



PHOTO BY LINDSEY THOENG

The Queen's Cartoonists

THE QUEEN'S CARTOONISTS

Thursday, February 23, 2023, at 7:30pm
Foellinger Great Hall

PROGRAM

THE QUEEN'S CARTOONISTS

A MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Hello, I'm Dr. Joel Pierson, Artistic Director and pianist for The Queen's Cartoonists. Can you imagine going to a concert with your parents, grandparents, kids, or grandkids and everyone having an equal amount of FUN? Every time we get on stage, this is our goal. Many of us got our first exposure to classical music from cartoons, but we rarely think about how amazing the music in those films is. So here we are. Without giving too much away (we love surprises), prepare yourself to hear a mixture of classical and jazz music set to a backdrop of famous cartoon characters. Think Cab Calloway & Betty Boop. Rossini & Bugs Bunny. Buddy Rich & Popeye the Sailor Man. You get the picture.

**Note: we can only guarantee that the first three rows will NOT get wet. Again, the only non-wet guarantee is the first three rows. Thank you.*



GET TO KNOW THE QUEEN'S CARTOONISTS BAND STATISTICS!

| | JOEL | MARK | GREG | ROSSEN | DREW | MALIK |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| HOMETOWN | Washington, DC | Melbourne, AU | Savannah, GA | Sofia, Bulgaria | Grand Rapids, MI | Queens, NY |
| FAVORITE CARTOON CHARACTER | Snagglepuss | Daffy Duck | Bullwinkle | Jerry | He-Man | The hunter from Bambi |
| FAVORITE COFFEE SIZE | Medium iced | Just put the filter over my mouth | Large and in charge | Loughably tiny European size | Coffee Stout | Venti is plenty! |
| BELLY BUTTON | Innie | Innie | Outie | Innie | Flattie | Wouldn't YOU like to know |
| AIRPLANE SEAT PREFERENCE | Aisle | Window | Last row so he can chat up the attendants | Head out the window, like a golden lab | Middle (more social that way) | Just happy to be on the plane |
| SPECIAL SKILLS | Middle school French | Fun accent, mate | No accent even though from the South | Marathons | Home brewing | Umm... Jazz? |
| WORDS TO LIVE BY | If my grandma had wheels, she'd be a wagon | We'll burn that bridge when we get to it | Whatever floats your goat | Don't count your blessings before they hatch | The devil is in the pudding | It's not rocket surgery! |
| FAVORITE FOOD | Chilaquiles | Marmite on toast | Southern barbecue | Vegan, so basically nothing | Beer | Also beer |



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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"Krannert Center is a living example of the importance of the performing arts in the cultural enrichment of an academic community."

PROFILES

THE QUEEN'S CARTOONISTS

The Queen's Cartoonists perform music from cartoons! Pulling from over 100 years of animation, TQC's performances are perfectly synchronized to the films projected on stage. The band matches the energy of the cartoons, leading the audience through a world of virtuosic musicianship, multi-instrumental mayhem, and comedy.

Projections of animated films dazzle the audience, while the band recreates original soundtracks note-for-note, or writes their own fresh compositions to modern pieces, all the while breathing new life into two uniquely American forms of art: jazz and animation. Tying everything together is the TQC brand of comedy—anecdotes about the cartoons and their composers, stream-of-consciousness humor, and elements of a musical circus.

Watch your favorite classic cartoon characters interact with the musicians on stage, and expect the unexpected from the Golden Age of Animation, cult cartoon classics, and modern animated films. Inspired by the crossroads of jazz, classical music, and cartoons, TQC features Jazz Age composers like Carl Stalling, Raymond Scott, and John Kirby, alongside classical giants Mozart, Rossini, and Strauss (to name just a few).

The six members of The Queen's Cartoonists, all now residing in Queens, New York, originally hail from four continents. The band has brought their unique concert experience to performing arts centers, clubs, and festivals across the United States and Europe. TQC is equally at home performing in New York City subway stations, opening for the New York Philharmonic, or selling out shows at the Blue Note Jazz Club. They have been featured in over fifty publications, including *The Wall Street Journal*,

The Chicago Tribune, *The L.A. Times*, *The Houston Chronicle*, NPR, and *Mashable*.



PHOTO: LINDSEY THOENG

Joel "Sweet Sauce McKinley" Pierson (Piano)

Joel Pierson is a composer and jazz pianist whose work straddles the worlds of jazz, pop, and contemporary classical music. He frequently uses humor as a means to engage audiences with new music. He has worked with artists of great

repute (the New York Philharmonic, the Kronos Quartet), and artists of even greater ill-repute (Linkin Park, Ke\$ha). Wayne Newton told Joel he loved him, and Paul McCartney gave him a shoulder massage. He has performed on all seven continents (yes, even Antarctica), and as a songwriter was signed to Warner Brothers Records. His music has been performed by major symphony orchestras including Atlanta, Houston, Toronto, Cleveland, & the Philly Pops. Joel wrote additional music for the 2013 film *The Internship* and is the author of numerous music education books, including *You Suck at Piano*, *20 Piano Pieces for People with Emotional Problems*, and *The Nutsmacker*. See and hear more on his website: www.joelpierson.com



PHOTO: LINDSEY THOENG

Mark "Dingo" Phillips (Woodwinds)

The descendent of a sheep-thief and a woman who baked her enemies into pies, Mark Phillips is the luckiest jazz immigrant in history. Upon deciding to move Up Over (what Australians call

the US) to pursue great music and fewer deadlier creatures, Mark was told that in fact he had been born in the US, and already was, therefore, a US citizen. The hard part being magically taken care of, Mark landed in Queens in 2011. His strange musical journey started by studying classical saxophone, but has since morphed into being the best damn cartoon clarinetist to ever come from New South Wales. His instrumental accomplishments have not gone unnoticed, as he is now a Selmer Artist, ranking him among the best woodwind players in New York City. His bartending skills, while occasionally paying the rent, have proven to be less distinguished, as Australians have a natural tendency to over-pour and under-care about their patrons.



PHOTO: LINDSEY THOENG

Drew "Dranka" Pitcher (Woodwinds)

New York City based multi-multi-instrumentalist Drew Pitcher was raised in Michigan, close to Michilimackinac, which, by complete coincidence, is also his DJ name. After pounding the pavement with dope beats building his

street cred, Drew dropped his true musical skill: being a world-class player of the tenor sax, alto sax, clarinet, bass clarinet, flute, and harmonica. Drew attended the University of North Texas where he performed and recorded with the Grammy nominated One O'Clock Lab Band, but dark economic times followed... Drew made ends meet by recording smooth jazz Christmas albums under the moniker "Montgomery Bruce," traveling the world seeking gigs on cruise ships, and performing with artists such as The Drifters, The Coasters, The Platters, The Tea Cups, and sadly, Wayne Newton. Having survived these travels, Drew now resides in New York, where he ferments malted barley and hops in his apartment.

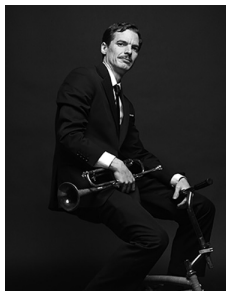


PHOTO: LINDSEY THOENG

Greg "Eggs and" Hammontree (Trumpet)

Greg Hammontree has been tinkering with music his entire life, sometimes at places like Radio City Music Ball, Symphonic Space, The Jazz Standards, Studio 55, Flushing Town Mall, The Bowery Bathroom, The Louis Armstrong Mouse Museum,

and in Chinatown. Greg has a surprising number of dedicated fans in Italy, even though his Italian is "no es bueno." He has a reputation of being a fearless cartoon trumpet master, meaning he will take on any challenge, no matter how fast, ridiculous, or potentially dangerous. Greg received his master's in jazz performance from CUNY, Queens College and is now a professional freelance trumpet player in New York City, #unemployed #whythetrumpet #blessed #hashtag



PHOTO: LINDSEY THOENG

Rossen "Chock Full" Nedelchev (Drums)

Rossen Nedelchev is a professional drummer, producer, and educator in New York City. He hails from Sofia, Bulgaria, and let me tell you, that's a helluva cab fare. His jack-of-all-trades mentality extends to musical styles as well, being

an in-demand session drummer in the worlds of pop, jazz, funk, jazz-funk, rhythm & blues, blues & rhythm, rhythm & rhythm, and bluesy jazz. Rossen is the band leader for the rhythm & rhythm band Alter View and runs the Jazz Playground, a jazz outreach program for stressed-out New York City children. He also plays drums in the NYC pop/electronic band The Qualia. He produces for a variety of artists and has a graduate diploma in jazz performance from the Brooklyn Conservatory

of Music. Rossen dabbles in photography, long-distance running, and child-raising (okay that last one is more than a dabble).



PHOTO: LARUEN DESBERG

**Malik "M" McLaurine
(Bass)**

Malik "M" McLaurine makes the most of his modern and mojo, mashing a meticulously modern mask with his makeshift manifestation on *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel* (season 3, episodes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10). Just not

episode 7. Don't watch episode 7—Malik's not in it, so why would you specifically put on THAT episode? What's wrong with you? Malik's a great bass player: he's from Queens, he lives in Queens, he oozes Queens. He embodies Queens. Malik left New York City for college, but then came straight back to Queens. And here he will stay.

Malik comes from a long line of bassists, and plans on passing on the tradition to his pet cat, "Kitty-chan."

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.



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I

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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.

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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.

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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.

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

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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.

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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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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.



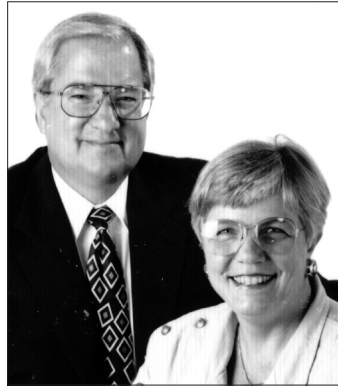
AVIS HILFINGER (1915-2004)
DEAN HILFINGER (1912-2006)
April 2000



KENNETH ANDERSEN (1933-2020)
MARY ANDERSEN
August 2009



CAROLYN G. BURRELL
April 2012



CAROLE & JERRY RINGER
April 2014



EDITH ANN STOTLER
(1946-2022)
August 2017



K. SARAH SPAULDING
(1930-2022)
Feb 2017



**JANE BUFORD SCHERER & CHRIS
SCHERER**
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DENA & JIM VERMETTE
June 2022

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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



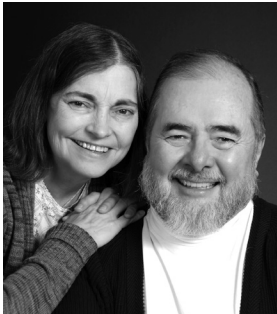
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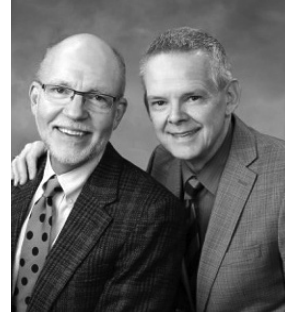
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Dr. John B. Colwell, Pauline Groves Colwell, and R. Forrest Colwell provided critical funding for the Marquee Performance Endowment, and the Colwell Society gratefully acknowledges their invaluable assistance. Members have donated or pledged \$100,000 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



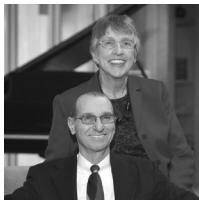
JOHN PFEFFER
(1935-2017)
ALICE PFEFFER
November 2006



ANONYMOUS
November 2006



LINDA M. MILLS
(1940-2006)
October 2007



**JUDITH & JON
LIEBMAN**
January 2008



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

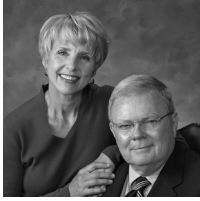


VIRGINIA R. IVENS
(1922-2008)
February 2009

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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



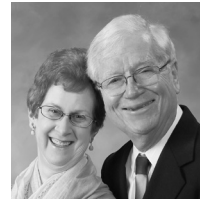
MICHAEL SWINDLE
April 2014



ANONYMOUS
November 2015



LINDA WEINER
(1944-2021)
BARRY WEINER
February 2017



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HEILES & WILLIAM
HEILES**
May 2017



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



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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
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February 2022



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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.



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Assistant

WE'RE SO GLAD YOU'RE AT THE CENTER

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:

Pour vous aider dans votre visite, prière de nous envoyer un courriel à:

欢迎! 如若您对您的造访需要帮助, 请发送电子邮件至:

स्वागत है! अगर आपको अपने रहने के लिए मदद चाहिए, ईमेल कीजिए:

환영합니다! 방문에 관해 도움이 필요하실 때에는...

에게 이메일로 문의하시기 바랍니다:

PATRONSERVICES@KRANNERTCENTER.ILLINOIS.EDU
217.333.9716

TH APR 06 AT 7:30PM

 krannert center

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\$10 U OF I STUDENT TIX

COME AS YOU ARE. LEAVE DIFFERENT.



U of I students, come on in. In whatever clothes, whatever state of mind, from whatever world of experience, you are welcome here. We don't have a dress code, we don't have an opinion code, and we want the Center to be your kind of place. Because of the vital support of Krannert Center donors and the Krannert Center U of I student fee, U of I students never pay more than \$10 for a ticket, and dozens of events each year are completely free.

Your presence helps to make Krannert Center a place like nowhere else—and what you can experience here makes your education like nobody else's. If you are inspired by what you find here, invite others to join you.

When you come to Krannert Center, we promise that you'll leave different: refreshed, reaffirmed, renewed!

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