



IMG ARTISTS PRESENTS

When You Wish Upon a Star

A Jazz Tribute to
100 YEARS
of Disney



Welcome to the MAC! Our entire staff is thrilled to have you here and we are grateful that you have chosen to invest your time in live entertainment and world-class culture in our community. We want to offer you a space to unwind and enjoy an evening filled with laughter, music, dance, or theatre. Our aim is to provide you with unique and inspiring opportunities to engage more deeply with the arts. Join us for a complimentary pre-show MAC Chat or Q&A following specific performances. Our arts center, located in a community college, offers over 60 student productions supported by professional lighting, sound, and costumes. These can be enjoyed at affordable costs, or you can attend our FREE programs like Music Friday at Noon and our free International Global Film series, Global Flicks in February. We hope to exceed your expectations with excellent service and special pre and post-show engagement opportunities. These will help you connect with the artists and art forms more deeply. While you are here, don't forget to visit the Cleve Carney Museum of Art in the lobby to experience cutting-edge contemporary art. You can also enjoy our full-service concession area and gift shop.

After your visit, please stay connected with us by joining us on Facebook (AtTheMAC) or subscribing to our e-newsletter to find out about added shows, events, and special offers (www.AtTheMAC.org). We challenge you to try something new at the MAC and expand your cultural palate. Come see the New Philharmonic Orchestra or a Buffalo Theater Ensemble Play. Or join us this summer for the Lakeside Summer Series. We are grateful for your presence here and we want to ensure that your visit is enjoyable. If you need anything, please don't hesitate to ask any of the staff and we will do our best to accommodate you.

We hope you have a wonderful time and look forward to entertaining you.

Enjoy the show!

Diana Martinez
Director, McAninch Arts Center

McAninch Arts Center at College of DuPage
presents

When You Wish Upon a Star

A Jazz Tribute to 100 Years of Disney

Sean Mason, Piano / Musical Director
Georgia Heers, Vocalist
Sasha Dobson, Vocalist
Ahmad T. Johnson, Drums
Corentin Le Hir, Bass
Alicyn Yaffee, Guitar
Anthony Hervey, Trumpet

When You Wish Upon a Star appears by arrangement with IMG Artists, LLC,
7 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019. 212-994-3500



IMG *Artists*

The McAninch Arts Center acknowledges support from
the Illinois Arts Council Agency.



Media support provided by



Saturday, Oct. 21, 2023, 7:30 p.m.
Belushi Performance Hall

ABOUT

Join us for an unforgettable evening as we celebrate 100 years of Disney through the lens of Jazz. From *Snow White* to *Lady and the Tramp*, *Mary Poppins* and *Toy Story* to *The Jungle Book*, popular songs from these famous films have been interpreted and recorded by Disney music fans such as Louis Armstrong, Miles Davis, Dave Brubeck, Dianne Reeves and many more. “Someday My Prince Will Come,” “He’s a Tramp,” “Everybody Wants to be a Cat” and “The Bare Necessities” are just a few of the iconic songs which will be celebrated as we look back on the impact of jazz on 100 years of Disney magic!

When You Wish Upon a Star is performed by the newly created house band of **The National Jazz Museum in Harlem**, featuring pianist and musical director, **Sean Mason**, and vocalists **Kim Nalley** and **Sasha Dobson**, who will bring these famous songs to life.

(This production is not affiliated with, sponsored, or authorized by The Walt Disney Company)



The National Jazz Museum in Harlem is a Smithsonian affiliated museum, led by Artistic Directors Jon Batiste and Christian McBride, to preserve, promote and present jazz by inspiring knowledge, appreciation, and the celebration of jazz locally, nationally and internationally. The mission of the National Jazz Museum in Harlem (NJMH) is to preserve, promote and present jazz by inspiring knowledge, appreciation, and the celebration of jazz locally, nationally and internationally. Jon Batiste and Christian McBride serve as co-Artistic Directors of the National Jazz Museum in Harlem. [More about the NJMH.](#)




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IMG Artists is a global leader of performing arts, social media, and festival and events management. For more than thirty years, the company has set the standard for excellence across fields of artist and celebrity management, touring, dance and attractions, festival and event management and cultural consulting. Their specialists in offices across four continents offer unparalleled international reach and depth of experience to the company’s artists, clients, and partners.

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PROFILES



Sasha Dobson has performed all over the world in diverse contexts as a leader and first-call collaborator. The singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist represents one-third of hit trio Puss n Boots, alongside Catherine Popper and Blue Note Artist Norah Jones, with whose band Sasha has toured fairly regularly for the past eight years. As a guitarist and songwriter, Sasha bonds intuitive phrasing and refined storytelling chops with her honest, witty lyric-writing. Daughter of vocalist Gail Dobson and highly sought pianist and arranger, the late Smith Dobson, Sasha developed a core understanding of the lineage of jazz from an early age — one that has allowed her to develop into the powerhouse singer and multi-instrumentalist she’s become. In addition to traveling the world as a three-dimensional performer, Sasha spent her early days in New York hitting as a leader at many of the city’s noted venues including Jazz at Lincoln Center and Smalls Jazz Club where she and her band are a regular fixture. In recent years, she’s led her own project at Farm Aid and opened for Willie Nelson. In 2020, Sasha released *Simple Things*, her anticipated EP featuring Don Was on bass and production and Jay Lane on drums. Her 2021 release of *Girl Talk* featuring guitarist Peter Bernstein reflects her most personal contribution to the music to date.



Georgia Heers is a vocalist and composer residing in Harlem. She recently moved to New York City from Greenville, South Carolina, to pursue her graduate studies at The Juilliard School. She aims to dedicate her life exploring the depths of music spanning across the African Diaspora. Georgia believes deeply in the healing components of music and artistic creation to cultivate community and healing.



Anthony Hervey, who was recently recognized by Grammy.com as one of “10 emerging artists to know in 2023,” has impressed audiences across the globe as a first-call sideman for luminaries such as Christian McBride, Jon Batiste, Michael Bublé, and Wynton Marsalis, who described Hervey as a “beautiful trumpet player of the first magnitude.”

He was a member of the nationally renowned Dillard Center for the Arts Jazz Ensemble in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and afterward earned admission to the prestigious Juilliard School. There he honed his craft and graduated with a B.M. in 2019 and an M.M. in 2020. His debut album, *Words from My Horn*, is a blend of soulful and cerebral compositions that draw from his personal, musical, and spiritual memories.

Additionally, Hervey has been commissioned to write for esteemed groups and organizations, including The Westerlies, Jazz at Lincoln Center, and The Soapbox Presents “Stoop Sessions.” He was recognized by the ASCAP Foundation, earning an Honorable Mention for the Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composer Awards for his composition “Brass Games.” He is also on Christian McBride’s Grammy Award-winning Big Band Album, *For Jimmy, Wes, and Oliver*, which was released on Mack Avenue Records. Beyond the studio and stage, Anthony Hervey has also ventured into acting, impressively showcasing his trumpet skills in the Hulu anthology series *Monsterland*.

He is committed to preserving the rich legacy of Jazz while infusing it with relevance for the present. He has personally experienced the power of music to uplift and inspire. As a result, he strives to share that joy with others and make a positive impact on their lives through the art of Jazz. With unwavering dedication, exceptional talent, and a deep appreciation for the heritage of jazz, Anthony Hervey is poised to leave an indelible mark on the music world.



Multifaceted jazz drummer, composer, and arranger, **Ahmad T. Johnson** is currently emerging as one of his generation's modal figures in music and the related arts. Growing up in a family of the arts, Ahmad was heavily influenced by a variety of music and since the age of three has been pursuing his passion for the drums.

During his early childhood years there was a heavy jazz influence therefore developing an “ear” for his craft. When joining his middle school jazz band, Ahmad immediately submerged to the different styles of music. Studying drummers such as Max Roach and Art Blakey, but truly digging deep into the roots of jazz was inspired by artist ranging from Billie Holiday to Thelonious Monk. Ahmad continued his education and obtained his bachelor of music degree at Michigan State University with a concentration in jazz studies.

PROFILES

Ahmad has had enormous opportunities to show his ability and passion for the drums such as having the privilege to work with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis, and has performed at well known venues such as Minton's Harlem, Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and many other locations around the world. Ahmad is also part of the inaugural class of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Summer Jazz Academy, awarded by the Berklee 12-week program and has been awarded by the Juilliard School Jazz Summer Intensives for astounding performances within the program.

Ahmad holds the leadership of groups such as the Ahmad Johnson Trio and Quintet and is a sideman for artists such as Wynton Marsalis, Rodney Whitaker, and many others. Ahmad's versatile skills set behind the drums have to lead him not only to provide for the arts community but also work closely with some of the most well known artist/ groups in the world, including but not limited: the jazz at lincoln center orchestra with Wynton Marsalis, Rodney Whitaker, Ulysses Owens Jr., Russell Malone, Ron Blake, Wycliffe Gordon, Jon Batiste and has played in numerous small-large ensembles such as Diego Rivera Quintet, Etienne Charles Quartet, and was awarded 2016 Swing Central Jazz Festival (ranked 1st place), getting the opportunity to work with professional arrangers, composers, and musicians from all around the world. Ahmad is constantly arranging projects and creating new ideas, providing the opportunity to give back to communities and continuing to uplift the arts.

Ahmad's ambitions are not only to succeed at all that is necessary to become a great musician but also to connect with others on a spiritual level with his audience produce and commit to life changing music. Ahmad's ability to share ideas, lead and follow when necessary are skills that have allowed him to work well with his peers and grow as a jazz artist. With a strong passion for his craft, a humble spirit, and a bold commitment to create, and inspire, Ahmad is certainly an innovative contributor to jazz community and generations to come. A powerful and charismatic performer, Ahmad Johnson possess wide-ranging talents that are reinvigorating the contemporary arts and are received enthusiastically nationwide.



Meet **Coentin Le Hir**, a talented bassist with a captivating musical journey. Born in France and raised amidst the rich musical heritage of North Carolina, Coentin's passion for the bass has taken him on an inspiring musical adventure. Having honed his skills in various local music scenes and in conservatories, he now proudly calls the bustling city of New York his home.

With his undeniable talent and unwavering dedication, Coentin continues to mesmerize audiences with his soulful bass lines, creating an unforgettable experience in every performance.



Sean Mason is a jazz pianist and composer based in New York City, quickly emerging as one of the premier talents of his generation. Born and raised in Charlotte, North Carolina, Sean took to the piano at age 13, teaching himself to play by ear the music of his upbringing; gospel, R&B & soul which quickly evolved into a highly original jazz style. Sean's unique voice in

jazz is steeped in southern culture, giving extended time for groove without needing to fill in the space, while also displaying a range of vocabulary far beyond his years. As a bandleader, Sean leads two groups, the Sean Mason Trio based in Charlotte, and the Sean Mason Quintet in New York. Both groups play Sean's original music, which has been described as highly melodic, swinging gospel jazz; as Sean puts it, "my purpose is to play dance music." Folk music, stride piano and the style of Sean's early hero Ray Charles are the main ingredients in a stew that is greater than the sum of its parts.

When studying at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro, Sean met jazz legend Branford Marsalis who was immediately taken with the young student and recommended he apply to the Juilliard School in New York, "I told my brother [Wynton Marsalis, director of Juilliard Jazz], 'be on the lookout for this kid.'" Upon arrival in New York, Sean hit the ground running, quickly securing residencies for his groups at some of the more prestigious jazz clubs such as Smoke Jazz Club and Smalls Jazz Club, as well as sideman work with such luminaries as Wynton Marsalis, Catherine Russell, Herlin Riley, and many more; all while completing his studies at Juilliard. A major stepping stone occurred when NPR's influential multi-

media show *Jazz Night in America* chose Sean among 5 musicians for their *Youngbloods* series. Penetrating even further into popular culture Sean was featured on Branford Marsalis' film score to the highly acclaimed Netflix production of August Wilson's *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*.

Sean's debut record will be released in early 2023 on Blue Engine Records, the label of Jazz at Lincoln Center. Produced by Branford Marsalis, it is an album of original compositions for the Sean Mason Quintet, featuring a lineup of young all-stars; Tony Galusi (trumpet), Chris Lewis (tenor saxophone), Felix Moseholm (bass), Domo Branch (drums) and Sean leading at the piano. Early reports cite the record's impressive display of maturity from such burgeoning talents. As Sean continues touring the world as a bandleader and sideman while fitting in near-constant session work, the future is bright.



Alicyn Yaffee is a New York City-based guitarist and vocalist, by way of Kelseyville, California. An artist of wide range and depth, she earned her BM in Jazz Studies, with a Double Major of Guitar and Vocals, at Cal State University in Sacramento. In the few years since the move to New York, she has toured the U.S. and Europe under her own name, as well as with Becca Stevens, Grammy-nominee JC Hopkins' Biggish

Band, award winning singer Allan Harris, and bassist Benny Rietveld (Santana); released her first solo album, *Someone Else*, featuring Cindy Blackman Santana, Ronnie Foster, Jeff Cressman; and played numerous venues with her own groups and with a diverse range of jazz and rock artists, including guitarist Mark Whitfield, China Moses, Kat Rodriguez (Beyonce), Bria Skonberg, Shirazette Tinnin's Sonic Wallpaper, Arcoiris Sandoval, 13th Law, Tiana Major9, Haitian singer Darlene Desca, Dawn Drake's Zapote, and Indian progressive rock composer Anupam Shobhakar. Alicyn was featured in Classical Theater of Harlem's remake of *The Bacchae* where she was performing with the actors onstage with a wireless guitar in Marcus Garvey Park. Alicyn has performed at many venues including; Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola, Birdland Jazz Club, Minton's Playhouse, Smalls, Mezzrow, Bar lunAtico, Carnegie Hall, Little Island Main Stage as well as many other notable venues.



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The Friends of the MAC is a family of those who have decided that a world-class performing and visual arts center should reside in their community. Ticket sales provide only 42 percent of our \$4 million operating budget. It is through the support of College of DuPage and through the generous gifts from patrons and local businesses that we can keep art in our museum and on our stages.

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Without the generous support of the Friends of the MAC, we would not be the beacon for the arts in DuPage County. We gratefully thank our friends, and we invite others to join them.

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Donor may choose to direct gifts to the Arts Center Endowment or the MAC-tastic Treat Seats – Tickets for Kids & Families Endowment. Donations made to these MAC Endowments, our “savings accounts,” go into principal secured, invested accounts that will provide ongoing support for arts programs and arts accessibility for years to come.

The McAninch Arts Center and the College of DuPage Foundation can also provide you with information on planned giving options, gifts of stock, IRA Charitable Rollovers and other giving opportunities.

For complete details, visit the MAC Box Office or contact the College of DuPage Foundation at (630) 942-2462 or foundation@codfound.org.

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- Cameras and recording devices are not allowed in the theater and are prohibited by our contracts with the artists.
- Smoking is not permitted in the theater or on campus.
- For your comfort and security, all backpacks and large bags must be checked.
- Please turn off all cell phones and any other alarms while in the theater.
- Emergency phone number at COD Police Department for after-hour calls is (630) 942-2000.
- Latecomers seated at discretion of the House Manager.
- Groups of 10 or more may contact (630) 942-3026 or grouptix@cod.edu to arrange for group discounts.
- If you notice a spill in the theater, please notify an usher.
- McAninch Arts Center volunteers are people who assist the house staff in areas of ticket taking, ushering and general management during performances. To get involved, call (630) 942-3705.
- For **Americans With Disabilities Act** accommodations, call (630) 942-2141 (voice) or (630) 858-9692 (TDD).
- **Infrared Assistive Listening Devices:** For audience members who desire audio amplification of performances, headsets with individual volume controls are now available. You may check out the headsets at the Box Office with a driver's license. *Underwritten by a generous gift from The Knowles Foundation.*

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Director of the McAninch Arts Center.....	Diana Martinez
Business Manager.....	Ellen McGowan
Project Manager.....	Kari Schoettle
Business Office Assistant.....	Brianna Garcia
Curator, Cleve Carney Museum of Art.....	Justin Witte
Assistant Curator.....	Julia Walker
Gallery Assistant.....	Maria VanDyken Li
Marketing and Patrons Services Coordinator.....	Janey Sarther
Director of Development for Cultural Arts.....	Janie Oldfield
Administrative Assistant.....	Mandy Rakow
Student Clerical Assistant.....	Blake Lietz

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Assistant Box Office Supervisors.....	Jim Gosling, Elise Wash
Box Office Assistants.....	Patrick Garon, Tatia Hegranes
Patron Services Manager.....	Tom Murray
Assistant Patron Services Supervisor.....	Deborah Kolek
House Manager/Volunteer Coordinator.....	Rob Nardini

MAC Resident Professional Ensembles

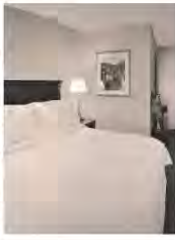
Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Artistic Director.....	Connie Canaday Howard
Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Associate Artistic Director.....	Amelia Barrett
Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Business Manager.....	Bryan Burke
New Philharmonic, Music Director and Conductor.....	Kirk Muspratt
New Philharmonic, Associate Conductor and Librarian.....	Benjamin Nadel
New Philharmonic General Manager.....	Paula Cebula
New Philharmonic Personnel Manager.....	Karen Dickelman

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Technical Production/Lighting/Sound Coordinator.....	Richard Arnold, Jr.
Technical Theater Assistant Coordinator.....	Sabrina Zeidler
Costume and Make-up Design Coordinator.....	Kimberly G. Morris
Assistant Costume Coordinator and Stitcher.....	Gretchen Woodley
Production Manager.....	Joe Hopper
Sound and Lighting Specialist.....	Ben Johnson
Lighting Production Specialist.....	Elias Morales
Audio Production Specialist.....	Fisher Parsons
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