

Believe NYC and Educational Travel Adventures present:

ARTS for AUTISM



A Concert to Benefit Autism Speaks

Hosted by Kelli O'Hara

June 20th 2016

Gershwin Theatre

New York City

A word from the producers...



Michael Holzer



Jacque Carnahan

Welcome to the historic Gershwin Theatre and the first annual Arts for Autism Benefit Concert! Two weeks ago, as we sat working on this program, it struck us that our dream was finally happening. This magical evening has been a full three years in the making. How surreal that what began as a tiny idea is about to take place in a very grand way.

It was only days after the first Believe NYC Benefit Concert that we wondered how we could make an even greater impact on the world. This first benefit, at the Triad on 72nd Street, raised money and awareness for the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network and the Believe NYC scholarship fund. There were only about 80 people in the audience, but it was transformative. The audience was moved. It meant something. And it did something good. We were hooked! Michael said out loud, "We should do this again. But this time we should do it at Carnegie Hall."

At first, we both laughed. Carnegie Hall...surely that was crazy! But, it wasn't long before we started to talk that our crazy, impossible idea might actually happen. We started planning. Once we realized no one had ever given this many students the opportunity to perform on a Broadway Stage, we knew we were on to something. We changed course from Carnegie Hall to a Broadway Theatre. We set our sights on a partnership with Autism Speaks.

As fate would have it, Michael's long-time friend and neighbor, Marissa Eisenman, who has a child with autism, had been a top fundraiser in New Jersey for Autism Speaks. Michael approached Marissa about taking her fundraising to another level by joining us in our now not-so-crazy idea. Marissa introduced us to the New Jersey Chapter of Autism Speaks. Our tiny, crazy, nearly impossible idea had now found its purpose.

As an actress in New York, Jacque was well connected with the Broadway Community. Fellow alumni from The Boston Conservatory helped bring on the Doo Wop Project and Side Show twin, Erin Davie. One friend led to another and it wasn't long before the show was full of fabulous Broadway talent and an incredible artistic team. The evening allows a new generation of artists the chance to share the stage with Broadway's finest. We are thrilled by how enthusiastically they have all come together to use their talents to support such a worthy cause.

And now, here we are. Ten minutes or so away from the first annual Arts For Autism Benefit Concert. And Kelli O'Hara is here! We hope you enjoy the evening. We hope it's magical. We hope it moves you. We hope it means something to you. Just your presence here tonight has helped this important cause. Thank you for being here...and now we'll let the music do the rest of the talking!

Jacque and Michael

GERSHWIN THEATRE

221 West 51st Street



Hosted by Kelli O'Hara

with

The Doo Wop Project

Dominic Scaglione Jr Jevon McFerrin Dwayne Cooper
Dominic Nolfi John Michael Dias Russell Fischer

starring

Carly Hughes Erin Davie Emily Padgett
Jacque Carnahan Joseph Morales Giana Hitsos
Jennifer DiNoia Julia Murney Julie Reiber
Paul Alexander Nolan Erikka Walsh
Ben Cook DeMarius Copes Daniel J Deluca
Damon Gillespie Ginna Claire Mason Michael Ryan

and Broadway Choir

Correy West Darius Harper Alayna Gallo
Gregory Maheu Kenneth Francoeur Jillian Louis
Joshua Lance Dixon Paul Pilcz

and Student Performing Groups

Moving Youth Dance Company – New Jersey
Riviera Prep School – Florida
Round Rock Productions – Texas
Sandra Day O'Connor High School – Texas
Turning Pointe Academy of Dance – Toronto
Westminster Christian School – Florida

Orchestrations and Vocal Arrangements Stage Management
Assaf Gleizner Gregg Kirsopp

Production Assistant Line Producer Director's Assistant
Jennifer Scott Emily Hammond Aiden Dreskin

Music Direction by
Sonny Paladino

Directed by
David Alpert



Kelli O'Hara
"The King & I"



Carli Hughes
"Pippin"



Erin Davie
"Side Show"



Emily Padgett
"Side Show"



Joseph Morales
"In the Heights"



Jennifer DiNoia
"Wicked"



Julia Murney
"Wicked"



Julie Reiber
"Wicked"



Paul Alexander Nolan
"Bright Star"



Erikka Walsh
"Once"



Ben Cook
"Newsies"



DeMarius Copes
"Newsies"



Daniel J Deluca
"Newsies"



Damon Gillespie
"Newsies"



Ginna Calire Mason
"Wicked"



John Michael Dias
"Jersey Boys"



The Doo Wop Project

STUDENT PERFORMERS

Moving Youth Dance Company

Lisa Rumbauskas & Debbie Coury, Directors

Hanna Campiglia • Alethea Cladis • Julia Connolly • Kira Ewaskiew • Diana Mincolla
Kayleigh Pender • Casey Pender • Anna Pettigrew • Will Pettigrew • Allaistar Regan
Caroline Schafer • Juliana Schuttevaer • Katherine Trzaska • Theodora Yoon

Riviera Preparatory School – Nicole Guzman, Director

Stephanie Carmenates • Gabriela Cedeira • Charli Fernandez • Charlotte Jones
Anika Kahn • Alexa Lai • Marina Miranda • Katerina Ortiz • Gabriela Pachon
Alejandra Rodriguez • Cristina Tsimogiannis • Paloma Vigil

Round Rock Productions – Tony Smith, Director

Adrienne Countryman • Addison Doss • Kate Fisher • Gracen Fisk
Matthew Gabrillo • Caitlin Gabrillo • Jessica Gabrillo • Tierney Gregory
Faith Hearn • Jacquelyn Hearn • Mackenzie Jabari • Laura Krus
Mackenzie Mann • Addy McMillen • Ava Minarovic • Tsvetalina Pourciau
Sinclair Sledge • Victor Suarez • Zoe Tait • Amanda Widener

Sandra Day O'Connor High School – Jeff Thames, Director

Mirreya Almengor • Felicity Andreen • Kathleen Clifford • Shannon Crawford
Aubree Elling • Jasmine Flores • Autumn Garcia • Jazmin Gottlieb
Victoria Hernandez • Danielle Long • Ricardo Martinez • Mykela Mason
Kendall McKinney • Amber Meadows • Adriana Nino • Haley Oliver
Giovanni Ramos • Alaina Ripper • Ashley Rodriguez • Alexis Salas
Sarah Scates • Ashlynn Summerlin • Matthew Whyte • Sarah Winters • Rosa Yin

Turning Pointe Academy of Dance – Nicole Garland, Director

Genevieve Athanaselos • Katie Baker • Katie Besky
Emma Cairns-Sharpe • Katie Carter • Maia Chu • Caseylynn Deleon
Megan Dunn • Genevieve Heijmans • Erin Karatsu • Samantha Kruzich
Mackenzie Lau • Natasha Rossos • Thea Stamatakos • Maya Sutton
Lucca Bella Baxter Tacoma • Sarah Verreault

Westminster Christian School – Paul Whiting, Director

Sara Alvarez • Kristina Betancourt • Nicole Boulris • Dylan Charlton
Auriane Debuchet • Christina Delrossi • Jacey Demoya • Olivia Deolazarra
Angela Derosimo • Sophia Eden • Patricia Elliott • Sophia Fajardo
Alyssa Fongon • Ambar Gonzalez • Grayson Guilford • Annika Heetderks
Gabriella Hernandez • Camila Hernandez • Haley James • Enrique Lastra
Benjamin Leon • Sarah Lopez • Sophia Mendez • Melissa Mendez
Kathryn Milian • Maxwell Milian • Gabriella Nino • Alexandra Palacio
Jessica Palma • David Perez • William Ray • Lucas Rodembusch • Gabriel Segura
Hannah Sprinkle • Lauren Stewart • Kaylynn Utset
Brianna Vazquez • Lourdes Zulueta

MUSICAL NUMBERS

“Magic To Do”Carly Hughes and Round Rock Performers
Music and Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz
Choreography by Tony Smith

“Seize the Day”Ben Cook, DeMarius Copes, Daniel J DeLuca, Ginna Claire
Mason, Damon Gillespie and Riviera Prep School Dancers
Music by Alan Menken, Lyrics by Jack Feldman
Choreography by Nicole Guzman

“I Wonder Why”The Doo Wop Project
Music by Ricardo Weeks, Lyrics by Melvin Anderson

“When You Believe”Erin Davie, Emily Padgett,
Sandra Day O’Connor High School
Music and Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz
Choral Director Jeff Thames

Hairspray Medley

“Good Morning Baltimore”

“Welcome to the Sixties”

“Hairspray”

“You Can’t Stop the Beat”Westminster Christian School
Music by Marc Shaiman, Lyrics by Scott Whittman and Marc Shaiman
Choral Director Paul Whiting

“Valerie”The Doo Wop Project
Music and Lyrics by Abi Harding, Boyan Chowdhury, Dave McCabe, Russ
Pritchard and Sean Payne

“Balln’ The Jack”Jacque Carnahan, John Michael Dias and Turning Pointe
Academy of Dance
Music by Jule Styne, Lyrics by Comden and Green
Dance Arrangement by Assaf Gleizner
Choreography by Tracy Cairns-Sharpe

“Make Someone Happy”Kelli O’Hara
Music by Jule Styne, Lyrics by Comden and Green

“In the Heights/96,000”Joseph Morales and Round Rock Productions
Music and Lyrics by Lin-Manuel Miranda
Choreography by Tony Smith

“Sherry/Big Girls Don’t Cry”The Doo Wop Project

Music and Lyrics by Frankie Valli and Bob Gaudio

“Never Never Land”Gina Hitsos
Music by Jule Styne, Lyrics by Comden and Green

“Defying Gravity”Julia Murney, Julie Reiber and Jennifer DiNoia
Music and Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz

“Falling Slowly”Paul Alexander Nolan, Erikka Walsh and The Moving
Youth Dance Company
Music and Lyrics by Glen Hansard and Marketa Irglova
Choreography by Lisa Rumbauskas & Debbie Coury

“If the World Only Knew”Gianna Hitsos and Full Company
Music by Scott Evan Davis
Lyrics by Scott Evan Davis in collaboration with the students of the P94m
Spectrum School
Choreography by Lee Wilkins

All Orchestrations by Assaf Gleizner

All Vocal Arrangements by Assaf Gleizner with the exception of those below:

“I Wonder Why” – “Valerie” – “Big Girls Don’t Cry” – “Sherry”
Vocal Arrangements by Sonny Paladino

“Good Morning Baltimore” – “Welcome to the Sixties” – “Hairspray” – “You
Can’t Stop the Beat”
Vocal Arrangements by Mac Huff

“If the World Only Knew”
Vocal Arrangement by David Snyder

ORCHESTRA

Music Director/Conductor: Sonny Paladino

Piano: Assaf Gleizner

Guitar: Kevin Ramessar

Drums: Grant Braddock

Oboe: Keve Wilson

Trumpet: Dan Urness

Bass: Alex Eckhardt

Saxophone/Clarinet/Flute: Daniel Glaude

WHO'S WHO

KELLI O'HARA

Kelli O'Hara has unequivocally established herself as one of Broadway's great leading ladies. Her portrayal of Anna Leonowens in the critically acclaimed revival of THE KING AND I recently garnered her a Tony Award for Best Leading Actress in a Musical, along with Drama League and Outer Critics nominations.

A native of Oklahoma, Kelli received a degree in opera, and after winning the State Metropolitan Opera Competition, moved to NYC and enrolled in the Lee Strasberg Institute. She made her Broadway debut in JEKYLL & HYDE, followed by Sondheim's FOLLIES, SWEET SMELL OF SUCCESS, and DRACULA. She then moved from one critical and commercial success to another, winning Tony, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics Award nominations for her outstanding performances in THE LIGHT IN THE PIAZZA, THE PAJAMA GAME, SOUTH PACIFIC, NICE WORK IF YOU CAN GET IT, and THE BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY.

Among her extensive credits in TV, film, regional theater, and opera, recent highlights include her performance as Mrs. Darling in NBC's live telecast of PETER PAN and her Metropolitan Opera debut in the production of THE MERRY WIDOW. Kelli has also sold out her solo show at Carnegie Hall & Town Hall and performed with symphonies and orchestras across the country.

DAVID ALPERT

David is a New York City based director, most recently represented on Broadway as the Associate Director on IF/THEN written by the Pulitzer Prize winning team of Tom Kitt and Brian Yorkey, directed by Michael Greif. On Broadway he served as the Associate Director for the Tony-Award winning production of THE TRIP TO BOUNTIFUL (also at the Center Theatre Group in Los Angeles), and assisted on THE BEST MAN as well as GUYS AND DOLLS. At the Guthrie Theater, David assistant directed the world-premiere of Tony Kushner's THE INTELLIGENT HOMOSEXUAL'S GUIDE... David is the Artistic Director of MainStage Programming for BroadwayCon, a convention for thousands of Broadway fans held in New York City.

David has had the great pleasure to work with some of Broadway and Hollywood's leading actors including Angela Lansbury, James Earl Jones, Cicely Tyson, Betty Buckley, LaChanze, John Larroquette, Idina Menzel, Danny Burstein, Jefferson Mays, Vanessa Williams, Elizabeth Ashley, John Stamos, Cuba Gooding Jr., Blair Underwood, and Candice Bergen.

JACQUE CARNAHAN

Jacque is a graduate of Idyllwild Arts Academy and The Boston Conservatory with a BFA cum laude in Musical Theatre and minor in Theatre Dance. As a performer, Jacque originated the role of Lydia Bennet in the new musical, JANE AUSTEN'S PRIDE AND PREJUDICE starring Laura Osnes and

Donna Lynne Champlin. New York/National Tour credits: CINDERELLA, THE BAKER'S WIFE, THE BOYFRIEND, SPONGEBOB THE MUSICAL (developmental

lab), A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS IN WHALES (The Irish Reperetory Theatre) Joe Stein in Concert. Regional credits: A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC (Baltimore CenterStage, Mark Lamos dir), THE BAKER'S WIFE (Paper Mill Playhouse starring Alice Ripley), PIRATES OF PENZANCE (Goodspeed Opera House). Recordings: JANE AUSTEN'S PRIDE AND PREJUDICE, THE BAKER'S WIFE - Lincoln Center Archives.

Jacque has performed as a soloist with the Boston Pops and has performed her one woman show at Symphony Space, 54 Below, The Triad, as well as in the Berkshire Broadway Cabaret Series. Jacque is a National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts award recipient in Musical Theatre. Jacque serves as choreographer at performing arts academies; From Stage To Screen, Wingspan Arts and is a director/choreographer of the senior musical theatre workshop program at McCarter Theatre at Princeton University.

SONNY PALADINO

Sonny is the Music Supervisor for the Broadway bound musical NATASHA, PIERRE AND THE GREAT COMET OF 1812 and the Music Director/Conductor for the Broadway revival of SMOKEY JOE'S CAFE. Most recently served as Associate Music Director and Keyboard player for the new Broadway musical THE LAST SHIP (*written* by 16 time Grammy Award winner, Sting) and as associate conductor of the TONY winning best revival: PIPPIN. Other Broadway credits, (Assistant Conductor/Keys): JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR, BILLY ELLIOT, GREASE, PRISCILLA QUEEN OF THE DESERT. Keyboards: GUYS AND DOLLS, MAMA MIA, PROMISES PROMISES, ADDAMS FAMILY, WOMEN ON THE VERGE. Sonny is also the music director and arranger for the hit group *The Doo Wop Project*, which travels around the country performing classic Doo-Wop music and contemporary songs in that style.

ASSAF GLEIZNER

Assaf was born and raised in Tel Aviv, Israel. In 2007, Gleizner moved to the United States, where he graduated from SUNY Purchase with a degree in Jazz Performance. Since graduating Assaf has been consistently working as a music director, orchestrator, arranger and performer all over the world.

Favorite credits include: Off-Broadway: THE ASTONISHING TIMES OF TIMOTHY CRATCHIT - (Workshop Theatre) Orchestrations, FULL HOUSE (Randolph Theater Canada & Theater 80) MD & Orchestrations. FLAK HOUSE (Actors Temple) orchestrations and vocal arrangements. THE TRAVELS (NYMF) orchestrations, vocal arrangements, MD. I BATTLES LENNY ROSS (Ensemble Studio Theater) MD. Regional: The SWINGAROOS (Florida Studio Theater) MD, Composer, Arranger. CASSANDRA (Proctor's Theater, Schenectady NY) orchestrations and MD.

SPECIAL THANKS TO...

Marissa Eisenman and the Eisenman family for their ideas and help to make this event happen.

Composer, Scott Evan Davis for our inspiring finale, "If The World Only Knew" and his amazing work with the students of P94M The Spectrum School.

P94M The Spectrum School is part of the NYC Department of Education's District 75, which focuses on educating students primarily with autism and other special needs. It is the only District 75 school dedicated to the performing arts, using arts education to prepare students ages 5-21 for a successful future. The documentary SPECTRUM OF HOPE illustrates the power of P94M's musical theater program and what can be accomplished when students are allowed to flourish on their own terms. Learn more and see the movie at <http://www.mtishows.com/spectrumofhopemovie>

Kerry Magro, Autism Speaks Social Media Coordinator and award-winning national speaker and author.

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Madeline Andrea Smith, Spencer Jones

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All of our Broadway performers and musicians for lending their time and talents

For anyone we have missed... THANK YOU



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Believe NYC is an educational arts organization that produces performances and workshops for performing arts students throughout the United States. The Believe NYC mission is to provide aspiring young artists a personalized theatre experience that allows them to visualize their future possibilities in theatre, music and dance. Over the last five years, productions of *From Main Street to 42nd Street* and *From the Band Room to Broadway* have inspired thousands of young artists from all over the world. Believe NYC events are

lead by New York's finest artists in their fields, such as Broadway composer Barbara Anselmi, Broadway music director Paul Staroba and Broadway oboist Keve Wilson. We believe dreams are achievable and we give students the opportunity to believe it, too. www.Believe-NYC.com



Autism Speaks is the world's leading autism science and advocacy organization. It is dedicated to funding research into the causes, prevention, treatments and a cure for autism; increasing awareness of autism spectrum disorders; and advocating for the needs of individuals with autism and their families. Autism Speaks was founded in February 2005 by Suzanne and Bob Wright, the grandparents of a child with autism. Since its inception, Autism Speaks has committed more than \$570 million to its mission, the majority in science and medical research. On the global front,

Autism Speaks has established partnerships in more than 70 countries on five continents to foster international research, services and awareness. To learn more about Autism Speaks, please visit AutismSpeaks.org.