



**My Fair Lady** ▲  
JANUARY 16



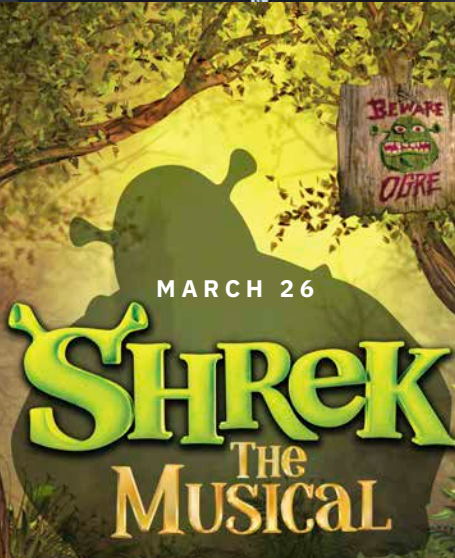
**On Your Feet** ▼  
JANUARY 28



**The Cher Show** ▼  
FEBRUARY 24



**Cat Kid Comic Club** ▲  
APRIL 13



MARCH 26

**SHREK**  
THE  
MUSICAL



## *Greetings* from the Director

### **Broadway Bound!**

There are still great shows to see this fall, but we are excited to announce our

spring 2024 season filled with five spectacular Broadway shows, and more. We are grateful to Ron and Nancy Harper with **Impressions Solutions, Inc.** who are Broadway Series sponsors. Consider joining the Harpers and become a sponsor to help us continue to bring the best touring Broadway shows to the Ford Center each season.

We open the new year with *My Fair Lady* and *On Your Feet* in January. These two great shows are followed by *The Cher Show* in February with *Come From Away* and *Shrek* in March. Where else can you see five Broadway shows other than in NYC? At the Ford Center in Oxford!

We have famous pop star **Marie Osmond** in the house and classical star, **Lawrence Brownlee** gracing the main stage. Both these artists offer fabulous voices in different mediums, but equally exciting.

Who doesn't like the music of **ABBA**? This will be a fun, fun, fun evening that will have you dancing and singing along. The classical ensemble **Imani Winds** will make you swoon in a quieter way.

We are grateful for the support from Nancye B. Starnes and Joc and Leigh Anne Carpenter who fund the Daytime School Series and Family Friendly shows for children. Youngsters will have the opportunity to see dinosaurs, *The Stinky Cheese Man*, and *Cat Kid* romping around the stage of the Ford Center. We can guarantee shrieks and lots of laughter from these future arts patrons.

**THANK YOU** to our Friends of the Ford Center who offer support each year by attending our shows and contributing to our operating fund. It is because of your generosity that we are able to bring in high-quality performances to Oxford.

— Julia Aubrey

## **Join the Friends of the Ford Center**

In addition to the satisfaction of helping bring excellent programming to the Ford Center, members will receive a variety of benefits according to their giving level including:

- ◆ One Reserved Parking Pass for Season Ticket Holders
- ◆ Guaranteed Seat Selection
- ◆ Early Ticket Order & Seating for June Community Musical
- ◆ Early Order for Series Tickets
- ◆ Listing in Event Program and Lobby Friends Roll

Friends' benefits apply for the entire 2023-24 season.

Join online at [fordcenter.org/support](https://fordcenter.org/support).

For questions, contact Kate Meacham at **662-915-6502** or **kmeacham@olemiss.edu**.







## My Fair Lady

Tuesday, January 16, 2024 • 7:30 p.m.

From Lincoln Center Theater and director **Bartlett Sher** comes “a sumptuous new production of the most perfect musical of all time” (*Entertainment Weekly*), Lerner & Loewe’s **My Fair Lady**. Boasting such classic songs as “I Could Have Danced All Night,” “The Rain in Spain,” and “Wouldn’t It Be Lovely,” **My Fair Lady** tells the story of Eliza Doolittle, a young Cockney flower seller, and Henry Higgins, a linguistics professor who is determined to transform her into his idea of a “proper lady.” But who is really being transformed?

## BROADWAY SERIES



photo by DJ Corey

## On Your Feet!

*The Story of Emilio & Gloria Estefan*

Sunday, January 28, 2024 • 7:30 p.m.

### HER VOICE. HIS VISION. THEIR STORY.

**On Your Feet!** is the inspiring true story about heart, heritage and two people who believed in their talent—and each other—to become an international sensation: Emilio and Gloria Estefan. Now their story is an all-new exhilarating original musical winning the hearts of critics and audiences alike, with the *Chicago Tribune* declaring “it’s a hit!” and *The New York Times* cheering, “The very air in the room seems to vibrate in this undeniably crowd-pleasing musical!”

*Content Advisory: Recommended for ages 8 and up for mild adult themes and situations.*

## Marie Osmond In Concert with Special Guest David Osmond

Monday, February 5, 2024 • 7:30 p.m.

Marie Osmond has spent over 6 iconic decades in the entertainment business performing as a successful singer, television performer and talk show host, dancer, actor, author, entrepreneur and public speaker. She has continued to maintain relevance, remaining an instantly recognizable figure across the globe.

Her debut single *Paper Roses* reached the #1 spot on two Billboard charts, a feat that not only placed her among an elite class of musical royalty, but instantly catapulted her into international superstardom. She is a multiple gold and platinum selling artist and CMA winner, garnering numerous Billboard chart-topping singles and albums, and three New York Times Bestselling books. She has entertained millions throughout the world through television, radio, film, literature, live concerts and Broadway performances.



POP SERIES

## Arrival From Sweden The Music of ABBA

Saturday, February 10, 2024 • 7:30 p.m.

**Arrival from Sweden: The Music of ABBA** has been called the most authentic ABBA show touring. They have sold out arenas and venues all over the world since their founding in 1995. Hits like: “Dancing Queen,” “Mamma Mia,” “Does Your Mother Know,” “Take A Chance,” “SOS,” “The Winner Takes It All,” “Super Trouper,” “Money Money Money,” “Waterloo,” “Honey Honey,” “Fernando,” “Chiquitita,” “Knowing Me Knowing You,” “Thank You For The Music,” “Lay All Your Love On Me,” “Gimme Gimme Gimme” and many more are delivered with such accuracy that it’s hard to believe that it’s not the real ABBA on stage.





## The Cher Show

Saturday, February 24, 2024 • 7:30 p.m.

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### **The Tony Award®-Winning Musical! Her Life. Her Story. Her Legend.**

Superstars come and go. Cher is forever. For six straight decades, only one unstoppable force has flat-out dominated popular culture - breaking down barriers, pushing boundaries and letting nothing and no one stand in her way. THE CHER SHOW is the Tony Award®-winning musical of her story, and it's packed with so much Cher that it takes three women to play her: the kid starting out, the glam pop star, and the icon.

**The Cher Show** is 35 smash hits, six decades of stardom, two rock-star husbands, a Grammy®, an Oscar®, an Emmy®, and enough Tony Award-winning Bob Mackie gowns to cause a sequin shortage in New York City, all in one unabashedly fabulous new musical that will have audiences dancing in the aisles!

*Content Advisory: Recommended for ages 12 and up.*

## Come From Away

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

7:30 p.m.

On 9/11, the world stopped. On 9/12, their stories moved us all. This stirring and inspiring musical takes you into the heart of the remarkable true story of the small town in Newfoundland that opened their homes to 7,000 stranded travelers on 9/11. During that fateful week, cultures clashed and nerves ran high—but uneasiness turned into trust, music soared into the night and gratitude grew into enduring friendships. Celebrate the best of humankind and the best in all of us at **Come From Away**.

*Content Advisory: Recommended for audience members aged 10 and up and at least a basic knowledge of the events of September 11, 2001.*



### ARTIST SERIES



## Lawrence Brownlee

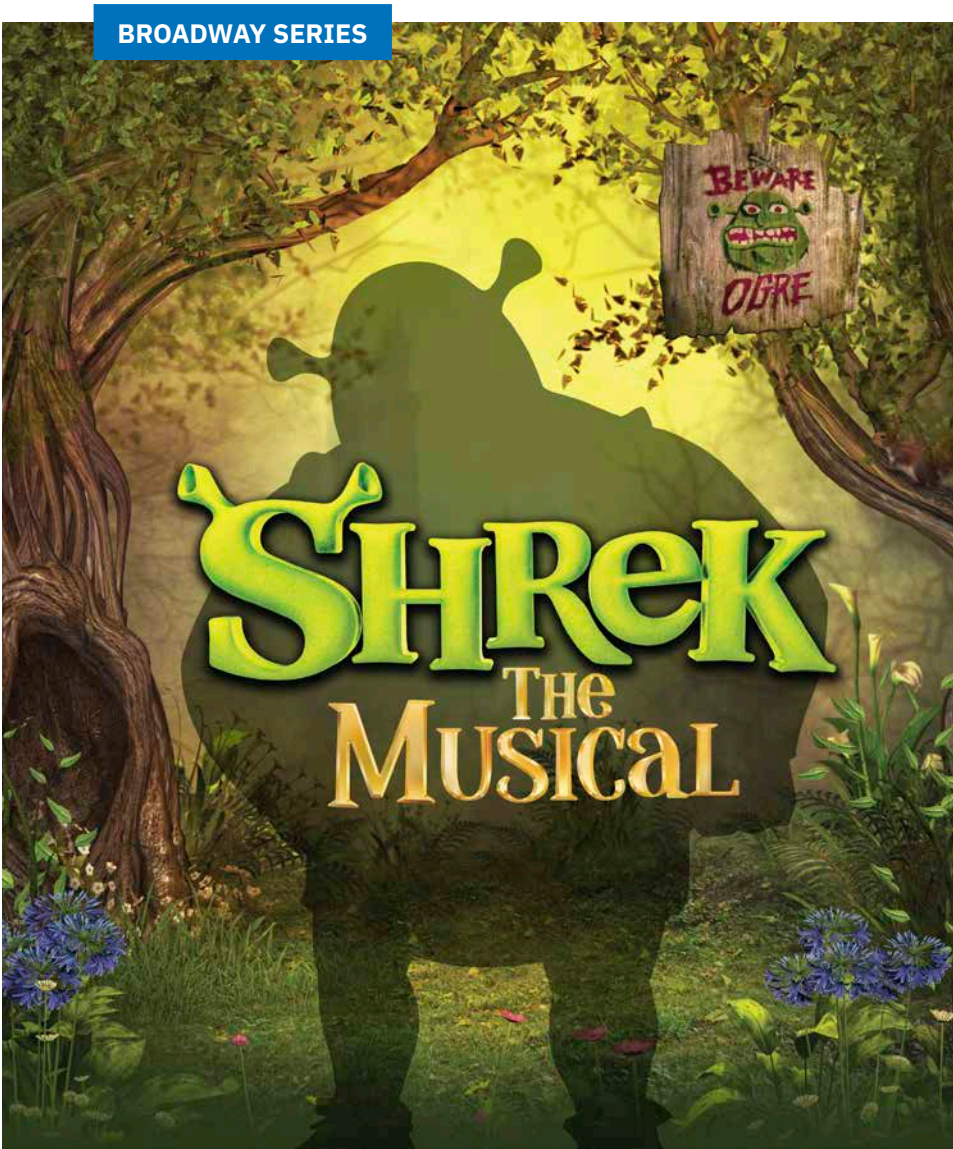
Thursday, March 7, 2024 • 7:30 p.m.

Lawrence Brownlee is a leading figure in opera, both as a singer on the world's top stages, and as a voice for activism and diversity in the industry. Captivating audiences and critics around the globe, he has been hailed as "an international star in the bel canto operatic repertory" (The New York Times), "one of the world's leading bel canto stars" (The Guardian), and "one of the most in-demand opera singers in the world today" (NPR). With an ever-increasing presence in opera, recital, and concerts, Lawrence Brownlee has cemented his place as one of the top artists in classical music. He is a regular guest at the world's most important opera houses including The Metropolitan Opera, Teatro alla Scala, Royal Opera House - Covent Garden, Bayerische Staatsoper, Staatsoper Unter den Linden, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Opéra national de Paris, Gran Teatre del Liceu, Teatro Real, Opernhaus Zürich, and Wiener Staatsoper.

# Shrek The Musical

Tuesday, March 26, 2024 • 7:30 p.m.

“Once upon a time, there was a little ogre named Shrek....” And thus begins the tale of an unlikely hero who finds himself on a life-changing journey alongside a wisecracking Donkey and a feisty princess who resists her rescue. Yes, your favorite ogre is back in the hilarious stage spectacle based on the Oscar®-winning, smash hit, DreamWorks animated film. This Tony Award®-winning fairy tale musical adventure features songs from Jeanine Tesori (Kimberly Akimbo; Caroline, or Change), a sidesplitting book by Pulitzer Prize winner David Lindsay-Abaire (Kimberly Akimbo) and brings all the beloved characters you know from the film to life. USA Today raves, “Altogether irresistible!” You’ll be a “believer” too as there’s more to the story that meets the ears.







## Imani Winds

Tuesday, April 9, 2024 • 7:30 p.m.

**Brandon Patrick George, flute**

**Toyin Spellman-Diaz, oboe**

**Mark Dover, clarinet**

**Kevin Newton, French horn**

**Monica Ellis, bassoon**

Celebrating over 20 years of music making, the twice Grammy nominated Imani Winds has led both a revolution and the evolution of the wind quintet through their dynamic playing, adventurous programming, imaginative collaborations and outreach endeavors that have inspired audiences of all ages and backgrounds.

The ensemble's playlist embraces traditional chamber music repertoire, and as a 21st century group, Imani Winds is devoutly committed to expanding the wind quintet repertoire by commissioning music from new voices that reflect historical events and the times in which we currently live.

Imani Winds regularly performs in prominent international concert venues, including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, The Kennedy Center, Walt Disney Hall and the Kimmel Center. Their touring schedule has taken them throughout the Asian continent, Brazil, Australia, England, New Zealand and across Europe.

FAMILY SERIES

A  
**THEATER**  
**WORKS**  
USA  
PRODUCTION

# CAT KID COMIC CLUB The Musical



REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF DAV PILKEY

## Cat Kid Comic Club

Saturday, April 13, 2024 • 10:30 a.m.\*

Cat Kid and Molly Pollywog have started an epic club to teach 21 rambunctious baby frogs how to make their own comics! Their fishy father Flippy is overjoyed that his kids will learn to unleash their creativity, but when the frogs' constant bickering and outrageous imaginations send their comics comically off the rails, Flippy flips out! Will the club survive? Will the frogs ever get along? And will creativity finally save the day? All will be answered in this madcap musical based on Dav Pilkey's irreverently hilarious book series.

This hilarious musical adaptation of Dav Pilkey's Dog Man spin-off series, Cat Kid Comic Club, is written by Kevin Del Aguila and Brad Alexander - the team that brought you **Dog Man: The Musical!**

*\*Note curtain time*

## 2024 SPRING SEASON AT A GLANCE

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- **On Your Feet!** ..... Sunday, January 28 • 7:30 p.m.
- **Marie Osmond In Concert** ..... Monday, February 5 • 7:30 p.m.
- **Arrival From Sweden: The Music of ABBA** .... Saturday, February 10 • 7:30 p.m.
- **The Cher Show** ..... Saturday, February 24 • 7:30 p.m.
- **Come From Away** ..... Tuesday, March 5 • 7:30 p.m.
- **Lawrence Brownlee** ..... Thursday, March 7 • 7:30 p.m.
- **Shrek The Musical** ..... Tuesday, March 26 • 7:30 p.m.
- **Imani Winds** ..... Tuesday, April 9 • 7:30 p.m.
- **Cat Kid Comic Club** ..... Saturday, April 13 • 10:30 a.m.

- Family Friendly
- Ford Series
- Artist Series
- Holiday Special
- Broadway Series
- Pop Series

**The Inn**  
at *Ole Miss*  
HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER



The 2023-24 season is sponsored in part by The Inn at Ole Miss, Impression Solutions and Hederman Brothers.



*Wine is available  
at all shows by  
Tallahatchie Gourmet.*







## Gertrude Castellow Ford

**W**ith an ever-inquisitive mind, Gertrude Castellow Ford fully embraced the arts. As a patron, an observer and a practitioner, Ford engaged in a lifelong exploration of all things of beauty and inspiration, and held true to classic traditions in the fine arts. She was an accomplished flutist, violinist and pianist as well as fluent in French, Latin and Spanish. Exceedingly well-read in poetry and classic literature, she was often at the center of spirited discussions about the merits of all manner of literary works and was not afraid to raise challenging concepts in literature, especially concerning the authorship of Shakespeare's plays. Always at the very foundation of her spirit was a great and sincere love of the arts and letters.

Raised in a generations-old tradition of philanthropy, Ford established the Gertrude C. Ford Foundation in Jackson with a generous gift in 1991. In 1998, the Ford Foundation awarded the University of Mississippi \$20 million to design and build the Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts on the Oxford campus. This regal facility is a physical testament to Ford's lifelong dedication to the arts. Ford died in September 1996. She and her husband, Aaron Lane Ford, who was an Ackerman attorney and U.S. congressman representing what was Mississippi's 4th District, are buried in Cuthbert, a small town in southwest Georgia.

### **Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts**

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**[fordcenter.org](http://fordcenter.org) • 662-915-7411**

