



PYGMALION: MWENSO & THE SHAKES

Saturday, September 24, 2022, at 7:30pm

Colwell Playhouse

PROGRAM

MWENSO & THE SHAKES

Michael Mwenso, bandleader

Mwenso and the Shakes is a unique troupe of global artists who present music that merges the highest form of entertainment and artistry while commanding a formidable timeline of jazz and blues expression through African and Afro-American music.

Immigrating from Sierra Leone, London, South Africa, Greenwich Village, Madagascar, France, Jamaica, and Hawaii, the Shakes all now call Harlem their home.

Taking from the stylings of Fats Waller, Muddy Waters, James Brown, and many other American musical legends, Michael Mwenso leads an electrifying show *The New York Times* calls “intense, prowling, and ebullient.”

A MESSAGE FROM MWENSO & THE SHAKES

Dear Urbana-Champaign,

Our time in Urbana-Champaign this year has been one of the most soul-rising, enriching experiences of our careers. Your depth of community has filled our hearts, your passion for the arts has made us feel at home, and your dedication to the future (while honoring the past) has filled us with hope. Thank you to Mr. Samuel Smith for your tireless ambassadorship and profound care, Emily Laugesen for your intelligence and captaining the ship, and to Mike Ross and the whole team at the Krannert Center for the invitation and radical hospitality.

We leave you this evening, only temporarily, with this message of love from Mwenso & the Shakes. We invite you to join us with abandon on this musical journey through healing, uplift and empowerment and ask that you continue to carry Black music in your hearts and share it with your social ecosystem—as we believe music that feeds the soul can heal the world.

Love,

Michael, Jono & everyone at Electric Root
www.electricroot.co

THANK YOU FOR SPONSORING THIS PERFORMANCE

With deep gratitude, Krannert Center thanks all 2022–23 Patron Sponsors and Corporate and Community Sponsors, and all those who have invested in Krannert Center. Please view their names later in this program and join us in thanking them for their support.

This event is supported by:



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Two Current Sponsorships



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Seven Previous Sponsorships
One Current Sponsorship

PROFILES

MICHAEL MWENSO, BANDLEADER

Michael Mwenso was born in Freetown, Sierra Leone but spent his teenage years hanging out at the legendary jazz club Ronnie Scott's in London where he was exposed to musicians such as Benny Carter, Elvin Jones, Ray Brown, and Billy Higgins.

In his youth, Mwenso started honing his talents as a trombonist, singer, and performer playing in jump bands, reggae and Afrobeat horn sections, and at hard-bop sessions. Mwenso's talent as a performer caught the attention of many, which subsequently led him to meet James Brown who allotted space for him to sing and dance at his London shows.

In 2012, friend and jazz musician Wynton Marsalis brought Mwenso to New York City to serve as curator and programming associate at Jazz at Lincoln Center where he also booked nightly sets at Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola. Over the next few years, Mwenso booked and performed with the likes of Cécile McLorin Salvant, Jon Batiste, Aaron Diehl, Sullivan Fortner, and Jamison Ross. Through these performances at Dizzy's, Mwenso began to collaborate with a wide variety of Juilliard-trained musicians that soon became known as The Shakes. This unique group of global artists presents music that merges entertainment and artistry with a formidable timeline of jazz and blues through African and Afro-American music.

Land Acknowledgement

The University of Illinois System carries out its mission in its namesake state, which includes the traditional territory of the Peoria, Kaskaskia, Piankashaw, Wea, Miami, Mascoutin, Odawa, Sauk, Mesquaki, Kickapoo, Potawatomi, Ojibwe, Menominee, Ho-Chunk, and Chickasaw Nations. These lands continue to carry the stories of these Nations and their struggles for survival and identity.

As a land-grant institution, the University of Illinois has a particular responsibility to acknowledge the peoples of these lands, as well as the histories of dispossession that have allowed for the growth of this institution for the past 150 years. We are also obligated to reflect on and actively address these histories and the role that this university has played in shaping them. This acknowledgement and the centering of Native peoples is a start as we move forward for the next 150 years.

Krannert Center affirms the commitment by the university to move beyond these statements, toward building deeper relationships and taking actions that uphold and preserve Indigenous rights and cultural equity.

As we gather to experience this performance, we have an opportunity to reflect on the ways that systems of oppression have shaped our society. We can work together to create systems that support human dignity, establish equity, strengthen cross-cultural relationships, and draw upon the creative capacity of all people that make up this community, state, nation, and world.



INVEST IN THE FUTURE OF THE ARTS

Support Krannert Center today



Connecting People, Creating Happiness

Krannert Center is committed to providing programs that inspire, engage, challenge, and revitalize. The support of our donors and friends enables the Center to bring in diverse international artists and launch transformative initiatives that foster inclusivity and bring about dynamic change.

Every contribution counts. Together, we can effect powerful change that will impact generations to come.

Please consider making a gift to Krannert Center today. Together, we can strengthen the lasting impact of the Center's work, while ensuring that students and the greater community have access to enriching performances and cultural experiences.

Join us as we invest in the future of the arts.

Make Your Gift Today

advancement@krannertcenter.illinois.edu • 217.333.6700
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Would you like to make Krannert Center part of your legacy?

Contact Cheryl Snyder (217.333.2533 | casnyder@illinois.edu)
or Bethany Whoric (217.300.6042 | bbwhoric@illinois.edu) to learn more
about making a planned gift to Krannert Center for the Performing Arts.

KRANNERT CENTER PHILANTHROPY AND ADVOCACY

Krannert Center's dedication to the celebration, exploration, and cross-pollination of the arts is advanced through these special programs. Donors who champion such work make it possible for more people in our community to participate in life-affirming experiences.

2022-2023 ADVANCEMENT COUNCIL

This passionate group of arts advocates assists Krannert Center staff in expanding the Center's leadership and financial resources.

Co-Chairs:

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Terry & Barbara England
Michelle Gonzales
Susan & Michael Haney
Lisa & Mark Klinger

Leonard (Len) Lewicki
Marina & Nenad Marjanovic
Susan & Brendan McGinty
Tracy Parsons
Susan & Sam Reese

2022-2023 KRANNERT CENTER YOUTH SERIES

The Youth Series features daytime performances, online media created by performing artists, and educational activities designed especially for pre-K through high-school-aged students. Children who participate learn to appreciate the performing arts, gain knowledge, build social skills, and integrate live performance experiences into classroom work. Thank you to our Youth Series sponsors. If you'd like to learn how you can become a sponsor for the Krannert Center Youth Series, please contact Krannert Center Advancement at 217.333.6700 or advancement@krannertcenter.illinois.edu.

Bernard and Prudence Spodek
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Programming (Suzi was
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of the Krannert Center
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Anne & David Sharpe
Audrey Ishii & Charlie Smyth
The Rotary Club of Champaign
Illinois Arts Council
National Endowment
for the Arts

2022-2023 CAMPAIGN FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

Through the Campaign for Young Audiences, students at the U of I enjoy \$10 tickets for nearly every event presented at Krannert Center while other college students and children receive significant discounts. If you'd like to learn how you can become a sponsor, please contact Krannert Center Advancement at 217.333.6700 or advancement@krannertcenter.illinois.edu.

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and Printing

KRANNERT SOCIETY

The University of Illinois, the College of Fine and Applied Arts, and Krannert Center are profoundly grateful for the commitment of Krannert Society members. Through donations, pledges, and residual gifts of \$1 million or more, these open-hearted visionaries help build a thriving community and encourage cross-cultural understanding. Their support sustains the extraordinary vision of Herman and Ellnora Krannert to create a vibrant gathering place like no other.



VALENTINE JOBST III (1904-1993)
March 1994



CLAIR MAE ARENDS (1912-2000)
G. WILLIAM ARENDS (1914-1997)
March 2000



MARILYN PFLEDERER ZIMMERMAN
(1929-1995)
VERNON K. ZIMMERMAN
(1928-1996)
November 2003



HELEN FARMER
JAMES FARMER (1931-2020)
April 2014

FOELLINGER SOCIETY

Demonstrating their steadfast dedication to the arts, members of the Foellinger Society have donated or pledged \$500,000 to \$999,999. Because of their generosity, everyone in this community can unite in joyful and engaging experiences. These magnanimous arts lovers celebrate the spirit of Helene Foellinger, whose memorial gift honored her sister, Loretta Foellinger Teeple, and established the Marquee Performance Endowment.



AVIS HILFINGER (1915-2004)
DEAN HILFINGER (1912-2006)
April 2000



KENNETH ANDERSEN (1933-2020)
MARY ANDERSEN
August 2009



CAROLYN G. BURRELL
April 2012



CAROLE & JERRY RINGER
April 2014



EDITH ANN STOTLER
August 2017



K. SARAH SPAULDING
(1930–2022)
Feb 2017



**JANE BUFORD SCHERER & CHRIS
SCHERER**
June 2022



DENA & JIM VERMETTE
June 2022

IKENBERRY SOCIETY

University of Illinois President Emeritus and First Lady Stan and Judy Ikenberry have long demonstrated their love for the arts and their deep commitment to enhancing learning experiences for all University of Illinois students. Krannert Center gratefully acknowledges their steadfast support by introducing the Ikenberry Society to recognize donated gifts or pledges of \$250,000 to \$499,999.



JUDITH & STANLEY IKENBERRY
September 2014



JERALD WRAY & DIRK MOL
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August 2016



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June 2016



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February 2017



ANONYMOUS
May 2018



JOAN & PETER HOOD
November 2018



SUSAN & MICHAEL HANEY
April 2019



LYNN WEISEL WACHTEL
& IRA WACHTEL
June 2019



JOHN & KAY SHANER
July 2019



LEONARD (LEN) LEWICKI
May 2021



JERRY A. CARDEN & TIMOTHY
W. TEMPLE
June 2022



FRAN & MARC ANSEL
June 2022

COLWELL SOCIETY

Dr. John B. Colwell, Pauline Groves Colwell, and R. Forrest Colwell provided critical funding for the Marquee Performance Endowment, and the Colwell Society gratefully acknowledges their invaluable assistance. Members have donated or pledged \$100,000 to \$249,999 for celebrating, preserving, and exploring the arts right here and around the globe.



DOLORIS DWYER
(1918-1997)
April 1996



EMILY GILLESPIE
(1909-2000)
JAMES GILLESPIE
(1905-1999)
December 1996



ROSANN NOEL
(1932-2018)
RICHARD NOEL
April 1997



JAMES W. ARMSEY
(1917-2008)
BETH L. ARMSEY
(1918-2019)
February 1998



LOIS KENT
(1912-1999)
LOUIS KENT
(1914-1994)
October 2000



JUNE SEITZINGER
(1928-2020)
GROVER SEITZINGER
(1925-2019)
September 2001



RICHARD MERRITT
(1933-2005)
ANNA MERRITT
November 2006



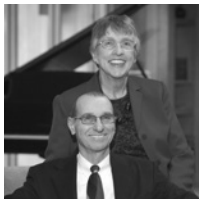
JOHN PFEFFER
(1935-2017)
ALICE PFEFFER
November 2006



ANONYMOUS
November 2006



LINDA M. MILLS
(1940-2006)
October 2007



**JUDITH & JON
LIEBMAN**
January 2008



**MICHAEL
CARRAGHER**
(1946-2009)
September 2008



VIRGINIA R. IVENS
(1922-2008)
February 2009

**THE SUSAN
SARGEANT
MCDONALD
ENDOWED FUND
FOR YOUTH
PROGRAMMING**
Suzi was the founder/
developer of the
Krannert Center Youth
Series
July 2010



**MISAHO &
RICHARD BERLIN**
October 2010



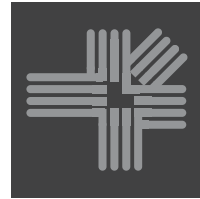
**DIANA & WARD
MCDONALD**
March 2011



**GRACE & JOHN
MICETICH**
March 2011



JO ANN TRISLER
(1946-2010)
November 2011



LEA GIESELMAN
(1932-2014)
BOB GIESELMAN
(1932-2015)
April 2013



**JULIE & NATHAN
GUNN**
April 2014



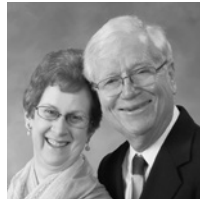
MICHAEL SWINDLE
April 2014



ANONYMOUS
November 2015



LINDA WEINER
(1944-2021)
BARRY WEINER
February 2017



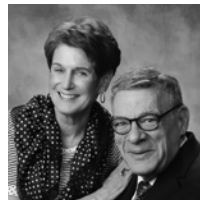
**ANNE MISCHAKOFF
HEILES & WILLIAM
HEILES**
May 2017



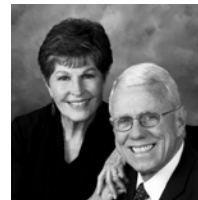
**JILL & JAMES
QUISENBERRY**
May 2017



DALE STEFFENSEN
(1922-2018)
**MARGARET
STEFFENSEN**
June 2017



**CECILE & IRA
LEBENSON**
December 2017



BURT SWANSON
(1939-2020)
IRIS SWANSON
December 2017



**TERRY & BARBARA
ENGLAND**
April 2018



**PHYLLIS ROBESON
& FAMILY**
February 2019
KYLE ROBESON
(1929-2021)



**JAMES R. FRAME
& CANDACE PENN
FRAME**

April 2019



**MICHAEL &
MARGARET ROSSO
GROSSMAN**

July 2019



**PATRICIA & ALLAN
TUCHMAN**

April 2021



**VICTOR FELDMAN
(1935-2018)
JUDITH FELDMAN**

(1938-2021)
September 2021



**SUSAN & RICHARD
SCHNUER**

November 2021



**JUDITH & RICHARD
KAPLAN**

February 2022

Donations by society members include estate gifts; outright donations; charitable gift annuities; charitable remainder trusts; gifts of real estate, insurance, and securities; and pledges fulfilled over a period of five years. To explore how you can create your own lasting legacy, contact us at 217.333.6700 or advancement@krannertcenter.illinois.edu.

2022-2023 MARQUEE CORPORATE & COMMUNITY SPONSORS

Corporate and community support—both cash and in-kind—deepens Krannert Center’s capacity to inspire public discourse, communal respect, and collective joy. Please join Krannert Center in thanking the following corporate and community sponsors for their support of Krannert Center performances and initiatives.

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2022-2023 GRANTS



DORIS DUKE
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

DORIS DUKE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Endowment support from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation continues to enhance Krannert Center's presentation of diverse, world-class national and international visiting artistry; supporting the creation of new work; and increasing engagement and collaboration across campus.



ILLINOIS ARTS COUNCIL

The Illinois Arts Council Agency provides general programming support to ensure that audiences of all ages have direct access to world-class theatre, dance, and music.

FRANCES P. ROHLEN VISITING ARTISTS FUND/ COLLEGE OF FINE + APPLIED ARTS

This grant, a generous gift from the Rohlen Family.



THIS PROJECT FUNDED BY
STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

THE STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

The Student Sustainability Committee provided funding for the Krannert Center Audiences Lighting Retrofit Project, which continues to increase energy efficiency, decrease labor requirements, and improve safety conditions.



Center for
Advanced
Study

GEORGE A. MILLER ENDOWMENT PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

The George A. Miller Endowment Programs Committee supports CultureTalk.

THE AUGUSTINE FOUNDATION

THE AUGUSTINE FOUNDATION

The Augustine Foundation provides continued major support for ELLNORA | The Guitar Festival.

MARQUEE PATRON SPONSORS

Krannert Center is grateful for the passion and commitment of the following individuals whose gifts support the expansive range of experiences offered at Krannert Center: formative moments for tomorrow's global leaders, performances that comfort and transform, opportunities to create and enjoy groundbreaking work, engagement activities that offer self-discovery and hope, architectural treasures to delight the senses, and remarkable moments to foster lifelong memories. If you'd like to learn more about how to become a sponsor, please contact Krannert Center Advancement at 217.333.6700 or advancement@krannertcenter.illinois.edu.

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Kay & John Shaner
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by becoming a donor today. Visit KrannertCenter.com/Give, contact
us at 217.333.6700 or advancement@krannertcenter.illinois.edu.

MARQUEE CIRCLE AND LOOP MEMBERS

We gratefully acknowledge these individuals and businesses for their generosity and commitment to the arts. Their support enabled the Center to welcome back in-person audiences for Music, Theatre, Dance, and visiting artist productions this past season. Krannert Center continues make accessibility improvements, co-commission works to help support artist partners, and focus on engagement work within the community. If your membership has lapsed and you'd like to renew, please contact Krannert Center Advancement at 217.333.6700 or advancement@krannertcenter.illinois.edu.

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Dena & Jim Vermette
Stella & Max Volk
Lynn Weisel Wachtel & Ira Wachtel
Chip Walgren
Joy Thornton-Walter
Aimee & John Ward
Paula Watson
Barry Weiner
Susan & Robert Welke
Sarah Wigley
Rebecca & Paul Wigley
Karen & William Wilkinson
Sarah & Charles Wisseman
Patricia Cassidy & Andrew Wycislak
Elaine & Harold Yoon
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We work to create the best possible setting for the experiences you seek and find here.

NECESSARIES

Restrooms are located in the foyers of Foellinger Great Hall, Tryon Festival Theatre, and Colwell Playhouse; the east entrances on the Lobby level; and in each elevator lobby on Level 1 and Level 3. Lobby restrooms and one restroom in each elevator lobby are fully accessible and contain baby-changing stations.

Ushers will be happy to provide you cough drops courtesy of St. Joseph Apothecary, or disposable foam earplugs if the place starts rockin'.

If you or a companion needs medical assistance, contact an usher or other staff member.

Please take a moment before the performance to note the theatre exits nearest to you. If it becomes necessary to evacuate the theatre, please remain calm, follow the instructions of the house staff, and exit in an orderly fashion to the appropriate safe meeting location, which will be announced to you.

SIGHTS AND SOUNDS

The use of cell phones, cameras, and recording devices during performances is prohibited unless otherwise announced from the stage.

LATE ARRIVALS

As a courtesy to performers and audience members, latecomers will be seated only at times selected in advance by the artist. Should you find that you've arrived late to a performance, our Patron Services staff will keep you informed about the earliest seating opportunity.

LOST ITEMS

If you are in need of Lost and Found, please visit the Patron Services counter. We will do our best to reunite object and owner!

TICKET RETURNS

If you find you can't attend a performance, please contact the Ticket Office in advance, preferably by 6pm the day before the performance (kran-tix@illinois.edu or 217.333.6280). We never charge a handling fee on ticket transactions.

SERVICES

Krannert Center for the Performing Arts is committed to making experiences accessible for all patrons, and we are delighted to provide a number of services to assist you. Krannert Center is equipped with an assisted listening system, wheelchair-accessible and no-step/few-step seating, and large-print programs, Braille programs, and American Sign Language interpreters are available with three weeks' advance notice.

For assistance regarding your visit, please email: Para ayuda en relación con su visita, favor de enviar un email a:

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