

UPTOWN NIGHTS

WITH THE MINNESOTA ORCHESTRA

Byron Stripling, conductor and trumpet
Carmen Bradford, vocals
Leo Manzari, tap dancer

Saturday, August 3, 2024, 7PM | Orchestra Hall

The program for tonight's concert will be announced from the stage. There will be one intermission.



BYRON STRIPLING, CONDUCTOR AND TRUMPET

With a contagious smile and captivating charm, conductor, trumpet virtuoso, singer and actor Byron Stripling dazzles audiences across the globe. In 2020 he was named principal pops conductor of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. In May 2024 he was appointed principal pops conductor of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra. He also currently serves as artistic director and conductor of the highly acclaimed Columbus Jazz Orchestra. He has led countless orchestras throughout the U.S. and Canada including the Boston Symphony Orchestra at Tanglewood and the orchestras of San Diego, St. Louis, Virginia, Toronto, Baltimore, Milwaukee, Fort Worth, Rochester, Buffalo, Florida, Portland and Sarasota, to name a few. This summer marks the 25th anniversary of his debut with the Minnesota Orchestra.

As a soloist with the Boston Pops, Stripling has performed frequently under the baton of Keith Lockhart, as well as being the featured soloist on the PBS television special *Evening at Pops* with conductors John Williams and Lockhart. Since his Carnegie Hall debut with Skitch Henderson and the New York Pops, Stripling has become a pops orchestra favorite throughout the country, soloing with over 100 orchestras around the world. He has been a featured soloist at the Hollywood Bowl and performs at festivals around the world. He earned his stripes as lead trumpeter and soloist with the Count Basie Orchestra under the direction of Thad Jones and Frank Foster.

An accomplished actor and singer, Stripling was chosen, following a worldwide search, to star in the lead role of the Broadway-bound musical *Satchmo*. Many will remember his featured cameo performance in the TV movie *The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles* and his critically acclaimed virtuoso trumpet and his comedic performance in the 42nd Street production of *From Second Avenue to Broadway*. TV viewers have also enjoyed his work as soloist on the worldwide telecast of the Grammy Awards. Millions have heard his trumpet and voice on television commercials, TV theme songs including *20/20* and for CNN, and soundtracks of favorite movies. In addition to multiple recordings with his quintet, Stripling has worked with artists from Tony Bennett to Whitney Houston, and his prolific recording career includes hundreds of albums with great pop, Broadway, soul and jazz artists. More: byronstripling.com.

Carmen Bradford's profile appears on page 42, Leo Manzari's on page 44.

PRE-CONCERT

Visit minnesotaorchestra.org/soundsandbites for information about free pre-concert activities.



CARMEN BRADFORD,
VOCALS

Born in Austin, Texas, and raised in Altadena, California, Grammy nominee Carmen Bradford grew up with music in her home and in her heart. It was only natural that she would follow in the footsteps of her great family legacy, being the daughter of legendary trumpeter-composer Bobby Bradford and world-renowned vocalist-composer Melba Joyce. Her grandfather Melvin Moore sang with Lucky Millender and Dizzy Gillespie's Big Band in the 1940s and sang with the Ink Spots, making Bradford the third generation of incredible musicians. Bradford was discovered and hired by William "Count" Basie, and was the featured vocalist in the legendary Count Basie Orchestra for nine years. She has since performed and/or recorded with Wynton Marsalis, Shelly Berg and John Clayton, among numerous other artists and ensembles. She performed on two Grammy Award-winning albums with the Basie band in the 1980s and later collaborated on a third Grammy Award-winning album, *Big Boss Band*, with guitarist George Benson in 1991. In 2016 Bradford was asked by South African trumpeter Darren English to be a part of his new critically acclaimed CD *Imagination Nation*. She is the resident professor of jazz voice and director of vocal jazz studies at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. More: carmenbradford.com.



STEPHANIE CHILDRESS,
CONDUCTOR

Strong ideas, lucid communication and intensely focused energy are among the qualities that define Stephanie Childress among today's most compelling young musicians. Recently appointed principal guest conductor of the Barcelona Symphony Orchestra, she is known for her musicianship and command of a broad scope of repertoire that have led her to establish herself on both sides of the Atlantic. She began her 2023-24 season making her Hamburg Staatsoper debut and returning to Glyndebourne's autumn season. She also made her conducting debut with Detroit Opera this season in Missy Mazzoli's *Breaking the Waves*. On the orchestral podium, Childress continues to be reinvented internationally and this season returned to the Barcelona and North Carolina symphonies, and debuted with the Cleveland Orchestra, Detroit Symphony, National Arts Centre Ottawa, Ulster Orchestra and Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra, among other ensembles. She previously served as assistant conductor of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and music director of the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra. A passionate advocate for amplifying the role of music within today's world, Childress previously undertook an artistic residence at the Villa Albertine, a network for arts and ideas spanning France and the U.S. More: harrisonparrott.com, stephaniechildress.com.



LINA GONZÁLEZ-GRANADOS,
CONDUCTOR

Praised for her rhythmic vitality and the raw power of her conducting, Colombian-American Lina González-Granados has distinguished herself as a powerful interpreter in the classical music field. Named part of Bloomberg Línea's "100 Influential Latinos of 2022," González-Granados is a recipient of the 2021 Sphinx Medal of Excellence (third prize), the ECHO Special Award of La Maestra Competition, the 2020 and 2021 Solti Foundation U.S. Career Assistance Award, among many other honors. In the fall of 2022, she was appointed resident conductor by the LA Opera, a post she will hold through June 2025. Her 2024-25 season highlights include an extensive tour across Colombia with Filarmónica Joven de Colombia, debuts with the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic and the Phoenix, New Jersey and National Dublin symphonies and the National Arts Center Ottawa. Recent highlights include debuts with Opera Philadelphia, the Orchestre Métropolitain, and the Indianapolis, Atlanta and New World symphonies. Born and raised in Cali, Colombia, she made her conducting debut with the Youth Orchestra of Bellas Artes. She holds a master's degree in conducting, a graduate diploma in choral conducting from New England Conservatory and a doctor of musical arts degree in orchestral conducting from Boston University. More: linagonzalezgranados.com.



LEO MANZARI,
TAP DANCER

Originally from Washington, D.C., Leo Manzari is a Lucille Lortel Award-nominated tap dancer, headlining in various productions such as the touring and off-Broadway productions of *Maurice Hines is Tappin' Thru Life*, and being featured as a guest artist on *So You Think You Can Dance*, the Kennedy Center's concert celebrating the 50th anniversary of President John F. Kennedy's inauguration and a Marvin Gaye tribute, Dorrance Dance's *Nutcracker Suite*, *The Mo'nique Show*, *The Kate TV*, *TEDMED*, *PBS News Hour*, Jerry Lewis Telethon and ABC's *The View*. Manzari has also been featured as a solo tap dancer in Hozier's music video *Almost (Sweet Music)* and guest starred with Anderson Paak's band the Free Nationals for various virtual events. Now residing in Los Angeles, Manzari currently headlines alongside Byron Stripling and Grammy-nominated jazz vocalist Carmen Bradford, collaborating with multiple pops orchestras around the world including the Winnipeg Orchestra, Florida Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and Philly Pops—as well as the Minnesota Orchestra this August. More: leomanzari.com.



GABRIELA MARTINEZ,
PIANO

Venezuelan pianist Gabriela Martinez has a reputation for the lyricism of her playing, her compelling interpretations, and her elegant stage presence. She has a vast repertoire and a deep commitment to expanding the canon through new commissions and multi-disciplinary collaborations. She also has a strong belief in the importance of arts education and bringing classical music to younger audiences, as well as to people and places that might not normally experience it. Gabriela made her orchestral debut at age 6, and has performed with over 100 orchestras since including the San Francisco, Chicago and Houston symphonies; Germany's Stuttgarter Philharmoniker, and Simon Bolivar Symphony Orchestra in Venezuela. Her debut album, *Amplified Soul*, was released on the Delos label, and was recognized with a Grammy Award for Producer of the Year David Frost. She has performed at such venues as Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, Merkin Hall and Alice Tully Hall in New York City and at numerous major festivals. She was the First Prize winner of the Anton G. Rubinstein International Piano Competition in Dresden. She then attended the Juilliard School, where she earned her bachelor and master of music degrees as a full scholarship student of Yoheved Kaplinsky. More: gabrielamartinezpiano.com.



TERRYANN NASH,
AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE
INTERPRETER

Terryann Nash, MAPL, is an American Sign Language (ASL) performance artist and CEO of Nashinspired LLC. She has been an interpreter for productions of *The Miracle Worker*; Sounds of Blackness' *The Night Before Christmas* and *Songs for Martin*; *Black Nativity 2022*; and the 2017 National Day of Prayer at U.S. Bank Stadium. She has also been an ASL performing member in several performances by Sweet Honey in the Rock. She works closely with Nashinspired ASL consultant Rebecca Demmings. More: nashinspired.com.