

# Carnival Studio Theater

Susan Westfall Playwrights Stage

March 14 - April 7, 2019

**Adrienne Arsht Center**  
FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

AND



**ZOETIC STAGE**

PRESENT

# **SWEENEY TODD**

## **THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET**

**Music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim**

**Book by Hugh Wheeler**

**From an Adaptation by Christopher Bond**

*Featuring*

**Aloysius Gigl\* • Jeni Hacker\***

**Shannon Nicole Booth • Kimberly Doreen Burns\* • Henry Gainza\***

**Terry Hardcastle\* • Nate Promkul\* • Kevin Veloz\*\***

**Directed by Stuart Meltzer**

Musical  
Director  
**Paul  
Tine**

Resident  
Stage Manager  
**Amy  
Rauchwerger\***

Scenic  
Design  
**Natalie  
Taveras**

Lighting  
Design  
**Rebecca  
Montero**

Costume  
Design  
**Marina  
Pareja**

Sound  
Design  
**Dan  
Mayer**

Properties  
Design  
**Jodi  
Dellaventura**

Dialect  
Coach  
**Rebecca  
Covey**

Assistant  
Stage Manager  
**Vanessa  
McCloskey\***

Wardrobe  
Supervisor  
**Debbie  
Richardson**

Technical  
Direction  
**B.J.  
Duncan**

Originally Directed On Broadway by **HAROLD PRINCE**

Orchestrations by Jonathan Tunick

Originally Produced on Broadway by Richard Barr,

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\*\* Zoetic Stage Young Artist

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# SWEENEY TODD

## THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET

### CAST

Sweeney Todd	Aloysius Gigl*
Mrs. Lovett	Jeni Hacker*
Johanna	Shannon Nicole Booth
Beggar Woman/Pirelli	Kimberly Doreen Burns*
Beadle Bamford	Henry Gainza*
Judge Turpin	Terry Hardcastle*
Anthony Hope	Nate Promkul*
Tobias	Kevin Veloz**



**ALOYSIUS  
GIGL\***



**JENI  
HACKER\***



**SHANNON  
NICOLE  
BOOTH**



**KIMBERLY  
DOREEN  
BURNS\***



**HENRY  
GAINZA\***



**TERRY  
HARDCASTLE\***



**NATE  
PROMKUL\***



**KEVIN  
VELOZ\*\***

\* Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers

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# SWEENEY TODD

## THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET

**SETTING: Place:** London: Fleet Street and environs. **Time:** The 19th Century

*Sweeney Todd* will be performed with one 15 minute intermission.

### MUSICAL NUMBERS

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#### PROLOGUE

"The Ballad of Sweeney Todd" . . . . . Company

#### ACT I

"No Place Like London" . . . . . Anthony, Todd, Beggar Woman

"The Barber and His Wife" . . . . . Todd

"The Worst Pies in London" . . . . . Mrs. Lovett

"The Barber and His Wife (Reprise)/Poor Thing" . . . . . Mrs. Lovett

"My Friends" . . . . . Todd, Mrs. Lovett

"The Ballad of Sweeney Todd (Reprise 1)" . . . . . Company

"Green Finch and Linnet Bird" . . . . . Johanna

"Ah, Miss/Green Finch and Linnet Bird (Reprise)" . . . . . Anthony, Johanna, Beggar Woman

"Johanna" . . . . . Anthony

"Pirelli's Miracle Elixir/The Contest" . . . . . Tobias, Todd, Mrs. Lovett, Pirelli, Company

"The Ballad of Sweeney Todd (Reprise 2)" . . . . . Company

"Wait" . . . . . Mrs. Lovett

"The Ballad of Sweeney Todd (Reprise 3)" . . . . . Tenor Trio

"Johanna (Mea Culpa)" . . . . . Judge Turpin

"Kiss Me" . . . . . Johanna, Anthony

"Ladies in their Sensitivities" . . . . . Beadle, Judge Turpin

"Kiss Me (Quartet)" . . . . . Johanna, Anthony, Beadle, Judge Turpin

"Pretty Women" . . . . . Todd, Judge Turpin

"Epiphany" . . . . . Todd

"A Little Priest" . . . . . Mrs. Lovett, Todd

#### ACT II

"God, that's Good!" . . . . . Tobias, Mrs. Lovett, Todd, Company

"Johanna (Quartet)" . . . . . Anthony, Todd, Beggar Woman, Johanna

"By the Sea" . . . . . Mrs. Lovett, Todd

"Wigmaker Sequence" . . . . . Todd, Anthony

"The Ballad of Sweeney Todd (Reprise 4)" . . . . . Company

"The Letter" . . . . . Todd, Company

"Not While I'm Around" . . . . . Tobias, Mrs. Lovett

"Parlor Songs" . . . . . Beadle, Mrs. Lovett, Tobias

"The Ballad of Sweeney Todd (Reprise 5)" . . . . . Company

"City on Fire/Searching" . . . . . Johanna, Beggar Woman, Mrs. Lovett, Todd

"Ah, Miss (Reprise)" . . . . . Anthony, Johanna

"Pretty Women (Reprise)" . . . . . Todd, Judge Turpin

"The Ballad of Sweeney Todd (Reprise 6)" . . . . . Company

"Final Scene" . . . . . Mrs. Lovett, Todd

#### EPILOGUE

"The Ballad of Sweeney Todd (Reprise 7 - Finale)" . . . . . Company

### MUSICIANS

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Conductor/Keyboards: Paul Tine

Cello: Elena Alamilla • Violin: Liubov Ohrimenko • Trumpet: Peter Francis

Percussion: Ryan Hecker • Clarinet: Rick Kissinger

## ACTORS

**ALOYSIUS GIGL\*** (Sweeney Todd) Since receiving his MFA from the Yale School of Drama, Aloysius has enjoyed a diverse career. Highlights: *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*/Archdeacon Frollo, *Elf The Musical*/Walter Hobbs, *Travesties*/Bennett, *Sweeney Todd*/Sweeney, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*/Oberon-Theseus, *Les Miserables*/Javert, *Peter Pan*/Captain Hook, *Ragtime*/Mother's Younger Brother, *A Little Night Music*/Carl-Magnus, *The Royal Family*/Tony Cavendish, *Serious Money*/Jake, *Phantom of the Opera*/Raoul, *A Child's Garden*/Robert Lewis Stevenson, *As You Like It*/Orlando, *Romeo and Juliet*/Romeo, *A View from the Bridge*/Rodolfo; also roles in *Forrest Gump*, *Law and Order* and *One Life to Live*. Aloysius thanks his husband, family and friends for their love and support.

**JENI HACKER\*** (Mrs. Lovett) is always happy to be back at Zoetic Stage. She was last seen here as Helen in *Fun Home* (Carbonell Nominee) and recently as Frieda in *Sunday in the Park with George*, Fosca in *Passion* (Silver Palm Award and Carbonell winner Best Actress) and Connie in *After* (Carbonell winner Best Supporting Actress) Other recent credits: Evelyn in *The Camp* (Carbonell Nominee Best Supporting Actress) at Boca West Theater, Poppy in *Noises Off*, Aunt Sheila in *It Shoulda Been You*, Beverly in *Miracle on South Division Street*, Peggy in *Godspell* and Louise/Eve in *Ruthless! The Musical* at Actors' Playhouse at the Miracle Theatre. Other recent favorites: *Our Town* (Miami New Drama), *Les Miserables* (Maltz Jupiter Theater), Marie in *The Most Happy Fella* (Palm Beach Dramaworks) and Alysha in *Fugitive Songs* at Theatre Lab.

**SHANNON NICOLE BOOTH** (Johanna) is a recent graduate from the University of Miami with a BFA in Musical Theatre and a previous member of the Zoetic Young Artist Program. She was last seen Regionally in *Aunt Jack* (Andy) and *Sunday in the Park With George* (Swing). Other credits include: *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Janet), *Of Thee I Sing* (Mary), *The Pirates of Penzance* (Mabel), *Romance Romance* (Josefine) and more. She is thrilled to be back at Zoetic performing one of her dream roles with such an amazing cast and crew.

**KIMBERLY DOREEN BURNS\*** (Beggar Woman/Pirelli) is thrilled to return to Zoetic Stage after previously appearing as Dot in *Sunday in the Park With George* (Carbonell Award: Best Musical) New York City credits include: *Finian's Rainbow* (Irish Rep Revival, Outer Critics Circle Nomination), *The Dead: 1904*, *Austen's Pride*, *What Do Critics Know?*, *Wuthering Heights*, *Sondheim at Seven* Gala (soloist at Town Hall). Selected Regional: *Our Town* directed by Hunter Foster, *Ragtime* (Mother), *My Fair Lady* (Eliza Doolittle x3: Broadway World Award), *Camelot* (Guenevere), *Guys and Dolls* (Sarah Brown), *South Pacific* (Nellie Forbush), all at various theatres including the Riverside Theatre, Theatre Aspen, Pittsburgh Public, Finger Lakes/Merry-Go-Round, etc. Internationally she has performed in Japan and Taiwan with Disney On Classic (Disney Records/Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra) and at Tokyo Disneyland (lead singer). Kimberly also played Sandy in the National Tour of *Grease* starring Frankie Avalon. MFA from San Diego State University and BFA from Ithaca College. She teaches private lessons in NYC. [kimberlydoreenburns.com](http://kimberlydoreenburns.com)

**HENRY GAINZA\*** (Beadle Bamford) Broadway: *On Your Feet* (original cast/cast album). Off-Broadway and New York City: *4 Guys Named José... and una Mujer Named María* (original cast/cast album), *I Am Harvey Milk* (Lincoln Center Theater), *Jose Limon* (Symphony Space), *The Mapmaker's Opera* (The Pearl Theatre Company) and *Zapata* (Signature Theatre). International: *Grease* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Regional: *In the Heights* (The Kennedy Center), Goodspeed Opera House, Arena Stage, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Actors' Playhouse and Zoetic Stage. Television credits include *Saturday Night Live*, *Throwdown with Bobby Flay*, *Good Morning America*, *The View*,

*Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade*, *Stephen Colbert* and *The Tony Awards*. Concept albums include Frank Wildhorn's *Wonderland* and *Tears of Heaven*. Henry is also an award-winning songwriter having been honored by the John Lennon Songwriting Contest, the USA Songwriting Contest and the International Songwriting Contest. For Papi!

**TERRY HARDCASTLE\*** (Judge Turpin) Winner of three Carbonell Awards and a 24 year member of Actors' Equity Association, he's performed at Actors' Playhouse, Gablestage, Maltz-Jupiter Theatre, Caldwell Theatre, Florida Stage, Palm Beach Dramaworks, and many others. As a Professor of Theatre, Mr. Hardcastle has taught Performance and Effective Speech at Virginia Commonwealth University, University of Pittsburgh, University of Sioux Falls, and New World School of the Arts. BA in Theatre Arts from Earlham College and an MFA in Theatre Pedagogy from Virginia Commonwealth University. As a writer, he penned the chapter on Lee Strasberg in *A Field Guide to Actor Training*, published by Applause Books.

**NATE PROMKUL\*** (Anthony Hope) is honored to be making his Zoetic Stage debut in *Sweeney Todd*. He is a recent graduate of New World School of the Arts (B.F.A. c/o 2017). His favorite credits include Dr. Jekyll/Mr. Hyde (*Jekyll & Hyde*), Gottfried Swetts (*A Bright Room Called Day*), Danny (*Baby, the Musical*), and Mr. Erlanson (*A Little Night Music*). He is thankful for the support of his family and friends, to his band and best friends in *Happy Hour*, and to Melanie for always believing in the dream. Instagram: @natepromkul

**KEVIN VELOZ\*\*** (Toby, Zoetic Stage Young Artist) is a Senior Music Theatre student at New World School of the Arts and is beyond excited to be making his professional stage debut as the Young Artist for Zoetic Stage's production of *Sweeney Todd*. He wants to thank his teacher and mentor Stuart Meltzer for this fantastic opportunity and is so excited to be working alongside artists he has previously only dreamed of working with.

## DIRECTORS, PLAYWRIGHTS, DESIGNERS and PRODUCTION

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**STUART MELTZER** (Director) is the Artistic Director and a founding member of Zoetic Stage. He is the proud recipient of Carbonell Awards for Best Director of a Musical for *Passion* and Best Director of a Play for *Clark Gable Slept Here*, both at Zoetic Stage. He is also a Carbonell Award winner for Best New Work for his play *The Goldberg Variations*. Altogether, he has been honored with sixteen Carbonell nominations. He is pleased to return to the Carnival Studio Theater at the Arsht Center after directing Zoetic Stage's highly successful productions of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, *Dracula*, *Fun Home*, *Dancing Lessons*, *Wrongful Death and Other Circus Acts*, *Topdog/Underdog*, *The Caretaker*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, *After, Passion*, *Rapture*, *Blister*, *Burn*, *Stripped*, *Betrayal*, *Trust*, *Detroit*, *The Great God Pan*, *Assassins*, *Fear Up Harsh*, *The Savannah Disputation*, *All New People*, *I Am My Own Wife*, *Moscow*, *The SantaLand Diaries*, *Captiva* and *South Beach Babylon*. Previously, Stuart served as the Artistic Director of City Theatre in Miami, where he oversaw and expanded the *Summer Shorts* Festival. New York and South Florida credits include Romulus Linney's *Gint*, Harold Pinter's *One for the Road*, Aristophanes' *Lysistrata*, *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, *Painted Alice*, *Everything Will Be Different* and *Melt*. He is the recipient of four Silver Palm Awards for his work as the Resident Director of Zoetic Stage. He received his M.F.A. in Directing from the Actors' Studio in 2002 and B.F.A. from New World School of the Arts in Miami, where he currently serves on the faculty.

**STEPHEN SONDHEIM** (Music and lyrics) wrote the music and lyrics for *Saturday Night* (1954), *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way to The Forum* (1962), *Anyone Can Whistle* (1964), *Company* (1970), *Follies* (1971), *A Little Night Music* (1973), *The Frogs* (1974), *Pacific Overtures* (1976), *Sweeney Todd* (1979), *Merrily We Roll Along* (1981), *Sunday In The Park With George* (1984), *Into The Woods* (1987), *Assassins* (1991), *Passion* (1994) and *Road Show* (2008) as well as lyrics for

*West Side Story* (1957), *Gypsy* (1959) and *Do I Hear a Waltz?* (1965) and additional lyrics for *Candide* (1973). Anthologies of his work include *Side By Side By Sondheim* (1976), *Marry Me A Little* (1981), *You're Gonna Love Tomorrow* (1983), *Putting It Together* (1993/99) and *Sondheim on Sondheim* (2010). He composed the scores of the films "Stavisky" (1974) and "Reds" (1981) and songs for "Dick Tracy" (1990) and the television production "Evening Primrose" (1966). His collected lyrics with attendant essays have been published in two volumes: "Finishing the Hat" (2010) and "Look, I Made A Hat" (2011). In 2010 the Broadway theater formerly known as Henry Miller's Theatre was renamed in his honor.

**HUGH WHEELER** (Book) was a novelist, playwright and screen writer. He wrote more than thirty mystery novels under the pseudonyms Q. Patrick and Patrick Quentin, and four of his novels were transformed into films: *Black Widow*, *Man in the Net*, *The Green-Eyed Monster* and *The Man with Two Wives*. For films he wrote the screenplays for *Travels with My Aunt*, *Something for Everyone*, *A Little Night Music* and *Nijinsky*. His plays include *Big Fish*, *Little Fish* (1961), *Look: We've Come Through* (1961) and *We Have Always Lived in the Castle* (1966, adapted from the Shirley Jackson novel), he co-authored with Joseph Stein the book for a new production of the 1919 musical *Irene* (1973), wrote the books for *A Little Night Music* (1973), a new production of *Candide* (1973), *Sweeney Todd*, *the Demon Barber of Fleet Street* (1979, based on a version of the play by Christopher Bond), and *Meet Me in St. Louis* (adapted from the 1949 M-G-M musical), contributed additional material for the musical *Pacific Overtures* (1976), and wrote a new adaptation of the Kurt Weill opera *Silverlake*, which was directed by Harold Prince at the New York Opera. He received Tony and Drama Desk Awards for *A Little Night Music*, *Candide* and *Sweeney Todd*. Prior to his death in 1987 Mr. Wheeler was working on two new musicals, *Bodo* and *Fu Manchu*, and a new adaptation of *The Merry Widow*.

**PAUL TINE** (Music Director) is a freelance music director, baritone, pianist, voice teacher, and organist, with degrees in music and politics from Ithaca College. Prior to coming from Connecticut to start this season with Slow Burn Theatre Company, Paul was on faculty at the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts and The Bushnell's Ensign Darling Vocal Fellowship, and he accompanied dance and theater at The Hartt School. He has been a soloist with CONCORRA, and his voice students have gone on to top collegiate MT programs. During the summer he is a resident Music Director at Stagedoor Manor Performing Arts Training Center.

**AMY RAUCHWERGER\*** (Resident Stage Manager) is thrilled to be working on her fifth season with Zoetic Stage. She is also excited tackle her new role of Company Manager! Since graduating as a proud 'Nole in 2014, Amy has had the opportunity to work with Miami companies such as Zoetic Stage, City Theatre, The Wick, BCPA, SMDCAC, and GabeStage. Some favorite past credits include: *Fun Home*, *Stripped*, *After*, *Passion*, *Stalking the Boogymen*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, *S4K*, *Tsunami*, and *Fuacata!*. Amy would like to give a huge shout out to Stuart and Michael for all the wonderful opportunities and becoming the best of friends, and to the whole Zoetic creative family for their extraordinary teamwork. All my love to Mom, Dad, Daniel, Lety, Amanda, and Alex for their unwavering support.

**NATALIE TAVERAS** (Scenic Design) is proud to be back with Zoetic Stage, where she previously served as Production Manager (*Assassins*, *Fear Up Harsh*, *The Great God Pan* & *The Savannah Disputation*). As a local freelancer, she has collaborated in technical & design capacities with companies that include Island City Stage, Broward Stage Door, City Theatre-Summer Shorts, Bombshell Productions, Primal Forces, The Women's Theatre Project, and Broward College. Natalie is currently the Assistant Technical Director and Resident Designer at Barry University. Natalie recently earned her Master of Fine Arts in Theatre (Scenic Design) from Florida Atlantic University.



**REBECCA MONTERO** (Lighting Design) is happy to be back with Zoetic Stage at the Adrienne Arsht Center. Rebecca has designed Zoetic's productions of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, *Dracula*, *Fun Home*, *Dancing Lessons*, *Topdog/Underdog*, *The Caretaker*, *Fuacata!*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, *After, Passion, Rapture, Blister, Burn, Stripped* and *Betrayal*. Rebecca is a freelance lighting designer. In South Florida, she has designed for Zoetic Stage, Vero Beach Ballet, NOVA Uschool and Broward College. Up next Rebecca will be opening *Every Brilliant Thing*. Some of her other design credits include; *Antigone*, *Big River*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Dogfight*, *Spring Awakening*, *Shrek*, *Rocky Horror Show*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, and many more.

**MARINA PAREJA** (Costume Design) has a Master of Fine Arts in Theatrical Production from Queen Margaret University in Edinburgh, Scotland and currently the Resident Costume Designer and Costume Design Faculty at Florida International University Theatre Department. Marina is a skilled theatre designer and director with experience in theatrical costume design, costume construction, stage production, and direction. Her off-campus design work in the community includes The Miami Orchestra, New Theatre, Juggerknot Theatre Company, Mainstreet Players, What if Works Inc., Arts & Minds, African Heritage Center, and Yale University.

**JODI DELLAVENTURA** (Properties Design) is proud to be back with Zoetic Stage where she previously collaborated in both properties and scenic design (*Dracula*, *Passion*, *The Great God Pan*, *Fear Up Harsh*, *Assassins*, and *South Beach Babylon*). Other Scenic Design credits: Actors' Playhouse (*Once*, *All the Way*, *The Book Club Play*, and *Murder Ballad*), City Theatre (*Summer Shorts*, *Building the Wall* and *Winter Shorts*), Island City Stage (*Buyer & Cellar* and *Hir*), Area Stage Company (*Into the Woods* and *The Nether* (Carbonell Award)). Jodi is currently the prop master/set dresser at Actors' Playhouse.

**REBECCA COVEY** (Dialect Coach) is delighted to return to Zoetic Stage where she has vocal coached *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, *Dracula*, *The Caretaker*, *Passion*, *Stripped* and *Betrayal*. Other recent productions include *Bad Jews* and *A Minister's Wife* at Gablestage, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Mile Square Theatre in Hoboken, New Jersey. Rebecca is also an Equity Actor, Designated Linklater Voice teacher and an Associate Professor of Voice and Acting in the Theatre Department at Florida International University where she serves as the resident Vocal Director for all FIU Theatre productions. She thanks her creative team of Aaron, Holden and Micah.

**VANESSA L. MCCLOSKEY\*** (Assistant Stage Manager) is so happy to return to Zoetic Stage for this wonderful production of *Sweeney Todd*! Earlier this season, she made her company debut as the assistant stage manager for Michael McKeever's world premiere of *Dracula*. Some other recent credits include *Indecent*, *Gloria*, and *The Legend of Georgia McBride* (GableStage), *Ariadne auf Naxos* and *The Ghosts of Versailles* (Miami Music Festival), *Ben, Virginia and Me: The Liberate Musical* (NYMF), and Ford's AV (Autonomous Vehicles) Miami Experience (Civic Entertainment Group). She is a recent and proud graduate of the University of Miami's BFA Stage Management program.

**B.J. DUNCAN** (Technical Direction) is excited to be returning for his third season as Technical Director for Zoetic Stage. He has been working professionally in the South Florida theatre world for the past eleven years, including productions for the National Young Arts Foundation, New Theatre, Seminole Theatre and M Ensemble. B.J. received both a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre and a Master of Public Administration from Florida International University (where he currently serves as their Theatre Facilities Manager and Production Specialist), and is working towards completing his Master of Fine Arts in Theatre from the University of Idaho.

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**TONY BENNETT** With millions of records sold world-wide and platinum and gold albums to his credit, Bennett has received nineteen Grammy Awards -- including a 1995 Grammy for Record of the Year for his "MTV Unplugged" CD which introduced this American master to a whole new generation -- and the Grammy Lifetime Award. His initial successes came via a string of Columbia singles in the early 1950's, including such chart-toppers as "Because of You," "Rags to Riches," and a remake of Hank Williams "Cold, Cold Heart." He had 24 songs in the Top 40, including "I Wanna Be Around," "The Good Life," "Who Can I Turn To (When Nobody Needs Me)" and his signature song, "I Left My Heart In San Francisco," which garnered him two Grammy Awards.

Tony Bennett is one of a handful of artists to have new albums charting in the 50's, 60's, 70's, 80's, 90's, and now in the first two decades of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. He has introduced a multitude of songs into the Great American Songbook that have since become standards for pop music. He has toured the world to sold out audiences with rave reviews whenever he performs. Bennett re-signed with Columbia Records in 1986 and released the critically acclaimed *The Art of Excellence*. Since his 1991 show-stopping performance at the Grammy Awards of "When Do The Bells Ring For Me," from his *Astoria* album, he has received a string of Grammy Awards for releases including *Stepping Out*, *Perfectly Frank* and *MTV Unplugged*.

Tony Bennett became a Kennedy Center Honoree in 2005, was named an NEA Jazz Master in January of 2006, a Citizen of the World award from the United Nations and a Billboard Magazine Century Award in honor of his outstanding contributions to music. In November 2017, the Library of Congress presented Tony with The Gershwin Prize marking the first time the honor has been bestowed upon an "interpretive singer" as to date it has been given to composers.

Tony's latest album is a collaborative project with long-time friend and colleague Diana Krall titled, "Love is Here to Stay." Celebrating the musical legacy of the Gershwins, the album debuted at #1 on Billboard's Current and Traditional Jazz Charts. Also out now is a new book, *Tony Bennett: On Stage and in the Studio*. In the new millennium, Bennett's artistry and popularity was higher than ever. In 2006, the year of his 80th birthday, his *Duets: An American Classic* was released. The album—which included performances with Paul McCartney, Elton John, Barbra Streisand, Bono and others—won three Grammy Awards and went on to be one of the best-selling CDs of the year and Tony's career.

Bennett's first *Duets* album also inspired the Rob Marshall-directed television special *Tony Bennett: An American Classic* which won seven Emmys making it the most honored program at the 2007 Emmy Awards. In celebration of his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2011 the release of Bennett's highly anticipated, *Duets II*, featured Tony performing with a new roster of celebrated artists including, the late Amy Winehouse (her last recording was their duet of "Body and Soul"), Michael Bublé, Aretha Franklin, Josh Groban, Lady Gaga, John Mayer, and many others. *Duets II* debuted at #1 on the Billboard Album charts, making Tony the only artist at the age of 85 to achieve this in the history of recorded music. Tony's collaborative jazz album with Lady Gaga, released in 2014, *Tony Bennett & Lady Gaga: Cheek To Cheek*, debuted at #1 on the Billboard Top 200 album charts making Bennett, at the age of 88, the oldest artists to have a #1 album. *Cheek To Cheek* won a Grammy in the Best Traditional Pop Vocal category. Bennett's 2015 release, *The Silver Lining: The Songs of Jerome Kern* won a Grammy for Best Traditional Pop Vocal album.

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*Stay*, celebrates the music of the Gershwins, the release of which confirmed a Guinness World Record standing for Bennett.

In 1999, Tony Bennett, with his wife Susan Benedetto, a former public school teacher, founded Exploring the Arts (ETA) to strengthen the role of the arts in public high school education. ETA connects private funders, individual artists, and cultural institutions to Partner Schools to achieve greater equality of resources and opportunity for youth of all means and backgrounds. ETA programs are designed to help school principals and teachers sustain the arts in the face of budget cuts and better leverage the arts to strengthen student learning and engagement. ETA's first endeavor was the establishment of Frank Sinatra School of the Arts (FSSA), a public high school founded in 2001 by Tony and Susan in partnership with the NYC Department of Education. FSSA is housed in a newly constructed building in Tony's hometown of Astoria, Queens. Its state-of-the-art facilities includes visual art studios and a gallery, black box theatres and a stagecraft workshop, dance studios, choral and orchestral classrooms, an 800-seat concert hall, a multi-media technology lab, and a rooftop performance garden. All students major in Dance, Theatre, Film, Fine Art, Vocal or Instrumental Music. FSSA also offers a rigorous academic curriculum and holds one of the highest graduation and college enrollment rates for NYC public high schools. ETA continued beyond its commitment to FSSA to expand their support and to date, ETA currently partners with 38 public high schools -- in all five boroughs of New York City and Los Angeles with expansion plans to serve more schools underway.

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**JORGE MEJIA** is a Latin GRAMMY®-nominated classical pianist and composer, Steinway Artist, and music industry executive featured in *Billboard Magazine's* "40 under 40" and "Latin Power Players" lists. His impassioned performances and evocative compositional style are enriched by his role as a leader in the Latin music world, infusing all facets of his work with a keenly global perspective. Mejia's compositions have been played by the Nu Deco Ensemble, the Miami Symphony Orchestra, the Havana Lyceum Orchestra (featuring pianist Simone Dinnerstein), the Guayaquil Philharmonic (Ecuador), and The Uruguay Youth Orchestra at El Sodre (Uruguay), among others. Born in Bogotá, Colombia, Jorge studied at the New World School of the Arts and the New England Conservatory of Music, and earned a Piano Performance degree from the University of Miami. Jorge is an expert in the power of words wedded to music, having collaborated extensively with some of the world's foremost songwriters. As President of Sony/ATV Music Publishing Latin America and U.S. Latin, he has been instrumental in guiding Sony/ATV Latin to become the leading music publisher in the Latin industry, with a record-setting 15 consecutive ASCAP Latin Publisher of the Year wins, and the "Triple Crown of Publishing" – Publisher of the Year awards from each of the three major performing rights organizations: ASCAP, BMI, and SESAC – in 2016 and 2017. Learn more at [www.jorgemejiamusic.com](http://www.jorgemejiamusic.com) and follow Jorge on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram at @jorgemejiamusic.

**JOSE SEREBRIER** is one of most recorded classical artists in history, with multiple GRAMMY® nominations, including the Latin GRAMMY® for "Best Classical Recording of the Year." He has recorded with the New York Philharmonic, London Symphony Orchestra, London Philharmonic, Royal Philharmonic, Russian National Orchestra, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, English Chamber Orchestra, Bamberg Symphony, Oslo Philharmonic, Barcelona Symphony, Irish National Orchestra, Bournemouth Symphony and many others. Maestro Serebrier served as Associate Conductor at Carnegie Hall under Leopold Stokowski from age 21; was Composer-in-Residence at the Cleveland Orchestra for George Szell's last two seasons, and music director of America's oldest music festival in Worcester, Massachusetts. He organized Festival Miami and served as its artistic director. As a composer of more than 100 published works, Serebrier has won many awards, including two Guggenheim Fellowships as the youngest in its history, Rockefeller Foundation grants, the BMI Award, and commissions from the National Endowment for the Arts, Harvard Musical Association, American Composers Orchestra and others. His compositions have been recorded by Leopold Stokowski, Sir John Eliot Gardiner and many soloists. He has toured the world with the Russian National Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Philharmonia, Pittsburgh Symphony, Orchestra of the Americas, Juilliard Orchestra, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, English Chamber Orchestra, Toulouse National Chamber Orchestra and others. After winning first prize in the Ford Foundation American Conductors Competition, Serebrier started his recording career of over 300 releases. The French critic Michel Faure published a book about Serebrier, soon to be updated in an English edition by Toccata Press.

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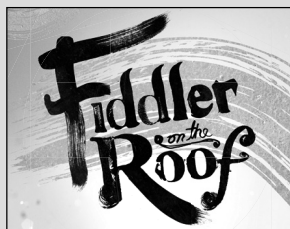
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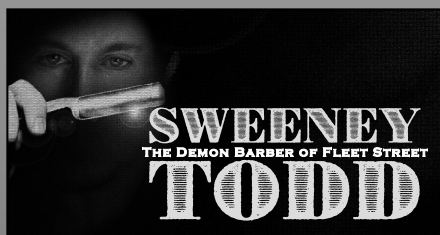


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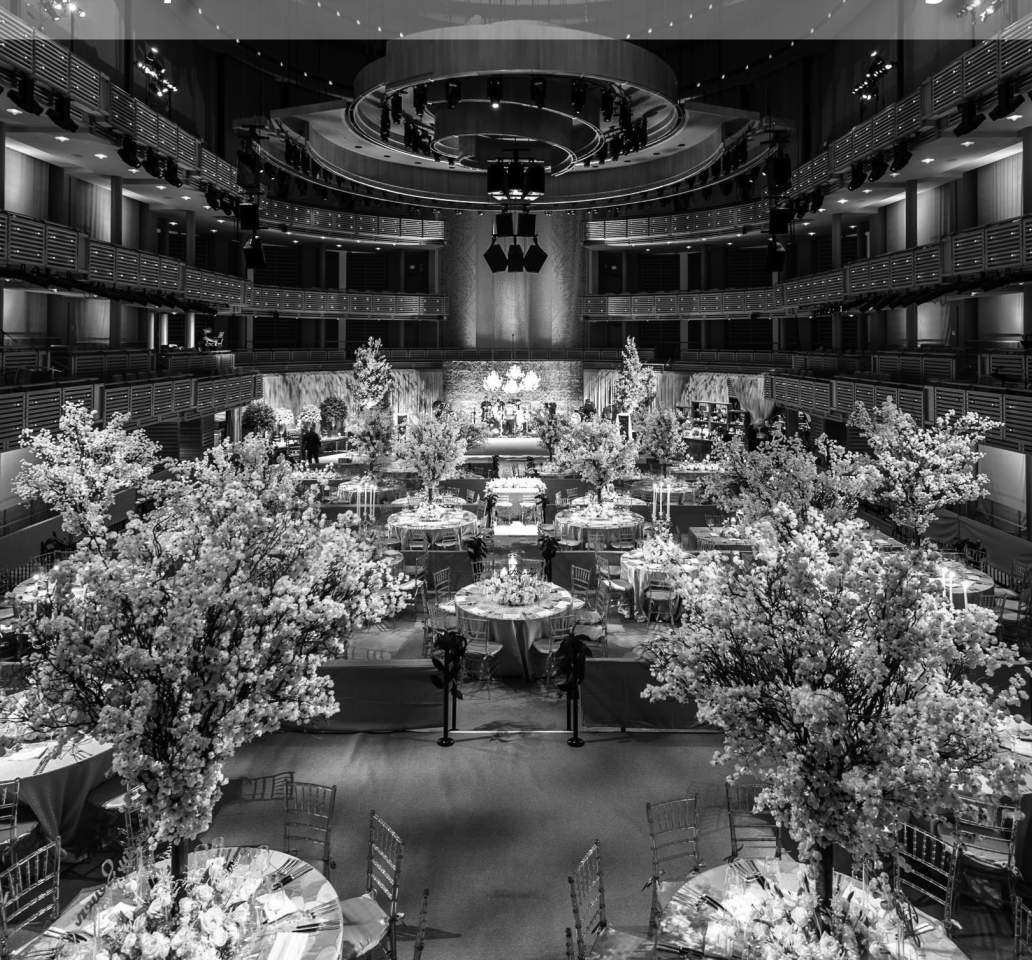
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