



For Immediate Release:
September 20, 2021

Contact: Franz Neumann
(562) 985-1822
franz.neumann@csulb.edu

The Carpenter Center Welcomes Audiences Back to Reopened Theatre for 26th Season Featuring Exceptional Artists and Performances

2021-2022 Season Includes BRANFORD MARSALIS, PAULA POUNDSTONE, ANNE LAMOTT, STORM LARGE, DAMIEN SNEED, DAVID BENOIT, DAVID BURNHAM, LES BALLETS TROCKADERO, A.I.M BY KYLE ABRAHAM, ALLAN HARRIS, MOMIX, and IGUDESMAN & JOO.

LONG BEACH, California —The Richard and Karen Carpenter Performing Arts Center unveils their 2021-22 season featuring a captivating collection of music, dance, comedy, and speakers. Located on the campus of California State University, Long Beach, the Carpenter Center launches its 26th anniversary season on Monday, September 20, 2021.

“With the reopening of the Carpenter Center, we’re thrilled to once again share the magic and energy of live performance with our arts community,” says Executive Director Megan Kline Crockett. “We’ve invited back some of our favorite performers along with exceptional artists new to our stage who embody our commitment to celebrate the joy, wonder, and diversity of the performing arts.”

Find all the upcoming events from the new season below, along with artist links and date information. Artist information is also available at carpenterarts.org.

Comedy and Speakers

Comedian **Paula Poundstone** returns for a laugh-out-loud evening of brilliantly spontaneous humor delivered with her legendary wit. When she isn’t on the panel of the #1 NPR show “Wait, Wait...Don’t Tell Me!,” Paula Poundstone uncovers the hilarious angle of almost any subject, delivering her wisdom and humor with the smarts that make every performance feel unique. *** Author **Anne Lamott** lifts, comforts, and inspires—all while keeping us laughing—in an evening of generous wisdom. Utterly

-MORE-

disarming, Anne Lamott is known for addressing complex subjects with humor and ruthless honesty. Always forthright, she is “a writer who has perfected the art of saying the unsayable.” (*The New York Times*)

- [An Evening with Paula Poundstone](#)
Saturday, December 11, 2021 at 8 p.m.
- [An Evening with Anne Lamott](#)
Saturday, April 23, 2022 at 8 p.m.

Cabaret

Three singular artists are featured in this season’s intimate cabaret performances, where patrons sit at tables on the main stage. Vocal superstar **Storm Large** leads with her sultry and subversive renditions of jazz standards, Broadway showstoppers, and classic anthems, illuminating them in a gorgeous new hue. *** Broadway star **David Burnham** returns to celebrate the stories and music of superstar Tom Jones, including Burnham’s unique renditions of Tom Jones’s chart-toppers, from “It’s Not Unusual” to “What’s New Pussycat.” *** **Allan Harris** and his quartet share soul-drenched songs from his latest album, *Kate’s Soulfood* as he pays homage to the richness of Harlem, the neighborhood where he was raised and the source of inspiration for this deeply personal collection of songs.

- [Storm Large](#)
Wednesday/Thursday, November 10 & November 11, 2021
- [Celebrating Tom Jones starring David Burnham](#)
Wednesday/Thursday, January 19 & January 20, 2022
- [Allan Harris Kate’s Soulfood](#)
Wednesday/Thursday, March 2 & March 3, 2022

All Cabaret performances start at 7 p.m.

Dance

The 2021-2022 dance performances continue the Carpenter Center’s reputation as a leading presenter of dance in Southern California. This season includes **Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo** in their seventh appearance on the Center’s stage. The all-male dance company’s one-of-a-kind combination of ballet satire and spot-on choreography have thrilled dance connoisseurs and delighted audiences for

-MORE-

over 40 years. *** Also returning is the celebrated dance company **A.I.M by Kyle Abraham** performing *An Untitled Love*, an exultant new ode to the music of Grammy Award-winning R&B legend D'Angelo. A thumping mixtape of a dance, *An Untitled Love* is sonically rooted in the richness of Soul and R&B music, and celebrates family, community, and love in this evening-length experience by one of today's most in-demand choreographers. *** The internationally acclaimed dancer-illusionists of **MOMIX** return to the Carpenter Center to conjure the magical world of the White Rabbit, Mad Hatter, and the Queen of Hearts in this stunning reimagining of Lewis Carroll's novel *Alice in Wonderland*. Featuring the visionary choreography of Artistic Director Moses Pendleton, and filled with visual splendor and startling creative movement, *Alice* reveals that nothing in MOMIX's world is as it seems.

- [Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo](#)
Saturday, January 29, 2022 at 8 p.m.
Sunday, January 30, 2022 at 2 p.m.
- [A.I.M. by Kyle Abraham](#)
An Untitled Love
Saturday, February 5, 2022 at 8 p.m.
- [MOMIX](#)
Alice
Saturday, April 30, 2022 at 8 p.m.

Music

The Center's music performances include world-renowned jazz saxophonist **Branford Marsalis** in an evening of dazzling virtuosity, heartfelt ballads, and telepathic improvisations with his famed quartet. Since its inception in 1986, the Grammy Award-winning quartet has been revered for its kaleidoscopic range, making it the standard to which other ensembles are measured. *** Returning to the Center's stage with their inspired zaniness and captivating skill are **Igudesman & Joo**. In this afternoon's musical choose-your-own adventure, the classical music duo turn a traditional concert on its head, bringing their inventive energy to an inside-out, topsy-turvy show where every song is an encore.

- [An Evening with Branford Marsalis](#)
Saturday, November 6, 2021 at 8 p.m.
- [Igudesman & Joo](#)
Play it Again
Sunday, May 15, 2022 at 2 p.m.

-MORE-

Holiday Events

Damien Sneed and a stellar cast of vocalists and musicians ring in the holidays with original arrangements of “Joy to the World,” Handel’s *Messiah*, “This Christmas,” and many other gospel, jazz, and classical favorites. Damien Sneed has worked with legends Aretha Franklin, Stevie Wonder, and Diana Ross, and made his Carpenter Center debut with *We Shall Overcome: A Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.* during the 2018-2019 season. *** Continuing a Carpenter Center holiday tradition is jazz pianist and composer **David Benoit** as he presents the timeless Vince Guaraldi holiday tunes from the TV classic “A Charlie Brown Christmas,” alongside jazz favorites and originals. After celebrating the music of Vince Guaraldi last year in a virtual concert, David Benoit returns to the Carpenter Center stage to continue the holiday tradition, joined this year by vocalist **Courtney Fortune**, named “America’s next big jazz singer” by Genlux Magazine.

- [Damien Sneed’s Joy to the World: A Christmas Musical Journey](#)
Sunday, December 12, 2021 at 2 p.m.
- [David Benoit Christmas Tribute to Charlie Brown featuring Courtney Fortune](#)
Saturday, December 18, 2021 at 8 p.m.

Ticket Information

Tickets to fall events will be available for purchase online at CarpenterArts.org on September 20, 2021, with phone and in-person ticket purchasing beginning October 1. Tickets to spring 2022 shows will be available November 1. All programs, performers, prices, dates and times are subject to change. Presentations are made possible in part by Season Media Partner KPCC 89.3-FM.

For additional ticketing information, contact the Arts Ticket Office at (562) 985-7000. The box office is located on the California State University, Long Beach campus at 6200 E. Atherton St. Long Beach, CA 90815. The box office will be open Monday-Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. beginning October 1.

Attendance Information

For the health and safety of audiences, artists, crew, and volunteers, patrons will need to be fully vaccinated to attend a performance. For more information, including testing accommodations and more, visit carpenterarts.org/faq.

About the Carpenter Center

Now celebrating its 26th season, the Richard and Karen Carpenter Performing Arts Center located on the

-MORE-

California State University, Long Beach campus gracefully accommodates large and small productions, seating 1,054 patrons. Each season, the Carpenter Center showcases emerging and established musicians, dancers, actors, speakers, comedians, and visual artists, as well as other artistic, educational, and cultural experiences that enrich lives, promote lifelong learning in and through the performing arts, and serve as a gateway between the university and the greater community.

###

-MORE-