



and the



National Society
of Arts and Letters
D.C. Chapter

Next Gen

Finding the Voices of Tomorrow



MARCH 23, 2018, 8 PM

Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater, The Kreeger Theater

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The APO's *Don't Rain On My Parade* (Photo by Daniel Schwartz)

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AMERICAN POPS
ORCHESTRA



ARENA STAGE AT THE MEAD CENTER FOR AMERICAN THEATER
KREEGER THEATER - MARCH 23, 2018, 8 PM

**The American Pops Orchestra &
The National Society of Arts and Letters DC Chapter
present the Inaugural Annual Vocal Competition**

**NEXTGEN:
FINDING THE VOICES OF TOMORROW**

Judges

Jim Caruso

Kelly Crandall d'Amboise

Baayork Lee

Robert Pullen

Luke S. Frazier, Music Director

Special Thanks to:



WELCOME



I'm so delighted that you're able to join us for **NEXTGEN!** At the heart of the American Pops Orchestra is the commitment to keeping great American music alive for many generations to come. In creating this competition we're encouraging the next generation of artists to explore and perform this incredible canon of music that we hold so dear.

I'm deeply grateful to the DC Chapter of the National Society of Arts and Letters for helping to make this competition a reality. NSAL is a magnanimous organization that supports young artists in many disciplines; they've been a true leader in preserving and promoting the arts for almost 75 years!

Sit back, send good vibes and get ready for performances by the finest performers of the next generation!

Luke S. Frazier
Founder and Conductor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. S. Frazier', written in a cursive style.

COMPETITORS

Evan Bertram	Katie Rey Bogdan	Imani Branch
Sage Chase	Bailey Coleman	Carson Collins
Emma Cooley	Lena Daitz	Alexander Davis
Ally Dods	Claire Gallagher	Benjamin Hergenroeder
Morgan Kelleher	Evan LaChance	Megan Jane McGuinness
Mackenzie Meadows	Abby Middleton	Brian Nabors
Janelle Odom	Kaeli Patchen	Paul Roeckell
Jeralayne Ruiz	Nia Savoy	Hannah Thomas
Sam Van Vleet	Robin Weiner	Samantha White

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graciously acknowledges the
generous support of our**

**2017-2018
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Adrienne Arsht

ABOUT THE JUDGES



JIM CARUSO made his Broadway debut alongside Liza Minnelli in the Tony Award-winning *Liza's At The Palace!*, singing, dancing and celebrating the music and arrangements of Kay Thompson and the Williams Brothers.

He won six MAC Awards for his nightclub appearances, performed with the New York Pops in a tribute to Kander & Ebb, with Rosemary Clooney celebrating Bing Crosby, and sang the songs of Hope & Crosby with Michael Feinstein at Carnegie Hall. Jim was honored to sing with Barbara Cook, Lauren Bacall and a bevy of Broadway stars at President Clinton's First State Dinner at the White House. For fifteen years, he has hosted the weekly showbiz bash "Jim Caruso's Cast Party" at Birdland, Jazz at Lincoln Center and across the country. He also produces the Broadway at Birdland concert series, and performs regularly with Billy Stritch at Bemelmans Bar at The Carlyle Hotel. His weekly radio segment, "A New York Minute with Jim Caruso" can be heard on Legends Radio 100.3 FM. Jim's two cds, "The Swing Set" and "Caruso Live and In Person" are available online.



KELLY CRANDALL D'AMBOISE is thrilled to be the Resident Director of The American Pops Orchestra this season. Her concert work includes *The Lincoln Center Winter Gala 2018: The Music of Luther Vandross* starring Patti LaBelle and Jennifer

Holliday (Director), and *A Night of Stars* at The Kravis Center with Chita Rivera and Brian Stokes Mitchell (Director). Her work with The American Pops Orchestra includes: *RESPECT- The Music of Aretha Franklin* featuring Michelle Williams (Director), *Around the World in 80 Days* (Director), *You Spin Me 'Round* (Director/Choreographer), *I'll Be Seeing You* with Flo Lacey and Ron Raines, and *Make Someone Happy* (Choreographer). Choreography: *Light Years* and *Act of God* at Signature

Theatre, *Newsies!* at Connecticut Repertory Theatre, *Urinetown* at Next Stop Theatre and *Tick, Tick... Boom!* at Convergence Lab. Upcoming choreography: *The Crucible* at Olney Theatre Center, *Jesus Christ Superstar* at CRT, and *Billy Elliot* at Signature Theatre. As an Associate Director and/or Choreographer, Kelly has worked on numerous productions including *Cabaret*, *La Cage aux Folles*, *The Studio*, and *Crazy for You* at Signature Theatre, *The Lincoln Center Hall of Fame 2017* and *Babes in Toyland* at Lincoln Center, the Broadway workshop of *Cheer*, and productions at South Coast Rep., North Shore Music Theatre, Westport County Playhouse, Trinity Rep, and Busch Gardens Entertainment. Broadway performance credits include the original company of *The Boy from Oz* with Hugh Jackman, *Chicago*, Susan Stroman's *A Christmas Carol* at MSG, and the national tour of *The Producers*. Film and TV credits include *A Christmas Carol* starring Jim Carrey and directed by Robert Zemeckis, *What Women Want*, *Penn & Teller's Sin City Spectacular*, *The Tony Awards*, and *The Academy Awards* with Robin Williams. Kelly is an Artistic Associate and Resident Casting Director at Signature Theatre and faculty member of Triple Arts Musical Theatre Intensive.



BAAYORK LEE has performed in a dozen Broadway shows and created the role of Connie in *A Chorus Line*, also serving as Michael Bennett's assistant choreographer on *A Chorus Line*, of which she has

directed and choreographed many national and international companies.

Her directing and choreography credits also include: *The King and I* and *Bombay Dreams* (national tours), Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* (NYC Opera), *Barnum* (Australia), *Carmen Jones* (Kennedy Center), *Porgy and Bess* and *Jesus Christ Superstar* (European tours), *Gypsy* and *A New Brain*. She has also choreographed

Miss Saigon (Kansas City Starlight), *Mack and Mabel* (Shaw Festival), *Animal Crackers*, *South Pacific* (Helen Hayes nominations,) *Coconuts*, *Camelot*, and *Damn Yankees*, all at Arena Stage in Washington, D.C.

Through her nonprofit National Asian Artists Project (NAAP), Baayorks' vision includes educating, cultivating, and stimulating audiences and artists of Asian descent through the many outreach programs the company offers. The organization has produced *Oklahoma!*, *Carousel*, *Hello Dolly!*, *Oliver!* and *Honor* (collaboration with Prospect Theater Company) with all Asian-American casts. With these classic shows, NAAP has demonstrated that famous works can speak to all audiences, and that ethnicity is no longer a barrier.

She has been the recipient of numerous awards for her work, including the 2017 Isabelle Stevens Tony Award, 2014 Paul Robeson Award from Actors Equity Association; the Asian Woman Warrior Award for Lifetime Achievement from Columbia College; Asian/Pacific American Heritage Association Achievement in Arts Award; and the Dynamic Achiever Award from OCA Westchester.



ROBERT C. PULLEN, Emmy™ nominated Producer.

Mr. Pullen has been executive producer of galas and entertainment segments of Special Events at Lincoln Center since 2016-2017 season.

Producing and directing highlights include President Obama's 2009 Inaugural Swearing-In Ceremony (Aretha Franklin segment); *9/11: Ten Years Later* (simulcast worldwide on Facebook); *Some Enchanted Evening: A Salute to Senator Ted Kennedy*; *New Year's Eve at the Rainbow Room* for PBS; Executive producer of the David Rubenstein Series: *Profiles in Creativity* for the Kennedy Center; Executive Produced *Carnegie Hall Spring Gala*; *The Art of Film Music* with John Williams, Martin Scorsese and Steven Spielberg; 2015-2017 directing of the *Jazz at Lincoln Center Galas* and *American Songbook Series*, and the *Annual Giving Pledge Gala*. Executive Producer of *Hispanic Heritage Awards* for PBS; Additional television credits include the *Mark Twain Prize* on PBS for 11 years including Will Ferrell, Tina Fey, Ellen DeGeneres, Steve Martin, Bill Cosby, Whoopi Goldberg and Carol Burnett; *At Home with Josh Bell for the Holidays* for PBS.

www.nouveauproductions.co

THE AMERICAN POPS ORCHESTRA STAFF

LUKE FRAZIER
Music Director

JIM KELLY
Personnel Manager

XIYI WANG
Associate Producer

DAN FORTUNE
Media Relations

KELLY CRANDALL D'AMBOISE
Resident Director

TODD JOHNSON
Graphic Designer



*The National Society of
Arts and Letters*
Washington DC Chapter

On a warm summer day in 1944, Mollie Davis Nicholson and Francesca Nielsen sat in rocking chairs on Mollie’s front porch in Chevy Chase near Washington, D.C. and talked about the state of the arts. They discussed the fact that the arts received very little support in this country in contrast to the government subsidies given to artists in European countries. They decided to do something about it, and that afternoon the National Society of Arts and Letters was conceived providing financial assistance to promising young artists through scholarships. Over the years much has been accomplished. True to our mission, NSAL’s competitions, scholarships and awards helped open up early opportunities for artist who advanced to become bright stars in their field. Distinguished individuals such Shirley MacLaine, actress/dancer/writer; Jessye Norman, opera singer; Megan Hilty, Broadway and television star; Awadagin Pratt, pianist; and Julie Kent, ABT principal ballet dancer/artistic director of The Washington Ballet can trace career-building experiences through NSAL.

NSAL’s Washington DC Chapter annually impacts the lives of hundreds of young people through specific programs, including:

- Awards for Excellence in the Arts
- NSAL’s Annual Competition Award
- Winston Scholarships in Art and Voice
- Dorothy Lincoln-Smith Classical Voice Competition
- Master Class Programs
- Viennese Waltz Ball
- Monthly Washington DC Chapter Programs

Your support enables this important work to happen. We could not do what we do without you. Please join us on this incredible journey by making a donation to the NSAL Washington DC Chapter which can be mailed to our treasurer Mr. William Young, 100 Ladyshire Lane, #A-301, Rockville, MD 20850.

Please contact Cici Hughes, membership chair, at cicihughes@aol.com if you would like to learn more about NSAL.

ELECTED OFFICERS

President and CEO	Deidre Casey
Vice-President for National Affiliations	Judyth Gilbert
Vice-President for Development	Sherry Watkins
Vice-President for Chapter Activities	Cheryl Beversdorf
Treasurer	William Young
Assistant Treasurer	Seth Arenstein

Visit NSAL at www.nsalwashington.org
National Website: <http://arts-nsal.org>
Twitter and Facebook: [@NSALDC](https://www.facebook.com/NSALDC)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Please help us welcome our National President, Judy Park, who is in attendance this evening for our first annual vocal competition: *NextGen: Finding The Voices of Tomorrow*.

Thank you to our volunteers without whom these important programs would not exist.

We offer our sincerest gratitude to Luke Frazier and the American Pops Orchestra for taking our *Broadway Master Class* to a level above and beyond our dreams.

- THANK YOU TO APO DONORS -

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LUKE FRAZIER – recently named among “40 Under 40” by *The Washingtonian* – is a rapidly rising star in the Pops world, who has proven himself as both an innately musical conductor and a sensitive pianist. His commitment to re-envisioning pops programming has quickly established him as a dynamic force across the music community. Frazier has demonstrated his versatility and range by conducting in venues both grand and intimate, from Lincoln Center to Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center to the Rainbow Room. Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Marvin Hamlisch put it best, calling Frazier “so talented, and sensitive to every nuance.”

As a testament to his mission to reimagine pops programming, Frazier founded the American Pops Orchestra in 2015, presenting all original programming. His commitment to the American Songbook is also evident through his involvement on the Board of the Great American Songbook Foundation. In demand as a clinician, adjudicator, and speaker, Luke recently addressed the National Symphony Orchestra’s “Summer Music Institute” students. He appeared as the Keynote Speaker for the National Society of Arts and Letters (NSAL) Award for Excellence in the Arts at the Kennedy Center and also addressed the VSA, an international organization for the arts and disability. In addition to founding the National Broadway Chorus in Washington DC, he presented an original program honoring the 100th anniversary of Ella Fitzgerald’s birth with the DC Youth Orchestra in Spring 2017.

Mr. Frazier has collaborated with artists such as Patti LaBelle, Angela Lansbury, Darren Criss, Vanessa Williams, Liz Callaway, Brian Stokes Mitchell, Mo Rocca, Lea Salonga, Laura Osnes, Eric Owens, Liza Minnelli, Chita Rivera, Rita Moreno, Lindsay Mendez, Renée Fleming, Michael Feinstein, Christine Ebersole, Elaine Paige, Arturo Sandoval, and Norm Lewis, among many others. Twitter: @LSFConductor

www.LukeFrazierMusic.com

THE AMERICAN POPS ORCHESTRA founded by **LUKE FRAZIER** presents innovative orchestral programming, featuring groundbreaking concepts to develop and inspire a new audience for the 21st century. This professional orchestra boasts outstanding musicians from New York and Washington DC. The American Pops presented six original orchestral programs in its opening 2015-2016 season, featuring leading Broadway singers, dancers, and actors. Highlights of the first season included “Stairway to Paradise: A Gershwin Spectacular” starring two-time Tony Award winner Christine Ebersole — which was hailed by *DC Metro Theater Arts* for “inspired arrangements of beloved Gershwin songs that re-invigorate the material and highlight the skill of his musicians” – and “A Broadway Christmas” featuring Elaine Paige, the first Lady of the British Musical Stage. APO’s second season included a 75th birthday concert for Barbra Streisand, hosted by Fran Drescher; a celebration of the 80s, hosted by Olympic champion Greg Louganis; and a special World War II-era evening, commemorating Veterans Day.

Other high-profile performances include a special event at The Kennedy Center hosted by Tommy Tune; the Hispanic Heritage Awards, with Presidential Medal of Freedom winner Arturo Sandoval, which was nationally broadcast on PBS; theatreWashington’s Helen Hayes Awards; The Giving Pledge at the Smithsonian Institute’s National Museum of American History; the Beacon Prize, given by Human Rights First to honor commitment to the American ideals of freedom and human dignity; and the DC Standing Ovation Awards, celebrating excellence in the DC Public Schools.

The APO made its New York debut in December 2015 at the all-star Edith Piaf Centennial Celebration at The Town Hall. According to *The New York Times*, “As much as any individual singer, what warmed the evening was the sumptuous lilt of the American Pops Orchestra, conducted by Luke Frazier.”

www.TheAmericanPops.org

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extends a special *THANK YOU* to

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NAVY-MARINE CORPS
RELIEF SOCIETY

Join the conversation about the APO's 3rd Season using the hashtag #A3PO on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram for a chance to win free tickets to the APO's upcoming shows!

The advertisement features a black and white portrait of a woman with long, dark hair. In the top left corner, the logo for 'Makeup BETHESDA' is displayed in a white script font. A pink horizontal bar across the bottom contains the text 'BEAUTY ON-DEMAND'. Below this bar, the name 'Leslie Boorstein' is listed as a 'Professional National Makeup Artist' with her website 'www.makeupbethesda.com'. To the right, a list of services includes 'Weddings', 'Bar-mitzvahs', 'Black-Tie Events', 'Engagement Photos', 'Photoshoots/Catalog', and 'Birthday Parties'.



AMERICAN
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Let's Misbehave
COLE PORTER
After Dark

Betty *Ma* *Liz* *Ali* *Vishal* *Luke*
who rocca callaway ewoldt vaidya hawkins

saturday, may 19 2018 8pm

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