

MARCH 24, 2024
FINAL COMPETITION AT
THE FABULOUS FOX



#### WELCOME TO THE 14TH ANNUAL ST. LOUIS TEEN TALENT COMPETITION!

Thank you for joining us tonight! This year 130 acts with 155 students registered for the Preliminary round, representing 72 bi-state high schools and performing arts organizations plus homeschoolers. The Fox Performing Arts Charitable Foundation is excited to present 14 finalist acts comprised of 26 talented teens performing on the stage of the Fabulous Fox competing for scholarships, prizes, awards, and future performance opportunities.

A very special thank you to the Board and all of our donors, partners, adjudicators, production team, and volunteeers. We couldn't to this without you! Thank you to Mary Strauss for allowing us to continue to fulfill your Teen Talent dream!

If you or a talented teen in your life would like to be a part of the St. Louis Teen Talent Competition—registration opens on August 1, 2024. Please visit stlteentalent.org for info about Teen Talent! We hope to see you next year at the Finals on January 18, 2025 at the Fabulous Fox for the 15th Annual St. Louis Teen Talent Competition!

Pat Vogelsang Board President

#### FOX PERFORMING ARTS CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

#### Mission Statement:

The Fox Performing Arts Charitable Foundation fosters, promotes, and encourages young people in the St. Louis region to discover and participate in the joy and wonder of live performances.

#### Vision:

For young people in the St. Louis area to have more opportunities to create, perform, and appreciate live performances.

The Fox Performing Arts Charitable Foundation's programming includes:

- St. Louis Teen Talent Competition provides scholarships, prizes, and performance opportunities for emerging talent.
- Kids' Night at The Fabulous Fox introduces young audiences to live theatre.
- **Broadway Master Classes** encourage young performers to learn and refine their craft from touring professionals.
- Special Projects ignite imagination for expression through story, sound, image, and movement.
- Educational Encores are an interactive encounter with touring Broadway cast and crew members providing the opportunity for young people to enhance their live theatre experience.
- St. Louis High School Musical Theatre Awards is a collaboration between Fox Performing Arts Charitable Foundation, The Muny and The Fabulous Fox. This program is designed to celebrate outstanding achievement in high school musical theatre and is modeled on The Tony Awards®.

#### Board of Directors

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President Emeritus



Presents

#### 14TH ANNUAL ST. LOUIS TEEN TALENT COMPETITION

March 24, 2024 Final Competition Fabulous Fox Theatre

#### **Mary Strauss**

St. Louis Teen Talent Competition Creator

Pat Vogelsang

Producer SLTTC

Cait VanDeWiele

FoxPACF Executive Director Producer SLTTC

Lee Anne Mathews

Writer / Director

**Yvonne Meyer Hare** 

Choreographer

Ben Nordstrom

Host

Steve Neale

Musical Director and Arranger

John Wolf

Fox Theatre VP of Operations

Katie Betz

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Ryan Lilly

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Program Photographer

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Videographer

Graphic Designer

Costume Designer

**Emily Clinger** 

Production Stage Manager

Anna Blair

Assistant Stage Manager

**Kelsey Kozuszek** 

Assistant Stage Manager

#### THE FABULOUS FOX BAND

Andy Tichenor, Trumpet **Tom Vincent**. Trombone

Mike Karpowicz, Alto Saxophone Steve Schenkel, Guitar

Mike Buerk, Tenor Saxophone **Ben Reece**. Baritone Saxophone

Kevin Gianino. Drums

Steve Neale, Piano

Glen Smith, Bass

#### St. Louis Teen Talent Competition Planning Committee:

Mary Strauss, Cait VanDeWiele, Lee Anne Mathews, Katie Betz, Pat Vogelsang

**Preliminary & Semi-Final Competitions Staff** 

Stage Manager: Emily Clinger

Accompanists: Phil Woodmore & Larry Pry

Venue Manager: Pat Vogelsang

Volunteers: Diane Bender, Phyllis Harding, Bob Harsh, Michael Jesse, Kevin Johnson, Donald Jones, Marilyn Kenton, Brendan Lally, Pat Lally, Joan Lerch, Cheri Maples, Colleen Mulholland, Rick Ruderer, Charles Tuschling, Raven Vaughn, Tiny Vaughn, Carl Vogt, Kim Wilson

The Fox Performing Arts Charitable Foundation thanks Robert J. Minkler, Sr. (Partner Emeritus), Michael J. Evans and Jane Maddox from the independent accounting firm of Anders CPAs + Advisors for overseeing the St. Louis Teen Talent Competition balloting.

#### A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ST. LOUIS TEEN TALENT COMPETITION

Mary Strauss, co-owner of the Fox Theatre, wanted to give the opportunity for St. Louis' talented teens to perform on the Fox stage. In 1985, long before "America's Got Talent" and "American Idol" Mary created the St. Louis Teen Talent Showcase to annually recognize and encourage talented teenagers in the performing arts to compete, win prizes and scholarships, and performance opportunities. The competition selection process and final event on the Fox stage gave participants the anticipation, hard work, and thrill of a Broadway show! Fast forward 31 years when Mary Strauss became President of the Fox Performing Arts Charitable Foundation's board, she felt the time was right to revive Teen Talent and in 2011 produced their 1st Annual St. Louis Teen Talent Competition at the Fox Theatre.



# 2023 St. Louis Teen Talent Competition Winner Ray Strickland

Central Visual & Performing Arts High School, singer, songwriter, performing his original composition "Time for Change"

\* TEEN TALENT \*

# PRE-SHOW

**Dave Stephens** on the "Mighty Wurlitzer" performing a medley of Broadway show tunes

# Opening Act LARGER THAN LIFE

Staging & Choreography by Yvonne Meyer Hare and Jeana Smith

I'm Coming Up Music & lyrics by Linda Perry
Livin' La Vida Loca Music & lyrics by Draco Rosa and Desmond Child
Larger Than Life Music & lyrics by Brian Littrell, Kristian Lundin and Max Martin
Simply Irresistible Music & lyrics by Robert Palmer
I Gotta Feeling Music & lyrics by William Adams, Stacy Ferguson, Jaime
Gomez, David Guetta, Allan Pineda and Frédéric Riesterer

Featuring *The Fabulous Fox Tellerettes* and *The Teen Talent Vocal Ensemble* 



Bella Behrle Ella Blasé Hannah Burns Ava Castro Aleka Detter Natalie Girardi Anna Lee Hehmeyer Abby Hogan Caroline Joyce Sadie Loless Haley Peters Aevri Sievert

Lilly Smith Katie Beth Terrill Arika Thomas Izzy Wilder Adriana Wilson



### THE TEEN TALENT VOCAL ENSEMBLE

Beatrice Bussen Bella Crank Robert Foster Dylan Hughes Kate Marshall Gabrielle Masterson Emerson Mezines Kyleigh Nickell Lindsey Moore Jack Shadden



Evan started playing music in 7th grade and was inspired by his parent's love of music. In addition to playing bass, Evan also plays flute, piano, and guitar. Evan plans to study neuroscience in college.

Billy is a self-taught guitarist who has never performed publicly before. He takes inspiration from the greats: Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton & Eddie Van Halen. Billy is undecided about his plans after high school.

lan has been performing since he was six years old - having been inspired by his sisters performing in plays. He has received vocal training from Lisa Cambell Albert and drum coaching from Tim Albert (one of Ian's inspirations along with Phil Collins and Freddie Mercury). After high school Ian plans to study engineering and music in college.



# RHODA MAPENZI

Performing *Girl on Fire* Music & Lyrics by Alicia Keys, Jeff Bhasker & Salaam Remi

Sophomore, Collegiate School of Medicine and Bioscience, Age 17

While Rhoda is self-taught, she comes from a musical family – everyone sings – and she has been singing her whole life in church, the community, at home, in school and while on trips. Her sister Phoebe is a strong influence, encouraging Rhoda to be more confident. Rhoda plans to become an RN after high school and will continue to pursue music which brings her joy.

### ACT 4

# **AVERY PAYNE**

Performing to *Ode to a Lost Love* Music & Lyrics by Finn Ronsdorf Choreographed by Amy Gammon

Junior, Orchard Farm High School, Age 16

Avery has been dancing since she was two years old and has received training from Tracy and Debbie Davenport and Amy Gammon at the Performing Arts Center. She also dances with Dance Company of St. Charles as a First Company Concert dancer. She has won both Junior and Teen Miss St. Louis at Dance Masters of America and placed 3rd in the 2023 Teen Talent Competition. After high school Avery wants to continue her dancing career with the ambition of becoming a Radio City Rockette!



# **AVA RHINE**

Performing *The Future*Written by Luca Stricagnoli

Senior, Rockwood Summit High School, Age 18

Ava is a self-taught (with the help of YouTube videos) multi-instrumentalist. Her specific performance style this evening is called guitar lap tapping which creates harmonic sounds for the melody, rhythm, harmony, bass and percussion. This is the first song she's played using this style. Ava has also been playing the ukelele for 10 years, guitar for five years, and violin since 3rd grade. She plans to attend a university in Colorado to study music business and will continue to post her music to her YouTube channel



### ACT 6

# HANNAH JOYNER

Performing Stand Up
Music & Lyrics by Joshua Brian Campbell

Junior, Belleville East High School, Age 16

Hannah is a self-taught vocalist who has been "performing as long as I can remember" and credits her family— especially her Mom—as her inspiration to continue singing. After high school, Hanna wants to study at Berklee College of Music in Boston and become a music educator—it's her dream to educate others on the magic of music.



(performers pictured L-R)

Solomon Ahmed, Senior, Grand Center Arts Academy, Age 18 Addison Jones, Junior, Clayton High School/St. Louis Community College, Age 16 Ismail Botchway, Senior, Collegiate School of Medicine and Bio Science, Age 17 Corrin Ward, Senior, Carnahan High School, Age 18

Solomon has been drumming for 10 years, Corrin for 7 years, Ismail for 11 years and Addison for 12 years. This team of young men has been friends for more than ten years starting in summer camp. They have received training under Vivian Watt, Edward Brown, Baba Tunde, the late Baba Dhati Kennedy and supported by Miranda Walker Jones and the Little Bit Foundation, DWE has performed for Festival of Nations, International Festival of Nations, Black Dance USA, Muny Community Presentations, African Arts Festival, Washington University, Maplewood Arts Fair and have been finalists in Teen Talent. They are each an entrepreneur in their own rights and look forward to bright futures in their chosen genres from business, arts, technology to sports. Special thanks to Mama Shaunte and Mama Nicole.

# **INTERMISSION**



#### Are you having a great time?!?

# Are you captivated by the incredible talent in our competition?

#### Unleash YOUR potential!

It's time for YOU to become a part of the action! Dive into the world of creativity and join our dynamic community where your passion and potential can flourish. Fox PACF offers an array of programs aimed at nurturing your creativity and fostering growth. From Broadway Master Classes to the Teen Talent Competition, there's no shortage of avenues to express yourself and shine bright!

Take the leap and immerse yourself in all the enriching experiences the Fox Performing Arts Charitable Foundation has to offer!

We welcome students, educators and community partners! Together, let's cultivate a culture of excellence where all students' talents are valued and celebrated.



Join us now and let your star shine brighter than ever before!

# Opening of Act Two DANCIN'

Choreography & Staging by Yvonne Meyer Hare and Jeana Smith Bye Bye Blackbird Music by Ray Henderson & Lyrics by Mort Dixon I Wanna Be a Dancin' Man Music by Harry Warren & Lyrics by Johnny Mercer Sing, Sing, Sing Music & Lyrics by Louis Prima Featuring The Fabulous Fox Tellerettes and the Teen Talent Ensemble

Featuring *The Fabulous Fox Tellerettes* and *The Teen Talent Vocal Ensemble* 



# **MOLLY SALLABERRY**

Performing Kindergarten Love Song Music & Lyrics by Drew Gasparini

Sophomore, St. Joseph's Academy, Age 16

Molly has been performing for eight years and has had a lifelong passion for singing, acting and dancing. She has received training at Kids Sing Studio under the tutelage of Lisa Casciola - who also is her biggest role model. After graduation Molly plans to attend college and keep performing!

### ACT9

# YRWIN BATAN

Performing his original composition Waltz

Senior, St. Louis Priory High School, Age 18

Yrwin has been receiving piano lessons for the past seven years from four instructors, most recently Garik Pedersen. He has been composing since 2021. He was inspired by an early obsession with classical music (primarily Frederic Chopin). Yrwin was a 2023 Teen Talent Finalist. After high school Yrwin plans to attend university to major in computer science as part of the Class of 2028 at MIT and as time permits he will continue to pursue his music endeavors.





# **GABBY DUMAS**

Performing to In this Shirt By The Irrepresibles Music & Lyrics by Jamie McDermott Choreography by Shamura Caruthers Spaulding

Senior, STEAM Academy at McCluer South - Berkeley, Age 18

Gabby has been performing since she was three years old and has received training at Steppin' Up Dance Productions from Pattie King-Brown and Joslyn Dumas. The highlight of her performance career (until tonight) was performing on two Royal Caribbean Cruise ships. After high school, Gabby plans to attend university to pursue her studies in Interior Architecture and Design while continuing to enjoy, teach, and inspire others with her first love, dance.

### **ACT 11**

# **DARRIUS TURNER**

Performing Golden Slumbers / Carry That Weight Music and Lyrics by John Lennon & Paul McCartney

Senior, Innovation High School at Cool Valley, Age 18

Darrius has been singing in his church choir since he was five years old and has been performing with The Sheldon's All-Star Chorus since 2023. He has received vocal training from both Maria Ellis and Jermaine Manor. Darrius is also President of the Ferguson/Florissant Youth Initiative and President of and singing member of the St. Louis Progressive District church group. After high school, Darrius plans to attend university with a double major in clinical psychology and vocal performance.



# RHYTHM DIVINE

Performing to The Land of Spice Music by Faraana

#### Saisha Bhutani

Senior, Clayton High School, Age 18

Anokhi Desai

Junior, John Burroughs School, Age 17 Sahasra Mandalapu

Sophomore, Ladue Horton Watkins High School, Age 15

All three receive training at the school of Dances of India, one of the oldest Indian classical dance companies in the US.

Since the age of five, Saisha has trained in Bharatanatyam (style of classical Indian dance) and in 2022 completed her Arangetram (dance graduation). In 2018 she performed in a short musical film Ganga River Eternal which has been screened nationally and internationally. After high school, Saisha plans to attend college majoring in business and organizational psychology with a minor in dance.

Anokhi has been performing since 2016 after seeing one of her friends performing in Bharatanatyam. She is currently in training for her Arangetram. She also watches a lot of Indian dance on YouTube. Anokhi plans to attend college and study nutrition and/or become a physician.

Sahasra has been dancing for ten years since her parents signed her up for classes. She has been in love with dance ever since! She draws inspiration and influence from watching her friends dance. Sahasra will start training for her Arangetram in two years. After high school Sahasra plans to pursue a career in medicine/become a physician.



Performing Feeling Good Music & Lyrics by Anthony Newley & Leslie Bricusse

Senior, Nerinx Hall High School, Age 17

Madison has been performing for 11 years and has received training from Patterson Performing Arts with private vocal lessons with Heather Patterson. She has also taken piano lessons with Donna Vince at Focus Piano Studio. In the fall Madison will attend Belmont University to study Music Business and plans to continue to perform and write music while In Nashville.



#### (performers pictured L-R)

Amelia Wolz, Junior, Nerinx Hall High School, Age 17 Natalia Lucca, Freshman, Oakville High School, Age 15 Nora Remiger, Junior, Cor Jesu Academy, Age 17 Alaina Phillips, Senior, Mehlville High School, Age 17 Chloe Ruth, Freshman, Oakville High School, Age 15 Kyleigh McCourt, Senior, Mehlville High School, Age 18

Everyone trains at the Saint Louis Performance Academy under the direction of Emily Hawkins. The twirlers are a tight-knit group who admire their coaches and teammates – as they all inspire one another to be the best version of their twirling selves. They just took the silver in Liverpool UK for the World Baton Twirling Championships.

Natalia, Kyleigh, Alaina, and Chloe have been twirling for 10 years, Nora for 9 years, and Amelia for 8 years. Natalia wants to twirl in college while pursuing a degree in medical science. Kyleigh was a finalist in 2023 Teen Talent and plans to attend university for a degree in elementary education with a minor in clinical psychology. She hopes to be a feature twirler at the university. Alaina plans to attend college and major in marketing. Nora plans to attend the University of Tennessee to twirl and study architecture. Chloe wants to twirl at Clemson University and is considering pursuing medicine or social media marketing. Amelia also wants to twirl in college while studying business and marketing.



## SPECIAL APPEARANCE



### **Ray Strickland**

Performing Anthem of Tomorrow Written and arranged by Ray Strickland Featuring The Teen Talent Ensemble

Featuring The Unsung Voices and The Teen Talent Vocal Ensemble

#### Cait VanDeWiele

Executive Director - Fox Performing Arts Charitable Foundation

### **Amy Shaw**

President and CEO - Nine PBS

### **Contestants Reprise with The Teen Talent Ensemble**

Larger Than Life Music & lyrics by Brian Littrell, Kristian Lundin and Max Martin I Gotta Feeling Music & lyrics by William Adams, Stacy Ferguson, Jaime Gomez, David Guetta, Allan Pineda and Frédéric Riesterer

### **VOTE FOR THE AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD**







# SPECIAL AWARDS

#### Berges Classical Performance Award

underwritten by the Berges family

#### Creative Impact Scholarship for Young Women

underwritten by Danielle M. Durban & the Women's Initiative Group at Capes Sokol

#### Excellence in Dance Award

underwritten by Donald Jones & Pat Vogelsang

#### Kranzberg Vocal Performance Award

underwritten by Ken & Nancy Kranzberg

#### Poppy Award

underwritten by the Gupta-Trampe family to encourage the winner to continue their artistic journey delivering joy and happiness to others

#### Saint Louis Recording Club Prize

underwritten by Carl Nappa

#### Terry Lynford Classical Music Scholarship

underwritten by Terry Lynford

### Voss Family Originality Award

underwritten by Tom & Carol Voss for the best original work in composition, writing, arranging or choreography

#### MVP - Most Valuable Performer Award

underwritten by the Board of the Fox Performing Arts Charitable Foundation

#### Audience Choice Award

underwritten by Odile and Fred Tompkins

3rd Place Award underwritten by Sally Johnston

**2nd Place Award** underwritten by John Russell

1st Place Award underwritten by Mary Strauss

# **ADDITIONAL PRIZES**

#### **Bach Society of Saint Louis**

**Morgan Heigel** (semi-finalist) has been awarded the opportunity to engage in a side-by-side chorus rehearsal, participation in a vocal master class, and/or the opportunity to perform in a Bach Society of Saint Louis Choral Concert.

#### The Big Muddy Dance Company

Finalists **Gabby Dumas** and semi-finalist **Raven May** have each been awarded a Big Muddy Summer Intensive scholarship..

#### **Capes Coaching**

**Madison Cox** has been awarded a gift certificate for "The Creative Path" digital career planning program to help creatives articulate their dreams into goals and craft an action plan to achieve them.

#### COCA

Moises Barboza, Kamryn Bugger, Robert Foster, Sierra Hale, Grace Howard, Dylan Hughes, Chris Lowery, Kyleigh Nickell, Darren Oriste, and Audrey Schulz have each been awarded gift certificates for class tuition.

#### **Circus Harmony**

**Avery Payne** (finalist) has been awarded a scholarship for four private aerialist lessons.

#### **Cultural Expressions Award**

Drum Warrior Ensemble members **Solomon Ahmed, Ismail Botchway, Addison Jones, Corrin Ward** (finalists) have been awarded the cash Cultural Expressions Award.

#### **DaySpring Arts & Education**

Bella Crank (semi-finalist) has been awarded a fit certificate for class tuition.

#### Fox Performing Arts Charitable Foundation

Semi-finalist **Gabrielle Masterson** and Preliminary contestant **Emerson Mezines** have been awarded scholarships to the week-long FoxPACF Audition Intensive.

#### **Gateway Center for Performing Arts**

Morgan Heigel (semi-finalist) has been awarded a gift certificate for class tuition.

#### The Muny

Every finalist will receive a certificate for tickets to a 2024 Muny production.

#### The Musical Theatre Award

Finalist Molly Sallaberry has been awarded a cash prize.

#### **Nancy Sherwin Young Professional Award**

Awarded to Finalist **Ian Nolting** for the embodiment and embrace of the spirit of professionalism, ethics, dedication to his craft, and commitment to excellence.

#### **National Dance Week**

**Rebecca Mooney** (finalist) will appear on April 27, 2024 at National Dance Week at the Kirkwood Performing Arts Center.

# **ADDITIONAL PRIZES**

#### **Opera Theatre of Saint Louis**

**Ginger Cox** (semi-finalist) has been offered a spot in Opera Theatre of Saint Louis' Sing Out Vocal Camp this summer.

#### **STL Rhythm Collaborative**

Semi-finalist **Owen Hanford** has been awarded a place in the STL Rhythm Fest, a 2-day workshop packed with classes taught by world-renowned tap dance artists.

#### Saint Louis Ballet

**Gabby Dumas** (finalist) has been awarded a scholarship for Saint Louis Ballet's Summer intensive program for advanced level dancers.

#### Saint Louis Black Rep Theatre

**Hannah Joyner** (finalist) has been awarded a scholarship to the Young Actors Ensemble. Over the course of eight weeks, students will study acting, improvisation, vocal performance, and dance, as well as performance preparation and etiquette, in this weekly intensive.

#### Saint Louis Recording Club

Finalists **Evan Kim, Ian Nolting,** and **Billy Stulac** (FUSE) have been awarded a Studio Experience at the Saint Louis Recording Club with Carl Nappa.

#### St. Charles Community College

**Henry Foppe** (semi-finalist) has been awarded a scholarship to St. Charles Community College Jazz Camp.

#### St. Louis CITYsc

Stay tuned for the announcement of one of our finalists as "Artist of the Match" at a St. Louis CITYsc game on April 6, 2024 where they will sing the National Anthem and will be interviewed by St. Louis CITYsc's reporter.

#### St. Louis Theatre Organ Society

The Mighty Wurlitzer Award for Keyboard Talent cash prize has been awarded to **Yrwin Batan** (finalist).

#### School of Rock

Beatrice Bussen will receive one month of free lessons at School of Rock.

#### Songs4Soldiers

Finalists **Evan Kim, Ian Nolting, and Billy Stulac** (FUSE) will by opening for the headliner (TBA) on the second day of the Songs 4 Soldiers Festival in Columbia IL on September 14, 2024.

#### **STAGES Performing Arts Academy**

Semi-finalists Sarah Brown, Beatrice Bussen, Priya Gangasingh, Aria Garret, Taylor Gilbert, Kanya Livingston, Dayne Logan, Kate Marshall, Cece Medeiros, Lindsey Moore, and Jack Shadden have been awarded scholarships to be applied to tuition/private lessons/class(es). Every finalist will receive two tickets to a Stages Mainstage production.

#### Dr. Philip A. Woodmore, Artistic Director of Voice - COCA

**Rhoda Mapenzi** (finalist) has been awarded three private vocal sessions with Dr. Woodmore.

### **CREATIVE TEAM**



Lee Anne Mathews, Writer/Director. Lee Anne is honored to be the Education and Artistic Director of the Fox Performing Arts Charitable Foundation. She has a lifelong career as a theatre artist. As an Equity actor, she has performed nationally and internationally before landing in St. Louis in 2006 to perform in the successful Menopause the Musical at the Playhouse at Westport. Locally she has worked for the Muny, St. Louis Shakespeare Festival, New Jewish Theatre, St. Louis Actor's Studio, Upstream Theatre, and many more. Lee Anne was the Director of Theatre at Crossroads College Preparatory School in the Central West End from 2011-2018, and works with the Center of Creative Arts as an arts and leadership educator. She is overjoyed to be working with these fantastically talented teenagers, and would like to thank Mary, Pat, Cait, and Nancy for this lifechanging opportunity, www.leeannemathews.com, www.presentyourself.me



**Yvonne Meyer Hare**, Choreographer, grew up in St. Louis, training with Gerri Stretz and the St. Louis Youth Ballet. Professionally, she began at the St. Louis Muny Opera, performing in over 35 shows, assisting some of Broadway's finest choreographers and directors. She made her Broadway debut in *A Christmas Carol* under the tutelage of choreographer Susan Stroman. Choreography credits include: Hilton Head Summer Playhouse, St. Louis Fox Theater/ Fox Tellerettes, St. Louis Variety Club Telethon, Rhythm Revue Universal Studio Show and Walt Disney Show, and the 80th Anniversary Celebration of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. She is currently Owner/Director of the Gerri Stretz and Yvonne Meyer Professional Dance Center.



**Steve Neale** is an award-winning composer, conductor and pianist. With a degree in Film Scoring from the Berklee College of Music, Steve has written and produced music for film, video games, and live theater around the country. Some of his most recent work has been for KMOX here in St. Louis and WTMJ in Milwaukee, WI. In addition to composing Steve directs the renowned choir at St. Margaret of Scotland parish, is adjunct faculty in the Leigh Gerdine Conservatory of Music at Webster University, and sings bass in the a cappella celtic group, The Wee Heavies, and has music directed and done sound design for many local and national theater companies.



Ben Nordstrom, Emcee, currently serves as the Executive Director at The St. Louis Children's Choirs whose mission of "shaping young lives through musical excellence" serves 350 young singers this season. As a professional actor, his stage credits include roles in musicals and plays, Off-Broadway and at regional theatres across the country. He has been seen or heard in commercials and voice-overs for Explore St. Louis, St. Louis Cardinals, St. Louis Blues, McDonald's, and Schnucks. Ben is the recipient of a St. Louis Theatre Circle Award and two Kevin Kline Awards. He is thrilled to be an on-going part of Teen Talent and wishes to express his gratitude to Mary, Pat, Cait, Lee Ann, Yvonne, and Steve!

# **JUDGES**



Known Internationally as "Girl Conductor," **Maria A. Ellis** is a passionate music educator and conductor. She is the Artistic Director of The Sheldon's All-Star Chorus and the University of Missouri-St. Louis Voices of Jubilation Gospel Ensemble. Maria is a highly sought after clinician, adjudicator and presenter throughout the United States and abroad. She is the host of the Award-Winning Radio Show "Bach and Beyoncé" and "American Gospel with Maria A. Ellis" on Classic 107.3, The Voice for the Arts in St. Louis. This past June, Maria made her Carnegie Hall Debut as a conductor and was awarded The St. Louis Arts and Education 2023 Arts Innovator Award. Maria is the Chair-Elect for Choral Music Education for the National Association for Music Education and a member of the Chorus America Board. She is the wife of Marion Ellis and the mother of Aria. Kendal and Noah Ellis.



**Taylor Louderman** made her Broadway debut originating the role of Campbell Davis in BRING IT ON: The Musical by Lin Manuel Miranda, Tom Kitt, and Amanda Green. She went on to play Lauren in KINKY BOOTS on Broadway, and originated the role of Regina George in Tina Fey's MEAN GIRLS on Broadway for which she received a 2018 Tony Nomination for Best Actress in a Musical. She recently performed in CHESS at The Muny and before that played 'Tami' on NBC's KENAN alongside Kenan Thompson and Don Johnson. Other television credits: THE GOOD FIGHT (CBS), series regular on SUNNY DAY (NickJr) 'Blair', EVIL (CBS) 'Malindaz', PETER PAN LIVE (NBC) 'Wendy', and HIGH MAINTENANCE (HBO), Taylor wrote a teen musical with pals Hannah Kloepfer and Nat Zegree and founded the nonprofit Write Out Loud Project which celebrates new musical theatre songwriters. She has enjoyed teaching musical theatre and mentoring young professionals for ten years.



Jenn Asia started playing the piano at age 4 and showed talent early on. Originally from South Korea, she began competing in talent shows at age 7. After moving to the United States, she was the church pianist from 2nd grade to graduation and moved on to became the 1st chair pianist in her high school orchestra. Jenn Asia spent her 20s touring the United States in genres of classical, hip-hop and pop. Now in her 30s, she runs a local successful business entertaining audiences at hotels and country clubs with her contemporary piano music. Her talent was recognized by Talent Plus St. Louis in 2016, leading to partnerships with prestigious venues like the Missouri Athletic Club and Hilton Hotels West. Jenn Asia's dedication to music shines through in her performances, leaving a lasting impact on all who hear her play. www.Jennasia.com

# **JUDGES**



Antonio Douthit-Boyd, after having a fulfilling dance career in New York City, was named Co-Artistic Director of Dance at COCA, where he had begun his dance training at the age of 16. Antonio joined the Dance Theatre of Harlem Company in 2000 and rose to Soloist in 2003. He joined the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in 2004, where he danced as a principal artist with the company for 12 years, performing for President and First Lady Michelle Obama, Queen Elizabeth II, and Michael Jackson. Antonio is an ABT® Certified Teacher and is also on faculty at Washington University in St. Louis, teaching ballet as a Distinguished Performing Artist.



With a distinguished career spanning more than 30 years. Carl Nappa is a seasoned Producer, Engineer, and Educator with a wealth of experience in the music industry. Carl started his career in his hometown of Boston, then moved to New York City to engineer at the renowned Hit Factory Recording Studios where he refined his craft through collaborations with legendary Artists, Engineers, and Producers, Carl has played an integral role in the success of 39 Gold, Platinum, and Multi-Platinum records, with two prestigious Diamond awards accounting for over 85.5 million records sold in the US alone. In 2016, Carl founded The Saint Louis Recording Club studio in St. Louis and in 2023, launched Chain of Rocks Records that focuses on promoting and distributing promising St. Louis artists. In 2022 Carl assumed the role of Chair of the Audio Aesthetics and Technology Program at the School of Communications at Webster University. For 20 years, Carl has been an active Recording Academy (Grammy) Voting Member, and currently serves as the President of the Recording Academy's Memphis Chapter. www.carlnappa.com



Alice Block, EdD, Temple University; MA, UCLA, is an internationally recognized Isadora Duncan dancer and Arts Integration specialist based at Central Studio in St Louis. She is the recipient of Dance St Louis' 2020 Visionary Artist's Award and was the first Regional Arts Commission Artists Fellow in dance. Alice leads professional development workshops on science and mathematics, including Dancing the Solar System. She presented *How to Dance a Painting* at for Moventure in Detroit in 2008 and at the St Louis Art Museum. A 5th generation Duncan dancer, she has taught Duncan dance at Temple, Swarthmore, and Washington Universities. Her workshops and lecture/performances include *Dancing the* Supermom: Isadora Duncan as a Template for Today's Single Working Mothers, and The Physics of Duncan Dance. She is on the boards of the Missouri Alliance for Arts Education (MAAE). and the Missouri Dance Organization. A member of the National Dance Education Organizations' Advocacy committee and MAAE's RIDE committee, her work focuses on issues of race, equity, and inclusion.

### JUDGES — PRELIMINARY ROUND

Michael Baxter, Associate Artistic Director, The Muny

Devon Cahill, Singer, Writer, Actor, Performer

Alisa Cooper, Arts Camp Program Manager, COCA

Carmen Guynn, Dancer, Educator

Kyra Hannah, Music & Video Producer

Mark Kent, Opera Singer, Educator

Jeff Koziatek, Performer, Teacher, Author

Maria Majors, Educator, Dancer, STL Rhythm Collaborative

Royce Martin, Musician, Producer, 2016 Teen Talent winner

Joanna Mendoza, Musician, Professor of Music, Dept. Chair UMSL

Charlie Mueller, Education Programs Manager, The Muny

Crissy Nordin, Director of Education & Outreach, Stages St. Louis

Donna Northcott, Educator, Director/Producer St. Louis Shakespeare

Paul Pagano, Executive Director, Gateway Center for Performing Arts

Tim Schall, Singer, Producer, St. Louis Cabaret Project

Paul Reuter, Musician, Composer, Director

Christina Rios, Actor, Educator, Singer

Marilyn Sheperd, Dancer, Educator

Jermaine Smith, Opera Singer, Educator

Jacqueline Thompson, Actor, Director, Associate Professor UMSL

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Keith Williams, Educator, Dancer

**Dr. Philip A. Woodmore**, Artistic Director of Voice at COCA, Professional Musician, Educator

Zoe Vonder Haar, Singer, Dancer, Choreographer

# **IN MEMORIAM**



The staff of The Fabulous Fox Theatre

Nancy Sherwin, dedicated arts professional and educator who mentored generations of young talent at the Muny and the St. Louis Teen Talent Competition.

# **SPECIAL THANKS**

Amy Shaw, Jim Kirchherr, Brian Holder, Aja Williams,
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### **SPECIAL AWARDS COMMITTEE**

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### 14TH ANNUAL ST. LOUIS TEEN TALENT COMPETITION

High Schools represented in this year's Competition:

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### 14TH ANNUAL ST. LOUIS TEEN TALENT COMPETITION

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