

# Calvin and Janet HIGH CENTER

*for Worship and Performing Arts*

23|24  
SEASON





## About the High Center Season

Engage the arts and humanities through a special yearlong series of lectures, concerts, and theatrical and dance productions featuring our talented student and faculty performers, as well as distinguished guest lecturers and visiting performing artists. When you visit, you will see (and hear) for yourself why the Calvin and Janet High Center for Worship and Performing Arts at Messiah University has quickly become known as one of the acoustically and aesthetically finest performance venues in our region!

To learn more, visit [messiah.edu/highcenterseason](http://messiah.edu/highcenterseason).



## Sphinx Virtuosi

Sept. 30, 2023

7:30 p.m., Parmer Hall

Sponsored by the Performing Arts Series

The Sphinx Virtuosi is a dynamic and inspiring professional self-conducted chamber orchestra that serves as the flagship performing entity of the Sphinx Organization—the leading social justice nonprofit dedicated to transforming lives through the power of diversity in the arts. Comprised of 18 accomplished Black and Latinx artists, a critical aim of the Sphinx Virtuosi is to evolve and transform the face of classical music through artistic excellence, pioneering programming and impassioned community engagement. Its members serve as cultural and diversity ambassadors for audiences and communities around the United States during national tours.

Inspired by the poetry of Langston Hughes and Julia Alvarez, this evening's program will showcase the beauty and tradition of excellence inherent in classical music created and performed by Black and Latinx composers for many generations. Together, the Sphinx Virtuosi seek to uplift spirits through sharing the sounds that inspire us and transcend the boundaries of time, history and struggle.

Ticket prices are \$20 for adults; \$5 for Messiah University students (with ID) and youth (18 and under). To purchase, please contact the Messiah University Box Office at 717-691-6036 option #1 or online at [messiah.edu/tickets](http://messiah.edu/tickets).

## Mendelssohn Piano Trio 25th Anniversary

Sept. 17, 2023

4 p.m., High Foundation Recital Hall

Sponsored by the Performing Arts Series

The Mendelssohn Piano Trio, artists-in-residence at Messiah University, will celebrate their 25th anniversary by presenting two of the group's favorite masterpieces from the Romantic era. The program will open with the uplifting and triumphant "Piano Trio in C Major" by Johannes Brahms, which will be followed by Franz Schubert's celebrated "Piano Trio in E-flat Major."

Ticket prices are \$10 for adults; \$5 for Messiah University students (with ID) and youth (18 and under). To purchase, please contact the Messiah University Box Office at 717-691-6036 option #1 or online at [messiah.edu/tickets](http://messiah.edu/tickets).





**Keisha Blain,**  
**American Democracy Lecture**  
*Black Women & the Struggle for Human Rights in U.S. History*

**Oct. 26, 2023**

**7 p.m., Parmer Hall**

Lecture, Q&A session,  
reception with book signing

Keisha Blain, Ph.D., is professor of Africana studies and history at Brown University. She is a nationally respected scholar, historian and human rights advocate. A regular columnist for MSNBC, she has written for the public on education, housing discrimination, Juneteenth and the importance of recent movies, “Till” and “The Woman King.” Blain is the author of several books including, “Set the World on Fire: Black Nationalist Women and the Global Struggle for Freedom” and “Until I am Free: Fannie Lou Hamer’s Enduring Message to America.” She served as president of the African American Intellectual History Society from 2017 to 2021 and has been the recipient of numerous awards and fellowships, including being a Guggenheim Fellow (2022) and a Carnegie Fellow (2022).

Free tickets are required for this event. To reserve, please contact the Messiah University Box Office at 717-691-6036 option #1 or online at [messiah.edu/tickets](http://messiah.edu/tickets).



**Jacob Keith Watson,**  
**Broadway Tenor and the**  
**Messiah University**  
**Symphony Orchestra**  
*“An Evening on Broadway”*

**Nov. 20, 2023**

**7:30 p.m., Parmer Hall**

*Sponsored by the Performing Arts Series*

Tenor and actor Jacob Keith Watson takes a night away from his regular role on the stage of Sondheim’s “Merrily We Roll Along” (opening on Broadway in September) to join students from the Messiah University music and theatre programs to present an evening of music from the American musical theatre. The concert will showcase songs and instrumentals across a wide range of musicals from classic to modern. Get ready for a night of unforgettable music and entertainment that will transport you to the heart of Broadway!

Ticket prices are \$10 for adults; \$5 for Messiah University students (with ID) and youth (18 and under). To purchase, please contact the Messiah University Box Office at 717-691-6036 option #1 or online at [messiah.edu/tickets](http://messiah.edu/tickets).



**Messiah University**  
**Christmas Concert**

**Dec. 3, 2023**

**3:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Parmer Hall**

*Sponsored by the Department of Music*

Begin your Christmas season with this beautiful concert featuring a variety of Department of Music ensembles. Messiah University Brass Quintets, Handbells, Men and Women’s Ensembles and Concert Choir are among the groups featured in this traditional favorite!

Ticket prices are \$15 for adults; \$10 for seniors (age 60 and over); and \$5 for Messiah University students (with ID) and youth (18 and under). To purchase, please contact the Messiah University Box Office at 717-691-6036 option #1 or online at [messiah.edu/tickets](http://messiah.edu/tickets).

**Christmas with the**  
**Annie Moses Band**

**Dec. 8, 2023**

**7:30 p.m., Parmer Hall**

*Sponsored by the Performing Arts Series*

More than a decade ago, the world met the Annie Moses Band through the music of Christmas. This family-based band of talented siblings weaves together elements of classical, folk, jazz and pop music into a rich and enchanting tapestry. The PBS special “Christmas with the Annie Moses Band” featured one of the highest number of airings from any debut artist in PBS history.

Today, “Christmas with the Annie Moses Band” has become a holiday tradition for families at sold-out shows all across America. The band’s riveting virtuosity brings the audiences into the cinematic wonder of the season’s favorite songs from “O Holy Night” to “Carol of the Bells.”

Ticket prices are \$25 for adults; \$5 for Messiah University students (with ID) and youth (18 and under). To purchase, please contact the Messiah University Box Office at 717-691-6036 option #1 or online at [messiah.edu/tickets](http://messiah.edu/tickets).





## Susquehanna Chorale Concert

*A Candlelight Christmas*

**Dec. 15, 2023**

**7:30 p.m., Parmer Hall**

*Linda Tedford, artistic director, founder and conductor*

The Susquehanna Chorale's "A Candlelight Christmas" concert will feature motets from the Baroque period to the 21st century and arrangements of familiar carols and songs of the season. Join us for what has been deemed a treasured experience and a beautiful reminder of the meaning of Christmas. Audience members will also have an opportunity to sing with the chorale as we celebrate the joy of Christmas!

*Tickets are \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door; \$10 for students (with ID) and youth (18 and under). Group discounts available for 10 or more. To purchase, please contact the Messiah University Box Office at 717-691-6036 option #1 or online at [messiah.edu/tickets](http://messiah.edu/tickets).*

## Reginald Mobley, countertenor

**Jan. 20, 2024**

**7:30 p.m., Parmer Hall**

*Sponsored by the Performing Arts Series*

Noted for his "shimmering voice" (BachTrack), Grammy-nominated American countertenor Reginald Mobley is globally renowned for his interpretation of the Baroque, Classical and modern repertoire, with a prolific career on both sides of the Atlantic. Mobley is featured on several albums with the Monteverdi Choir, including a recording of Bach's "St. Matthew Passion" and "Magnificat," in which he "encapsulates whimsical pathos" (Classical Music Magazine).

An advocate for diversity in music and its programming, Mobley has led important diversity efforts in roles with the Handel & Haydn Society and the Baroque ensemble Apollo's Fire. He is also leading a research project in the United Kingdom to uncover music by composers from underrepresented backgrounds. Tonight's concert will feature a wide range of music for countertenor, from American spirituals to music of the Baroque.

*Ticket prices are \$10 for adults; \$5 for Messiah University students (with ID) and youth (18 and under). To purchase, please contact the Messiah University Box Office at 717-691-6036 option #1 or online at [messiah.edu/tickets](http://messiah.edu/tickets).*



## Mendelssohn Piano Trio "The American Experience"

**Feb. 18, 2024**

**4 p.m., High Foundation Recital Hall**

*Sponsored by the Performing Arts Series*

Mendelssohn Piano Trio will explore the American experience in music through juxtaposition of "Piano Trio No. 2" by Arthur Foote, the first American-trained outstanding classical composer, "Nocturnes" by Ernest Bloch, who founded the Cleveland Institute of Music, and "Piano Trio" by Erich Korngold, who created some of the most memorable scores for Hollywood and impacted generations of American composers, including John Williams.

*Ticket prices are \$10 for adults; \$5 for Messiah University students (with ID) and youth (18 and under). To purchase, please contact the Messiah University Box Office at 717-691-6036 option #1 or online at [messiah.edu/tickets](http://messiah.edu/tickets).*



## Philip S. Gorski: The American Project

*"Un/Civil Religion: American Christianity and Liberal Democracy in Crisis"*

**Feb. 22, 2024**

**7:30 p.m., Parmer Hall**

Lecture followed by Q&A, 8:45-9:15 p.m., book signing

Keynote speaker for the 2024 Messiah University Humanities Symposium

Philip S. Gorski, Ph.D., is professor of sociology and religious studies at Yale University. He writes on religion and politics in early modern and modern Western Europe and North America from a comparative historical perspective. His empirical work focuses on topics such as state formation, nationalism, revolution, economic development and secularization, with particular attention to the interaction of religion and politics. He is the author of several book-length studies in these fields. His current work focuses on the history and politics of white Christian nationalism and American civil religion.

*Free tickets are required for this event. To reserve, please contact the Messiah University Box Office at 717-691-6036 option #1 or online at [messiah.edu/tickets](http://messiah.edu/tickets).*



## “The Spitfire Grill”

**Feb. 29, March 1-2, 5-7, 2024 | 8 p.m.**

**March 2-3, 2024 | 3 p.m.**

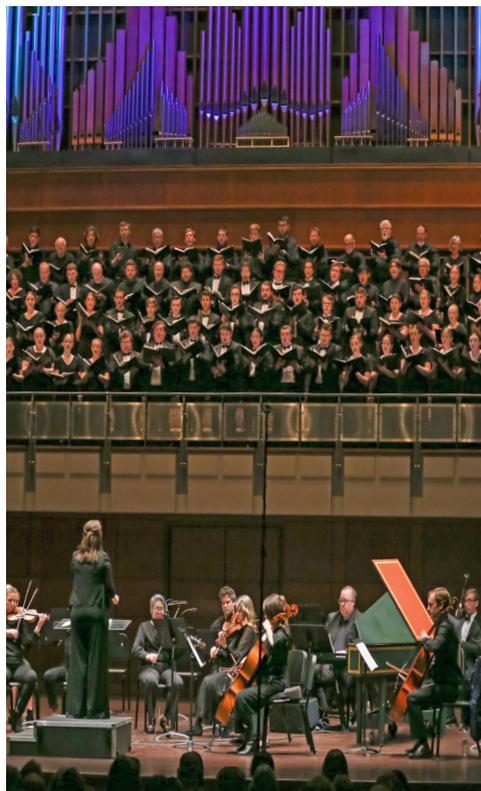
### Miller Theater

*Sponsored by the Department of Theatre and Dance*

*Music and book by James Valcq; lyrics and book by Fred Alley; based on the film by Lee David Zlotoff Edward Cohn, director*

Based on the hit film, “The Spitfire Grill” is a heartwarming and inspirational musical tale of redemption, perseverance and family. Percy Talbot is looking for a fresh start. Based on a torn page from an old travel book, she travels to the small town of Gilead, Wisconsin. There, she finds a new life working at the Spitfire Grill. The folks in this depressed town have more to worry about than Percy’s past, but fear and hesitancy turn to friendship when Percy schemes to revive the old grill by raffling it off. Entry fees are \$100, and the best essay on why you want the grill wins. Soon, mail is arriving by the wheelbarrow full. This musical triumph is an inspiring celebration of fresh starts and the power of what one person can do.

*Tickets prices are \$15 for adults; \$12 for Messiah University students and employees (with ID) youth (18 and under) and seniors (60+) \*Tickets are buy-one-get-one-free for opening night!\* To purchase, please contact the Messiah University Box Office at 717-691-6036 option #1 or online at [messiah.edu/tickets](http://messiah.edu/tickets).*



## “St. John Passion”

**March 1, 2024**

**7:30 p.m., Parmer Hall**

*Sponsored by the Performing Arts Series*

Celebrate the 300th anniversary of J.S. Bach’s stunning “St. John Passion” with Messiah’s Chamber Singers, the Schola Sancti Gregorii from St. Lawrence Cathedral, and orchestra. This emotive setting of the passion story illuminates Jesus’ humanity and divinity through Bach’s genius writing and devout theological convictions. Compositional symmetry, symbolism, complex harmonies, poignant chorale settings and passionate performers narrate the most profound story ever told.

*Ticket prices are \$15 for adults; \$5 for Messiah University students (with ID) and youth (18 and under). To purchase, please contact the Messiah University Box Office at 717-691-6036 option #1 or online at [messiah.edu/tickets](http://messiah.edu/tickets).*

## An evening with Michael Beschloss

### *Presidential Courage*

Presidential historian, “NBC News” and “PBS NewsHour” contributor, New York Times columnist and No. 1 bestselling author

**March 6, 2024**

**7:30 p.m., Parmer Hall**

High Center Season Keynote Lecture  
*Sponsored by the Office of the President*

Michael Beschloss is an award-winning historian, scholar of leadership and bestselling author of 10 books, most recently the acclaimed New York Times and Wall Street Journal bestseller “Presidents of War.” The New York Times Book Review calls the book “a superb and important book, superbly rendered.” The Financial Times says that the book “looks at leadership from every angle” and calls it “epic” and “magisterial.” The historian Ron Chernow calls it “monumental and profoundly important.” Actor Tom Hanks says, “Once again, Beschloss captures our presidents in terms both historic and human.”

Beschloss appears regularly on television as the “NBC News” presidential historian and contributor to “PBS NewsHour.” He has also been a contributing columnist to the New York Times. He has won an Emmy for his television work and received six honorary degrees and numerous other awards. He has the largest Twitter following of any American historian, in the neighborhood of 400,000. His Twitter account appears on Time Magazine’s list of the world’s top Twitter feeds.

He has served as a historian at the Smithsonian, a scholar at the University of Oxford and a senior fellow of the Annenberg Foundation. Among his earlier books are two volumes on Lyndon Johnson’s secret tapes; “The Conquerors” about Franklin Roosevelt, Nazi Germany and the Holocaust; and “Presidential Courage.” He was also co-author (with Caroline Kennedy) of the No. 1 global bestseller “Jacqueline Kennedy: Historic Conversations about Life with John F. Kennedy.”



*Ticket prices are \$25 for adults; \$10 for Messiah University students (with ID) and youth (18 and under). Tickets go on sale starting Sept. 1, 2023; to order, contact the Messiah University Box Office at 717-691-6036 or online at [messiah.edu/tickets](http://messiah.edu/tickets).*



**Rhonda Sider Edgington,  
organist**

**April 27, 2024**

**7:30 p.m., Parmer Hall**

*Sponsored by the Performing Arts Series*

Organist and central Pennsylvania native Rhonda Sider Edgington brings a creative and eclectic musical voice to the stage. With a diverse repertoire and wide-ranging musical interests, she has garnered praise for her innovative programming, imaginative use of registrations and exhilarating performances. Edgington performs a diverse repertoire for the organ, including 17th-century Northern German music, 19th- and 20th-century French compositions, and contemporary works. Her recitals have engaged audiences across the United States.

*Ticket prices are \$10 for adults; \$5 for Messiah University students (with ID) and youth (18 and under). To purchase, please contact the Messiah University Box Office at 717-691-6036 option #1 or online at [messiah.edu/tickets](https://arts.messiah.edu/tickets).*

**SEASON AT A GLANCE**

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**Visit our galleries**

While you visit the High Center at Messiah University, we invite you to enjoy the exhibits of our campus art galleries—featuring the rising and acclaimed work of student, faculty and visiting artists. To view details on the latest exhibits, **visit [arts.messiah.edu](https://arts.messiah.edu)**





OFFICE OF THE  
PRESIDENT

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**Calvin and Janet HIGH CENTER**  
*for Worship and Performing Arts*

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S E A S O N