

THEATRE HORIZON PRESENTS

HOLIDAY CONCERT

DECEMBER 9-11, 2022

CREATED AND DIRECTED BY

Jessica Johnson

FEATURING SELECT
PERFORMERS FROM

The Color Purple

ASSOCIATE HONORARY PRODUCER

Rebecca Bradbeer



A LETTER FROM OUR ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Welcome, Friends, and Happy Holidays!

It is a delight to welcome you to our space and to the festive, musical world created by the brilliant Jessica Johnson. Jessica has graced our stage many times before, most notably, in her award-winning performance as Celie in *The Color Purple*. In the performance you are about to see, she's joined by friends old and new to celebrate the holiday season and remember those we have lost.

The beauty of the holidays, whatever and however you celebrate, is the opportunity to repeat, reignite, and redefine traditions year after year. It is an annual moment to check in with yourself, with your loved ones, to think of where you are now, where you've been and where you'll go. May this Holiday Concert also help root you within a community and appreciate the possibilities that group gatherings provide.

I'm honored that Theatre Horizon has found its way into your celebrations this season. May this concert do what the best art can—allow you a space for feeling, for groundedness, for community.

Thank you for being here.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Nell Bang-Jensen". The signature is stylized with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Artistic Director NELL BANG-JENSEN



When I consider the holiday season and all that it brings, I am always awestruck by the way a simple holiday tune can shift my mood. Stuck in traffic at the mall or in a long line at the grocery store, turn on your favorite holiday song and be transported to a winter wonderland, or that time you sang *Silent Night* in the 5th grade with your school choir.

My hope for you during this concert is that together, the audience and performer can share a moment; that we can truly see one another and allow ourselves to also be seen. Often times in a theatre the audience and actor are separated by their “roles”: witness and storyteller. This concert is about community.

The past few years have been challenging. We, as a country, have experienced so much. It is my hope that in this time we share together today that the music and the stories uplift you. The holiday season can be a complicated time; there is so much to navigate beyond these four walls: weather, shopping, family, friends, shelter, and the list goes on. This time of year can also stir up so many memories and feelings around our loved ones, and our station in life. It can also be a time of loss, love, or celebration. My hope during this time of year is - in a universe that is abundant - each person has access to what they need most: A moment of joy, laughter, mourning, provision, or growth. Today I want to invite you to be both witness and storyteller. Sing, laugh, cry, and express yourself with us. Your stories are welcome here. Your voices are welcome here. You are welcome here.

Thank you for joining us today and for being a part of the Holiday Concert. May your holiday be merry and bright and may this concert be what you need tonight.

Wishing you and yours a happy holiday,
Director JESSICA JOHNSON

HOLIDAY CONCERT

DECEMBER 9-11, 2022

DIRECTED BY

JESSICA JOHNSON

MUSIC DIRECTOR

GARRICK VAUGHAN

LIGHTING DESIGNER

ALYSSANDRA DOCHERTY*

STAGE MANAGER

LESLIE ANN BOYDEN



*United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829 of the IATSE is the union representing Scenic, Costume, Lighting, Sound and Projection Designers in Live Performance.

CAST, CREW, AND PRODUCTION TEAM

CAST

Aaron Bell	Performer
Candace Benson	Performer
Tiffany Dawn Christopher	Performer
Christina Foye	Performer
Jessica Johnson	Performer
Ryane Nicole Studivant	Performer
Ebony Pullum	Performer
Chantel Thea Cumberbatch	Performer
Garrick Vaughan	Performer
Charles Delaney	Ensemble
Nya Green	Ensemble
Lora Gonzalez	Ensemble
Jetta Marie Reynolds	Ensemble
Sirmyra Moses	Ensemble
Matthew Santangelo	Ensemble
Jackie Watkins	Ensemble

MUSICIANS

Matthew Jernigan	Drummer
Rodrigo Pichardo	Bassist

PRODUCTION TEAM

Jessica Johnson	Director and Creator
Leslie Ann Boyden	Stage Manager
Alyssandra Docherty	Lighting Designer
Garrick Vaughan	Music Director
Chris Sannino	Sound Engineer
Josh Totoro	Arranger
Nya Green, Ava Nicole Kohn-Ciriello	Box Office Manager
Nya Green, Seth Duncan	House Manager
Janine Grando	Production Assistant

CANDACE BENSON (PERFORMER) (SHE/HER) is a Pottstown-based singer-songwriter, musician, music composer, actress, teacher, and animal and wilderness lover who was the first runner up on BET's *Sunday Best* (Season 7). She is ecstatic to be joining Theatre Horizon for the fourth time. She has previously been seen as Effie White in *Dreamgirls* (Theatre in the X). She has also been seen in Barrymore Award winning productions such as *Black Nativity* and *The Color Purple* (Theatre Horizon). She is in hopes you will share in her journey of faith, boldness, brightness, and bravery! It is going to be a beautiful ride!

AARON BELL (PERFORMER) (HE/HIM) is thrilled to make his Theatre Horizon debut, and to celebrate a decade of being a Philadelphia theatre artist! Prior to, perhaps, the longest intermission of his life, he could be heard in the audio production of *Is God Is* (The Wilma Theater), and seen in the pre-production workshop of *Esther Choi* and *the Fish that Drowned* (Simpatico Theatre) and *My General Tubman* (Arden Theatre Company). He thanks KN-95. It's good to be back.

CHANTEL THEA CUMBERBATCH (PERFORMER) (SHE/HEY) is a Philadelphia-based artist who graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania '15. She has worked as a Stage Manager and/or Assistant Director for such shows as *Memphis* at Candlelight Theatre; *Disney's Moana Jr.* at U.D.S.S.; *Pageant* at the Ritz Theatre; and *Matilda* at Limelight Theater. Additionally, at LT she ran the Children's Theater Program and later worked as a performer in *Annie* (Lily). Recently she has also performed at The Ritz Theater in *Big Fish* (Little lamb), a virtual new work called *Discovering Blackness* (Harmony), and at Theatre Horizon in *The Color Purple* (Understudy Celie, Nettie, Squeak). Chantel is honored to be back at Theatre Horizon and performing in this Holiday Concert. She's super grateful for this opportunity and to see her old cast mates again. She can't wait to spread holiday joy while performing, during the holidays.

CHRISTINA FOYE (PERFORMER) (SHE/HER) This is Christina's first production at Theatre Horizon. She is currently majoring in a BFA in Musical Theater Class of '23 at Temple University. As an actor, Christina has been in multiple productions at Temple Theaters including *Sick Moves*, *Dance Nation* and *Hotel Williams*. She has also recently directed her first production of *Black Roses In The Garden* at Temple Theaters. She hopes you enjoy the show and have a great holiday!

EBONY PULLUM (PERFORMER) is so excited to be back at Theatre Horizon sharing the stage again with some of her *The Color Purple* family! Ebony is an actress, singer, and teaching artist, predominantly throughout the Philadelphia and NYC region. Some of her most notable credits include: *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill* at Florida Repertory Theatre and Curio Theatre Company; *Little Red* at People's Light; Shug Avery (Barrymore Awarded) in *The Color Purple* at Theatre Horizon; Curio Theatre Company; Connie (Barrymore Nominated) in *Red Velvet* at Lantern Theater Company; *Cristal Palace* at The Kimmel Center; and *Written on Skin* and *Carmen* at The Academy of Music. Instagram: @ebonythestar FB: @EbonyPullum.

RYANE NICOLE STUDIVANT (PERFORMER) (SHE/HER) is happy to be back at Theatre Horizon for her seventh show! Favorite Regional: *The Color Purple* and *Little Shop of Horrors* (Theatre Horizon); *Newsies*, *Elf*, *Beehive*, and *Baby* (The Media Theatre); *RENT* (Playhouse on the Square); *Avenue Q*, *Legally Blonde*, *Smokey Joe's Café*, and *Aida* (Midtown Arts Center). Ryane has also performed or taught for the Walnut Street Theatre, Arden Theatre Company, and Simpatico Theatre Company. Ryane is the Executive Producer of the Philadelphia location of the national murder mystery company, The Dinner Detective. Check out performances in Center City. Next up: Galilee at Azuka Theatre! Love to Ian. Wishing you and yours a Happy Holiday Season and Happy New Year! @RyaneStud

LESLIE ANN BOYDEN (STAGE MANAGER) (SHE/HER) is a freelance stage manager in the Philadelphia area. In the past she has worked with The Wilma Theater, Pig Iron Theatre Company, Azuka Theatre, Simpatico Theatre, Shakespeare in Clark Park, Revolution Shakespeare, Tribe of Fools, Act II Playhouse, Arden Theatre Company, Millbrook Playhouse, and Hedgerow Theatre. She graduated from Indiana University Bloomington in 2014 with a B.A. in Theatre and Drama.

ALYSSANDRA DOCHERTY (LIGHTING DESIGNER) (SHE/HER) is thrilled to return to Theatre Horizon after most recently working on *TJ Loves Sally 4 Ever*! Aly is a Philadelphia-based lighting designer originally from Vernon, NJ. After graduating with honors and a BA in Theatre from DeSales University, she continued her training as an apprentice at Goodspeed Musicals in Connecticut. She then spent five seasons as the Lighting Supervisor at Philadelphia Theatre Company. She has toured internationally with Koresh Dance Company and BalletX to stages in Belarus, Mexico, Bermuda, Serbia, and all across the USA. Recently, Aly's work has been seen in *Here You Come Again* (Delaware Theatre Company), *The Garbologists* (Philadelphia Theatre Company), and *RENT* (New Light Theatre). She has also designed for Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, Brian Sanders' JUNK, Theatre Exile, and Wolf Trap Opera, among others. Her designs have been recognized with Barrymore and Ostrander Award nominations in Philadelphia and Memphis respectively. www.alyssandradocherty.com

GARRICK VAUGHAN (MUSIC DIRECTOR/PERFORMER) (HE/HIM) is a native of Philadelphia. He graduated with his degrees in Music Education and Vocal Performance from Temple University. Garrick has blended his passion for education with his love for theatre and music serving as musical director for *HAIR* (2018, Int'l Tour), *Saturday Night Fever* (2017, Int'l Tour), and associate director for The Philadelphia Heritage Chorale. Garrick has also taken his talents on stage sharing the stages with Aretha Franklin, Kristin Chenoweth, and Kathleen Battle. Garrick has performed across the country and internationally in the 2019 Golden Voices of Gospel International Tour. Garrick played Harpo in the 2018 Barrymore Award-winning production of *The Color Purple* (Theatre Horizon). Other favorite roles include Cinderella's Prince (*Into the Woods*, Arden Theatre Company), Man 1 (*Songs for a New World*, New Light Theatre) and Ronette (*Little Shop of Horrors*, Theatreworks UCCS). You can follow Garrick and #CatchDreams on social media @GarrickVaughan.

JESSICA JOHNSON (DIRECTOR/PERFORMER) (SHE/HER/THEY/THEM) is a Philadelphia-based performer. She began her artistic career in Philadelphia as a Dorothy Haas Acting Apprentice at the Walnut Street Theatre. Over the past few years, she has performed in readings, workshops, and full-length productions all over the region. She received a Barrymore Award for Outstanding Lead Performer in a Musical as Celie in *The Color Purple*. During her time in Philadelphia she has been awarded an Independence Foundation Fellowship, the Jilline Ringle Residency, and was a recipient of the HATCH Residency to develop independent work.

CHARLES DELANEY (ENSEMBLE) (HE/HIM) is appearing in his second performance with Theatre Horizon. Previous performances include *Annie*, *La Cage Aux Folles*, *Shrek*, *The Sound of Music*, *Rumors*, *Mrs. Coney*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *A Wonderful Life*, *A Christmas Carol*, and *A Miracle on 34th Street*. Have a Wonderful and Peaceful Holiday.

LORA B. GONZALEZ (ENSEMBLE) (SHE/HER) is a mother of three boys and grandmother of two. She has been married for 25 years. She has been singing in a church choir since she was nine and directed three choirs in her church for two decades. She loves to sing and dance and was a member of a dance group in middle school for three years. She enjoys theatre and looks forward to any chance she gets to perform.

NYA GREEN-HARRIS (ENSEMBLE) (SHE/HER) is a holly-jolly suburban Philadelphia-based artist that specializes in music theater, vocal performance, lyricism and songwriting. She is delighted to be a part of Theatre Horizon's Holiday Concert. She was last in Theatre Horizon's groundbreaking show *TOWN* and is currently an active member of the acapella group Keepin' it Trill (Widener University), serving as a beatboxer, co-musical director, and their primary arranger. She is currently working on releasing solo works under the alias, Syren. She would like to thank God for everything He has done in her life, her warm and wonderful friends for their everlasting love and support, her acapella group members, her new-found family at Theatre Horizon, Tamekia Young, and her family. She would also like to dedicate this performance to the late Mikayla Ford, Crystal Pulley, Ruth Harris and Dee Monroe. She sincerely hopes that everyone will have a winter-wonderful time at Theatre Horizon!

SIRMYRA MOSES (ENSEMBLE) (SHE/HER) is a Norristown youth who plans to pursue a career in singing and acting. She is excited, blessed and grateful for the opportunity to be a part of *The Holiday Concert*. Dreams really do come true if you just believe!

RIVER PROCYSON-HEIDEN (ENSEMBLE) (SHE/HER) is a proud Norristonian and theatre enthusiast. She has participated in small theatre productions since the age of eight. Most recently River was seen as Gingy (*Shrek Jr.*). She wants to thank her Mom, Clare, and Kiri for their support, encouragement, and line studying.

JETTA M. REYNOLDS (ENSEMBLE) (SHE/IT) is a singer/artist. She's so enthusiastic about being a part of Theatre Horizon once again. She's previously been in *TOWN* (Theatre Horizon), *Frozen* (Souderton), and *TJ Loves Sally 4 Ever* (Theatre Horizon).

MATTHEW SANTANGELO (ENSEMBLE) (HE/HIM) is a performer based in Norristown and is ecstatic to be working with Theatre Horizon again after performing in *TOWN*. He was last seen as Professor Baher in *Little Women* (Cabrini Theatre). He would like to thank all his wonderful family and friends for their constant love and support.

JACKIE WATKINS (ENSEMBLE) (SHE/HER) is a professional model, actress, and reality TV star personality from Norristown. Being able to inspire is her true goal. Theatre has always been a part of her career. She had the privilege to perform with Theatre Horizon for the first time in the musical *TOWN*. Jackie has also been previously seen on Lifetime's *5 Guys a Week*, *Hustle* (2022), *Army of the Dead*, *Jennie*, and HBO's original series *Mare of Easttown*. She would like to give a special thanks to her supporters, the Theatre, and God.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

THE HOLIDAY CONCERT was rehearsed and performed at Theatre Horizon in Norristown, which stands on the territory known as “Lenapehoking,” the ancestral home of the Lenape people.

For the past 10,000 years, the Lenape have been the original caretakers and stewards of Lenapehoking—one of numerous tribes that comprised tens of millions of people residing on this continent prior to the invasion of European colonizers.

We recognize that Isaac Norris, Sr.—Norristown’s namesake—purchased land from the family of William Penn even though nobody “owns” Lenapehoking. We acknowledge that Isaac Norris, Sr. was a slaveholder who benefited from a system that captured, sold, and enslaved over 10 million Africans who were trafficked to various locations in North America, South America, and the Caribbean.

We acknowledge the 6 million African Americans that moved from the American South to the Northeast during The Great Migration and their role in making places like Norristown a central hub for industry and retail. Finally, with a large Latinx population in Norristown—particularly people from Puerto Rico and Mexico—we acknowledge the past, present, and future legacies of the Taíno and Aztec peoples.

This land acknowledgement was written by Director of External Relations Gilberto Vega with advisement from Adam Waterbear DePaul and Barbara Bluejay Michalski of the Lenape Cultural Center.

WINTER WONDERLAND

Sleigh bells ring
Are you listening?
In the lane
Snow is glistening
A beautiful sight
We're happy tonight
Walking in a winter wonderland

Gone away is the bluebird
Here to stay is a new bird
He sings a love song
As we go along
Walking in a winter wonderland

In the meadow we can build a snowman
Then pretend that he is Parson Brown
He'll say: Are you married?
We'll say: No man
But you can do the job
When you're in town

Later on
We'll conspire
As we dream by the fire
To face unafraid
The plans that we've made
Walking in a winter wonderland

In the meadow we can build a snowman
And pretend that he's a circus clown
We'll have lots of fun with mister
snowman
Until the other kids knock him down

When it snows
Ain't it thrilling
Though your nose gets a chilling
We'll frolic and play
The Eskimo way
Walking in a winter wonderland

Walking in a winter wonderland
Walking in a winter wonderland

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS YOU

I don't want a lot for Christmas
There is just one thing I need
I don't care about the presents
Underneath the Christmas tree
I just want you for my own
More than you could ever know
Make my wish come true
All I want for Christmas is you, yeah

I don't want a lot for Christmas
There is just one thing I need (And I)
Don't care about the presents
Underneath the Christmas tree
I don't need to hang my stocking
There upon the fireplace (Ah)
Santa Claus won't make me happy
With a toy on Christmas Day

I just want you for my own (Ooh)
More than you could ever know
(Ooh)
Make my wish come true
All I want for Christmas is you
You, baby

Oh, I won't ask for much this
Christmas
I won't even wish for snow (And I)
I'm just gonna keep on waiting
Underneath the mistletoe
I won't make a list and send it
To the North Pole for Saint Nick (Ah)
I won't even stay awake to
Hear those magic reindeer click

'Cause I just want you here tonight
(Ooh)
Holding on to me so tight (Ooh)
What more can I do?
Oh baby, all I want for Christmas is
you
You, baby

(Continued on next page)

SONG LYRICS

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS YOU (CONTINUED)

Oh, all the lights are shining
So brightly everywhere
(So brightly, baby)
And the sound of children's
Laughter fills the air (Oh, oh yeah)
And everyone is singing (Oh yeah)
I hear those sleigh bells ringing (Oh)
Santa, won't you bring me the one I
really need? (Yeah, oh, oh)
Won't you please bring my baby to me?

Oh, I don't want a lot for Christmas
This is all I'm asking for (Ah)
I just wanna see my baby
Standing right outside my door

Oh, I just want you for my own (Ooh)
More than you could ever know (Ooh)
Make my wish come true
Oh baby, all I want for Christmas is you
You, baby

All I want for Christmas is you, baby (You)
All I want for Christmas is you, baby
(Ah, oh, ah, oh)
All I want for Christmas is you, baby (You)
All I want for Christmas is you, baby
(All I really want, baby, ooh)
All I want for Christmas is you, baby
(All I want, all I really want is you)



THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Oh, there's no place like home for the
holidays
For no matter how far away you roam
When you long for the sunshine of a
friendly gaze
For the holidays you can't beat home,
sweet home

I met a man who lives in Tennessee and
he was heading for
Pennsylvania and some homemade
pumpkin pie
From Pennsylvania folks are traveling
down Jersey's sunny shore
From Atlantic to Pacific, gee, the traffic is
terrific

Oh, there's no place like home for the
holidays
'Cause no matter how far away you roam
If you want to be happy in a million ways
For the holidays you can't beat home,
sweet home
I met a man who lives in Tennessee and
he was heading for
Pennsylvania and some homemade
pumpkin pie
From Pennsylvania folks are traveling
down Jersey's sunny shore
From Atlantic to Pacific, gee, the traffic is
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For the holidays you can't beat home,
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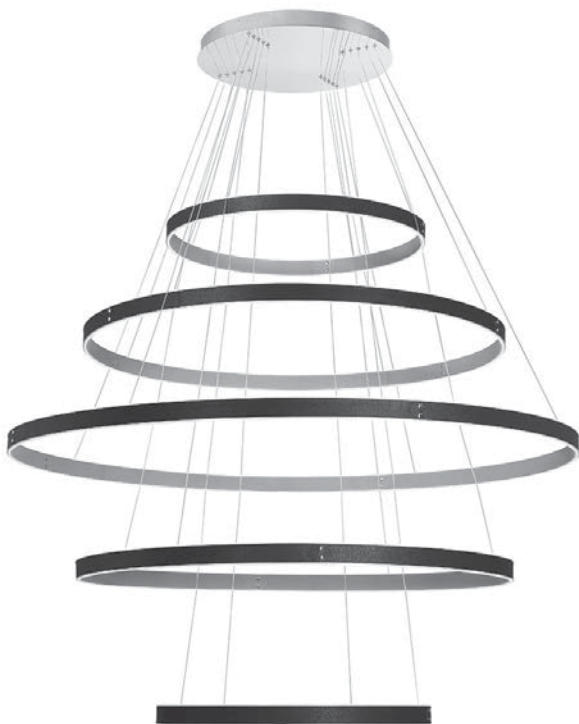
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Best of luck with your season!

Edward A. Suarez, CPA, MBA

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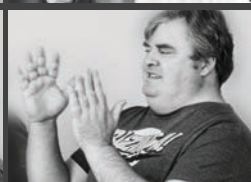
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