



# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

RCMC'S ARTIST SHOWCASE

October 20 • 7 PM | October 21 • 2 PM

Benson Theatre

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# WELCOME TO THE FIRST PERFORMANCE OF OUR 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SEASON!



The incredible Benson Theatre is a new venue for RCMC and the perfect place to kick off this significant year given that RCMC's very first performance in 1984 also featured an intimate venue with drinks at The Max. Back then, the ten original members of the Chorus gathered at their local gay bar under the banner of love – they were seeking safe spaces where their authentic voices could be presented and heard.

That is what we hope you experience during this Artist Showcase: a spotlight on the incredible individuals whose collective voices lift up the ensemble and an entire community. Every song on the program features a message about love in all of its glorious, messy, and powerful forms - love of all types, for your special someone, for your chosen friends, and for your true self.

The two dozen singers featured onstage for these two performances have worked especially hard given they are also preparing for RCMC's full ensemble holiday concert in December. Speaking of hard work and going above and beyond, our own Assistant Artistic Director Adam Witte has served as Music Director on this current project, and our Collaborative Pianist Keith Hart has also added

extra hours and offered his invaluable experience in the theatre world for our singers on stage this weekend. Many thanks to these wonderful members of RCMC's artistic staff.

We hope you will make time in your busy holiday schedule to celebrate *40 Years of Fa La La* on December 9th at the Holland Center, and then, in April, come to the world premiere of Broadway composer Andrew Lippa's mixed-chorus setting of *Unbreakable* at the magnificent Orpheum Theater. Detailed information about our special 40th anniversary season can be found on [rcmc.org](http://rcmc.org).

For now, sit back, enjoy a drink, and take in the sounds of love, RCMC-style!

**AN ENSEMBLE OF  
TALENT, IDENTITY, AND  
HUMAN KINDNESS.**



# Holy Cross Lutheran Church

## *Fall Craft Fair*

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Enjoying this performance? Consider joining  
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VISIT [RCMC.ORG](http://RCMC.ORG) TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR DONOR BENEFITS



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*By Joe Landry*

November 9, 10 & 11 at 7 PM

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The 2023 BFF Ball  
a mid-century nuclear  
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through First Friday Pride, I Am Seen: Youth Artist Mentoring,  
Advocacy work, and Unique Experience in the Benson Creative District



**PROGRAM ORDER**

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

**THE NEW WORLD** FROM *SONGS FOR A NEW WORLD*

Words & Music by Jason Robert Brown

**MATCHMAKER** FROM *FIDDLER ON THE ROOF*

Words by Sheldon Harnick

Music by Jerry Bock

Arranged by Mark Brymer

**ONCE UPON A TIME** FROM *ALL AMERICAN*

Words by Lee Adams

Music by Charles Strouse

Deanna Reilly

**OLD CAPE COD**

Words & Music by Claire Rothrock, Milton Yakus, & Allan Jeffrey

Jeanne Cahill, guitar & vocals

Deb Manning & Deanna Reilly, vocals

**YOU CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON ME** FROM *CITY OF ANGELS*

Words by David Zippel

Music by Cy Coleman

Deb Manning

**OLD FRIENDS** FROM *MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG*

Words & Music by Stephen Sondheim

Mariah Frahm, John Porter, & Eric Rodine

**I'VE GOT A CRUSH ON YOU**

Words & Music by George & Ira Gershwin

Michelle Jansen-Griswold

**BESAME MUCHO**

Words & Music by Consuelo Velazquez

Valerie Haynes

**A STEP TOO FAR** FROM *AIDA*

Words by Tim Rice

Music by Elton John

Alicia Amedee, Chris Hill, & Alex Young

**TAKE ME OR LEAVE ME** FROM *RENT*

Words & Music by Jonathan Larson  
Michaela Baumeister & Julie Sharp

**YOU'LL BE BACK** FROM *HAMILTON*

Words & Music by Lin-Manuel Miranda  
Arranged by Alex Lacamoire & Lin-Manuel Miranda  
Kevin Hauser

**CRAZY**

Words & Music by Willie Nelson  
Arranged by August Eriksmoen  
Danielle Emsick

**I'D GIVE IT ALL FOR YOU** FROM *SONGS FOR A NEW WORLD*

Words & Music Jason Robert Brown  
Logan Steiner & Brittany Wineinger

**NEVER GIVE ALL THE HEART** FROM *SMASH*

Words by Scott Wittman & Marc Shaiman  
Music by Marc Shaiman  
Claire Katan

**SUDDENLY SEYMOUR** FROM *LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS*

Words by Howard Ashman  
Music by Alan Menken  
Shaelyn Nielsen & Micah Oswald

**HOW COULD I EVER KNOW** FROM *THE SECRET GARDEN*

Words by Marsha Norman  
Music by Lucy Simon  
Anne Barker & Bryan Crawford

**I AM WHAT I AM** FROM *LA CAGE AUX FOLLES*

Words & Music by Jerry Herman  
Tom Simons

**SOMEWHERE** FROM *WESTSIDE STORY*

Words by Stephen Sondheim  
Music by Leonard Bernstein  
Arranged by Mac Huff



## ARTIST BIOS - IN THE SPOTLIGHT



**ADAM WITTE**  
MUSIC DIRECTOR

Adam Witte has never been one to shy away from a music genre or musical instrument. His tastes, talent, and curiosity run far and wide, taking him on adventures across Europe playing euphonium solos with the University of Nebraska-Omaha Symphonic Wind Ensemble, guiding him to sing acapella vocal jazz with Nexus, and prompting him to play keyboards with local band The Confidentials. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Music with an emphasis in euphonium from the University of Nebraska-Omaha, where he is currently pursuing a Master's of Music degree in Conducting.

Though his musical accomplishments are long and varied, vocal music has played a big role in Adam's journey. He currently uses these skills to hone the talents of others in his role as Adjunct Instructor at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, where he has directed both the Creighton University Chamber Choir and the University Chorus. In addition, he has always been involved in church music, from singing in the choir to playing piano and handbells, and now serves as the Choir Director at Countryside Community Church in Omaha, Nebraska, the Christian partner of the Tri-Faith Initiative. It seems fitting that Adam became a singing member of River City Mixed Chorus only to be named Assistant Artistic Director a short year later. In addition to his work with Creighton University and RCMC, Adam is also a singing member of the Omaha vocal ensemble Resonance.



**KEITH HART**  
COLLABORATIVE PIANIST

Keith Hart was a public school music teacher in a previous life. As much as he loved the job and working with kids, he felt an undeniable tug from the theater world. He set his sights on a graduate degree in theatre, and worked on productions at various theaters in Kansas City.

With production experience under his belt, Keith moved to Omaha, Nebraska where he has worked as a pianist, musical director, and scenic designer for numerous theatrical productions. During most days of the week, you can find him at the Omaha Conservatory of Music, where he is the fulltime Administrative Manager.

The piano has been a constant in Keith's life. He holds a Bachelor's degree in music education with an emphasis in piano from Northwest Missouri State University and a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Missouri – Kansas City. His love of accompanying and playing with a wide range of soloists, ensembles, and choirs led him to RCMC in 2015, joining the organization as Collaborative Pianist.

## ARTIST BIOS - IN THE SPOTLIGHT



**ADDIE BARNHART**  
ACTING COACH

Addie Barnhart (she/her) is a theatre artist originally from Wichita, Kansas. Her work seeks sustainable and agency-forward practices that involve community, collaboration, and authenticity at the core of the collective. She is a multi-disciplinary generalist who shares her creative impulses as an actor, director, teaching artist, intimacy coordinator, coach, consultant, and producer. She's worked across the United States with companies such as Bluebarn Theatre, Omaha Community Playhouse, Virginia Repertory/Cadence Theatre, Northwestern University, Playmaker's Theatre, TheatreLAB, Swine Palace, and many others along the way. Her passion for education and teaching life skills through theatre was the gateway to a master's degree at Louisiana State University where she earned an M.F.A. in Acting. Addie is Assistant Professor of Theatre at Creighton University where she recently relocated by way of Richmond, VA with her partner George and their many pets. [www.addiebarnhart.com](http://www.addiebarnhart.com)

## CONCERT SUPPORT

### ARTISTIC TEAM

**A. Barron Breland**  
Artistic Director & Conductor

**Adam Witte**  
Assistant Artistic Director

**Keith Hart**  
Collaborative Pianist

**Addie Barnhart**  
Acting Coach

**Michele Yindrick**  
Technical Director

**Stephanie Vik**  
ASL Interpreter

**Travis Mullins**  
Chorus Manager

### INSTRUMENTALISTS

**James Giles**  
Bass Guitar

**Vince Krysl**  
Drums



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 23/24

**Scott Focht**  
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**Bill Canney**  
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**J. Scott Barker**  
Addie Barnhart  
Amy Carey  
Brian Fahey  
Maggie Ramos  
Michele Yindrick  
Board Members At-Large

### EX-OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS

**Dr. A. Barron Breland**  
Artistic Director

**Eric Rodine**  
Chorus President

# SINGERS



**ALICIA AMEDEE**

Alto, RCMC Member since 2019



**MATTHEW BANG**

Tenor, RCMC Member since 2016



**ANNE BARKER**

Soprano, RCMC Member since 1994



**MICHAELA BAUMEISTER**

Alto, RCMC Member since 2022



**JEANNE CAHILL**

Alto, RCMC Member since 2023



**BRYAN CRAWFORD**

Tenor, RCMC Member since 2012



**DANIELLE EMSICK**

Alto, RCMC Member since 2017



**MARIAH FRAHM**

Alto, RCMC Member since 2013



**KEVIN HAUSER**

Tenor, RCMC Member since 2023



**VALERIE HAYNES**

Soprano, RCMC Member since 2002



**CHRISTOPHER HILL**

Tenor, RCMC Member since 2021



**MICHELLE JANSEN-GRISWOLD**

Alto, RCMC Member since 2018



# SINGERS



**CLAIRE KATAN**

Alto, RCMC Member since 2021



**DEB MANNING**

Alto, RCMC Member since 2018



**SHAELYN NIELSEN**

Soprano, RCMC Member since 2022



**MICAH OSWALD**

Alto, RCMC Member since 2022



**JOHN PORTER**

Bass, RCMC Member since 2017



**DEANNA REILLY**

Soprano, RCMC Member since 2022



**ERIC RODINE**

Bass, RCMC Member since 2018



**JULIE SHARP**

Alto, RCMC Member since 2018



**THOMAS SIMONS**

Tenor, RCMC Member since 2017



**LOGAN STEINER**

Tenor, RCMC Member since 2022



**BRITTANY WINEINGER**

Soprano, RCMC Member since 2019



**ALEX YOUNG**

Alto, RCMC Member since 2022

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## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

RCMC'S ARTIST SHOWCASE

October 20 • 7 PM | October 21 • 2 PM | Benson Theatre

## 40 YEARS OF FA LA LA

Saturday, December 9 | 7:05 PM | Holland Center

## UNBREAKABLE

A NEW MUSICAL BY ANDREW LIPPA

Saturday, April 13 | 7:05 PM | Orpheum Theater

## HERE'S WHERE WE STAND

Saturday, June 8 | 7:05 PM | Holland Center

Visit [rcmc.org](http://rcmc.org) for Season 23/24 details!