Our Inaugural Season

Presenting

Americana Roots
Broadway
Celebrity Concerts
Chamber Arts
Dance
Family
Global Stage
Jazz
Vocal Songbook
Welcome to the 2019-20 season at the Jay and Susie Gogue Performing Arts Center at Auburn University. In this inaugural season and beyond, it is our charge to elevate and transform the creative landscape of the university, our community and the state of Alabama with thoughtfully curated experiences that inspire, engage and enlighten while fostering innovative research and scholarship in the arts.

Throughout the year, the Gogue Center will present world-renowned performances and artists on our stage, many making their only stop in Alabama exclusively at the Gogue Center. The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis, the most celebrated singer of our time: Renée Fleming, fan favorite DIAVOLO, and award-winning choreographer Camille A. Brown are just a handful of performers bringing unique artistic and educational experiences to our state.

Likewise, we are delighted to also introduce new artists to our campus and community, including mandolin phenom Sierra Hull; Tony Award-winning actress, singer and dancer Sutton Foster; YouTube sensation Scott Bradlee’s Postmodern Jukebox; America’s Got Talent 2012 semi-finalist Lightwire Theater; and many more. These artists are just a few of the new faces, sounds and experiences you as audience members will share during our historic first year.

In addition to the outstanding performances, education and community engagement are vital to our mission as arts presenters at Auburn and in Alabama. Our K-12 School Show program will impact more than 7,000 children, exposing them to artistic experiences in American music, dance, circus arts and more. Visiting artists will also interact with Auburn students and faculty, area students and teachers, and lifelong learners through artist talks, master classes, and lecture demonstrations. Before performances, come early to experience a pre-show talk by visiting artists, scholars and local artists, which will assist in setting the stage for the evening’s entertainment.

As you explore all that the season ahead encompasses, we invite you to discover new performers and artists, expand your mind with artist talks, and engage with our local community and beyond at the Jay and Susie Gogue Performing Arts Center at Auburn University.

Christopher Heacox
Executive Director
SERIES

AMERICANA ROOTS
- Allman Betts Band
- Balsa Flock and The Flocktones
- Sierra Hull Band

BROADWAY
- Escape to Margaritaville
- RENT 20th Anniversary Tour
- Waitress

CELEBRITY CONCERTS
- An Evening with Sutton Foster
- Larry, Steve and Rudy – The Gatlin Brothers
- The Beach Boys

CHAMBER ARTS
- Monteverdx Trio
- Matt Halpern and Simone Dinnerstein
- Dover Quartet and Bridget Kibbey

DANCE
- DIAMONDO: Architecture in Motion
- Dorrance Dance
- Camilla A. Brown and Dancers

FAMILY
- Off: A Menagerie of Mechanical Marvels by Cirque Mechanics
- Dino Light by Lightwire Theater
- Air Play by Acrobatio

GLOBAL STAGE
- Tornado Simon and The Zydeco Experience
- Pablo Sainz Villegas: Americano Trio
- Zakir Hussain and Friends
- Featuring Jayanth Ramnath and Kala Ramnath

JAZZ
- Chris Botti
- Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis
- Alfredo Rodriguez and Pedrita Martinez Duo

VOCAL SONGBOOK
- Ronni Fleming
- Scott Bradlee's Postmodern Jukebox
- VOICES (Holiday Program)

TICKETS AND INFORMATION

SEASON SPONSORS AND DONORS

Wynton Marsalis
2019-20 SEASON CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER
VOCAL SONGBOOK
Bandle Fleming
Tuesday, September 24 - 7:30 p.m.

CELEBRITY CONCERTS
An Evening with Sutton Foster
Friday, September 27 - 7:30 p.m.

VOCAL SONGBOOK
Scott Bradlee’s Postmodern Jukebox
Sunday, September 29 - 7:30 p.m.

OCTOBER
DANCE
DIYOLKO: Architecture in Motion
Thursday, October 3 - 7:30 p.m.

CELEBRITY CONCERTS
Larry, Steve and Rudy – The Gatlin Brothers
Saturday, October 12 - 7:30 p.m.

JAZZ
Chris Botti
Friday, October 18 - 7:30 p.m.

FAMILY
42FT - A Menagerie of Mechanical Marvels
by Cirque Mechanics
Wednesday, October 30 - 7:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER
AMERICANA ROOTS
Allman Betts Band
Friday, November 1 - 7:30 p.m.

AMERICANA ROOTS
Bela Fleck and The Flecktones
Thursday, November 21 - 7:30 p.m.

DECEMBER
CHAMBER ARTS
Mantras Trio
Tuesday, December 3 - 7:30 p.m.

BROADWAY
Escape to Margaritaville
Wednesday, December 4 - 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, December 5 - 7:30 p.m.

VOCAL SONGBOOK
VOCES8 (Holiday Program)
Tuesday, December 17 - 7:30 p.m.

JANUARY
FAMILY
Doo-Light by Lightwire Theater
Friday, January 17 - 7:30 p.m.

DANCE
Dance Project
Friday, January 31 - 7:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY
CELEBRITY CONCERT
The Beach Boys
Thursday, February 13 - 7:30 p.m.

BROADWAY
RENT 20th Anniversary Tour
Tuesday, February 19 - 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, February 20 - 7:30 p.m.

MARCH
GLOBAL STAGE
Pablo Sainz Villegas, Americano Trio
Sunday, March 1 - 7:30 p.m.

CHAMBER ARTS
Matt Haimovitz and Simone Dinnerstein
Tuesday, March 3 - 7:30 p.m.

AMERICANA ROOTS
Sierra Hull Band
Friday, March 20 - 7:30 p.m.

CHAMBER ARTS
Dover Quartet and Bridget Kibbey
Tuesday, March 24 - 7:30 p.m.

JAZZ
Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis
Thursday, March 26 - 7:30 p.m.

APRIL
JAZZ
Alfonso Rodriguez and Pedrito Martinez Duo
Tuesday, April 2 - 7:30 p.m.

DANCE
Camilla A. Brown and Dancers
Saturday, April 13 - 7:30 p.m.

GLOBAL STAGE
Zakir Hussain and Friends
featuring Jayanthi Kumaresh and Kala Bannath
Tuesday, April 23 - 7:30 p.m.

MAY
FAMILY
Air Play by Acrobuddies
Friday, May 8 - 7:30 p.m.
PRESENTING

Americana Roots

Allman Betts Band
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1 • 7:30 P.M.

Following a successful year touring together as the Devon Allman Project with special guest Duane Betts, the sons of Southern rock pioneers Gregg Allman and Dickey Betts have joined forces to form the Allman Betts Band.

With a world tour beginning in March 2019 and a new, self-titled album planned for release in the spring, the Allman Betts Band launched the year with a slate of new music, songs from their solo projects, and classic Allman Brothers and Gregg Allman tunes in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Allman Brothers Band. The new album was recorded at the legendary Muscle Shoals Sound Studio in northwest Alabama and was produced by Matt Ross-Spang, who has mixed and engineered music for artists such as Jason Isbell, Margo Price, John Prine and Elvis Presley.

Former Allman Brothers Band keyboardist Chuck Leavell, now with the Rolling Stones, will guest on the record. In addition to frontmen Allman and Betts, the lineup consists of Berry Oakley Jr. (bassist and son of original Allman Brothers Band bassist Berry Oakley), Johnny Stachela (slide guitar), and percussionists R. Scott Bryan (former member of Sheryl Crow’s band) and John Lom.

“A must-see if you’re into the music scene and definitely a bucket-list item...you won’t be disappointed.”

— American Blues Scene
Béla Fleck and The Flecktones
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21 • 7:30 P.M.

C
ombining the best elements of folk, funk, rock and jam band aesthetics, groundbreaking banjoist and composer Béla Fleck has reconvened the original Béla Fleck and The Flecktones for a long run of live performances in 2019—and their most extensive tour in years. The lineup of this inescapable, bordering on mystical, bluegrass jam band consists of Fleck on banjo, Victor Wooten on bass, Wooten’s brother and percussionist/drummeret Roy “Futureman” Wooten, and pianist/harmonica player Howard Levy (back with the band since 2010).

Formed more than three decades ago, the band first united for a performance on PBS’s Lonesome Pine Special. What followed was a series of highly acclaimed albums, five Grammy Awards and an intense fan following. Along with their incredible output as a group, members of The Flecktones have devoted time to their own projects: Fleck’s collaborations with Chick Corea, Zakir Hussain and Edgar Meyer; Victor’s solo tours, music clinics and collaboration with Stanley Clarke and Marcus Miller on SMV; and Roy’s Black Mozart project and development of new instruments.

The band’s 2013 album, Rocket Science, marked the first recording by the original band members in almost two decades. Resisting feelings of nostalgia, the album saw the Grammy Award-winning quartet create some of the most forward-thinking music of their long, celebrated career. Today, The Flecktones continue to explore all genres—from classical and jazz, to bluegrass and African music, to electric blues and Eastern European folk dances—the result of which is a musical mind-meld beyond description.

“Astoundingly adept musicians who are comfortable playing virtually any type of music.”

— JazzTimes

Sierra Hull Band
FRIDAY, MARCH 20 • 7:30 P.M.

S
ierra Hull’s positively stellar career started early. That is, if you consider a Grand Ole Opry debut at age 10—and being called back to the stage a year later to perform with her hero and mentor Alison Krauss—to be early. She played Carnegie Hall at 13; at 13 she signed with Rounder Records and issued her debut, Secrets, which garnered the first of many nominations for Mandolin Player of the Year. She played the Kennedy Center at 16 and the next year became the first bluegrass musician to receive a Presidential Scholarship at the Berklee College of Music. As a 20-year-old, Hull played the White House.

In 2010, Hull captured her first International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA) award for Recorded Event of the Year and released her second album, Daybreak, with seven original compositions.

By 2016, Hull had shed the child prodigy tag and reached a more mature place in her life and in her art. She tapped legendary musician Béla Fleck to produce her third album, Weighted Mind. A departure from her opening pair of records, Hull let go of whatever preconceptions existed—both hers and those of her audience—and birthed a Grammy-nominated masterpiece. Months later she was taking home the IBMA award for Mandolin Player of the Year. After a near-decade of consecutive nominations, Hull became the first woman to win the prestigious title.

Currently at work on the follow-up to Weighted Mind, her next album will consist of all original material. “There’s a voice in the back of my head telling me to keep working, to keep moving forward,” Hull says. “You have to keep progressing and introducing new things.”

Master Class
Sponsored by
Rick and Beth Thorne Stakes
Welcome to Margaritaville, where people come to get away from it all—and stay to find something they never expected. Adapted from a book by Emmy Award winner Greg Garcia (My Name is Earl, Raising Hope) and Emmy Award nominee Mike O’Malley (Survivors Remorse, “Shameless”), Escape to Margaritaville is the musical comedy featuring both original songs and your most-loved Jimmy Buffett classics, including “Fins,” “Volcano,” “Cheeseburger in Paradise” and many more. USA Today calls it “A little slice of paradise” and Entertainment Weekly raves, “It will knock your flip-flops off!” So don’t let the party start without you.

“‘It will knock your flip-flops off!’”
—Entertainment Weekly

Performance Sponsored by City of Auburn
RENT 20th Anniversary Tour
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18  •  7:30 P.M.
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19  •  7:30 P.M.

More than two decades since its original premiere, Jonathan Larson’s RENT continues to speak loudly and defiantly to audiences across generations and all over the world. A reimagining of Puccini’s La Bohème, RENT follows an unforgettable year in the lives of seven artists struggling to follow their dreams without selling out. With its inspiring message of joy and hope in the face of fear, this timeless celebration of friendship and creativity reminds us to measure our lives with the only thing that truly matters—love.

The show received its world premiere off-Broadway at New York Theatre Workshop on February 13, 1996, to ecstatic reviews and transferred to Broadway on April 29, 1996. RENT won the 1996 Tony Award for Best Musical as well as the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. Now, the celebrated masterpiece returns to the stage in a vibrant 20th anniversary touring production.

Based on original direction by Tony- and Drama Desk-nominated Michael Greif, Evan Ensign re-stages the RENT 20th Anniversary Tour.

This performance contains adult content and themes.

Performance Sponsored by

PRE

Waitress
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25  •  7:30 P.M.
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26  •  7:30 P.M.

Inspired by the beloved 2007 film starring Keri Russell, Waitress is the Broadway musical that tells the story of Jenna Hunterson, an expert pie maker who dreams of a way out of her small town. A baking contest and the town’s new doctor may offer her a fresh start, but Jenna must summon the strength to rebuild her own life in this uplifting celebration of friendship, motherhood and the magic of a well-made pie.

Brought to life by a groundbreaking, all-female creative team, the Tony Award-winning hit features original music and lyrics by seven-time Grammy nominee Sara Bareilles (“Love Song,” “Brave”), a book by acclaimed screenwriter Jessie Nelson (I Am Sam) and direction by Tony Award winner Diane Paulus (Pippin, Finding Neverland).

This performance contains adult content and themes.

Performance Sponsored by

Momma G’s Deli

“[Waitress] has audiences . . . alternately whooping with excitement and dabbing with tears.”
—The Los Angeles Times
An Evening with Sutton Foster
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 - 7:30 P.M.

Renowned performer of stage and screen, Sutton Foster’s versatile cabaret act features the multi-talented phenom singing everything from show tunes to pop to country. A celebrated Broadway actress with multiple awards and nominations to her credit, Foster has twice won the Tony Award for Best Performance by a Leading Actress in a Musical, once in 2002 for her role as Millie Dinsmore in Thoroughly Modern Millie, and again in 2011 as the evangelist-turned-nightclub singer Reno Sweeney in Anything Goes. Her acclaimed theater career spans two decades and includes roles in productions of Grease, Annie, Les Misérables, South Pacific, Funny Girl, Young Frankenstein, and Steel The Musical.

As a solo artist, Foster has graced the stages of Carnegie Hall, Feinstein’s, and Lincoln Center’s American Songbook series, and has toured the country with a hit solo concert featuring songs from her debut album, Wish, as well as her follow-up, An Evening with Sutton Foster Live at the Cafe Carlyle. She released her third solo album, Take Me To the World, in June 2018.

Foster currently stars as Liza in the critically acclaimed TV Land series, Younger, which returns for its sixth season in 2019. Previously, Sutton played the role of Michelle Simms in Amy Sherman-Palladino’s AMC family series, Bunheads, and also guest-starred in Sherman-Palladino’s Netflix revival Gilmore Girls: A Year in the Life, released in late 2016.

Performance Sponsored by
Steve and Susan Campbell

Master Class Sponsored by
Diane and Darryl Rosser

Celebrity Concerts

Presenting
Larry, Steve and Rudy — The Gatlin Brothers  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12 • 7:30 P.M.

For more than sixty years, the Grammy Award-winning trio of Larry, Steve, and Rudy — The Gatlin Brothers, have dazzled audiences across the world with their sonorous gospel harmonies. Best known for chart-topping classics like “Broken Lady,” “All the Gold in California” and “Houston (Means I’m One Day Closer to You),” the Gatlin Brothers claim 33 top-40 country music hits to their credit. Throughout their illustrious career, the brothers have recorded 32 studio albums and accumulated seven number-one singles, a Grammy for Best Country Song (“Broken Lady”), three Academy of Country Music awards and five CMA nominations. A prolific songwriter, Larry Gatlin has penned an extensive list of top-40 Billboard hits, and his massive song catalog has been recorded by legendary artists including Elvis Presley, Barbara Streisand, Johnny Cash, Roy Orbison, Glen Campbell, Kris Kristofferson, Sir Tom Jones, Dottie West, Charlie Rich, Johnny Mathis and many others.

The Gatlin Brothers grew up in Abilene, Texas, and started singing gospel from an early age. As children, they would sing for anyone who would listen. Soon they were touring from coast to coast, taking the first steps on a triumphant career path that led to performances on iconic stages like the Grammy Awards, the American Music Awards and the People’s Choice Awards and famed venues, including the White House, Radio City Music Hall and Carnegie Hall.

After six decades, the Gatlin Brothers continue to make music. In 2015, they released their latest album, The Gospel According to Gatlin, and in 2017, Larry produced his musical Quannah to rave reviews.

Performance Sponsored by
Linda Bonds Peterson

The Beach Boys  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15 • 7:30 P.M.

Spanning more than half a century, the Beach Boys—America’s quintessential surf band—have recorded and performed the music that has become the soundtrack to summer. Their shimmering vocal harmonies and relaxed California style have continued to delight fans across generations, bringing good vibrations to audiences around the world over.

This year, the band, led by Mike Love, have embarked on a massive tour across North America and Europe, promising a harmonious convergence of yesteryear and today and a much-anticipated nostalgic celebration for the millions who continue to adore The Beach Boys’ musical legacy. In addition to songs from their latest albums, the Grammy Award-winning Rock and Roll Hall of Famers will perform several signature hits, from early rock classics (“Surfin’ Safari,” “Wouldn’t It Be Nice” and “God Only Knows”) to chart-toppers from the seventies and eighties (“Kokomo”).

“They invented their own space in American culture, which now seems unimaginable without them.”
— Baltimore Sun

Performance Sponsored by
Chamber Arts

Montrose Trio
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3 • 7:30 P.M.

Praised in the Washington Post for their “absolutely top-notch music-making,” and “poised to become one of the top piano trios in the world,” the Montrose Trio has rapidly earned a reputation for performances of unmatched distinction. Formed in 2015, this collaboration between pianist Jon Kimura Parker, violinist Martin Beaver, and cellist Clive Greensmith stems from a long and fruitful relationship between pianist Parker and the Tokyo String Quartet. Parker was the quartet’s final guest pianist, and a backstage conversation with Beaver and Greensmith brought the Montrose Trio into existence.

 Appropriately, the trio’s namesake comes from a three-part inspiration: Château Montrose, a storied Bordeaux wine long favored after concerts; the Montrose Arts District of Houston; and the street in Winnipeg where Beaver was raised.

“...vibrant performances that let each work reveal itself in all it has to say.”
— Albuquerque Journal
As the world approaches the 250th anniversary of Beethoven’s birth in 1770, two extraordinary artists pair this giant with one of contemporary music’s most influential composers—Philip Glass. Cellist Matt Haimovitz and pianist Simone Dinnerstein collaborate on a dynamic program that includes a Beethoven cello sonata alongside a Glass partita and solo piano and cello repertoires by both composers.

Renowned pioneering cellist Matt Haimovitz has been praised by The New York Times as a “ferociously talented cellist who brings his megawatt sound and uncommon, expressive gifts to a vast variety of styles.” A remarkable virtuoso who never turns in a predictable performance, Haimovitz made his debut in 1984, at the age of 13, as soloist with Zubin Mehta and the Israel Philharmonic. He has gone on to perform on the world’s most esteemed stages, with a recording career that encompasses more than 20 years of award-winning work.

Lauded for her “lean, knowing and unpretentious elegance” in the New Yorker, with the Independent observing the “majestic originality of vision” in her artistic approach, American pianist Simone Dinnerstein first attracted attention in 2007 with her self-produced recording of Bach’s Goldberg Variations. A remarkable success, it reached No. 1 on the U.S. Billboard Classical Albums Chart and established Dinnerstein’s distinctive and original approach.

Matt Haimovitz and Simone Dinnerstein
TUESDAY, MARCH 3 • 7:30 P.M.

“Dinnerstein’s playing is one of a kind... hearing her rendition of a piece makes it impossible to imagine it performed any other way.”

— The Paris Review

Dover Quartet and Bridget Kibbey
TUESDAY, MARCH 24 • 7:30 P.M.

Cherished harpist Bridget Kibbey and the world-renowned Dover Quartet are uniting for the first time in a celebration of the “father” of all composers, J.S. Bach. The unprecedented performance features a selection of Bach’s greatest works in the hands of some of today’s most brilliant musical artists. From the “Toccata and Fugue in D Minor” to the Aria and Three Variations from the Goldberg Variations, from The Art of the Fugue to “Brandenburg Concerto No. 3,” Kibbey and the Dover Quartet will dazzle and captivate the audience.

An acclaimed soloist and chamber musician who has toured and recorded with Dawn Upshaw and Placido Domingo, Kibbey brings virtuosic brilliance and musical charisma to all she plays.

Kibbey pairs with the phenomenal Dover Quartet, praised by Strad for “their exceptional interpretative maturity, tonal refinement, and text ensemble.” The quartet catapulted to international stardom following a stunning sweep at the 2015 Banff Competition, at which they won every prize.

“Kibbey makes it seem as though her instrument has been waiting all its life to explode with the gorgeous colors and energetic figures she was getting from it.”

— The New York Times
DIAVOLO: Architecture in Motion
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3 • 7:30 P.M.

DIAVOLO: Architecture in Motion, the renowned Los Angeles-based dance company, was founded in 1992 by artistic director Jacques Heim, an inquisitive guy who combined his academic background in theater, film and dance with a passion for architecture. Thanks to Heim and his talented crew of dancers, designers and engineers, the company has, for more than 35 years, been applauded internationally for its ability to display surprising movement against a backdrop of elaborately designed space, all while entertaining audiences with what is, in fact, a new art form.

Heim’s skill in creating work that entertains is central to his artistic vision, one that combines elements of contemporary dance with martial arts, acrobatics, gymnastics and hip-hop. DIAVOLO has captivated sold-out audience for years, performing in 250 cities and 14 countries and throughout the U.S.

In 2017, DIAVOLO enjoyed an especially extraordinary season, highlighted by Heim’s creation of five new pieces for Season 15 of NBC’s hit series America’s Got Talent. One of the top-10 contestants to reach the show’s finale at Hollywood’s Dolby Theatre, the company’s performances were seen by more than 90 million television viewers.

“...the dance equivalent of going down a roller coaster... a pure shot of adrenaline.”

— Broadway World

Performance Sponsored by
Anders Enterprises
Dorrance Dance
FRIDAY, JANUARY 31 • 7:30 P.M.

Dorrance Dance is an award-winning tap dance company whose uniquely talented dancers and musicians deliver innovative, powerful performances at every show. The company’s work aims to honor tap dance’s beautiful history in a new, dynamic and compelling context, not by stripping the form of its tradition, but by pushing it—rhythmically, technically and conceptually. The company’s inaugural performance garnered a Bessie Award for “blasting open our notions of tap,” and the company continues its passionate commitment to expanding the audience of tap dance, America’s original art form.

Founded in 2011 by artistic director and 2015 MacArthur Fellow Michelle Dorrance, Dorrance Dance has received countless accolades and rave reviews. The company has performed for packed houses around the globe and is dedicated to expanding its programs to help shape and educate the next generation of tap dancers.

School Show Sponsored by
Dr. and Mrs. David Paradice

“This intimate and rowdy merging of dance and music, with one disappearing into the other, hits you like a sonic distillation...”
— The Washington Post

Camille A. Brown and Dancers
SATURDAY, APRIL 18 • 7:30 P.M.

Camille A. Brown and Dancers (CABD) is a Bessie Award-winning, New York City-based dance company advancing the artistic vision of dancer and choreographer Camille A. Brown. Founded in 2006, the company performs around the globe, inviting audiences into stories and dialogues about race, culture and identity. A veteran of Broadway, Camille A. Brown has choreographed the Emmy Award-winning special Jesus Christ Superstar and the Tony Award-winning revival of Once on This Island, receiving Outer Critics Circle, Drama Desk and Chita Rivera award nominations for her work on the show. She and her company have performed at national and international venues including the Joyce Theater, the Kennedy Center and the Belfast Festival at Queen’s in Ireland. In 2016, CABD received the Bessie Award for Outstanding Production for Mrs. TOL. E. RanC.E.

Performance Sponsored by
The Elizabeth Grant Family

CABD is known for an introspective approach to cultural themes through visceral movement and sociopolitical dialogues. Camille A. Brown leads her dancers through excavations of ancestral stories, encouraging each dancer to embrace their unique embodiment of the artistic vision and gestural vocabulary.

The dances use theatricality and the aesthetics of modern, hip-hop, African, ballet and tap to tell the stories that connect history with contemporary culture. Strongly character-based, they express each topic by building from little moments, modeling a filmic sensibility. Theater, poetry, visual art and music of all genres merge to inject each performance with energy and urgency.

Artist Talk Sponsored by
Linda and John Mengelt

Workshop Sponsored by
aecc
Hailed by Spectacle Magazine as “the greatest contribution to the American circus since Cirque du Soleil,” and The New York Times praising it as “intelligently conceived and expertly executed,” Cirque Mechanics has quickly established itself as a premier entertainment event perfect for the entire family. With a unique approach to performance, inspiring storytelling and innovative mechanical staging, the shows display a realism not usually found in modern circus that makes their message timeless and relevant. Stories are wrapped in acrobatics, mechanical wonders and a bit of clowning around.

While drawing inspiration from the modern circus, Cirque Mechanics is rooted in the stories of American ingenuity and mechanical innovation. In past years, Cirque Mechanics has thrilled audiences with the extraordinary spectacles of Birdhouse Factory, Boomtown and Pedal Punk. And, new for this season, the troupe has created 42ft – A Menagerie of Mechanical Marvels. The performance takes place inside a 42-foot classic single-ring circus, transformed by marvels like a galloping metal horse and rotating tent frame serving acrobats and strongmen. The pairing of the traditional with the innovative makes Cirque Mechanics a dazzling crowd-pleaser for every age.

Performance Sponsored by

School Show Sponsored by

Carol and Bill Hamm
Dino-Light by Lightwire Theater
FRIDAY, JANUARY 17 • 7:30 P.M.

Lightwire Theater brings stories to life in complete darkness. Hailed by Rolling Stone as “absolutely incredible,” their electroluminescent artistry mesmerizes audiences with a unique show that combines dance and innovative costume design. An assortment of neon-ill creatures, from dinosaurs to 16-foot-tall birds, dunks, soldiers and more, moves around a completely darkened stage choreographed to exhilarating music. Lightwire’s costume creations can require nearly 200 hours to build and can include anything from fishing poles to duct tape to skateboard wheels. The result is a showcase of innovative visual storytelling that will enthral the inner child of every age.

Lightwire Theater co-creators Ian Carney and Curtin Popp met in New York City while dancing in Twyla Tharp’s Movin’ Out on Broadway. An immediate connection was made between the kindred spirits as they discovered their mutual love of art, theater and technology. After coming across a product called “EL wire,” the lights turned on and the possibilities seemed endless.

Lightwire Theater are winners of truTV’s Fake Off and have been featured as semifinalists on NBC’s America’s Got Talent, where Howard Stern praised their ingenuity and creativity, and declared, “You’re everything that makes America great!”

Air Play by Acrobufos
FRIDAY, MAY 8 • 7:30 P.M.

Since 2005, Acrobufos, the husband and wife team of Seth Bloom and Christina Gesmonde, have been redefining traditional circus performance to the delight of all ages. Having performed collectively in 48 different countries, with seven inventive shows to their credit, the expert clown duo elevates the art of comedic, physical theater to mesmerizing, lighter-than-air spectacle.

Acrobufos’s latest production, Air Play, is a circus-style adventure of two siblings journeying through a surreal world, with the ability to turn common, everyday objects into displays of uncommon beauty. Fabrics dance in the wind, balloons have a mind of their own, confetti turns into the night sky and an enormous canopy of hovering silk forever alters their future. “You feel you’re witnessing divine natural occurrences rather than carefully devised circus stunts,” raves the Hartford Courant.

Air Play merges circus and street-theater performance art with the sculptural artistry of Daniel Wurtzel, whose creations have been seen on Broadway and with Cirque du Soleil, Robert Lepage and Diane Paulus. With visual images seemingly seen from the sky, this poetic ode to childhood will enchant and electrify the young and young at heart.

“A joy from start to finish. [Air Play] will entrance children, and will act as a reset button for stressed adults.”

— Sydney Morning Herald

School Show Sponsored by

AUBURN BANK

School Show Sponsored by

RIVER BANK & TRUST
Terrance Simien and The Zydeco Experience
FRIday, February 21 • 7:30 P.M.

For more than 30 years, two-time Grammy Award-winning artist Terrance Simien has been shattering the myths about indigenous roots music and redefining the genre with historic albums and performances. Simien, an eighth-generation Louisiana Creole, is the real deal, with a massively entertaining live show that incorporates all that is great about Louisiana’s diverse musical heritage—a hypnotic blend of American roots music flavored with New Orleans funk, reggae, world and blues.

Simien began touring at the young age of 18, and by 20 found himself sharing the stage with Fats Domino and Sarah Vaughan at the Bern Jazz Festival. Over the years, Simien and his bandmates have played live and in studio with Robert Palmer, Stevie Wonder, Los Lobos, Taj Mahal, Dr. John, the Meters, Allen Touissaint, Paul Simon and Dave Matthews Band, to name a few. In 2008, Terrance Simien and the Zydeco Experience were the first artists in more than 30 years to win a Grammy Award in zydeco. The following year Simien collaborated with Randy Newman on “Gonna Take You There,” a zydeco-flavored song featured in the Disney animated feature film The Princess and the Frog.

Leading his dynamic band, Simien has become one of the most respected and accomplished artists in American roots music today. He and his bandmates have performed more than 7,000 concerts and toured in more than 45 countries during their eventful career.

Artist Talk Sponsored by

School Show Sponsored by

Workshop Sponsored by
Pablo Sáinz Villegas: Americano Trio
SUNDAY, MARCH 1 • 7:30 P.M.

Praised as the soul of the Spanish guitar, Pablo Sáinz Villegas has become a worldwide sensation known as this generation’s great guitarist.

Born in La Rioja in Northern Spain, he is known for his passionate, emotive and open-hearted style, whether he is performing at intimate recital halls or playing with beloved tenor Plácido Domingo to an audience of more than 85,000 at Santiago Bernabéu Stadium in Madrid.

Sáinz Villegas believes that music is the best language for communication because of its intangible and ethereal nature. He thrives on a continuous search for innovative ways to inspire diverse communities within society. For his appearance at the Gogue Center, Sáinz Villegas will be accompanied by versatile bassist Pedro Giraudo and master percussionist Nacho Arimany, presenting Americano, a musical journey of song through the Americas.

Originally from Córdoba, Argentina, Giraudo is a Grammy Award-winning composer, conductor and arranger whose collaborations range from tango to jazz and include such legendary artists as Pablo Ziegler and Branford Marsalis.

A child prodigy, Giraudo was touring by the age of 12. His first solo release, Making Music, was acclaimed as “one of the most inspired East-West fusion albums ever recorded.” In 1992, Planet Drum, an album co-created and produced by Giraudo and Mickey Hart, became the first recording to win a Grammy in the Best World Music category.

Zakir Hussain and Friends featuring Jayanthi Kumaresh and Kala Ramnath
TUESDAY, APRIL 21 • 7:30 P.M.

Zakir Hussain is appreciated as an international phenomenon and one of the greatest musicians of our time. A classical tabla virtuoso, he has elevated the status of his instrument both in India and around the world. Zakir’s playing is marked by uncanny intuition and masterful improvisational dexterity, founded in formidable knowledge and study.

Widely considered a chief architect of the contemporary world music movement, Hussain’s many historic collaborations include the fusion band Shakti, Planet Drum with the Grateful Dead’s Mickey Hart, and recordings and performances with artists as diverse as George Harrison, Yo-Yo Ma, Joe Henderson, Van Morrison and Pharoah Sanders, among many others.

“...virtuosic playing characterized by irresistible exuberance...”
— The New York Times

“A child prodigy, Hussain was touring by the age of 12. His first solo release, Making Music, was acclaimed as “one of the most inspired East-West fusion albums ever recorded.” In 1992, Planet Drum, an album co-created and produced by Giraudo and Mickey Hart, became the first recording to win a Grammy in the Best World Music category.

For his performance at the Gogue Center, Hussain will be joined by maestro Kala Ramnath, described as a musician of giant-like qualities and known for her ‘Singing Violin,’ and Dr. Jayanthi Kumaresh, one of the top veena (South Indian Carnatic lute) artists today. These three masters of the highest order will perform a unique celebration of global music.

“We are truly well blessed and fortunate to be living in these times when Zakir Hussain is playing his music.”
— Rolling Stone
Chris Botti
Friday, October 18 • 7:30 P.M.

Since the release of his 2004 critically acclaimed album, When I Fall in Love, Chris Botti has become the largest-selling American instrumental artist. His success has crossed over to audiences usually reserved for pop music and his ongoing association with PBS has led to four number-one jazz albums, as well as multiple gold- and platinum-certified records and Grammy Awards. His latest release, Impressions, won the Grammy for Best Pop Instrumental Album. Performing worldwide and selling more than four million albums, he has found a form of creative expression that begins in jazz and expands beyond the limits of any single genre.

Over the past three decades, Botti has recorded and performed with the best in music, including Sting, Barbra Streisand, Tony Bennett, Lady Gaga, Josh Groban, Yo-Yo Ma, Michael Bublé, Paul Simon, Joni Mitchell, John Mayer, Andrea Bocelli, Joshua Bell, Aerosmith’s Steven Tyler and even Frank Sinatra. Hitting the road for as many as 300 days per year, the trumpeter has also performed with many of the finest symphonies and at some of the world’s most prestigious venues, from Carnegie Hall and the Hollywood Bowl to the Sydney Opera House and the Real Teatro di San Carlo in Italy.

Master Class Sponsored by
JPMorgan Chase & Co.
Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis
THURSDAY, MARCH 26 • 7:30 P.M.

The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis (JLCO) comprises 15 of the finest jazz soloists and ensemble players today. Led by Wynton Marsalis, this remarkably versatile orchestra performs a vast repertoire ranging from original compositions and Jazz at Lincoln Center-commissioned works to rare historic compositions and masterworks by Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Fletcher Henderson, Thelonious Monk, Mary Lou Williams, Dizzy Gillespie, Benny Goodman, Charles Mingus and many others.

The JLCO has been the Jazz at Lincoln Center resident orchestra since 1988, performing and leading educational events in New York, across the U.S. and around the globe. Alongside symphony orchestras, ballet troupes, local students, and an ever-expanding roster of guest artists, the JLCO has toured more than 300 cities across six continents.

In 2015, Jazz at Lincoln Center announced the launch of Blue Engine Records, a new platform to make its archive of recorded concerts available to jazz audiences everywhere. The first release from Blue Engine Records, Live in Cuba, was recorded on a historic 2010 trip to Havana by JLCO and was released in October 2015. To date, JLCO has released 14 other recordings internationally.

With the world-renowned JLCO and a comprehensive array of guest artists, Jazz at Lincoln Center advances a unique vision for the continued development of the art of jazz by producing a year-round schedule of performance, education and broadcast events for audiences of all ages. This concert experience is an event to be treasured by all lovers of jazz music.

Alfredo Rodríguez and Pedrito Martinez Duo
TUESDAY, APRIL 7 • 7:30 P.M.

Classical piano prodigy Alfredo Rodríguez and street percussionist Pedrito Martinez, two of Cuba’s most exciting and innovative artists, have joined forces to form the Cuban jazz supergroup, the Alfredo Rodríguez and Pedrito Martinez Duo.

Both hailing from Havana, Rodríguez was born into a musical family, his father a popular singer and TV host. A child prodigy, he studied classical piano while playing popular music in his father’s orchestra. While performing at the Montreux Jazz Festival in 2006, he was discovered by his future mentor and producer, the legendary Quincy Jones.

Martinez honed his craft on the streets of Havana, learning the deeply rooted percussion and vocal style of Afro-Cuban folkloric and religious music. A master percussionist and vocalist, he arrived in the U.S. in 1998, and was soon awarded First Place at the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz International Afro-Latin Hand Drum Competition. Martinez has performed or recorded with Wynton Marsalis, Sting, Bruce Springsteen, Paul Simon, Angélique Kidjo, Chucho Valdés and James Taylor.

Their first collaborative album, Duologue, released in February 2019 and produced by Quincy Jones, finds the pair exploring a range of moods and influences, from Cuban classics to collaborative original compositions to a number of unexpected favorites, like a version of Michael Jackson’s “Thriller” and their joyous take on the theme from the classic video game “Super Mario Bros. 3.”

“Each is on his own musical trajectory . . . it’s a joy to hear their visions combine.”

— National Public Radio

Artist Talk Sponsored by
Nancy and Billy Cleveland
Presenting

Vocal Songbook

Renée Fleming

Tuesday, September 24 • 7:30 p.m.

Renée Fleming is one of the most acclaimed singers of our time. In 2013, President Barack Obama awarded her America’s highest honor for an artist, the National Medal of Arts. She brought her voice to a vast new audience in 2014 as the only classical artist ever to sing the U.S. National Anthem at the Super Bowl. Winner of the 2013 Grammy Award (her fourth) for Best Classical Vocal Solo, Fleming has sung for momentous occasions from the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony to the Diamond Jubilee Concert for Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace. In 2008, Fleming became the first woman in the 125-year history of the Metropolitan Opera to headline an opening-night gala.

Fleming earned a Tony Award nomination for her performance in the 2018 Broadway production of Carousel. She can be heard on the soundtracks of the 2018 Best Picture Oscar winner The Shape of Water and Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri, and provides the singing voice of Rozanne, played by Julianne Moore, in the 2018 film adaptation of the best-selling novel Bel Canto.

In September 2018, Decca released her latest album, Renée Fleming: Broadway, featuring a collection of great musical theater songs from the 1920s to the present day. She has recorded everything from complete operas and song recitals to indie rock and jazz, and her album Signatures was selected by the U.S. Library of Congress for the National Recording Registry as an “aural treasure worthy of preservation as part of America’s patrimony.” Fleming made her London musical theater debut in The Light in the Piazza at Royal Festival Hall in June 2019.

Performance Sponsored by

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Artist Talk Sponsored by

Davidson, Davidson, Umbach & Forbus
Scott Bradlee’s Postmodern Jukebox
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 • 7:30 P.M.

Everything new is old again nicely describes the retrofitting musical style of Scott Bradlee’s Postmodern Jukebox, an ensemble of musicians and dancers who take contemporary popular hits and rearrange them with inspiration from vintage musical genres such as swing, jazz and Motown. This year, in advance of the 2020s, the famed time-twisting musical collective will circumnavigate the globe with their Welcome to the Twenties 2.0 Tour. The tour is meant to prepare the world for a new decade—one that PMJ creator Bradlee hopes will see a return to the style and craftsmanship that typified the music of past generations.

Bradlee began PMJ in 2011 as a passion project from his basement in Astoria, Queens. Enlisting the help of some of his close friends from college, Bradlee shot music videos of current rock and pop hits reimagined in earlier musical styles from the ‘20s, ‘30s, ‘50s and ‘60s. In 2012, their cover version of Macklemore & Ryan Lewis’s “Thrift Shop” went viral, with one million views on YouTube in its first week and four million in its first year. PMJ’s online performances of popular songs ranging from “A Motown Tribute to Nickelback,” Miley Cyrus’s “We Can’t Stop,” Lorde’s “Royals” and Lady Gaga’s “Bad Romance” have captured the attention of a worldwide fanbase that propelled the band’s YouTube channel past the one billion-view mark in 2018.

The diverse blending of genres and timelines in PMJ’s endlessly creative repertoire means that audiences will hear something new, even if they’ve heard it before.

"(A) good time and exquisite . . . top-drawer showman- and musicianship. Scintillating . . ."

—London Jazz News

VOCES8 (Holiday Program)
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17 • 7:30 P.M.

The award-winning vocal group VOICES8 has inspired audiences all over the world. With an impressive repertory of songs spanning early English choral pieces to modern jazz and pop tunes, the British vocal ensemble brings their versatility and diverse musical expression to the stage for a stirring, live holiday program.

Popular on a global level, VOICES8 has dazzled audiences at premier international venues. Both live and recorded performances of VOICES8 are regularly broadcast on international television and radio. A Decca Classics artist, they have released a series of chart-topping recordings, with a new album planned for 2019.

Described as having voices sounding as though hand-picked for sheer vocal beauty, perfect transparency of intricate contrapuntal textures, extreme cohesion and impeccable accuracy, VOICES8 is an unparalleled live vocal experience that will set the perfect tone for this holiday season.

"The singing of VOICES8 is impeccable . . . They bring a new dimension to the word ‘ensemble’.

—The Washington Post"
TICKETS AND INFORMATION

Ticket Policies

ALL TICKET SALES ARE FINAL. Due to the nature of the live performing arts, scheduled artists, events, and programs are subject to change. If an artist cancels an appearance, the Gogue Center will make every effort to substitute the scheduled event with a comparable artist or performance. Refunds will be offered only if a substitute cannot be found. Service fees are not refundable.

SUBSCRIPTION AND TICKET SERVICE FEES

Unless otherwise noted, subscription and single ticket orders are subject to a service fee when purchased by mail, by phone, or online. There is a $10 service fee for all subscription orders and a $6 per ticket service fee for all single ticket orders. Service fees are not refundable. For ticket changes or exchanges, price differences and additional service fees may apply. Please refer to the Exchange Policies section on the following page.

GROUP TICKETS

Orders of 10 or more tickets to the same performance may be eligible for a group ticket discount of up to 10 percent. Group discounts may be applied to tickets purchased for seats in price levels A, B, C, and D only. For additional information and details regarding group tickets, contact the box office during regular business hours.

LOST OR MISPLACED TICKETS

Duplicates cannot be mailed. To obtain duplicates, call or visit the box office during regular business hours.

LATECOMERS

Late seating is not guaranteed and varies per performance. Please plan ample time for parking and arrival. The Gogue Center works individually with each artist to determine a late seating policy that will be the least disruptive to the artists and patrons.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Children under three years of age will not be admitted to regular, full-length performances. Performances that may be inappropriate for children will be identified on-line and in printed materials. Please use discretion in choosing to bring a child to a performance. Children must be able to sit quietly in their own seats throughout the performance. Those unable to do so, and the adult(s) accompanying them, may be asked by an usher to leave the theater. Regardless of age, all patrons must have an individual ticket and seat assignment for each performance.

WILL CALL/TICKET PICK UP

Any ticket orders not mailed, emailed, or retrieved from the box office prior to a performance are held at will call, which opens in the lobby 90 minutes prior to the performance start time.

ACCESS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The Gogue Center recognizes the needs of persons with disabilities, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and continues to make every effort to accommodate individuals consistent with both ADA and State of Alabama accessibility mandates. We are committed to making all facets of our organization accessible to the widest possible audience. This commitment includes making our website, performance venues and event spaces, facilities and grounds accessible for all.

BOX OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

The box office sends updated performance-related announcements (e.g. information regarding parking, late seating, and other pertinent details) via email one to two days before each event. Please check the box office for any changes to your contact information.

To ensure timely delivery of email correspondence to your inbox, add gpactickets@auburn.edu to your address book and safe sender list.

Exchange Policies

TICKET EXCHANGE

Tickets are not refundable, but the Gogue Center offers multiple options to make it easy for patrons to make the most of the ticket value if you can no longer attend a performance. Price differences and exchange fees may apply. Three options for ticket exchange are outlined below. Exchanged tickets must be returned to the Gogue Center box office so that they may be voided. Voided tickets must be received prior to the deadlines listed below. Tickets returned after the performance begins are ineligible for gift purposes or for credit.

OPTION 1: TICKET GIFT FOR A STUDENT

The box office maintains a dedicated ticket waitlist for students so they may attend performances at no cost. To ensure timely distribution and availability to students, unused tickets must be returned to the box office 48 hours prior to the published performance start time.

OPTION 2: TICKET EXCHANGES

Tickets may be exchanged for another performance within the current season. Original tickets must be returned and voided and returned to the box office at least 24 hours prior to the published performance start time. Tickets exchanged for those of a lower price will result in a credit, which will be applied to a patron’s Gogue Center account. Credit is redeemable until the last performance of the current season.

OPTION 3: GOGUE CENTER CREDIT

The Gogue Center can hold the remaining value of voided tickets—after applicable fees—as a credit on a patron’s account. Credit may be applied toward the purchase of any other performance tickets until the last performance of the current season. Credit cannot be applied to purchase of tickets, goods, or services in future seasons. Tickets voided for credit must be returned to the box office at least 24 hours prior to the published performance start time. Credit can be redeemed over the phone or in person at the box office, but cannot be redeemed online. All credits expire at the end of the current season.

EXCHANGE FEES

Ticket holders are charged a $10 per ticket exchange fee, unless they are a sponsor at the $250 level or above. Tickets must be exchanged at least 24 hours prior to the published performance start time.
Auburn University Student, Faculty and Staff Tickets

STUDENT TICKETS
Tickets are available to Auburn University students for $10 per ticket. Students may purchase two $20 tickets per show with a valid Tiger Card, the university’s official student identification card. Auburn students may purchase tickets by phone, in person at the box office, or online by logging in to their Gogue Center account.

For every performance, the Gogue Center designates a significant number of seats that qualify for the student discount. If these seats sell out, the Gogue Center will monitor seat inventory and patron demand to assess whether additional student seats can be made available. Additional student seats will be made available 48 hours prior to the published performance start time.

FREE STUDENT TICKETS
Throughout the year, subscribers may gift tickets to Auburn University students through the box office. Current Auburn students can register for the performance waiting list by contacting the box office.

Tickets will be made available on a first-come, first-served basis. Students will be notified 24 hours prior to the published performance start time if a free ticket is available. Free student tickets must be picked up from the box office.

FACULTY AND STAFF SINGLE TICKET DISCOUNT
All Auburn University faculty and staff qualify for a 10 percent discount on single ticket purchases to performances within the Gogue Center’s annual performing arts series. This discount is valid for tickets purchased for seats in price levels A, B, C, and D only.

Auburn faculty and staff may purchase tickets by phone, in person at the box office, or online by logging in to their Gogue Center account.

Seating and Price Levels Within the Woltzsc Theatre
The Walter Stanley and Virginia Katharine Evans Woltzsc Theatre—the Gogue Center’s largest performance venue—is divided into two main seating areas: Balcony and Orchestra. Price levels for subscription packages and single tickets are available in both areas.

2019-20 Season and Series Subscription Packages

SEASON SUBSCRIPTIONS
Season subscriptions grant access to all 27 season performances and offer the best value in terms of ticket price. With a season subscription, patrons can save 25 percent off the price of a single ticket. Season subscriptions can be purchased at four price levels: A, B, C, and D.

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SERIES SUBSCRIPTIONS
Series subscriptions grant access to all three season performances within a genre-specific series. With a series subscription, patrons can save up to 20 percent off the price of a single ticket. Series subscriptions can be purchased for all series at four price levels: A, B, C, and D.

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2019-20 Season Single Ticket Pricing

SINGLE TICKETS
Single tickets grant access to an individual performance within the performing arts season. Prices vary by series and can be purchased at five price levels: A, B, C, D, and E. Tickets in price level E are available exclusively to Auburn University students.

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*Series subscription prices for the Broadway series reflect a savings of $2.50 excised off single ticket prices.
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