



# HANCHER LINKS



2018/2019

# INTRODUCTION

Hancher Links is a guide for University of Iowa faculty and staff, **highlighting connections between Hancher performances and college courses.** You'll see themes listed with each show that may be relevant to a variety of classes across disciplines.

There are a number of ways to integrate Hancher into your class:

- Assign performances as enrichment activities for students
- Encourage your students to attend one of Hancher's free artist-featured public education events on and around campus
- Set up a class visit or workshops with artists or Hancher staff
- Develop a student service learning course or unit around a Hancher project

A number of faculty members have students purchase Hancher tickets as part of their course materials similar to a required textbook. If you are interested in holding a block of tickets for purchase by the students in your class, contact the Hancher Box Office at (319) 335-1160 or 800-HANCHER. Ask for Leslie or Elizabeth to reserve tickets. Prices and other ticketing information can be found on our website at [hancher.uiowa.edu](http://hancher.uiowa.edu) or by contacting the box office.

Please feel free to contact me to explore the possibility of bringing an artist to your class or if you have ideas about how you or your department can partner with Hancher.

Thanks!

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# HANCHER ARTIST RESIDENCIES

Hancher is committed to connecting artists with audiences beyond the stage and across our campus and community. These events, often free, deepen the impact of visiting artists and remind us all that the arts are relevant to all aspects of life.

The 2018/2019 season will feature residencies by:



Rufus Reid



Momix



Cashore Marionettes



L.A. Theatre Works



Kinan Azmeh



Soweto Gospel Choir



Alsarah & the Nubatones



Rahim AlHaj



Russian National Orchestra



Lawrence Brownlee and Eric Owens



*They Called Her Vivaldi*



Brentano String Quartet

The Hancher website is the best resource for up-to-date information about residency activities.

*Educational opportunities supported by the Sara and Sherwood Wolfson Educational Fund.*



# EMBRACING COMPLEXITY

Join us as Hancher explores and celebrates Islamic art and Muslim artists

Alsarah & the Nubatones  
November 17, 2018



Hancher's *Embracing Complexity* project brings to campus exceptional artists who have a connection to contemporary Islamic cultures and Muslim identity. Learn more at [hancher.uiowa.edu/embracing-complexity](http://hancher.uiowa.edu/embracing-complexity)

## 2018/2019 EVENTS

### ***IPHIGENIA POINT BLANK: Story of the first Refugee***

PRESENTED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS  
University of Iowa Theatre Building  
David Thayer Theatre  
November 1-4 and 8-11, 2018

CLUB HANCHER

### **KINAN AZMEH'S CITYBAND**

Strauss Hall in Hancher Auditorium  
November 3, 2018, 6:30 and 9:00 pm

### **ALSARAH & THE NUBATONES**

Hancher Auditorium  
November 17, 2018, 7:30 pm

### **RAHIM ALHAJ AND STRING ENSEMBLE, *LETTERS FROM IRAQ***

Hancher Auditorium  
February 16, 2019, 7:30 pm



Stay tuned for future announcements about engagements, partnerships, and special events as part of Hancher's *Embracing Complexity*.

Hancher's *Embracing Complexity* project is made possible in part by a grant from the Association of Performing Arts Professionals - Building Bridges: Arts, Culture, and Identity, a component of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art.





## Cokie Roberts

### *An Insider's View of Washington, D.C.*

PRESENTED BY HANCHER, UI COLLEGE OF LAW,  
AND UI LECTURE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 12, 2018, 7:30 pm  
Free and Unticketed

American Society, Politics, and Everyday Life

Journalism & Mass Communication

Renowned journalist Cokie Roberts, named a “Living Legend” by the Library of Congress (2008), is one of the most esteemed and brilliant broadcast journalists of our time. She is a *New York Times* bestselling author, trusted historian on women in America, and a sought-after political commentator. In her presentation, Roberts will offer her unique perspective on the goings-on in the nation’s capital.

## Steep Canyon Rangers

Friday, September 14, 2018, 7:00 pm  
Free and Unticketed

American Arts, Literature, and Popular Culture

Exploration of Musical Genres

The sensational bluegrass band that helped Steve Martin and Martin Short open the new Hancher Auditorium returns for a free outdoor concert. Honoring the music’s traditions but committed to its present and future as well, the Steep Canyon Rangers will have you up and dancing as they help us welcome students back to campus—and the community to our front yard.







## The Philadelphia Orchestra

Tuesday, September 25, 2018, 7:30 pm

American Arts, Literature, and Popular Culture

Exploration of Musical Genres

One of the nation's—and the world's—preeminent orchestras, The Philadelphia Orchestra boasts a legacy of impeccable and innovative music making. The orchestra played a memorable concert in the original Hancher Auditorium shortly after the events of September 11, 2001, including a stirring performance of “America the Beautiful.” The ensemble’s debut performance in the new Hancher Auditorium will no doubt be unforgettable as well.

## Cirque Éloize *Hotel*

A HANCHER CO-COMMISSION

Friday, October 5, 2018, 7:30 pm

Circus Arts

Exploration through Dance / Movement

Cirque Éloize, that most inventive of circus troupes, returns to Iowa City with a new work co-commissioned by Hancher. *Hotel* features the perfect blend of the company’s exceptional circus skills and distinctive sensibility. Make your reservation and check in on time so you don’t miss a moment of this delightful and awe-inspiring production.





## Emerson String Quartet

Thursday, October 11, 2018, 7:30 pm

American Arts, Literature, and Popular Culture

Exploration of Musical Genres

The incomparable Emerson String Quartet—violinists Eugene Drucker and Philip Setzer, violist Lawrence Dutton (each a founding member), and cellist Paul Watkins (who joined the quartet in 2013)—return to Hancher for the first time since 2008. In forty years of music-making, the quartet has set an unsurpassed standard whether performing classic or contemporary work.

## Rufus Reid

### *Quiet Pride: A Celebration of Elizabeth Catlett*

PRESENTED BY HANCHER  
& UI SCHOOL OF MUSIC JAZZ STUDIES PROGRAM

Saturday, October 13, 2018, 7:30 pm

African American Studies

Human Rights

American Arts, Literature, and Popular Culture

Ethnic Studies, Diversity, and Differences

Exploration of Musical Genres

Art History

Multidisciplinary Performance



Jazz bassist and composer Rufus Reid's most recent project for big band celebrates the life, art, and accomplishments of Elizabeth Catlett. In 1940, Catlett was the first African American to receive an MFA from the University of Iowa, and one of the first three students upon which the degree was conferred. She went on to become an acclaimed sculptor, printmaker, and social activist. The naming of the UI's newest residence hall honors her many contributions to art and society. Reid honors that legacy as well with a night of jazz inspired by Catlett's journey and timeless sculptures.

# Storm Large

Thursday, October 18, 2018, 6:30 pm & 9:30 pm

American Arts, Literature, and Popular Culture

Exploration of Musical Genres

A storm of standards will fill Club Hancher as Storm Large—a musical chameleon with rock bonafides—delivers her own unique take on the American songbook. Building a fan base from her appearance on the televised singing competition “Rock Star: Supernova,” Large has gone on to conquer a variety of artistic avenues, forging her own path each step of the way.



## Momix *Opus Cactus*

Wednesday, October 24, 2018, 7:30 pm

American Arts, Literature, and Popular Culture

Circus Arts

Exploration through Dance / Movement

The endlessly imaginative and energetically physical dance company Momix returns to Hancher to present *Opus Cactus*—a much-loved work grounded in the teeming life and landscape of the American southwest. Founder Moses Pendleton’s unequalled illusions will surprise and delight your family, whisking you to a place both familiar and mysterious.



# The Cashore Marionettes

## *Simple Gifts*

Saturday, October 27, 2018, 1:00 pm & 3:00 pm  
Sunday, October 28, 2018, 1:00 pm & 3:00 pm

Exploration of Theatrical Arts: Puppetry

Multidisciplinary Performance

Topics in Elementary Education

*Simple Gifts* is a series of touching portrayals and poignant scenes from everyday life set to stunning music by such composers as Vivaldi, Strauss, Beethoven and Copland. Intricately carved and masterfully manipulated, the marionettes of Joseph Cashore bring to life crystalline moments of melancholy and joy. Through a combination of virtuoso manipulation, beautiful music, theatrical illusion, and artistic insight, the original vignettes presented in *Simple Gifts* provide an entertaining and sensitive vision of what it is to be human.



# L.A. Theatre Works

## *Steel Magnolias*

Friday, November 2, 2018, 7:30 pm

American Arts, Literature, and Popular Culture

Gender, Women's & Sexuality Studies

Performance Practice and Society

The nation's leading producer of audio theater will present a radio theater-style performance of Robert Harling's classic play *Steel Magnolias*. A diverse cast will take us inside Truvy's beauty shop in a small Southern town where six women find their lives increasingly intertwined. It's a story of friendship and standing strong in the face of loss.



## Kinan Azmeh's CityBand

PART OF EMBRACING COMPLEXITY

Saturday, November 3, 2018, 6:30 pm & 9:00 pm

Cross-cultural Experience

Ethnic Studies, Diversity, and Differences

Exploration of Musical Genres

Global Artistic Tradition & Change

Syrian clarinetist Kinan Azmeh bridges cultures, musical styles, and ideas. A virtuoso soloist and improviser, he is also a sought-after composer whose work includes the score for *Iphigenia at Lesbos* (presented in November by the University of Iowa Department of Theatre Arts). The CityBand quartet includes guitar, bass, and percussion and explores jazz, classical music, and traditional music of Syria. Azmeh draws deeply from a well of influences, but his sound is purely his own.

## Soweto Gospel Choir

Sunday, November 11, 2018, 4:00 pm

Cross-cultural Experience

Ethnic Studies, Diversity, and Differences

Exploration of Musical Genres

Global Artistic Tradition & Change

Performance Practice and Society

Adored around the globe, the Soweto Gospel Choir brings beautiful, joyous music to audiences everywhere. Sporting colorful costumes from their South African home, the members of the choir blend their voices to create one unimaginably stirring sound. The choir has a Grammy and an Emmy to its credit; more importantly, it has the music in its communal spirit.





# Alsarah & the Nubatones

PART OF EMBRACING COMPLEXITY

Saturday, November 17, 2018, 7:30 pm

Cross-cultural Experience

Ethnic Studies, Diversity, and Differences

Exploration of Musical Genres

Global Artistic Tradition & Change

“Soul crosses all cultural and linguistic barriers,” says Alsarah, whose astounding vocals were central to The Nile Project, which Hancher presented in 2015. Now, she returns with her new band to perform music she calls East African retro-pop. You’ll feel this music in your heart, in your feet, and of course, in your soul.



## The Summit: The Manhattan Transfer Meets Take 6 *Celebrating the Holidays*

Sunday, November 25, 2018, 5:00 pm

American Arts, Literature, and Popular Culture

Exploration of Musical Genres

Two iconic vocal groups—who have won a combined total of twenty Grammy Awards—come together to sing their greatest hits as well as holiday favorites. The Manhattan Transfer has set the highest of standards for better than four decades, crossing boundaries and blending styles to the delight of audiences everywhere. Take 6 is nothing short of a vocal phenomenon, redefining a cappella and blessing audiences with harmonies for over thirty years.





## The Canadian Brass *Christmas Time is Here*

Friday, November 30, 2018, 7:30 pm

### Exploration of Musical Genres

The Canadian Brass has thrilled Hancher audiences on five previous occasions, dating back to 1979. But the ensemble's return in 2018 will mark its first Hancher appearance in more than two decades. A lot has changed since then—including for Hancher—but one thing has remained the same: the members of the Canadian Brass make lovely music together. Led by co-founding member Chuck Daellenbach on tuba, the quintet will bring the sparkle of the holidays to the stage.



## *Les Misérables* *The Musical Phenomenon*

Tuesday, December 4, 2018, 7:30 pm  
Wednesday, December 5, 2018, 7:30 pm  
Thursday, December 6, 2018, 7:30 pm  
Friday, December 7, 2018, 7:30 pm  
Saturday, December 8, 2018, 1:00 pm & 6:30 pm  
Sunday, December 9, 2018, 1:00 pm & 6:30 pm

Exploration of Musical Genres

Multidisciplinary Performance

Musical Theatre

Cameron Mackintosh presents the new production of Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schönberg's Tony Award-winning musical phenomenon, *Les Misérables*, direct from its acclaimed Broadway return. Featuring the beloved songs "I Dreamed A Dream," "On My Own," "Stars," "Bring Him Home," "One Day More," and many more, this epic and uplifting story has become one of the most celebrated musicals in theatrical history. With its glorious new staging and dazzlingly reimagined scenery inspired by the paintings of Victor Hugo, this breathtaking new production has left both audiences and critics awestruck. "Les Miz is born again!" (NY1).





## Tre Voci

Thursday, January 24, 2019, 7:30 pm

### Exploration of Musical Genres

In 2010, three musicians—each with a strong individual voice—met at the famed Marlboro Music Festival and discovered their voices were even more powerful when combined. Together, violist Kim Kashkashian, flautist Marina Piccinini, and harpist Sivan Magen explore the full range of chamber music, including their own transcriptions, traditional repertoire, and newly commissioned works.



## Jersey Boys

Friday, February 8, 2019, 7:30 pm

Saturday, February 9, 2019, 2:00 pm & 7:30 pm

Sunday, February 10, 2019, 1:00 pm

### American Arts, Literature, and Popular Culture

### Exploration of Musical Genres

### Multidisciplinary Performance

### Musical Theatre

They were just four guys from Jersey, until they sang their very first note. They had a sound nobody had ever heard...and the radio just couldn't get enough of. But while their harmonies were perfect on stage, off stage it was a very different story—a story that has made them an international sensation all over again. Go behind the music and inside the story of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons in the Tony Award-winning true-life musical phenomenon, *Jersey Boys*. From the streets of New Jersey to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, this is the musical that's just too good to be true.





# Rahim AlHaj and string ensemble *Letters from Iraq*

PART OF EMBRACING COMPLEXITY

Saturday, February 16, 2019, 7:30 pm

Cross-cultural Experience

Multidisciplinary Performance

Exploration of Musical Genres

Human Rights

Ethnic Studies, Diversity, and Differences

Global Artistic Tradition & Change

Born in Baghdad, Rahim AlHaj is a master of the oud—a stringed instrument with a history unfurling back 5,000 years. Music has been a constant in his life throughout his years as an Iraqi, a political refugee, and now an American citizen. In this performance, AlHaj and his string quintet will play his composition created from the text of actual letters—letters expressing the emotions of Iraqis living in their war-torn country—transposed into eight gripping compositions.



# *We Shall Overcome— A Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

## featuring Damien Sneed

Thursday, February 21, 2019, 7:30 pm

African American Studies

Performance Practice and Society

American Arts, Literature, and Popular Culture

Ethnic Studies, Diversity, and Differences

Exploration of Musical Genres

Human Rights

Damien Sneed—vocalist, multi-instrumentalist, composer, and conductor—delves deeply into the full range of African American music in *We Shall Overcome*. Jazz, classical, Broadway, gospel, and spirituals are woven together with the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s speeches to exemplify a living musical tradition that continues to inspire, uplift, and challenge us. "In the realest sense," says Wynton Marsalis, "[Sneed] uses his artistry to make our world a better place."





## Russian National Orchestra

Saturday, February 23, 2019, 7:30 pm

### Exploration of Musical Genres

Founded in 1990 by pianist and conductor Mikhail Pletnev, the Russian National Orchestra quickly established itself as one of the foremost ensembles to be found anywhere. Heard frequently on NPR, the orchestra is the first from Russia to win a Grammy and many of its more than 80 recordings are widely acclaimed. But of course, neither radio broadcasts nor recordings can replace the power and beauty of a live performance by an orchestra *Gramophone* lists as one of the top 20 orchestras in the world.

## Danú

Saturday, March 2, 2019, 7:30 pm

### Exploration of Musical Genres

### Global Artistic Tradition & Change

### Ethnic Studies, Diversity, and Differences

Danú—a longtime Hancher favorite featuring musicians from Counties Waterford, Cork, Dublin, and Donegal—returns just in time to get you ready for the most Irish of holidays. The band offers virtuosic performances of traditional music from the Emerald Isle, capturing the elation and melancholy of a sound cherished far beyond the borders of the musicians' native land.





# Lawrence Brownlee and Eric Owens

Friday, March 8, 2019, 7:30 pm

African American Studies

American Arts, Literature, and Popular Culture

Cross-cultural Experience

Ethnic Studies, Diversity, and Differences

Exploration of Musical Genres

Two dazzling singers share one harmonious musical friendship. Tenor Lawrence Brownlee and bass-baritone Eric Owens—two of opera’s most acclaimed voices—come together for a recital of arias and spirituals that will highlight their individual talents and combined brilliance. Each has performed on the most prestigious opera stages, and their performance on the Hancher stage will be extraordinary.



## Theatre Lovett

### *They Called Her Vivaldi*

Sunday, March 10, 2019, 2:00 pm

Multidisciplinary Performance

Topics in Elementary Education

In this enchanting play performed by Ireland's Theatre Lovett, a sensitive musical prodigy finds herself leaving her quiet sanctuary for the noise of the big city as she tries to recover her magical, musical hat. She meets a collection of colorful characters—each of whom is also missing something important to them—on an adventure that is both hilarious and thrilling. The young people in your life will love the music, the characters, and the encouragement to follow their dreams.



## Havana Cuba All-Stars

### *Asere! A Fiesta Cubana*

Thursday, March 14, 2019, 7:30 pm

African American Studies

American Arts, Literature, and Popular Culture

Cross-cultural Experience

Ethnic Studies, Diversity, and Differences

Exploration of Musical Genres

*Asere* means “friendship”—and once you’ve been to this party, you’ll consider these spectacular musicians and dancers friends for life. Weaving the entire tapestry of Cuban music and dance with contemporary thread, the Havana Cuba All-Stars bring energy, joy, and, yes, a spirit of friendship to the stage. Will you be able to stay in your seat when the rhythms fill the room? Friend, we’d be surprised.



# Kaia Kater

Saturday, March 30, 2019, 6:30 pm & 9:00 pm

Cross-cultural Experience

Ethnic Studies, Diversity, and Differences

Exploration of Musical Genres

Global Artistic Tradition & Change

*No Depression*, the journal of roots music, doesn't pull any punches: "You want some authenticity in your folk music or bluegrass—I give you Kaia Kater." Of African-Caribbean descent and born in Québec, Kater has immersed herself in Canadian folk music as well as the music of Appalachia. With superb banjo skills, a jazz inflected voice, and a gift for song craft, she respects tradition while pushing her music forward.



## Brentano String Quartet

PRESENTED BY HANCHER AND  
THE UI STRING QUARTET RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Wednesday, April 4, 2018, 7:30 pm

American Arts, Literature, and Popular Culture

Exploration of Musical Genres

Named for Antonie Brentano—believed by many to be Beethoven's "Immortal Beloved"—the Brentano String Quartet is beloved by audiences whether they are performing immortal repertoire or contemporary compositions. Currently the quartet-in-residence at Yale University, the members of the ensemble will share their expertise with student musicians as part of the University of Iowa String Quartet Residency Program.





## American Ballet Theatre *Whipped Cream*

Saturday, April 6, 2019, 1:00 pm & 6:30 pm

American Arts, Literature, and Popular Culture

Exploration through Dance / Movement

Multidisciplinary Performance

In this full-length story ballet—which will include a bevy of local dancers—a young boy overindulges at a Viennese pastry shop and falls into a delirious dream, filled with sugary heroes who come to his rescue. This dollop of delightful whimsy is a treat for the entire family and features alluringly sweet costumes and sets from the mind of pop surrealist visionary Mark Ryden. Choreographed by Alexei Ratmasky and featuring a score by Richard Strauss performed by Orchestra Iowa, *Whipped Cream* will satisfy your cravings for fun and fabulous dance.

## Batsheva Dance Company *Venezuela*

Friday, April 12, 2019, 7:30 pm

Cross-cultural Experience

Ethnic Studies, Diversity, and Differences

Exploration through Dance / Movement

Global Artistic Tradition & Change

Under the artistic direction of choreographer Ohad Naharin, Israel's Batsheva Dance Company has built a global reputation for excellence. Employing Naharin's movement language—known as “Gaga”—the company stands apart from other modern dance companies, offering a singular and arresting approach to choreography and individual movement. In its first Hancher appearance since 2006, Batsheva will perform *Venezuela*, a “work emblematic of Naharin's curiosity and ongoing search for new challenges” (*Haaretz*).

