



25|26
SEASON

HERBERGER THEATER CENTER PRESENTS

AN EVENING WITH **NICK CARTELL** & FRIENDS

OCTOBER 24

7:30PM

CENTER STAGE





Welcome to the first show of our 2025-26 Spotlight Series! We are kicking off our third season of Herberger Theater-presented ticketed events with a spectacular concert event featuring Broadway star and Phoenix native Nick Cartell, along with other outstanding Phoenix talent.

Nick last performed at the Herberger Theater Center with Valley Youth Theatre in *West Side Story* (2000), and we are thrilled to welcome him back for a heartfelt and humorous evening of music and memories.

This is the first show in the Herberger Theater's Spotlight Series, which is one of the ways we bring amazing artists and audiences together. You see, it is our vision that the transformative power of the arts should be available to the entire community. We do this through SPARK, our education programs for students; through our Community Showcase series, which provides free performances on our Pavilion Stage, including the upcoming Festival of the Arts on November 15; and through our Spotlight Series, which brings local, national, and international talent to perform for you!

Enjoy the performance!

Mark Mettes
President & CEO
Herberger Theater Center





NICK CARTELL

Making a triumphant return to the role he inhabited for two-and-a-half years pre-pandemic, Nick has now performed the role of prisoner 24601, aka Jean Valjean, over fifteen hundred times on the National Tour of *Les Misérables*!

He was previously seen on Broadway in *Paramour*, the first musical produced by Cirque Du Soleil, where he was a standby for and performed the three male lead roles. He also appeared in *Scandalous the Musical*, written by previous TODAY show host Kathie Lee Gifford, and can be heard on the Original Broadway Cast Recording. Nick made his Broadway debut in the Tony-nominated 2012 revival of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, understudying and performing the roles of Jesus Christ, Judas Iscariot and the High Priest Annas. He has also toured the U.S. and Canada in *The Phantom of the Opera*.

Nick has sung with the South Coast Symphony, the Phoenix Symphony and as a member of the critically acclaimed group The Broadway Boys. He has also performed to three sold out houses at 54 Below of his solo shows, *Bringing It Home*, *A Thousand Spotlights* and *Big Nick Energy*. As well as having his official album release concert at the Kerr Cultural Center this past July for two sold out evenings.

A graduate of Arizona State University with a BFA in Theatre, Nick enjoyed a brief stint in Japan performing with a certain famous Mouse. While there he met his incredible wife, actress/singer Christine Cartell. Together, they produce Broadway Fights Ovarian Cancer, a benefit concert raising funds and awareness for Ovarian Cancer research. Nick and Christine's best collaboration to date is their little girl, Sullivan.

Nick's album *A Thousand Spotlights* is available now across all digital streaming platforms. Follow Nick on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok for more updates and adventures.



STEPHANIE LIKES

GUEST PERFORMER

Stephanie Likes is thrilled to be back on stage with her old friends Nick, Rusty and Kristen! She is currently the Theatre Director at Chandler High School where she teaches theatre and directs award-winning productions including ASU Gammage High School Musical Theatre Awards Best Musicals *All Shook Up*, *Legally Blonde* and *Anastasia*. She was a semi-finalist Top 10 Arizona Teacher of the Year in 2023 and has directed youth theatre around the valley for over 10 years receiving the AriZoni Directing Award for Greasepaint's *Les Misérables* School Edition. Stephanie's acting credits include the Broadway/National Tour companies of *Les Misérables*, Walt Disney World, Tokyo Disneyland, Disney Cruise Lines, Opryland/Fiesta Texas, The Phoenix Theatre Co. (AriZoni Award Best Supporting Actress, Little Red, *Into the Woods* with Nick and Kristen), Actors Theatre of Phoenix, feature film *Jolene*, BBC and Discovery ID, and is represented by the Leighton Agency. Most recently she has appeared on the Stagebrush stage in *Spring Awakening*, *Rent* and as Diana in *Next to Normal* (starring and directed by her son Casey Likes). Casey has appeared on Broadway as William Miller in *Almost Famous The Musical*, Marty McFly in *Back to the Future The Musical*, and is currently JD in *Heathers the Musical* Off-Broadway at New World Stages. He can also be seen on screen in *Dark Harvest*, *Spinning Gold* and *The Birch*. Her daughter Claire is a senior at Chandler High and is following in the footsteps of Mom and brother doing theatre as well as photography and filmmaking. Special thanks to Nick for including me in this very special night. It is an honor to be sharing the stage with him again after all of these years!



RUSTY FERRACANE

GUEST PERFORMER

Rusty is a professional actor, singer, director and playwright, and has appeared in productions for regional theatres across the country including the American premier of Craig Bohmler's musical *Enter the Guardsman* Off-Broadway. He was the founder and producing artistic director of the award-winning theatre company, The Actors Group. As a director, he has worked for many companies in Arizona, including Mesa Encore Theatre, Fountain Hills Theatre, Theater Works, Arizona Opera and ProMusica Arizona. He has taught musical theatre performance at Arizona School for the Arts, Phoenix Theatre and The Taipei Performing Arts Center in Taiwan. He has written four plays and the book for the new musical, *Happy, Texas*, which was a semi-finalist in the National Music Theatre Conference at the O'Neill Center. In December he can be seen playing Scrooge in The Phoenix Theatre Company's production of *A Christmas Carol*. For information on his two CDs and future performances: www.RustyFerracane.com



KRISTEN DRATHMAN

GUEST PERFORMER

Kristen Drathman is a Phoenix-based actor, singer, teacher, and concert performer, and has sung in venues all over the world including the '92 Olympics in Barcelona, Spain, and the Brooklyn Conservatory Summer Opera Festival. Kristen has been teaching voice and acting privately for 25 years and has a studio of over 50 students ranging in age from 7 to 70. She has had many successful students move on to perform on American Idol, Broadway National tours, and on Broadway. Kristen has performed, and music directed with the educational theaters Childsplay, Greasepaint Youth Theatre, and Valley Youth Theater. Kristen has her own Music theatre Camp and has been lucky enough to be work with the Chandler Center for the Arts for 17 years.

Kristen holds a bachelor of arts in music, with a focus in musical theatre from ASU, where she graduated Cum Laude. She has a long track record of successfully getting her students prepared and ready to audition for admittance (and scholarships) to the most elite colleges, conservatories, and universities in the country. Getting the opportunity to perform with these wonderful friends is an honor and a blessing. Thank you Nick for bringing the gang back together.



MARK FEAREY

ACCOMPANIST

Mark Fearey is excited to once again be working with Nick Cartell! It's been a while! Mark has worked with vocal and instrumental artists in Germany, Austria, New York, Miami, Los Angeles, and throughout the Southwest. He is the Faculty Coach/Accompanist at Grand Canyon University where in addition to individual student coaching, he is the music director for their theatre productions and co-director of their choral program. For 29 seasons he was the much-awarded Resident Music Director for Valley Youth Theatre, where he has conducted the AZ premiere of *Matilda* and *Shrek, the Musical* as well as *Legally Blonde*, *Hairspray*, *Aida*, *CATS*, *Titanic*, *West Side Story*, *The Wiz*, *Newsies* and many more. In addition to serving as the Music Director for Abiding Savior Lutheran Church for 24 years he has spent 11 seasons as Music Director for Quisisana Summer Music on the Lake program in Center Lovell, Maine and 14 years as the Music Director/Accompanist for the local opera education group OperaTunity. He was accompanist for the Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Arts, and accompanist and vocal coach for the D'Angelo Opera Theatre in Erie, PA. He has worked as a music director/vocal coach with pop singer Jordin Sparks, movie star Emma Stone, Disney star Chelsea Kane, Broadway artists Kimiko Glenn, Charity Dawson and Max Crumm, opera singer Amber Wagner, country recording artist Chris Young just to name a few. Mark earned a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from D'Angelo School of Music at Mercyhurst College and Master of Music in Piano Performance with an emphasis in Accompanying from Arizona State University. He is married to his amazing wife, Tory, and they have a wonderful musician/daughter named Olivia.

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Drums - Jordan Tompkins
Bass - Brad Lovelace
Guitar - Megan Marshall

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OUR SPONSORS

CHAR & ALAN
AUGENSTEIN

EST. 1990

ARCADIA FARMS

CAFÉ & WINE BAR

2025 | 2026

SPOTLIGHT SERIES



3RD ANNUAL MARIACHI & FOLKLÓRICO FESTIVAL

PRESENTED IN COLLABORATION WITH C.A.L.L.E. DE ARIZONA

MARCH 7, 2026

CENTER STAGE

This unforgettable evening celebrates Mexico's vibrant music and dance traditions with a star-studded lineup featuring Grammy Award-winning Mariachi Los Camperos, dancers of Ballet Folklórico Quetzalli-AZ, and additional performers and surprises honoring heritage and community in Phoenix.



RAGTIME, A THEATRICAL CONCERT EXPERIENCE

PRESENTED IN COLLABORATION WITH ARIZONA MUSICFEST

APRIL 24-26, 2026

CENTER STAGE

Ragtime follows three fictional families in pursuit of the American Dream. Based on E. L. Doctorow's novel, and celebrated for its soaring musical score filled with ragtime, blues, jazz and show tunes, *Ragtime, A Theatrical Concert Experience* offers a moving portrait of America in the early 20th century.



RADIO RECALL

MAY 2, 2026

CENTER STAGE

Stars of Andrew Lloyd Weber's 50th Anniversary Tour of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, Aaron LaVigne and Jenna Rubaii bring you back to the first time you ever heard the songs you love with historical stories and performances of music by Queen, Carole King, Tina Turner, Lady Gaga, The Beatles, and more.

Buy Your Tickets Online: HerbergerTheater.org

THE SPOTLIGHT BAR



Enjoy *specialty cocktails, snacks, and more up to 60 minutes before showtime!*

Click Here to View Our Menu

COMMUNITY SHOWCASE

11AM-6PM | FREE ADMISSION

**CELEBRATE THE ARTS
IN DOWNTOWN PHOENIX**

602-252-8497

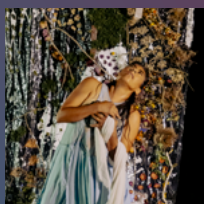
BILLIE JO HERBERGER



PERFORMANCE POP-UPS

FREE ADMISSION

Free outdoor presentations that celebrate the depth and variety of Arizona's talent and provide high-quality music, dance, and theatrical programming in a safe and welcoming environment. The performances are held on Saturday evenings 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., showcasing artists and performances that are diverse and reflective of our community.



CANDY JIMENEZ
DANCE

OCTOBER 25 | 6:00-7:00PM



**PHOENIX WORLD
COLLECTIVE**
FLAMENCO DANCE

NOVEMBER 1 | 6:00-7:00PM



CONDER/DANCE
MODERN DANCE

NOVEMBER 8 | 6:00-7:00PM



NOCHE DE OFRENDAS

A DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS CELEBRATION

NOVEMBER 7, 2025 | 6-9PM

FREE ADMISSION

CALAVERAS CANTANTES Y CALACAS BAILANTES bursts to life as a colorful celebration of remembrance and community. Immerse yourself in a dazzling evening of **singing skulls, dancing skeletons, music, dance, poetry, art, and pure VIDA**—a joyful feast for the senses! The night will feature the award-winning, interdisciplinary sounds of **Peter Torsiello, Vincenzo Torsiello, and Lilliana de León of FLORYPIEDRA**, blending tradition and innovation in a vibrant showcase.