

Lincoln Center's

January 22–February 29, 2020

# American Songbook

*Lead Support provided by Holland America Line*

The Program

**Friday, February 28, 2020 at 8:30 pm**

## Ali Stroker

David Perlow, *Director*

John Fischer, *Music Director and Piano*

Jonathan David Russell, *Violin*

Jerry DeVore, *Bass*

Zachary Eldridge, *Drums*

The American Songbook presentation of Ali Stroker is sponsored by Accenture.

*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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Endowment support provided by Bank of America

Corporate support provided by Morgan Stanley

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

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*Steinway Piano*

The Appel Room

Jazz at Lincoln Center's Frederick P. Rose Hall

## American Songbook

Additional support for Lincoln Center's American Songbook is provided by Christina and Robert Baker, EY, Rita J. and Stanley H. Kaplan Family Foundation, The DuBose and Dorothy Heyward Memorial Fund, The Shubert Foundation, Great Performers Circle, Lincoln Center Patrons and Lincoln Center Members

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

NewYork-Presbyterian is the Official Hospital of Lincoln Center

Artist catering provided by Zabar's and Zabars.com

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### **UPCOMING AMERICAN SONGBOOK EVENT IN THE APPEL ROOM:**

*Saturday, February 29 at 8:30 pm*

**Martin Sexton**

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.*

# Meet the Artists



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## **Ali Stroker**

Groundbreaking performer Ali Stroker won the 2019 Tony Award for Best Featured Actress in a Musical for her role as Ado Annie in Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Oklahoma!* She made history as the first actor in a wheelchair to appear on Broadway when she originated the role of Anna in Deaf West's acclaimed 2015 revival of *Spring Awakening*.

Ms. Stroker is also the first actress in a wheelchair to graduate from NYU's Tisch drama program. She starred in 12 episodes of the talent competition *The Glee Project*, which led to a guest role on Fox's *Glee*. She then recurred in the Kyra Sedgwick ABC series *Ten Days in the Valley*, and she has guest-starred on Fox's *Lethal Weapon*, CBS's *Instinct*, and Comedy Central's *Drunk History*. Ms. Stroker earned a Barrymore Award nomination for starring as Olive in *The Twenty-Fifth Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. In addition to her work on and off-Broadway, she has soloed at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., New York's Town Hall, and Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.

Ms. Stroker has been a co-chair of Women Who Care, which supports United Cerebral Palsy of New York City. She co-founded Be More Heroic, an anti-bullying campaign that tours the country connecting with thousands of students each year. In addition, she has led theater workshops for South African women and children affected by HIV and AIDS with the group ARTS InsideOut. Ms. Stroker's dedication to improving lives through the arts, disabled or not, is captured in her motto: "Making Your Limitations Your Opportunities."

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### **David Perlow** (*Director*)

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David Perlow is the artistic director of TAG Theater Co. and studio director of The Actor's Gym. Broadway: *La Cage Aux Folles* (2010), *Casa Valentina*, *The Humans*, *Blackbird*, and *Once on This Island*. Other credits include *Wicked*, Roundabout Theater Company, The Public Theater, NY Theater Workshop, and Manhattan Theatre Club.

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### **John Fischer** (*Music Director, Piano*)

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John Fischer has been a music director and pianist in New York City for more than 20 years. This will be his 13th year as music director for *Broadway Rising Stars* at Town Hall, where he first met Ali Stroker as a Rising Star. He spent seven seasons as music director for the highly acclaimed musical theater program at Jacob's Pillow, where he most recently collaborated with Stephen Schwartz and Chet Walker on a new ballet, *The Boy on the Roof*. This past year, he appeared as a guest artist with the Santa Ana Symphony Orchestra in *Music of the Knights* and the Signature Symphony in Tulsa celebrating Bernstein and Robbins. He regularly appears at Feinstein's/54 Below, music-directing everything from Sondheim to Sinatra. Recent highlights include Alice Ripley and Emily Skinner's sold-out run of *Unattached* and the 25th anniversary concert of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, part of the award-winning 54 Sings series for which he also music directed *Applause*, *Mack & Mabel*, and *Kiss of the Spiderwoman*. His other New York credits include music directing numerous *Broadway Originals* concerts at Town Hall, pianist for the last Broadway revival of *West Side Story*, pianist/conductor for *Talk of the Town* at Bank Street Theatre, *Take Me Along* at Irish Rep, *Naked Boys Singing* at New World Stages, and many more. He has been on staff as a music director or accompanist for Applause NY, AMDA, HB Studios, the New School, The Growing Studio, and the Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute.

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### **Jonathan David Russell** (*Violin*)

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Jonathan David Russell is an award-winning multi-instrumentalist, film composer, and songwriter. Before he turned 13, Mr. Russell had already caught the eyes of jazz musicians Wynton Marsalis, Bucky Pizzarelli, and the late Les Paul. He has also gained recognition at jazz festivals in Hungary and across the U.S. He has recorded with jazz greats such as Ed Polcer, Joe Ascione, Nikki Parrott, and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra. During the summer, Mr. Russell performs live concerts in Times Square in association with the Music Under New York program. In his film-scoring work, he has worked both individually on several independent films as well as with Wayne Sharp on the film *Aarakshan*. Most recently, Mr. Russell wrote and performed music for Tim Horton's national ad campaign featuring the true story of hockey legend Wayne Gretzky's rise to fame.

## **Jerry DeVore** *(Bass)*

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A master of styles, Jerry DeVore is an accomplished electric and acoustic bass player. He is also a composer, arranger, and conductor with an eclectic background from rock to jazz to gospel to symphony orchestras. He is a native of Peoria, Illinois, where he earned a bachelor's in music performance from Bradley University. Before coming to New York City, Mr. DeVore toured with the United States Air Force Band. His entry to NYC began with the graduate program at New York University, where he graduated with a master's in jazz performance and was given the award for Outstanding Jazz Studies. His performance career has been prodigious, touring the U.S., Canada, South America, and Europe. He regularly performs on Broadway and at all the top NYC venues. He is currently focused on recording his first solo album.

## **Zachary Eldridge** *(Drums)*

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Zachary Eldridge's work spans the studio, the stage, and the pit. He can also be seen on several TV shows and all over the world, backing many incredible artists including Clinton Curtis, The Polka Brothers, America's Sweethearts, The Midtown Men, The Blaire Reinhard Band, and many more. All over New York City, Mr. Eldridge performs in venues from the Firehouse Space to Carnegie Hall and everywhere in between. He also music directs many artists and is fast becoming a familiar face behind the kit.

## **American Songbook**

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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.**

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Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts (LCPA) serves three primary roles: presenter of artistic programming, national leader in arts and education and community engagement, and manager of the Lincoln Center campus. A presenter of thousands of free and ticketed events, performances, tours, and educational activities annually, LCPA offers a variety of festivals and programs, including American Songbook, Avery Fisher Career Grants and Artist program, David Rubenstein Atrium programming, Great Performers, Lincoln Center Emerging Artist Awards, Lincoln Center Out of Doors, Lincoln Center Vera List Art Project, LC Kids, Midsummer Night Swing, Mostly Mozart Festival, White Light Festival, the Emmy Award-winning *Live From Lincoln Center*, which airs nationally on PBS, and Lincoln Center Education, which is celebrating more than four decades enriching the lives of students, educators, and lifelong learners. As manager of the Lincoln Center campus, LCPA provides support and services for the Lincoln Center complex and the 11 resident organizations: The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Film at Lincoln Center, Jazz at Lincoln Center, The Juilliard School, Lincoln Center Theater, The Metropolitan Opera, New York City Ballet, New York Philharmonic, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, School of American Ballet, and Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.

**Lincoln Center Programming Department**

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Annie Guo, *Production Coordinator*

Shade Adeyemo, *Programming Coordinator, David Rubenstein Atrium*

Charmaine Marshall, *Assistant to the Artistic Director*

**For American Songbook**

Matt Berman, *Lighting Design*

Scott Stauffer, *Sound Design*

Paloma Estevez, *Company Manager, Contemporary Programming*

Roshni Lavelle, *House Seat Coordinator*

## Matt Berman

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Matt Berman is the resident lighting designer for Lincoln Center's American Songbook. He most recently designed the lighting for Kristin Chenoweth's *For the Girls* at the Nederlander Theatre. In the summer he designs in Provincetown for producer Mark Cortale's concerts and shows at the both the Art House and Town Hall. This past spring, Mr. Berman had the honor of designing the lighting and sound for South Florida Symphony Orchestra's remarkable production of *Porgy & Bess*, directed by Richard Jay-Alexander. This past summer he designed a small promotional tour of the U.S. with Meow Meow and Thomas Lauderdale of Pink Martini for their collaboration album, *Hotel L'Amour*. Additionally he has designed shows with Meow Meow for the London Philharmonic Orchestra and many other concert appearances.

Mr. Berman's international touring with stars such as Liza Minnelli, Kristin Chenoweth, Alan Cumming, Meow Meow, and Elaine Paige has allowed him to design for such iconic venues as Royal Albert Hall, the Paris Opera, Olympia Theater in Paris, Royal Theatre Carré in Amsterdam, the Sporting Club in Monte Carlo, The Acropolis, the famed amphitheater in Taormina, Sicily, Luna Park in Buenos Aires, the Sydney Opera House and, closer to home, the Hollywood Bowl, Alice Tully Hall, and Carnegie Hall. Other Broadway credits include Kristin Chenoweth's *My Love Letter to Broadway* at the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre, 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*.