Following her Tony-winning Broadway run in *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, Ms. Hall toured North America with Josh Groban on his *Stages* tour, and portrayed the dual starring roles of Hedwig and Yitzhak in *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* in Los Angeles and

San Francisco. She originated the role of Nicola in the Tony-winning musical *Kinky Boots*, and has been seen on HBO's *Girls*, Amazon's *Good Girls Revolt*, and can be heard voicing the fan-favorite role of Countess Coloratura on *My Little Pony: Friendship Is Magic*. Ms. Hall starred opposite Marisa Tomei in Lincoln Center Theater's *How to Transcend a Happy Marriage*. Her two solo musical revues *Sin & Salvation* (at the legendary Café Carlyle) and *The Villa Satori: Growing up Haight Ashbury* both played sold-out shows and received rave reviews. Ms. Hall's year-long musical passion project, *Obsessed*, pays tribute to her greatest musical inspirations with 12 EP releases over the course of 2018 that are accompanied by 54 music videos and a live concert tour. Ms. Hall can next be seen in her first series regular television role on TNT's highly anticipated *Snowpiercer* opposite Jennifer Connelly and Daveed Diggs. The series is set to air this summer.

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## **Bette Sussman**

A gifted and versatile musician, Bette Sussman (musical director, keyboards, vocals) studied at Oberlin College before returning to New York to study with the great Sanford Gold. It was during this time that Ms. Sussman took the New York studio and club scene by storm. She has served as musical director/pianist for legendary artists including Bette Midler, Whitney Houston, Carly Simon, Darlene Love, Christine Ebersole, Patti LuPone, Billy Porter, Martin Short, Bridget Everett, and many more. In addition, Ms. Sussman has played and toured with Cyndi Lauper, Desmond Child, Patti Austin, Ivan Neville, Michael Franks, Ronnie Spector, Keb' Mo', Isaac Hayes, Aretha Franklin, Bebe & Cece Winans, Toby Lightman, David Broza, and many more. On Broadway, she has conducted and/or played in *Leader of the Pack*, *Godspell*, *Waitress*, and the original *The Color Purple*. Other recent projects include co-producing the recently released *Keys to the City* compilation, featuring her track "New York State of Mind," as well as co-founding and appearing with renowned New York band The Bev Leslies and Beauty & La Biche. Ms. Sussman's honors include two Emmy Awards and two BMI Awards for her compositions on *One Life to Live* and *As the World Turns*. Having worked with Desmond Child extensively in the late '70s, she is thrilled to be playing his incredible body of work with him.

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## **Tabitha Fair**

Tabitha Fair (vocals) has written, performed, and toured with some of the music industry's finest artists. She began her career touring the world with Amy Grant and singing on many country and gospel records in Nashville. She has performed with Faith Hill, Wynonna Judd, Lee Ann Womack, Amy Grant, Third Day, and Cece Winans. Ms. Fair has also been featured on stage and in the studio with musical greats Sting, Sam Moore, Beyoncé, James Taylor, Fall Out Boy, U2, Rosanne Cash, Bette Midler, Citizen Cope, Lenny Kravitz, Bruce

Springsteen, John Legend, The Roots, Jennifer Hudson, Michael McDonald, Elton John, the 2018 Grammy Awards with Lady Gaga, Céline Dion, Mary J. Blige, and Snoop Dogg. Shortly after touring with Grant, Ms. Fair continued to explore her gospel roots both as a songwriter and performer and co-founded Avalon, the highest-selling contemporary Christian group of all time. Ms. Fair has co-written and recorded with Carole King on “If We Get Through This,” which was featured in the movie *Sum of All Fears* featuring Ben Affleck and Morgan Freeman. Her most recent tours include Idina Menzel, Rascal Flatts, the 2015 “Riot” Tour, Rita Wilson and Chicago, Melissa Etheridge, Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith’s 2016 Christmas tour, and Grant and Vince Gill’s 2017 Christmas at The Ryman. Recently Ms. Fair released her duo record with Victoria Venier “TnT Duo” entitled “Catch the Boom.”

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## **Justin Benlolo**

A Canadian from Markham, Ontario, Justin Benlolo (vocals, guitar) discovered his voice at age eight by way of musical theater. At the age of 11, his late Uncle Sy introduced him to Led Zeppelin, Ozzy Osbourne, and KISS, among other bands who all influenced him to pick up a guitar and teach himself how to play by ear. After discovering his passion for playing the guitar and singing, at just 12 years old he relocated to New York City, where he recorded his first album and signed his first production deal. Soon after Mr. Benlolo opened for Mary J. Blige at The Government in downtown Toronto and for Akon in West Palm Beach. He recently recorded an album with his band BRKN LOVE and is signing to a label that is part of Universal Music Group.

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## **Ben Butler**

Ben Butler (guitar) is a New York City–based session guitarist, sideman, and composer. He has toured the world with George Michael, Sting, Chris Botti, Suzanne Vega, Paula Cole, Dar Williams, and Jonatha Brooke and the East Village Opera Company. He has also performed on television and at special events backing artists such as Stevie Wonder, Annie Lennox, Rod Stewart, Joss Stone, Desmond Child, Sheryl Crow, Burt Bacharach, Herbie Hancock, Lyle Lovett, Dionne Warwick, Joan Osborne, Patti Austin, Josh Groban, Andrea Bocelli, Bono and Edge, Miley Cyrus, Jessie Jay, and many more. As a composer his work can be heard on films such as *The Heights*, *The Insurgents*, and shows on the Discovery network. His guitar playing is heard on films such as *Our Souls at Night*, *The Greatest Showman*, *Zoolander 2*, *29 Palms*, and *Zodiac*, as well as many pop and singer-songwriter albums and cast recordings. On Broadway he has been a member of the orchestra for *Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark* (music by Bono and The Edge), *The Last Ship* (music by Sting), and currently Tina Fey’s *Mean Girls*. He has also released a solo CD entitled *Truth In Guitars*.

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## **Richard Hammond**

Born in New Zealand, Richard Hammond (bass) is an electric and acoustic bassist currently living in Brooklyn. He is the Grammy Award–winning bassist with *Hamilton*, and has toured with Joan Osborne, Patti Austin, Nena, Erasure, Raul Midón, Lizz Wright, David Johansen, Angeliqe Kidjo, Jonatha Brooke, Dar Williams, and the East Village Opera Company, among others. He has recorded on Grammy-nominated albums by Joan Osborne, Midón, and the East Village Opera Company, and worked with legendary producers Arif Mardin, Neil Dorfsman, Steve Lillywhite, and Tony Visconti. He has also recorded on several major motion picture soundtracks, including *The Incredibles 2*, *American Made*, Ridley Scott's *American Gangster*, *Taking Woodstock*, *Rumor Has It*, *The Marc Pease Experience*, and Disney's *Enchanted*. Crossing a broad range of musical genres, he has performed with Bono and The Edge, Carlos Santana, Tired Pony (members of Snow Patrol, REM, Belle & Sebastian), Gavin DeGraw, Robert Randolph, Bob Moses, Louis Bellson, Luciana Souza, and Mose Allison.

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## **Alec Shantzis**

Alec Shantzis (keyboards) began making music at the age of five. A graduate of the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music jazz program, his career has led him to tour and perform as a keyboardist with Anita Baker, Ashford & Simpson, Patti Austin, Will Downing, Phyllis Hyman, Kool & the Gang, Lalah Hathaway, Rachele Ferrell, Najee, Dianne Reeves, and others. Mr. Shantzis has recorded with Al Green, Natalie Cole, Mariah Carey, Daryl Hall, CeCe Peniston, Robin S., The Brand New Heavies, Spice Girls, David Morales, Frankie Knuckles, and other artists. He music-directed the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's tribute to Earth, Wind, and Fire, and was awarded a New York Emmy Award for Best Composition in 1996 for the theme to the television show *Giants Today*. Mr. Shantzis's compositions have charted in the top 100, reached No. 1 on the dance charts, and appeared in the film *The Devil Wears Prada*. He performs as a keyboardist at Valerie Simpson's weekly open mic night at her New York City venue Ashford & Simpson's Sugar Bar.

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## **Frank Vilardi**

Frank Vilardi (drums) has played in the studio or on tour for Rod Stewart, Céline Dion, Phoebe Snow, Bobby McFerrin, Suzanne Vega, Shawn Colvin, They Might Be Giants, Judy Collins, Rosanne Cash, Jewel, Curtis Stigers, The Roches, The Bacon Brothers, Willie Nile, Southside Johnny, Donny Osmond, David Broza, Freedy Johnston, Gloria Gaynor, Darlene Love, Tom Rush, Lucy Kaplansky, Jim Carroll, Rosie O'Donnell, Martin Briley, Laura Pausini, Aztec Two-Step, and more. Mr. Vilardi's television appearances include shows with David Letterman, Jay Leno, Arsenio Hall, Conan O'Brien, NBC's *Today*, CBS's

*The Early Show*, *The View*, and *Top of the Pops*. He has also played on dozens of film soundtracks and hundreds of commercials as well as several Broadway shows.

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## **Clay Perry**

Clay Perry (arranger) has had his arrangements recorded by the likes of Barbra Streisand, Michael Bolton, Gladys Knight, and the soul man Sam Moore. He can be heard playing keyboards on records by Natalie Cole, Beyoncé, Luis Fonsi, and Christina Aguilera, among many others. Mr. Perry is currently touring the world with Julio Iglesias, whom he has been accompanying for the last ten years. He has a doctorate in jazz piano from the University of Miami.

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## **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.

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## **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**

Jane Moss, *Ehrenkranz Artistic Director*

Hanako Yamaguchi, *Director, Music Programming*

Jon Nakagawa, *Director, Contemporary Programming*

Jill Sternheimer, *Director, Public Programming*

Jordana Leigh, *Director, David Rubenstein Atrium*

Charles Cermele, *Producer, Contemporary Programming*

Mauricio Lomelin, *Producer, Contemporary Programming*

Walker Beard, *Production Manager*

Andrew C. Elsesser, *Associate Director, Programming*

Luna Shyr, *Senior Editor*

Regina Grande Rivera, *Associate Producer*

Viviana Benitez, *Associate Producer, David Rubenstein Atrium*

Olivia Fortunato, *Programming Assistant*

James Fry, *Technical Manager, Contemporary Programming*

Charmaine Marshall, *Assistant to the Artistic Director*

Jessica Braham, *House Seat Coordinator*

Elizabeth Lee, *Company Manager, Contemporary Programming*

Lucy Powis, *House Program Coordinator*

### **For American Songbook**

Matt Berman, *Lighting Design*

Scott Stauffer, *Sound Design*

## **Matt Berman**

Matt Berman is the resident lighting designer for Lincoln Center's American Songbook. He recently designed the lighting for South Florida Symphony Orchestra's production of *Porgy & Bess*. His most recent Broadway credit was Kristin Chenoweth's *My Love Letter to Broadway* at the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre, and, in London, 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 several U.S.-based charities, Mr. Berman 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, Mr. Berman has done work in such iconic venues as 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

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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 Denizen Theater, 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*.