



A stage light is positioned in the top left corner, casting a bright yellow beam of light across the dark background. Above the beam, a red curtain is partially drawn, creating a classic theater atmosphere.

An Evening with the
STARS

Saturday, September 25, 2021
7 p.m.

UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse
Duquesne University



WELCOME

Sarah Sperry
Assistant Vice President, Alumni Engagement
Duquesne University

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

“All Night Long” *Music and Lyrics by Lionel Richie*
Michael Warren
Duquesne University Student Jazz Trio
Alex Luketich, piano
Gordon Cortney, drums
Evan Weston, bass guitar

REMARKS

Ken Gormley, Master of Ceremonies
President, Duquesne University

PANEL DISCUSSION

Norm Nixon
Debbie Allen

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

“What a Wonderful World” *Music and Lyrics by Bob Thiele and George David Weiss*
Michael Warren
Jazz Trio

PANEL DISCUSSION

Constanza Romero Wilson
Stephen McKinley Henderson
Callie Holley
Gerardo Navarro

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

“A State of Grace” *Music and Lyrics by Kathryn Bostic*
Michael Warren
David Allen Wehr



MONOLOGUES AND RECITATION

Callie Holley
Gerardo Navarro

Berniece from “The Piano Lesson”
King Hedley from “King Hedley II”

Callie Holley
Gerardo Navarro

Ruby from “Seven Guitars”
Original Poetry by August Wilson

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

“The Greatest Love of All”
Michael Warren
David Allen Wehr

Music by Michael Masser
Lyrics by Linda Creed

HONORARY DEGREE CONFERRAL

Nancy Jones Beard
Constanza Romero Wilson

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE

Stephen McKinley Henderson

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

“We’ve Come This Far by Faith”
Jayla Griggs
Michael Warren
Duquesne University Student Jazz Trio

Music and Lyrics by Albert Goodson

REMARKS

Ken Gormley

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”
Michael Warren
Jayla Griggs
Duquesne University Student Jazz Trio

Music by John Rosamond Johnson
Lyrics by James Weldon Johnson

All musical arrangements, with the exception of “A State of Grace,” are by Mike Tomaro, Duquesne University Professor of Jazz Studies.



Norm Nixon is a former two-time all-star NBA player for the Los Angeles Lakers and star player for the Duquesne Dukes Men's Basketball team. He is co-founder and executive director of the Debbie Allen Dance Academy and has produced 10 children's musicals which have been presented across the country. In 2008, he produced the first all-African American cast of "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," which went on to win the Olivier Award in London. He is the founder of Healthy Body Products and was instrumental in the passing of a California Senate Bill to replace sodas with water and juice in vending machines. He also serves as an NBA sports analyst and has worked for ABC and Fox Sports Net. He is a 1977 graduate of Duquesne University.



Debbie Allen, a BFA graduate of Howard University, holds four honorary doctorate degrees and has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. An award-winning producer, director, writer, actor and choreographer, she has choreographed the Academy Awards 10 times; received the Golden Globe for her role as Lydia Grant in the hit series, "Fame;" the Drama Desk Award for her portrayal of Anita in "West Side Story;" is a three-time Emmy Award winner in Choreography; and was awarded 10 Image Awards as director, actress, choreographer and producer. She has directed numerous network TV shows, and serves as executive producing director of "Grey's Anatomy," where she recurs as Dr. Catherine Fox. Her recent Shondaland Netflix documentary, "Dance Dreams: Hot Chocolate Nutcracker," depicts her work with students at the Debbie Allen Dance Academy.



Constanza Romero Wilson, is August Wilson's widow, the Executive Director of the August Wilson Legacy, LLC, and has overseen countless productions of Wilson's 10-play, American Century Cycle, domestically and abroad. She is the artistic director for "August Wilson: The Writer's Landscape" at the August Wilson African American Cultural Center premiering next year, and served as executive director for the Netflix film "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" and documentary "Giving Voice." She has produced the Broadway productions of "Jitney" and "Fences," starring Denzel Washington. A Tony-nominated costume designer for Wilson's "Fences" and "Gem of the Ocean," other Broadway costume design credits include "The Mountain Top," "Seven Guitars" and "The Piano Lesson." She holds an MFA in Design from Yale School of Drama and lives in Seattle with her, and Mr. Wilson's daughter Azula Carmen Wilson.



Stephen McKinley Henderson has worked on stages throughout the United States, abroad, on Broadway, off-Broadway, in television and film. Next month he can be seen in theatres and on HBO Max in Denis Villeneuve's, "Dune," and in November in Halle Berry's directorial debut, "Bruised," on Netflix. He received a Virtuoso Award from the Santa Barbara International Film Festival for his work in August Wilson's "Fences," starring Denzel Washington and Viola Davis. In the Broadway revival of "Fences," he received a Tony nomination for featured actor and was presented with the Richard Seff Award for Outstanding Supporting Actor from the Actor's Equity Association. For his work in Stephen Adley Guirgis' Pulitzer Prize-winning drama, "Between Riverside and Crazy," He was awarded off-Broadway's Obie and Lortel awards in the outstanding lead actor category.



Ken Gormley, Master of Ceremonies, is the 13th president of Duquesne University, where he previously served as professor of law before being named dean of the Duquesne University School of Law. A highly-respected constitutional scholar, his books, which include a New York Times bestseller, have won multiple awards.



Callie Holley is a senior Musical Theatre and Producing for Film and Television student at New York University. As a singer, actress, writer, and producer, Callie seeks to create and be a part of work that illuminates truth and inspires communal connection. She can be seen in the recently premiered Netflix film “Giving Voice.” This upcoming semester she will participate in award-winning actress, writer and producer Bryce Dallas Howard’s Nine Muses Lab for multidisciplinary filmmakers, writing, producing and directing her first original short film.



Gerardo Navarro is a junior at Carnegie Mellon University’s School of Drama and was born and raised in Los Angeles. Navarro aspires to write, perform, and continue sharing stories that uplift those of underrepresented communities. He was just seen as Miguel in “The Revolution of Evelyn Serrano” at the New Hazlett Theatre in Pittsburgh, which also made its UK Premiere at the 2021 Edinburgh Fringe Festival. He is inspired by his ancestors and the storytellers who came before him and is beyond excited to take part in this beautiful event.



Nancy Jones Beard is a longtime supporter of Duquesne University and a generous philanthropist who supports a wide range of worthy causes. Among initiatives her foundation has funded are a cardiovascular rehab center at Yale New Haven, radiology and learning centers at Norwalk Hospital, medical education funds and advanced imaging equipment for Cleveland Clinic Florida, renovation and restoration at the Westport Library, and the Palm Beach Drama Works. The Duquesne University/August Wilson House Fellowship was born from her commitment to the broader community and her passion for theatre and arts. Nancy currently resides with her husband Gene in Palm Beach, FL.



Michael Warren, M'17, GE'18, is assistant principal at Pittsburgh King PreK-8, the first BIPOC artist-in-residence for the Pittsburgh Youth Chorus, and the Journey Praise Team director at East Liberty Presbyterian Church. He is also the anthem singer for the Pittsburgh Penguins and a recurring anthem singer for the Pittsburgh Pirates. He is a 2017 alumnus of Duquesne's Mary Pappert School of Music and a 2018 alumnus of the Duquesne University School of Education, where he is working toward his Doctorate in Educational Leadership.



David Allen Wehr is dean of Duquesne University's Mary Pappert School of Music, where he holds the Jack W. Geltz Distinguished Piano Chair. Wehr has been soloist with the London Symphony, National Symphony, Chautauqua Symphony, Houston Symphony, New Zealand Symphony, and all the major Spanish and Latin American orchestras. He is a graduate of the University of Kansas, where he earned Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in piano performance.



Jayla Griggs, M'15, 'GM'17, is the Lower School music teacher at The Ellis School in Pittsburgh and music director and organist at Central Baptist Church in Pittsburgh's Hill District. She received her BA in Music Education in 2015 and her MA in Music in 2017 from Duquesne's Mary Pappert School of Music.

Duquesne University Student Jazz Trio

Alex Luketich, M'21, piano, is a master's student in jazz piano performance. **Gordon Courtney, drums**, is a sophomore majoring in percussion performance. **Evan Weston, bass guitar**, is first-year sound recording technology student, majoring in electric bass.

Special thanks to Dean David Allen Wehr and all the musicians at the **Mary Pappert School of Music at Duquesne University**.



The Duquesne University / August Wilson House Fellowship is made possible thanks to the generous support of the Nancy Jones Beard Foundation.

Duquesne University/August Wilson House fellows serve as artists and scholars-in-residence while developing their own creative work, engaging in research, teaching and participating in educational events in the community and on campus. Designed to bring national and regional artists and scholars of color into a collaboration between the Hill District community and educational and artistic institutions, the fellowships are the first to be located in August Wilson's hometown.