

Believe NYC and Educational Travel Adventures

PRESENT:

3rd Annual

ARTS
for **AUTISM**

A Concert to Benefit Autism Speaks
HOSTED BY CHRISTOPHER JACKSON

JUNE 25TH 2018

Gershwin Theatre
New York City



A WORD FROM THE PRODUCERS

Welcome to the third annual Arts for Autism Concert! We are thrilled to be here again tonight and so thankful to have all of you to share the evening with us.

When we started out three years ago we did not know exactly how things would turn out. We had big ideas and plenty of enthusiasm as we embarked on our journey to create an event that would educate, inspire and entertain people. And yes, raise some money too! We are overjoyed that in the past two years more than two thousand audience members watched as hundreds of young artists made their Broadway debut. Dozens of Broadway performers joined, lending their time and talent, to help us raise over \$80,000 for Autism Speaks.

One of the most special things about the show is the emotion and excitement of "The Broadway Debut" for so many young people. Their energy and excitement is infectious; putting a smile and sometimes a tear on all of our faces. It is our privilege each year to work with so many talented, dedicated and caring people to make this happen. THIS is why we love this event.

It has also been a great honor to invite young soloists on the spectrum to join the cast for their Broadway debut. This gives us an opportunity to learn about their struggles and triumphs, their dreams and passions and their supportive families. And yes, THIS is why we love this event.

Last year our show was dedicated to the parents of people on the spectrum. Tonight is dedicated to their siblings. You'll hear Isabella sing "Unstoppable: A Song for Autism" about her 10-year-old brother. You'll also hear from several others as they share their feelings and stories with you.

And now, here we are tonight. 144 more students making their Broadway debut, 32 more Broadway actors lending their talents for the cause, and 1000 of you in the audience making all of this possible. If you are back again, we thank you for your support. If you are here for the first time, we welcome you, and hope that you also love this event!

Sit back, relax and enjoy the show!

Jacque and Michael



GERSHWIN THEATRE

222 West 51st Street



Hosted by Christopher Jackson

starring

Mckynleigh Abraham	Christine Andreas	Max von Essen
Denée Benton	Jacque Carnahan	John Michael Dias
Alia Hodge	Traci Elaine Lee	Kelvin Moon Loh
Carrie St. Louis	John Eric Parker	Tess Soltau
Brynn Williams	Lauren Zakrin	

“Somewhere” Dancers

Ixchel Cuellar	Dean DeLuna	Tyler John Logan
Antuan Magic Raimone	Mindy Wallace	Sarah Kay Marchetti

Arts for Autism Choir

Brian Brammer	Taylor Broadard	Hannah DelMonte
Jillian Jameson	Brittany Jeffery	Jayson Kerr
Jennifer Lorae	DeMond Nason	Paul Pilcz
Danielle Erin Rhodes	Eric van Tielen	

Student Performing Groups

Adams Davy - Texas
Avanti Music Academy - Colorado
Gorzycki Middle School - Texas
From Stage to Screen Performing Arts Academy - New York
Moving Youth Dance Company - New Jersey
Neighborhood Music Stapleton - Colorado

Orchestrations and Vocal Arrangements

Keiji Ishiguri, Isaac Alter, Michael Radi
Jeff Marder

Stage Management

Molly Braverman, Garrett Rollins
Kyle Birdsall

Production Assistants

Jess Freedman, Matt Kurzyniec, Daniel Bedoya

Show Announcer

Patrick Newton

Artistic Director

Jacque Carnahan

Show Producers

Jacque Carnahan, Michael Holzer

Music Director

Paul Staroba

Directed by

David Alpert



Christopher Jackson
Tony Award nominee
"Hamilton"



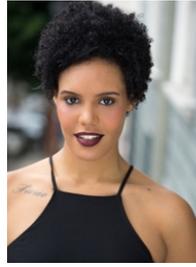
Christine Andreas
Tony Award nominee
"Oklahoma!"



Max von Essen
Tony Award nominee
"An American in Paris"



Denée Benton
Tony Award nominee
"The Great Comet"



Mckynleigh Abraham
"Beautiful, The Carole
King Musical"



Jacque Carnahan
"A Child's Christmas
in Wales"



John Michael Dias
"Jersey Boys"



Alia Hodge
"Beautiful, The Carole
King Musical"



Traci Elaine Lee
"Beautiful, The Carole
King Musical"



Kelvin Moon Loh
"SpongeBob
SquarePants"



Carrie St. Louis
"Wicked"



John Eric Parker
"The Book of Mormon"



Tess Soltau
"Wicked"



Brynn Williams
"SpongeBob
SquarePants"



Lauren Zakrin
"The Great Comet"



Ixchel Cuellar
"Finding Neverland"



Dean DeLuna
"West Side Story"



Tyler John Logan
"West Side Story"



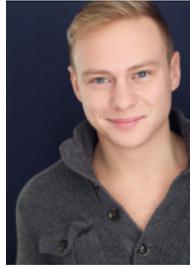
Antuan Magic Raimone
"Hamilton"



Mindy Wallace
"Bandstand"



Sarah Kay Marchetti
The Metropolitan Opera



Brian Brammer
"The Hunchback of
Notre Dame"



Taylor Broadard
"Memphis"



Hannah DelMonte
"Fiddler on the Roof"



Jillian Jameson
"The Sound of Music"



Brittany Jeffery
"Me and My Gal"



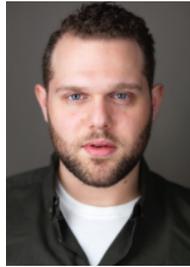
Jayson Kerr
"Evita"



Jennifer Lorae
"Hard Times"



DeMond Nason
"Walmartopia"



Paul Pilcz
"Bye Bye Birdie"



Danielle Erin Rhodes
"Les Misérables"



Eric van Tielen
"Les Miérables"

STUDENT PERFORMERS

ADAMS DAVY

Tony & Sarah Smith, Directors

Ashley Axsom • Joshua Christmas • Gracen Fisk • Meridian Harrap
Laura Krus • Jacqueline Leon • Tsvetelina Pourciau • Brelain Preyer-Prado
Sara Marie Wojta

AVANTI MUSIC ACADEMY

Amra Tomsic, Director

Kyra Archuleta • Julia Barlow • Caroline Clark • Sasha Code • Kathryn Crandall
Any Deutsch • Jensen Disbrow • Elora Doran • Maren Fuller • Keira Graham
Harrison Hauptman • Carter Hogan • Devon Johanningmeier • Mia Keene
Braiden Kirkegaard • Kylie Leonhardt • Hunter Lewis • Rosalie Libby
Ella Lucas • Paige Mabbutt • Isabelle Matteucci • Ainsley McHenry
Ian Meister • Tristan Mills • Abigail Minner Sofia Mitchell • Caden Oddo
Mallory Pyka • Mia Romano • Sanjana Sankholkar • Savannah Wanebo
Sydney Weaver • Sara Weaver

GORZYCKI MIDDLE SCHOOL

Leslie Zimmerman & Michelle Huerta, Directors

Tony Bahena • Daniel Bamdad • Jack Bullington • Carly Burnham
Sydney Campbell • April Carroll • Sophie Chasen • Caverlee Dahill
Lucy Evans • Erin Everette • Caroline Franke • Elena Garcia • Jake Johnson
Donna Kim • Emma Kate Kirk • Zachary Kohlmyer • Matthew Kohlmyer
Kaiser Kothmann • Emmy Morgan • Bryce Newman • McKenzie Popper
Arianna Ritzie • Megan Sewell • Christopher Thompson • Lianna Tidwell
Lucas Tovar • Morgan Villarreal • Eve Whisnant • Ava Wong • Ava Young

FROM STAGE TO SCREEN PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY

Michael Radi, Musical Direction

Gene & Jennifer Forman, Studio Directors

Sarah Biernacki • Elizabeth Campbell • Hannah Cianciotto • Carly Corsitto
Sofia Dandry • Hailey Elberg • Deziree Franco • Alexondra Georgiades
Johnny Gregoire • Serena Heddell • Lucy Maniatis • Jackson McGill
Stacy Wiener

MOVING YOUTH DANCE ACADEMY

Lisa Rumbauskas & Debbie Coury, Directors

Olivia Mode-Cater, Choreographer

Isabella Albano • Hanna Campiglia • Kaitlyn Cheung • Alethea Cladis
Neve Ferreira • Greta Lempa • Diana Mincolla • Caroline Schafer
Juliana Schuttevaer • Charlotte Schwartz • Charlotte Willis • Theodora Yoon

NEIGHBORHOOD MUSIC STAPLETON

Skye Barker Maa, Director

Nina Alden • Chloe Arend • Olive Bartlett • Nathaniel Bicha • Megan Burrows
Madeline Carrier • Eleanor Coates • Brielle Cornier • Gracie Cox • Jordan Davis
Harper Fischer • Parker Goff Chrisbens • Quinn Walker Gilman
William Grischo • Kylie Hanson • Ella Harrison • Gabrielle Herrera
Annabel Kales • Ravi Kotaru • Olivia Lippa Sebastian Maa • Sloane Maa
Amelia Modesitt • Benjamin Patterson • Katharine Rigsby • Natalie Sieren
Ella Ward • Kate Ward

Your **DNA** could help us better understand the **genetics** and **biology** underlying **neurodevelopment!**

The Neurodevelopmental Disorders Research Program at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York leads cutting edge research in the field of genetics and genomics. Our program focuses on identifying altered genes involved in neurodevelopmental conditions in order to advance clinical treatments. Funding is provided by the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

If you, or one of your family members has been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder or epilepsy, you may be eligible to participate in our study!

For more information on how to participate, please contact our research team at **212-824-9065** or e-mail us at **NDD.Project@mssm.edu**.

 [facebook.com/NDDProgram](https://www.facebook.com/NDDProgram)



MUSICAL NUMBERS

- "Girl I Mean to Be"Jodi DiPiazza
The Secret Garden Music and Lyrics by Lucy Simon and Marsha Norman
Arrangement and Orchestration by Keiji Ishiguri
- "Corner of the Sky"Max von Essen, Jodi DiPiazza
Pippin Arts for Autism Choir, All Students
Music and Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz
Arrangement and Orchestration by Keiji Ishiguri
- "School Of Rock" Medley.....Stapleton Music Academy
The School Of Rock Music and Lyrics by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Glenn Slater
Orchestration by Jeff Marder
- "On a Clear Day"Christine Andreas
On a Clear Day Music and Lyrics by Burton Lane and Alan Jay Lerner
- "The Rainbow Connection"Kelvin Moon Loh, Conor Tague
The Muppet Movie Music and Lyrics by Paul Williams and Kenneth Ascher
Orchestration by Isaac Alter
- "Little Shop of Horrors" Medley.....Mckynleigh Abraham, Alia Hodge
Little Shop of Horrors Traci Elaine Lee & Avanti Music Academy
Music and Lyrics by Alan Menken and Howard Ashman
Orchestration by Keiji Ishiguri
- "Waving Through a Window"John Michal Dias
Dear Evan Hansen Moving Youth Dance Academy
Music and Lyrics by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul
Orchestration by Keiji Ishiguri
- "Freak Flag"Gorzycski Middle School, Arts for Autism Choir
Shrek Music and Lyrics by Jeanine Tesori and David Lindsay-Abaire
Orchestration by Michael Radi
- "When You're Smiling"Jacque Carnahan, John Michael Dias
Music and Lyrics by Larry Shay, Mark Fisher and Joe Goodwin
Orchestration by Isaac Alter
- "Unstoppable"Tommy Bryne & Isabella Guerriero
With Shining Stars: Brian Curci, Gina Berry, Ryan Fay, Sean Fay
Josh Moreines, Simone Palermo, Sara Sondern
Robbie Matos, Leila Ganjaei, Angelina Pallotta
Orchestration by Isaac Alter

“Popular”Carrie St. Louis, Tess Soltau, Lauren Zakrin
Wicked Music and Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz
 Vocal Arrangement and Orchestration by Keiji Ishiguri

“Somewhere”Miriam Steinberg, Ixchel Cuellar, Dean DeLuna
West Side Story Tyler John Logan, Antuan Magic Raimone
 Mindy Wallace, Sarah Kay Marchetti
 Music and Lyrics by Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim
 Choreography by Tim McGarrigal
 Arrangement and Orchestration by Michael Radi

“13!” Medley.....Brynn Williams, From Stage To Screen
13! Avanti Music Academy, Neighborhood Music Stapleton
 Music and Lyrics by Jason Robert Brown
 Arrangement and Orchestration by Michael Radi

“Human Heart” Denée Benton, Arts for Autism Choir
Once On This Island Moving Youth Dance Academy
 Music and Lyrics by Lynn Arhens and Stephen Flaherty
 Arrangement by AnnMarie Milazzo

“Rent” Medley.....John Eric Parker & Adams Davy
Rent Orchestration by Keiji Ishiguri

“If the World Only Knew”Christopher Jackson and Company
 Music and Lyrics by Scott Evan Davis in collaboration
 With the students at P94 Spectrum School
 Vocal Arrangement by David Snyder, Orchestration by Assaf Gleizner

ORCHESTRA

Conducted by: Paul Staroba
 Keyboard: Tim Rosser
 Bass: Marc Schmied
 Guitar: Lou Garrett
 Drums: Matt Smallcomb
 Reeds: Steve Lyon
 Oboe: Keve Wilson
 Trumpet: Dan Urness

We wish to express our gratitude to the Performers’ Unions: Actors’ Equity Association, American Guild of Musical Artists, American Guild of Variety Artists and SAG-AFTRA through Theatre Authority, Inc. for their cooperation in permitting the Artists to appear on this program.

WHO'S WHO

CHRISTOPHER JACKSON – HOST

Christopher Jackson is a Tony Award nominated actor as well as a Grammy and Emmy Award winning songwriter/composer best known for starring as George Washington in the critically acclaimed, award-winning musical, *Hamilton*. Christopher's Broadway credits include *Holler if Ya Hear Me*, *After Midnight*, *The Bronx Bombers* (Derek Jeter), *In The Heights* (Benny), *Memphis* (Delray Farrell) and *The Lion King* (Simba). Off Broadway includes *Bronx Bombers* (Primary Stages), *The Jammer* (Atlantic Theater Co.), *Lonely, I'm Not* (Second Stage), *In the Heights* (37 Arts), and *Cotton Club Parade* (ENCORES at City Center).

Christopher can currently be seen starring in the hit CBS drama "Bull" where he plays Chunk, a stylist who prepares defendants for trial. Christopher also recorded an original song written by Lin-Manuel Miranda for the Disney film *Moana*.

In film and TV, he has appeared in *Freestyle Love Supreme* (Pivot Network) *Person of Interest*, *A Gifted Man*, *Fringe*, *Gossip Girl*, *Tracers*, and *Afterlife*.

He was also the Composer/Songwriter for *Sesame Street* (6 Emmy nominations and 1 win), and co-Music Supervisor and Writer for *The Electric Company* (PBS).

Christopher won an Emmy Award for his song with Will.I.Am, "What I Am." In 2010 he released his first solo album titled, *IN THE NAME OF LOVE* with Yellow Sound Lab Records and is currently working on his 2nd album. He also has several musical projects in development for the musical stage.

DAVID ALPERT - DIRECTOR

David is excited to return as the director of the Arts for Autism concert for the third year in a row, working with all of the amazing students for this important cause. He 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* starring Cicely Tyson, and assisted on *The Best Man* as well as *Guys & Dolls*. At the Guthrie Theater, David assistant directed the world-premiere of Tony Kushner's *The Intelligent Homosexual's Guide...* Additional credits include *Talley's Folly* (Roundabout), *Old Friends* (Signature), *Flashdance* (1st National), *A Little Night Music* (NYU), *Death Note* (Frank Wildhorn), *The Apple Boys* (Ars Nova), *A Scythe of Time* (NYMF, Best Director Nomination), Idina Menzel at Radio City Music Hall (Creative Consultant), *Fully Committed* (Mason Street Warehouse), *Vayna & Sonya...* (Farmers Alley Theatre), *Urinetown, It's Only a Play* (Farmers Alley Theatre), and *Little Shop of Horrors* (York Arena Theater). David is the Artistic Director of Headline Programming for BroadwayCon, a convention for thousands of Broadway fans held in New York City, and is the proud producer of the "Living for Today" concert series, the main fundraiser for Gilana's Fund (www.gilanasfund.org). He holds a B.A. in Theatre Studies from Western Michigan University, where upon graduation he was awarded both

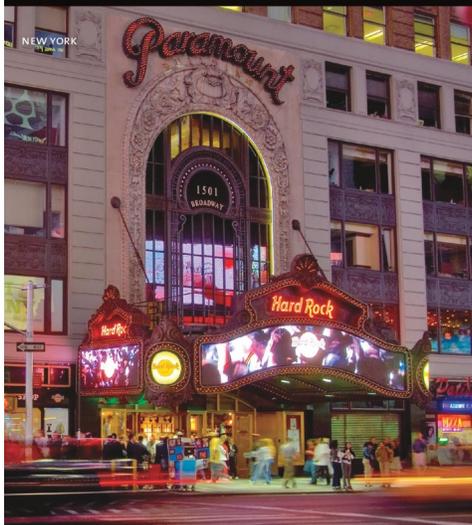
of the Department's top honors: the Presidential Scholar, and the Conspicuous Achievement in Theatre Award, and in 2016 was selected as a Distinguished Alumni. www.david-alpert.com @directfromdavid

JACQUE CARNAHAN – ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Jacque is the Artistic Director of Believe NYC, a non-profit arts organization, and is co-producer of tonight's annual Broadway benefit concert, *Arts For Autism*. Her one woman show: *From Main Street to 42nd Street* has been performed at 54 Below, Symphony Space, The Triad and venues around the country including The Berkshires, Dallas, and Los Angeles. Broadway Concerts: *Sondheim at Seven* honoring Stephen Sondheim for the Irish Repertory Theatre at Town Hall. Off-Broadway: *A Child's Christmas In Wales* at Irish Repertory Theatre, *Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice* at NYMF, *The Baker's Wife* at The York Theatre, *The Boyfriend*, *Irene*, and *Primrose* all at Musicals Tonight!. National Tour: *Cinderella* (swing), Regional: *The Bakers Wife* (Paper Mill Playhouse), *A Little Night Music* (Baltimore CenterStage), *Pirates of Penzance* (Goodspeed Opera House), *Cinderella* (Ogunquit Playhouse), *Beauty and the Beast* (Gateway Playhouse). Jacque is a graduate of Idyllwild Arts Academy and holds a BFA, cum laude from the Boston Conservatory.

PAUL STAROBA – MUSIC DIRECTOR

Paul Staroba is currently the associate conductor of *My Fair Lady* on Broadway at Lincoln Center Theatre. He served as the music director and conductor of the 2014 Tony Award Winner for Best Musical, *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* and continues to supervise that show's national touring companies. Other New York conducting credits include, on Broadway: *A Little Night Music* (with Catherine Zeta-Jones and Angela Lansbury and also with Bernadette Peters and Elaine Stritch), *Next to Normal*, and *Grey Gardens*. Off Broadway conducting credits include *The Mad Ones*, *Dear Evan Hansen*, *Carrie*, *The Blue Flower*, *Lucky Guy*, *Happiness*, *Saved*, and *Take Me Along*. Other selected Broadway keyboard credits include *Something Rotten*, *Cats*, *Aladdin*, *Matilda*, *Newsies*, *Sister Act*, *The Addams Family*, *West Side Story*, *Spamalot*, *In the Heights*, *Wicked*, *Grease*, *Pal Joey*, *Young Frankenstein*, *Legally Blonde*, *A Chorus Line*, and *Les Misérables*. Regional highlights include the following world premieres: *War Paint* (Chicago), *I am Anne Hutchinson/I am Harvey Milk* (Washington D.C.), *Big Fish* (Chicago), and *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* (Hartford). Mr. Staroba has enjoyed performing in concert across the country with Kristin Chenoweth and Lea Salonga, and has held a position in the Radio City Christmas Spectacular Orchestra for four seasons.



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SPECIAL THANKS TO...

- Christopher Jackson for being our master of ceremonies
- All the Broadway performers for lending their enormous talents
- The entire staff at Educational Travel Adventures and all volunteers
- The artistic team at Believe NYC
- Our Director, David Alpert, and Music Director, Paul Staroba, and our wonderful production team
- "The music department" Keiji Ishiguri, Jeff Marder, Michael Radi, Isaac Alter and our wonderful band
- Tim McGarrigal for his choreography in "Somewhere"
- The directors of our student performers for their dedication and artistry
- Lisa Rumbauskus for her choreography in "Human Heart"
- Composer, Scott Evan Davis, for our inspiring finale "If The World Only Knew" and his work with the students of P94M Spectrum School
- Michael Carbonaro for sharing his story tonight with such passion
- Anne Marie Forbes, CFO of Autism Speaks
- Nicole Thornton from Autism Speaks
- All of our performers on the spectrum tonight. You are all amazing!
- Geoff Jossleson for your support and advice
- The parents of all our student performers
- Everyone at 321 management and the Gershwin
- All the siblings for sharing your stories - Sarah and Joey Biernacki; Carter, Liam and Blake Hogan; Isabella, Anthony and Giovanni Guerriero
- Pearl Studios for the studio time
- All our friends and families for your advice and support!
- Irene and Sam Holzer for their enthusiasm and bringing the Riviera Crowd - yet again!
- Brenda and Gerry Carnahan, who could not be here tonight but are here in spirit, thank you for the support, love and guidance!
- Terry Jacobs for her impossible love and teaching us never to give up
- And to anyone we may have forgotten: THANK YOU!

HOW TO DONATE

If you are interested in making a donation, please use the link below. Your donation will be included in the total amount given to Autism Speaks through the 2018 Arts for Autism benefit concert.

<http://act.autismspeaks.org/goto/artsforautism>

SPONSORSHIP

If you are interested in sponsorship opportunities for the 2019 Arts for Autism benefit concert, please contact Jessica Burns at jburns@etadventures.com or 954-874-0695.

2017 ARTS FOR AUTISM PHOTOS



Tony Award winner, Kelli O'Hara and special guest Mina Cuesta



Student performers



Jacque Carnahan and student performers



Student Performer



Tony Award nominee Adrienne Warren (Shuffle Along)



Full Arts for Autism Company



Teal Wicks (Wicked) and student performers



Tony Award nominee Stephanie J. Block (Falsettos)



John Michael Dias (Jersey Boys) and Abby Mueller (Beautiful, The Carole King Musical)



Betsy Struxness, Carleigh Bettiol, Sasha Hutchings (Hamilton) and student performers



Student performer



Kelvin Moon Loh (SpongeBob SquarePants) and student performers



Student performers / Christopher Jackson





ETA is a student travel organization that works with the most passionate teachers in all the land for an unshakable purpose: to enhance classroom learning and improve student lives through short term educational tours.

Programs offered include performance tours, educational tours, language and cultural immersion programs, service learning opportunities and short-term faculty led programs. If you're considering an educational student tour, what if someone else could do the planning for a change? www.ETAdventures.com



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 six 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. We believe dreams are achievable and we give students the opportunity to believe it, too. www.Believe-NYC.com



Autism Speaks is dedicated to promoting solutions, across the spectrum and throughout the life span, for the needs of individuals with autism and their families. We do this through advocacy and support; increasing understanding and acceptance of autism spectrum disorder; and advancing research into causes

and better interventions for autism spectrum disorder and related conditions. We empower people with autism and their families with resources, online tools and information covering the life span. www.autismspeaks.org

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