



# MAYSA

**Blue Velvet Soul Experience:  
The Milestones Tour 35/60/10**

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Saturday  
February 7, 2026  
7:30pm

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Tryon Festival Theatre



# PROGRAM

## MAYSA

### Blue Velvet Soul Experience: The Milestones Tour 35/60/10

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**MAYSA**, lead vocals

**ANGELA PHILLIPS**, backing vocalist

**SOL EDLER**, backing vocalist

**DAMIEN BENNETT**, keys/musical director

**CHARLES BALDWIN**, bass/band leader

**TIMOTHY HUTSON**, drums

**CARL COX**, saxophone

**RICHARD TUCKER**, guitar

**ODIE SIMMONS**, stage manager

**WANDA TYLER**, merchandise

**TROY BURTON**, road manager

*This evening's performance celebrating the second anniversary of Illinois Soul, 101.1FM, is presented without an intermission.*

### Maysa Discography

Remix for Your Soul (2024)

Music for Your Soul (2023)

Love Is a Battlefield (2017)

Back 2 Love (2015)

A Very Maysa Christmas (2014)

Blue Velvet Soul (2013)

Motions of Love (2011)

The Very Best Of (2011)

A Woman in Love (2010)

Metamorphosis (2008)

Feel the Fire (2007)

Sweet Classic Soul (2006)

Smooth Sailing (2004)

Out of the Blue (2002)

All My Life (2000)

MAYSA (1995)

# THE ACT OF GIVING

## Thank you for sponsoring this performance.

With deep gratitude, Krannert Center for the Performing Arts thanks all 2025-2026 Patron Sponsors and Corporate and Community Sponsors, and all those who have invested in Krannert Center.

In addition to performance sponsors, Krannert Center is deeply grateful for the generosity and steadfast support from our season-long patrons and corporate and community partners showcased in the Philanthropy & Advocacy section of our program book. These relationships form the cornerstone of our ability to bring unforgettable performances and enriching experiences to our audiences.

### THIS EVENT IS SUPPORTED BY:

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#### Patron Co-Sponsor

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# PROFILES



## MAYSA

Maysa is an exceptional singer whose unique style captures the essence of each song she performs, creating an unforgettable experience for her audience. Her distinct, honey-toned mezzo-soprano voice and magnetic stage presence set her apart, making her a cherished figure in the music industry. Known for her honesty, humor, and integrity as an artist, Maysa has earned accolades and recognition, including Soul Train's Centric Award and a Grammy nomination. Throughout her career, she has collaborated with notable artists like Stevie Wonder and Incognito, solidifying her position among music's elite.

Aside from her professional achievements, Maysa's personal life is equally inspiring. A dedicated mother, she raised her son, Jazz, who has grown into a talented photographer, videographer, and music producer, despite being born three months prematurely while she was on a world tour with Incognito in 1999.

Maysa's musical journey began after graduating from Morgan State University, when she joined Stevie Wonder's *Wonderlove* and later became the lead vocalist for Incognito. Her solo career took off in 1995 with her debut album, leading to a vibrant career filled with music, accolades, and a special connection with her supporters, further enriched by her innovative "Maysa's Kitchen Karaoke Sundays."

In 2018, Maysa took a significant step in her music career by founding her own record label, Blue Velvet Soul Records. This move not only marked her evolution as an artist but also as a savvy entrepreneur in the

competitive music industry. Her ambition to have more creative control and autonomy over her music came to fruition with the establishment of her label, enabling her to produce music that deeply resonates with both her artistic vision and her audience.

The launch of Blue Velvet Soul Records led to the release of her highly anticipated 14th solo album, *Music for Your Soul*, on March 31, 2023. This album was met with widespread acclaim, demonstrating Maysa's unparalleled ability to connect with listeners through her soulful melodies and heartfelt lyrics. Its debut was nothing short of spectacular, securing the #1 spot on the UK Soul Charts. The success of *Music for Your Soul* not only underscored Maysa's talent and hard work, but also reflected her perseverance and dedication to her craft.

*Music for Your Soul* is a testament to Maysa's maturity as an artist and her finesse in blending traditional soul with contemporary sounds to create timeless music. Through this album, she continues to explore themes of love, resilience, and the human spirit, enveloped in her rich, emotive vocals that have become her signature. The rave reviews from around the world affirm Maysa's status as a soulful powerhouse, whose music transcends geographical and cultural boundaries, touching the hearts of fans around the globe.

The establishment of Blue Velvet Soul Records and the release of *Music for Your Soul* and its sister dance music album, *Remix for Your Soul*, denote a pivotal moment in Maysa's career, showcasing her evolution from a celebrated vocalist to a formidable force in the music industry—a truly independent artist who not only creates but also controls her musical journey, inspiring many along the way.

[www.maysa.com](http://www.maysa.com)



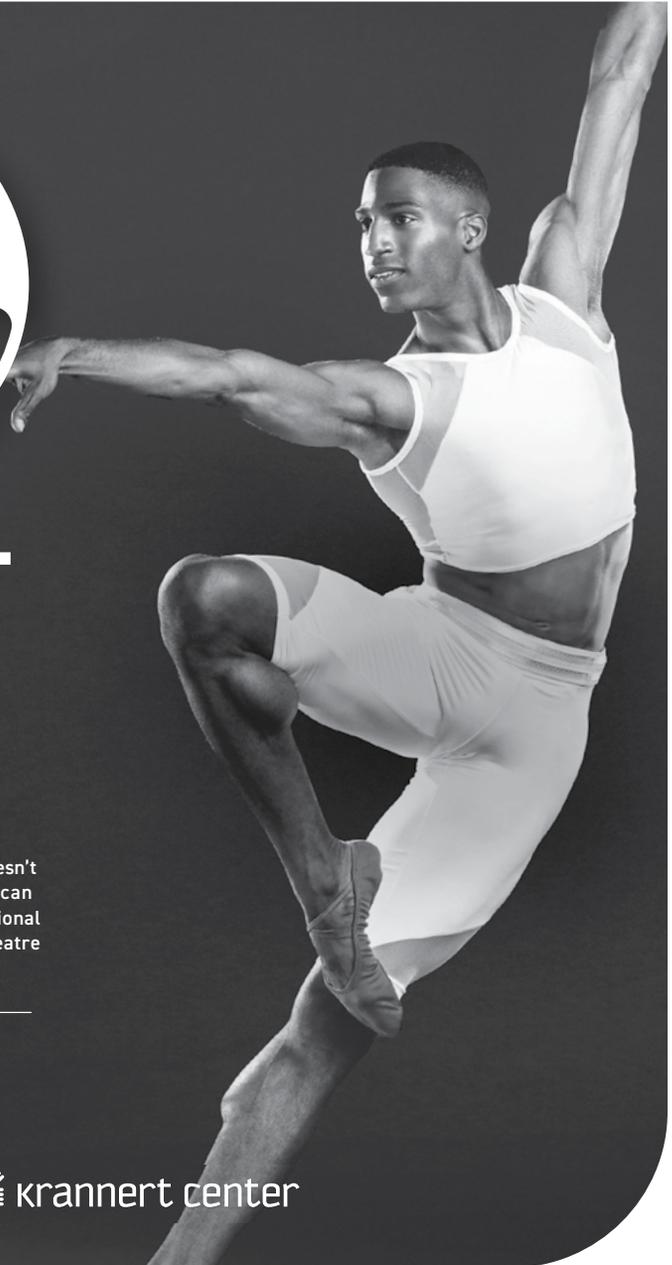
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Contact the Ticket Office  
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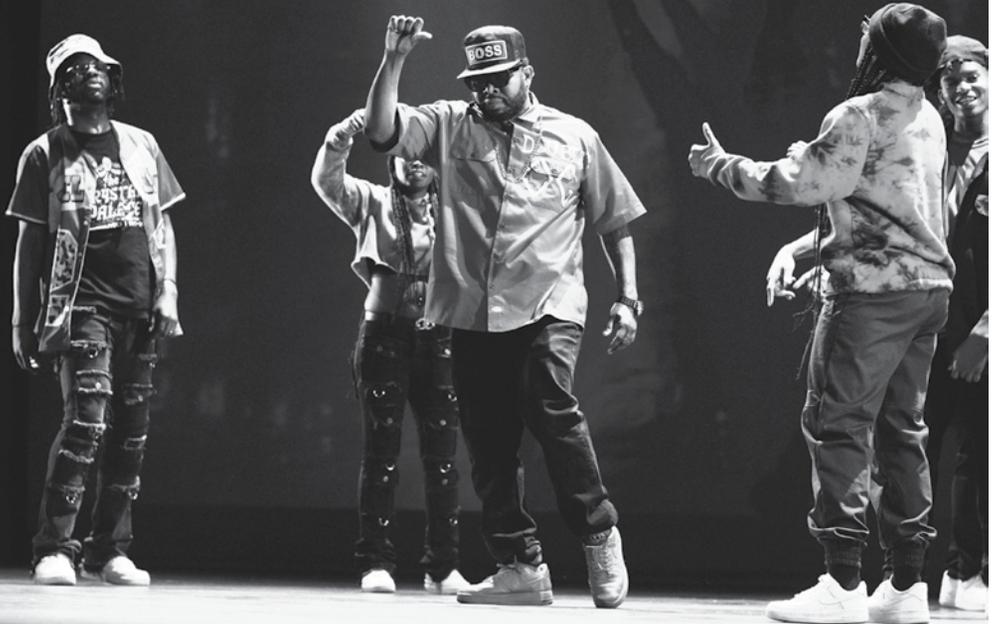




KRANNERT CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

# 2025—26 SEASON

COME BE INSPIRED.



 krannert center

# LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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. 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.

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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Experience the rejuvenating power  
of the performing arts.

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Krannert Center is a place of renewal—a space where the performing arts bring fresh perspectives, new energy, and moments of individual and collective healing. Through music, movement, and storytelling, we rediscover hope, embrace transformation, and celebrate the endless possibilities of artistic expression.

The generosity of our donors and friends makes this renewal possible. Your support sustains the Center’s commitment to enriching lives, fostering creativity, and ensuring that all who enter our doors can experience the rejuvenating power of the arts.

Please consider making a gift to Krannert Center today. Your contribution is essential in maintaining the high standards of excellence that define us while expanding the Center’s enduring impact for seasons to come.



**MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY**

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217.333.6700

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# KRANNERT CENTER PHILANTHROPY & 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.

## 2025-2026 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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*"An awe-inspiring environment for amazing performances."*



**Anonymous**

*"Krannert Center, a great asset to the community!"*



**Jo & Thomas Emerson**

*"Discovering the Sunday Salon Series opened our eyes to a new way of experiencing the profound intimacy of chamber music—where every note connects us."*

## **2025-2026 CAMPAIGN FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES**

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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.

### **Campaign for Young Audiences Lead Sponsors**

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Phyllis Robeson & Family

### **Campaign for Young Audiences Sponsors**

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## **2025-2026 KRANNERT CENTER YOUTH SERIES**

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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**

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Ann H. Bender Youth Series Endowment  
Susan Sargeant McDonald Endowed Fund  
(Suzi was the founder/developer of the  
Krannert Center Youth Series)  
Illinois Arts Council  
National Endowment for the Arts  
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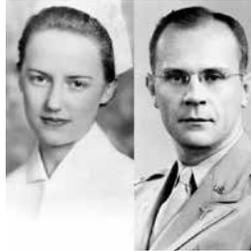
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# KRANNERT SOCIETY

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 a single donation, pledge, or estate gift 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



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(1912-2000)  
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**G. WILLIAM ARENDS**  
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**HELEN FARMER**  
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**JAMES FARMER**  
(1931-2020) April 2014



**ANONYMOUS**  
July 2025

# FOELLINGER SOCIETY

Members of the Foellinger Society show their enduring commitment to the arts through a single donation, pledge, or estate gift of \$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**  
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& CHRIS SCHERER**  
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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 recognizing donors who make a single donation, pledge, or estate gift in the amount of \$250,000 to \$499,999 as members of the Ikenberry Society.



**STANLEY IKENBERRY**  
(1935-2025)

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**ANONYMOUS**  
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June 2022



**FRAN & MARC ANSEL**  
June 2022



**TRENT A. SHEPARD**  
September 2023



**DALE STEFFENSEN**  
(1922-2018)

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**MARGARET  
STEFFENSEN**  
(1936-2024)  
August 2024



**JILL & JAMES  
QUISENBERRY**  
September 2025

# 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 of this society may make a single donation, pledge, or estate gift of \$100,000 to \$249,999 for celebrating, preserving, and exploring the arts right here and around the globe.



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**BETH L. ARMSEY**  
(1918-2019)  
February 1998



**LOIS KENT**  
(1912-1999)

**LOUIS KENT**  
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October 2000



**JUNE SEITZINGER**  
(1928-2020)

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September 2001



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**ANONYMOUS**  
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**The Susan Sargeant McDonald Endowed Fund for Youth Programming**

Suzi was the founder/  
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**VICTOR FELDMAN**  
(1935-2018)  
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**JUDITH FELDMAN**  
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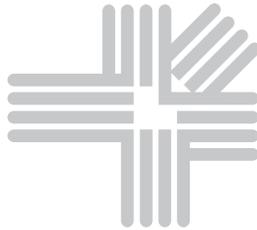


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Gifts qualify for membership in a Society  
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or estate gift designated to that Society.



**2025-26**

A SEASON OF REMARKABLE  
PERFORMANCES



krannert center

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# 2025-2026 GRANTS



## **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.



## **The Augustine Foundation**

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



## **Chamber Music America**

The Balourdet Quartet is the recipient of Chamber Music America's 2024 Cleveland Quartet Award. The quartet's performance has been made possible by the Cleveland Quartet Award Endowment Fund.



## **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**

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Susan & Robert Welke  
Karen Wilkinson  
Jerald Wray

### **Krannert Center Youth Series Sponsors**

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Phyllis Robeson & Family  
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Pat Fang  
Judy Federmeier  
Roger Fredenhagen  
Robin Goettel  
Barbara Gordon  
Gene Grass  
Katherine Hansen  
Sophia He  
Kathleen Henry  
Jill Hieronymus

Marcy Joncich  
Mary Ann Judd  
Carl Kagawa  
Bruce Kruger  
Rudy Leon  
Lynda Lopez  
Penny Lopez  
Pezz Lopez  
James McEnerney  
Linda Meachum  
Brenda Mehnert  
Kathleen Metcalf  
David Mies  
Sharron Mies  
Carol Miles  
Carol Miller  
Julie Mills  
Patrick Mills  
Frank Modica  
Heather Munro  
Christina Myers  
Marjorie Olson  
Natalia Ospina-  
Munoz  
Brenda Pacey  
Jane Pica  
Jerry Pica  
Renee Potter  
Rosa Pullen  
Carol Sato  
Barbara Schleicher  
Christel Seyfert  
Lei Shanbhag

Carrie Storrs  
Neil Sullivan  
Alice Taylor  
John Taylor  
Rodney Vanous  
Yuankun Wang  
Kelly Warner  
Jay Weber  
Jean Weigel  
Liesel Wildhagen  
Benjamin Williams  
Douglas Williams  
Julie Wirth  
Krystal Ye  
Hahwi Yoon  
Joseph Zumalt

## **Krannert Center Student Ambassadors**

Kaitlyn Adaya  
Fiyin Adekoya  
Saksham Aggarwal  
Emily Aldrich  
Smaya Anand  
Aditya Barman  
Zuzana Bielak  
Ann Biju  
Thomas Bobitz  
Zoe Bohannon  
Zach Bottoms  
Lexi Cao

Kayla Cash  
Xixi Chen  
Leon Chien  
Iyesha Childress  
Rachel Choi  
Leanna Cui  
Nooriyah Doriwala  
Nicole Dudek  
Joseph Edamala  
Nia Ellis  
Maricruz Figueroa  
Myra Gallant  
Andros Gao  
Shuoyuan Gao  
Jada Giddens  
Finn Gray  
Vedansh Gupta  
Jiho Han  
Grace He  
Atalhea Herman  
Kaye Hidalgo  
Yanshu Hou  
Justin Huff  
Hemanth Itte  
Uma Iyer  
Fasih Javed  
Hyorim Jin  
Yixuan Jin  
Jade Johnson  
Rachana Kanathur  
Asheera Kaul  
Sophie Kim  
Ellen King

Pallavi Kochar  
Kyle Krisdakumtorn  
Amelia Lamis  
Maddie Lawson  
Irie Lee  
Isabella Lee  
Julianna Lee  
Jungeun Lee  
Leo Lee  
Tristan Lee  
Zachary Lee  
Ava Lendman  
Tavisha Lijhara  
Hanning Lin  
Sara Lin  
Marlo Lindquist  
Chenzhi Liu  
Chunyu Lu  
Yamini Malli  
Julian Martinez  
Maddie McCammon  
Margaret Meagher  
Daniel Mend  
Zixiang Meng  
Audrey Miller  
Francis Moffatt  
Emily Murawski  
Samuel Naatz  
Ruka Nakatani  
Stuti Pai  
Dhairya Vibhav  
Parikh

Diana Patiño- Carreon	Lixin Wu Sissi Wu
Karol Penuelas	Lily Xie
Christopher Perez	Ziruo Yang
Niranjan Pillai	Qingping Ye
Adithya Raman	Haelly Young
Carolina Rosas	Qihao Zhan
Sukhbir Singh Saggi	Canwen Zhang
Ava Saldana	James Zhang
Eva Santoyo	Jie Zhang
Ellie Schmidgall	Qi Zhang
Santino Schrieber	William Zhang
Carissa Schultz	Xinyu Zhang
Megna Sivakumar	Yijia Zhang
Julia Stern	Jiesheng Zheng
Cliff Sun	Ryan Zhou
Aiki Suzuki	Yifna Zhu
Mann Talati	Margaret Zywicki
Greyson Talkington	
Thomas Valerius	
MacKenzie Van Ryne	
Alex Von Holten	
Connor Waddell	
Rebekah Wakayama	
Archie-Em Walker	
Tess Walker	
Jiaxin Wan	
Xile Wang	
Elodie Ward	
Ari Warner	
Jastina Washington	
Trey Weitner	

# KRANNERT CENTER STAFF

Mike Ross, Director  
Cheryl Snyder, Director of Advancement  
Terri Anne Ciofalo, Associate Director for Production  
Maureen V. Reagan, Associate Director for  
Administration and Patron Experience  
Lindsay Dalrymple, Assistant Director for Operations  
Julianne Ehre, Assistant Director for Programming  
and Engagement  
Craig Miles, Assistant Director for Marketing and  
Communications

## EVENTS

Andrew Almeter, Senior Production Coordinator  
for Events  
Bree Brock, Production Coordinator for Events  
Rebecca Russell, Assistant Technical Director for Events  
Rachel Gladd, Performing Arts Events Coordinator

## PROGRAMMING AND ENGAGEMENT

Julianne Ehre, Assistant Director for Programming  
and Engagement  
Jason Finkelman, Artistic Director of Global Arts  
Performance Initiatives  
Emily Laugesen, Director of Community Engagement  
Sam Smith, Director of Civic Engagement and Social  
Practice  
Nick Wurl, Engagement and Programming Coordinator

## ADVANCEMENT

Cheryl Snyder, Director of Advancement  
David Drake, Advancement Team Assistant

## OPERATIONS

Lindsay Dalrymple, Assistant Director for Operations

### Director's Office

Vanessa Lane, Office Manager  
Zia Moon, Krannert Center Showcase Director, Office  
and Communications Support Specialist

### Building Operations

John O. Williams, Facility Manager  
Tony Mapson, Assistant Facility Manager  
Joe Butsch, Building Electrician  
Steven Lessor, Assistant Chief Building Operations  
Engineer  
Scott Butler, Eric Carr, Emmett Catlin, Austin Dearth,  
Sara Dietrich, John Ekstrom, Jessica Fancher, Bryan  
Franzen, Salatheo Kindle, Jacob Lerch, Chabu Nsokoshi,  
Chad Schwenk, Robert Shaw, Attendants

## MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Craig Miles, Assistant Director for Marketing and  
Communications  
Sean Kutzko, Assistant Communication Director  
Nicholas Mulvaney, Art Director

## **ADMINISTRATION AND PATRON SERVICES**

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Maureen V. Reagan, Associate Director for  
Administration and Patron and Patron Experience

### **Food Services**

Amy Thomas, Food Services Director  
Michael Bunting, Hospitality Supervisor  
Elizabeth Henke, Stage 5 Bar Manager  
John Ingalls, Intermezzo Kitchen Lead

### **Ticketing and Patron Services**

Whitney Havice, Ticketing and Patron Services Director  
Ann-Marie Dittmann, Patron Services Assistant Director  
Ty Mingo, Assistant Ticket Services Director  
Jon Proctor, Ticket Sales Supervisor  
Adrian Rochelle, Front of House Performance Supervisor

## **PRODUCTION**

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Terri Anne Ciofalo, Director of Production  
Maria Miguens, Production Manager

### **Audio Department**

Rick Scholwin, Audio Director  
Alec LaBau, Associate Audio Director and Video Director  
Tyler Knowles, Assistant Audio Director, Live Stream  
Engineer

### **Costume Shop**

Andrea Bouck, Costume Director  
Richard Gregg, Costume Rentals Director and Associate  
Costume Shop Director  
Paige Stewart-Rankins, Hair and Makeup Supervisor  
Julianna Steitz, First Hand  
April McKinnis, EB McTigue, Cutters/Drapers

Kari Little-McKinney, Theatrical Stitcher  
Chantel Renee, Costume Crafts

### **Lighting Department**

Lisa Kidd, Lighting Director  
David Krupla, Associate Lighting Director  
Nicole Rataj, Assistant Lighting Director

### **Properties Department**

Adriane Binky Donley, Properties Director  
Kira Lyon, Assistant Properties Director

### **Scene Shop**

Ryan Schultz, Technical Director  
Tatsuya Ito, Associate Technical Director  
Bill Kephart, Office Administrator  
Bobby Reynolds, Theatrical Scene Shop Coordinator  
Anna Atkinson, Theatrical Scene Shop Assistant  
Rebecca Russell, Acting Crew Head  
Kayley Woolums, Theatrical Scene Shop Assistant

## **PERFORMING ARTS BUSINESS SERVICE CENTER**

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Jenell Hardy, Director of Business Services  
Macauley Allen, Business Services Specialist  
Debbie Delaney, Accounting Staff  
Angela Wang, Business Services Specialist

# 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.

## Phones and Devices

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.

## Accessibility

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 contact patronservices@krannertcenter.illinois.edu or 217.333.9716 or visit go.KrannertCenter.com/Accessibility.

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 हे! 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**



# COME BE MOVED.

Art at Krannert Center isn't something you just watch—it's something you feel.

COME ON IN.  
WE'LL SAVE A SEAT FOR YOU.



 krannert center

FRI-SAT FEB 13-15 AT 7:30PM

MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP  
AND MUSIC ENSEMBLE

# MOON



Photo by Mena Brunette

 krannert center