

LISA SMITH WENGLER
CENTER FOR THE
arts
PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY



2019–2020
Year in Review

Dear friends,

"Was that this season?"

This is a common question from me to my colleagues when we work on our annual Year in Review. We typically present more than 30 professional presentations a year, plus scores of student productions and dozens of rental and community events. By the time we get to March, the previous September always feels like a million years ago.

This year, events that took place in the fall and even March feel like they were not just a million years ago but from a different universe. What is happening in these pictures? Why are all these people standing so close together? Are we smiling without masks? This was a time before we thought of our hands, our breath, our words, as potentially dangerous to our friends, family, and community. Looking at these photos and thinking of the time "before" certainly feels bittersweet.

Since COVID-19 closed Smothers Theatre, Raitt Recital Hall, Lindhurst Theatre, and the Frederick R. Weisman Museum of Art, our staff and I have been working hard to determine how we can safely resume doing what we love—presenting exceptional performances and museum exhibitions.

During these difficult times, we all turn to the arts to give us hope, inspiration, community, and joy. As always, the artists we have presented over the years continue to inspire me. Derina Harvey Band, Versa-Style Dance Company, and many of the other artists we presented in 2019–2020 are resilient creators. I encourage you to check out their work from the comfort of your homes, until circumstances allow us to welcome you back to the Center for the Arts.

This year was also the year we lost my friend and colleague Dr. Michael Zakian. Michael was smart, funny, sometimes (often) stubborn, and typically brilliant. As the tributes began pouring in after he passed away in January, a common theme came through from the students he taught, "Dr. Zakian always had time for me." May we, now more than ever, always have time for each other.

Thank you for your contributions, your kind words, and your prayers during these challenging times. I wish you all good health and happiness, and I can't wait to welcome you back to the Center for the Arts.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Carson, Managing Director

Our mission

The mission of the Lisa Smith Wengler Center for the Arts at Pepperdine University is to present an innovative, unique, entertaining, and diverse program of exceptional performances and museum exhibitions and thus:

- 1. Enhance the educational experience at the University for all students and to provide a professional laboratory to train students in the arts**
- 2. Foster artistic excellence and creativity**
- 3. Connect Pepperdine University and the richly varied communities of Los Angeles as well as surrounding communities**

Center for the Arts Staff

Rebecca Carson, Managing Director
Rick Aglietti, Technical Director
Monica Chapon, Museum Assistant/Arts Education Coordinator
Tyler Flynn, Marketing and Publicity Manager
Tyler Gabbard, Box Office and Patron Communications Manager
Doug Kern, Production Manager

Danielle Lobello, Director of Production
Nancy Meyer, Interim Museum Director
R.J. Morgan, Events Coordinator/Administrative Assistant
Stewart O'Rourke, Scene Shop Foreman
Paul Vacchiano, Theatre Operations Manager
Michael Zakian, Museum Director – *In Loving Memory*

31,831 patrons served in 2019–2020

3,104 artists, technicians, and onstage participants

25,047 attendees to performances in Smothers Theatre, Lindhurst Theatre, and Raitt Recital Hall

6,774 attendees to the Frederick R. Weisman Museum of Art

6,140 Pepperdine University students attending performances, exhibitions, and master classes

4,931 ARTSReach performance attendees

\$1,500 worth of tickets donated to 30 deserving nonprofit organizations benefiting arts, education, the local community, and various friends of Pepperdine

904 zip codes served

Versa-Style Dance Company
performing on October 5, 2019



Year in review



August 27–December 1

The *It's All Black and White* exhibition attracts more than 4,000 visitors to the Frederick R. Weisman Museum of Art. *(Pictured at left)*

September 12

The Center for the Arts opens its season with a thrilling performance by Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee and accomplished star of stage and screen Darlene Love. *(Pictured at left)*



October 5

Los Angeles-based dynamic dance group Versa-Style Dance Company debuts their newest full-length production, *ORIGINS of Hip-hop*, which explores the roots and beauty of hip-hop dance culture.

October 24

Center for the Arts wins “Best Live Theater” category in the annual Malibu Choice Awards, published by the Malibu Surfside News. Readers voted on their choices for their favorite Malibu businesses. *(Pictured at left)*



December 3

Center for the Arts hosts its annual Holiday Boutique at Sherwood Country Club. The attendees contribute more than \$10,000 to help fund the ARTSReach community outreach program. *(Pictured at bottom left)*

December 11–12

Two-time GRAMMY nominee and guitar virtuoso Tommy Emmanuel performs two shows in Smothers Theatre. This concert marks Emmanuel’s eighth time performing at Pepperdine.



“The venue is nice and intimate. The t
—Larry

highlights

January 14

Michael R. Zakian, longtime director of the Weisman Museum and adjunct professor of art history at Seaver College, passes away. Pepperdine University honors Zakian's legacy by establishing the Michael Zakian Exhibition Fund. *(Pictured at right)*



January 18

Michael Zakian's final curated exhibition, *Rodin and Women: Muses, Sirens, Lovers*, debuts at the Weisman Museum. The installation includes more than 40 bronzes, and features some of Rodin's most famous works, such as *The Kiss*, *Eve*, and *Venus*.

February 6

Professional circus troupe Cirque FLIP Fabrique explores the awe and beauty of winter with its new show, *BLIZZARD*, which features juggling, acrobatics, and live music. *(Pictured at right)*



February 16

Andrea Roberto, winner of the 2019 Parkening International Guitar Competition, returns to Pepperdine to perform a recital concert. *(Pictured at right)*



March 8

Producer and musical director Damien Sneed presents *We Shall Overcome*, which showcases repertoire from across the African American music traditions, including gospel, jazz, and spirituals. This show marks the final performance for the 2019–2020 season prior to the COVID-19 outbreak. *(Pictured at bottom right)*



Special Thanks to Our Sponsors

CHANCELLOR'S CIRCLE SPONSORS

Performance Sponsors

The Office of the Chancellor of
Pepperdine University
Anne Marie and Mitch Bredefeld
Crest Associates
Melanie and Richard Flamminio
David Huenergardt*
Billie Milam Weisman
Lisa Smith Wengler

Supporting Sponsors

Kathy and John Danhaki
Mary and Tom Hawkins
Michelle and Mark Hiepler
Ellen and Doug Weitman

Contributing Sponsors

The Anza Hotel
Shelley and Rick Bayer
Debby and Andy Benton
G. Beverly Bergmann
Marguerite Brown
Kathy and Lou Colombano
Food Fetish Catering
Maureen Grace
Ambassador Glen Holden
Marcia and Hank Lawson
Emily and Sheldon Lodmer
Laurel and Michael Marion
Marmalade Cafe
Paula and Rick Marrs
Marnie and Tom Mitze
Lucy and Tim Perrin
Nancy and Jeff Pippin
Diane E. Reilly
Helene and Robert Schacter
Paula Mae and Steve Schwartz
Gail and Jim Wilburn

CENTER FOR THE ARTS GUILD MEMBERS

Diamond Members

Jerry Daniels
Becky and David Johnson
Callie E. and R. Rick Moos
Karen and Jerry Orefice

Platinum Members

Audrey and Bob Byers
Rebecca Carson and Dan Murphy
Ruth Crooker
Rosemary and Bernie Ecker
Kate and Mike Hanssens
Julie and Patrick McCormick
Beverly and Stephen Nuccio
Claudia Preston
Susan and Gary Stephani

Gold Members

Roxanne and John Chapman
Barbara and Jack Garrett
Rosemarie and Gerhard Ihde
Lisa and Stephen Kujolic

Monica Rebecca Mennen
Dean Ronald Phillips
Susan and Pier Rossi
Mary Lou and Hans Saeby
Anita and Steven Segal
Jerry Warkans
Sharon and Randall Wixen
Lynne and Jerry Zamarin

Sterling Members

Diane and Noel Applebaum
Susan and Jimmy Barge
Bonnie Bates
Pearl and Bill Burns
Marcia and Barry Cohn
Lauren and Marco Cosentino
Kathie and Lou Drobnick
Donna and Jim Garrett
Jill and Michael Hainkel
Nanci and John Iannone
Diana and Steve Maiman
Judith McAllister
Rosalee and Jeffrey Merrick
Kathleen and Stephen Morgan
Rebecca and Mark Mushkin
Susie and Steve Parks
Marilyn Pecsok
Ellen and Patrick Rude
Lynn and Howard Safenowitz
Bonnie and Erwin Schulze
Jozelle and Ken Smith
Carole and Alan Sworski
Anne Wallace
Jane and Frank Wykoff

Silver Members

Heidi Bernard
Michael Darby
Pat and Avery Falkner
Drs. Angelita and Ronald Feinstein
Agnes and Rick Gibson
Alexander Grissom
Karen and Doug Kirk
Kara Knack
Andrea Lemons
Jill McWilliams
JoAnne Payson
Doris and Lewis Shepard
Maggie Sheppard
Chris Wilson

WEISMAN MUSEUM OF ART SPONSORS

Frederick R. Weisman
Philanthropic Foundation
Lia Skidmore and Michael Zakian*

MICHAEL ZAKIAN EXHIBITION FUND DONORS

Anonymous
Katherine and Kevin Austin
Richard Baker
Mary Bellah
Beverly Bergmann
Nancy and Dan Bishop
Rachel and James Brown
Pearl and William Burns

Sigrid Burton and Max Brennan
Kathy and Scotty Cameron
Julia Campbell
Rosalba and Robert Campbell
David Carlson
Rebecca Carlson
Shannon and Perry Celia
Miyun Choe
Peggy Cohen
Kendra Copeland
Shelly and Ronald Cox
Gareen Darajian
Molly Davis-Holdeman
Shelby Doyle-Davitt and
Michael Davitt
Delta Air Lines Foundation
Beverly and Stuart Deneberg
Susan Dishell
Lauren and Gary Dodds
Merrie and Neal Emelio
Nicole Finger
Whitney and Susan Ganz
Ian Garcia
Agnes and Rick Gibson
Gregory Gilbert
Lindsey Gant
Patricia Griffin
Andrea Harris
Tracey Harris
Liz and Keith Hinkle
Patricia Holt
Barbara and Earl Hoover
Tonya and Jim Hull
Liam Iadicicco
Heidi Jaeger
Maureen Jensen
Jonathan Novak Contemporary Art
Nina Jun
Rose Keshishian
Kendra and Scott Killpatrick
Brittany King
Carolyn Kleefeld
Laura Korman
Anne-Marie Kornachuk
Karen Kutzin
Priscilla Kwok
Cori and Richard Lowe
Lois Lamber
Margaret and Norman Lamonde
Bill Lasarow
Stuart Lehrman
Kathy Leonardo
Bonnie Lockrem and Steven
Ravaglioli
Sheila Job-Lockwood and
Stephen Lockwood
Sabrina and Daniel Lovett
Dana Martell and Ron Batcheller
Rhegan Martin
Pamela Mason
James Mophesis
National Christian Foundation
California
Optimist Club of Malibu
Karen and Jerry Orefice
John Ost
Robin Padorr

Sunday Panagopoulos
Catherine Parr and Ranzie Claxton
Patrick Pennel
Leanne and Curt Portzel
Claudia Preston
Tony Pro
Professional Packers &
Forwarders, Inc.
Joanne Ratinoff
Jodie and Jim Rea
Alina and Scott Richards
Roxene Rockwell
David Rubin
Santa Monica Repertory Theater
Nicholas Schifano
Judith and Carl Scholsberg
Susan Schomburg
John Seed
Marisa Sellers
Julie and Robert Sexton
Earlene and Herbert Seymour
Jackie and Manny Silverman
Lia Skidmore
Rosa Mercado Spivey and
Reuben Spivey
Jenna Staples
Linda and Jean Stern
Ute Tellini
Benjamin Texter
Kathryn and Peter Thompson
Peter Trippi
Paul Vacciano
Valerie Vollmer
Cynthia and Robert Ware
Kate Warner
Sonya Wilder
Alice Yamamoto and Othie Burk
Benny Zahavi

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON ANGELS

Karen Orefice
Twanna and Tim Rogers
Diane Reilly

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON EVENT COMMITTEE

Claudia Arnold Preston
Heidi Bernard
Holly Culhane
Karen Orefice
Susan Stephani
Ellen Weitman
Lisa Smith Wengler

* In memoriam

This list includes donors to the Center for the Arts at the \$100 level and above from 8/1/2019–7/31/2020. Please contact our office at 310.506.4594 with any errors or omissions. Thank you!



Schoolchildren prepare to watch Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia's production of *The Rainbow Fish*

Center for the Arts Student Workers

Box Office, Usher, and Front of House Staff

Hilario Acuna	Gabbatha Hall	Joanna Powell
Alejandra Borrero Rossi	Moriah Hall	Jonathan Pryde
Mary Buffaloe	Steele Helbock	Mackenna Radunz
Keanna Byrnes	Franki Hooks	Shayne Ramasawmy
Kaitlin Callahan	Kendall Horn	Kelsey Ramos
Andy Castelan	Kaung Khant Kyaw	Jordyn Regier
Jaезelyn Chang	Claire Lee	Jenessa Salanga
Maria Chavez	Passion Lord	Connor Shahadi**
Mendoza**	Anne Manganiello	Maryann Shilo
Ching Yan Chong	Kennedy Mcgee	Tyler Speed
Caitlin Crawley	Kaelin Mendez**	Sanskriti Sriramoju
Brandon Davis	Karli Mueller**	Madison Thacker**
Nina Duchild H	Tinashe Nyamupingidza	Mackenzie Whitehouse
Dylan Escobar	Jada Okhiria	Indiana Wilson
D'artagnon Fulton	Julia Pankow	Jacob Windham
Hayley Gotelli	Samantha Petersen	Grace Wood
Madelyn Griffith	Aidan Picadio	Mengyuan Xia

ARTSReach 2019–2020: Schools Served

Actor's Fund Looking Ahead
 Anacapa Middle School *
 Beethoven Elementary
 Blanche Reynolds Elementary *
 Bridges Charter School
 Calvary Christian School
 Canyon Charter Elementary
 Conejo Valley Homeschoolers
 Fillmore Middle School
 Fremont Academy
 Haynes Charter
 Lassen Elementary *
 Malibu Elementary
 Marquez Charter School
 Marvin Ave *
 McAuliffe Elementary School *
 McKinley Elementary- Compton *
 McKinley Elementary- Santa Monica *
 Montalvo Arts Academy *
 MUPU Elementary *
 Our Lady of Malibu
 Palisades Charter
 PUC Milagro *
 Rio del Valle *
 Rio Plaza
 Riverside Drive *
 SMASH
 The Sycamore School
 Thurgood Marshall *
 Webster Elementary
 Westport Heights *

*ARTSReach bus grant recipient

Center for the Arts Technicians

Quinn Conrad	Danecia Kearney	Christof Schoeller
Caitlin Crawley	Brykell Killingsworth	Andrew Segovia
Elissa Croslin	Alannah Lasiter	Maryann Shilo
Yayabell Debay	Quinn Mathys	Angelo Silva
Sara Eakman	Gabrielle Meacham	Bailey Soudelier
Carmen Ellissa Edano	Brooke Moltrum	Sydney Swarengin
Yilin Gu	Wesley Morrissey	Nathaniel Thompson
Joseph Hebel	Maya Ordonez	Ellora Venkat
Britain Hope	Timothy Park	Kaytlin Withers
Emma Inglehart	Katelyn Pi	Kyle Wurtz
Daniel Jung	George Preston IV	

Attendants in the Frederick R. Weisman Museum of Art

Maria Fernanda Alvarez	Izabela Garcia-Arce	Jordan St.Germain
Portilla	Joshua Gunara	Taya Stewart
David Bird	Evan Henderson	Kara Tyler
Jessica Brown	Emily Knight	Jeremiah Zerbe
McKenna Ethington	Aubree Ouellette	
Susie Qianmian Gai	Lydia Parker	

Center for the Arts Photographers

Anthony Bosco
 Caroline Conder
 Caitlin Roark

Center for the Arts Administrative Office

Marcela Ferrarone
 Julia Pankow
 Indiana Wilson

**House Manager



Weisman Museum attendants give a private tour of the Rodin exhibition at the Weisman Museum during an ARTSReach performance day

What our patrons are saying

Reviews and Comments, 2019–2020 Season

DARLENE LOVE, SEPTEMBER 12

"Had a BLAST performing at the Lisa Smith Wengler Center for the Arts with my band and fabulous singers! I truly felt the love in the audience, and hope to return soon!

—Darlene Love

RUBEN SINGS LUTHER AN EVENING OF LUTHER VANDROSS STARRING RUBEN STUDDARD SEPTEMBER 14

"I absolutely LOVED this performance; we partied the entire show. Thank you to Ruben for bringing Luther's music to life for us."

—Doc D Thomas-Whitman

"Ruben is outstanding! I closed my eyes and thought Luther was on stage. Ruben brought his down-home southern personality and had us laughing, dancing, and singing!

—Nina Lewis

"Very good performance, in an intimate venue—not a bad seat in the house. Ruben's renditions stayed true to the spirit of Luther Vandross, and his engagement with the audience was excellent!

—victoryzone

AN EVENING OF STORIES AND SONGS WITH CHRIS HILLMAN FEAT. HERB PEDERSEN AND MARK FAIN SEPTEMBER 21

"Great show with excellent seats. The blend of voices and amazing musicianship made for a wonderful evening."

—B.P.

"Excellent show! I had a smile on my face from beginning to end."

—Leslie Howard

SIMPLY THREE, OCTOBER 2

"Thoroughly enjoyed these very talented musicians."

—Pat

TOMMY EMMANUEL FEAT. SPECIAL GUESTS JIM AND MORNING NICHOLS DECEMBER 11–12

"Tommy Emmanuel is one the most talented and entertaining performers I have seen. What this man can do with a guitar has to be seen to be believed. He absolutely blew my mind. I go to 20–30 concerts a year and have done so for years. I can't overstate how awed I was."

—Bart Tompkins



Center for the Arts staff gives patrons a backstage tour of the Ragtime production on November 14, 2019

CLASSIC ALBUMS LIVE PRESENTS: THE BEATLES—*ABBEY ROAD* JANUARY 11

"Amazing show! Such talented musicians and singers!"

—Pam Ann Litz

"What a great concert! An amazing band—would love to see them again doing Led Zeppelin. More *Classic Albums Live*, please!"

—Anita Roglich

CIRQUE FLIP FABRIQUE, FEBRUARY 6

"What a fun and amazing show! The acrobatics were incredible and they made it look so easy. A must-see for everyone!"

—Lori Fingeroth

"Cirque FLIP Fabrique was absolutely fantastic. The cast members were breathtaking, elegant, and poetic. I was surprised by the grand finale of the show with its crystal snowflakes and sense of fluidity."

—Deborah Perry

BURTON CUMMINGS, MARCH 2

"It was a pleasure to see one of rock's most amazing singers! Burton Cummings is charming with his stories of how these hit songs came into being."

—Lloyd

"Entertaining night of music with one of the contemporary masters."

—Wayne Rose

Lisa Smith Wengler Center for the Arts
Pepperdine University
24255 Pacific Coast Hwy • Malibu, CA 90263
310.506.4594 • arts.pepperdine.edu