

Hancher Links 2011-2012

Hubbard Street Dance Chicago
Sunday, September 4, 2011, 7 PM
Hancher Green

Themes:

Contemporary dance traditions
Performance practice and society

Hancher is kicking off its 2011-2012 season with a free outdoor performance. Serving as an official farewell to our original facility, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago will perform outdoors on the Hancher Green! Representing numerous choreographers and styles, this world-renown repertory company has commissioned no fewer than 25 new dance works over the last eight seasons. Dedicated to creating and expanding their repertoire, HSDC has worked with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Art Institute of Chicago to produce dance works that explore the connection between dance and art. Whether this company is dancing to music performed by the symphony or within art exhibits, HSDC is a groundbreaking contemporary dance company that will be enjoyed by all.

hubbardstreetdance.com

Bomba Estéreo
Thursday, September 15, 2011, 9 PM
Iowa Memorial Union, Main Lounge

Themes:

Cross cultural experience
Exploration of musical styles
Music fusion
Global tradition

Bomba Estéreo fuses Afro-Columbian rhythms with hip-hop to create a multicultural music experience. Originally called A.M. 770, this group uses their unique mix of modern electronic beats with traditional vocal intonation to express their culture and their generation. Founded in 2005 in Bogota, Colombia, Bomba Estéreo has been touring worldwide in support of its second album, Blow Up., including an acclaimed US debut at South by Southwest. MTV also named the band, 'The Best New Band in the World.'

bombaestereo.com

Hubbard Street, 2
Thursday and Friday, September 22-23, 2011, 7:30 PM
Space Place Theatre, North Hall

Themes:

Creation of new works
Dance education

Vicarious exploration through dance

Hancher is partnering with Hubbard Street 2 to commission a new dance work. Promising choreographers will team up with Hubbard Street 2 dancers to create original work as part of HS2's 2012 National Choreographic Competition. Hubbard Street 2 is leaving Chicago for the first time in the program's history to integrate UI dance students for a world premiere right here in Iowa City.

hubbardstreetdance.com

Club Hancher — Joey DeFrancesco Trio **Thursday, September 29, 2011, 7:30 and 10 PM** **The Mill**

Themes:

Music performance
Jazz composition

This jazz organist, trumpeter, and vocalist has been honing his craft since he was four. Known for his technique and soulfulness, the Philadelphia native is widely recognized for renewing interest in the Hammond organ in the 1990's. DeFrancesco's incredible skill was recognized early on when he signed a recording contract with Columbia Records at the age of 16, releasing his first album, *All Of Me*, and was asked to play with Miles Davis at age 17. Joey DeFrancesco also has a new recording titled *Never Can Say Goodbye-The Music of Michael Jackson*.

Academy of St. Martin in the Fields Chamber Ensemble **Sunday, October 2, 2011, 3 PM** **City High School, Opstad Auditorium**

Themes:

Classical music traditions
Mastering work of a prodigy

Originally founded in 1958 as a conductor-less group of London musicians, this elegant and beloved chamber ensemble has come a long way from its minimalist roots. Now revered as "the very embodiment of classical music establishment" (San Francisco Chronicle), The Academy of St. Martin in the Fields of Chamber Ensemble will return to Iowa City for the first time since 2006. The group's performance will include Mendelssohn's popular Octet in E Flat Major.

asmf.org

National Acrobats of the People's Republic of China **Wednesday, October 19, 2011, 7:30 PM** **Englert Theatre**

Themes:

Cross cultural experience
Global tradition

Dedicated to continually improving Acrobatic standards, the National Acrobats of the People's Republic of China will visit Iowa City to display true superior strength and skill. The National Performing Arts Troupe, established by the government in 1950, hails from Beijing and has toured in over forty countries. Funded by a grant from the Beijing Municipality, the National Acrobats of the People's Republic of China owns a institution for acrobatic schooling, training, and repertoire as well as invests in acrobatic science research.

cami.com/?webid=1928

National Chamber Choir of Ireland
Paul Hillier, Artistic Director and Conductor
Thursday, October 20, 2011, 7:30 PM
St Mary's Catholic Church

Themes:

Cross cultural experience
Foreign language
Music performance
Ancient traditions in the modern world

After performing at the White House for St. Patrick's Day in 2011, the National Chamber Choir of Ireland will make its U.S. touring debut under the internationally celebrated director, Paul Hillier. The choir is known for its high artistic quality and mastery of diverse works. The second half of the concert features a new piece called Acallam na Senorach: An Irish Colloquy, by composer Tarik O'Reagan. The text is from an important Middle Irish narrative from the 12th century.

nationalchamberchoir.com

AnDa Union
Thursday, October 27, 2011, 7:30 PM
Englert Theatre

Themes:

Cross cultural experience
Mongolian Heritage
Global Tradition
Ancient traditions in the modern world

The members of AnDa Union describe themselves as music gatherers--combining traditions, instrumentation, and styles of music from both Inner and Outer Mongolia. They are determined to keep the legacy of their culture, language, and musical traditions alive by educating the world through performances. Consisting of individuals from many different ethnic backgrounds, the group is the first in Inner Mongolia to use the essence of Mongolian music to inspire works previously unheard.

andaunion.com

Paul Taylor Dance Company
Tuesday, November 1, 2011, 7:30 PM

Englert Theatre

Themes:

- Modernism in art
- Dance as historical perceptive
- Dance as demonstration of social movement

Paul Taylor has greatly shaped the spirit of American modern dance. Called “the world’s greatest living choreographer” (Newsweek), Paul Taylor’s dances include themes of war, spirituality, sexuality, and death. His work includes dysfunctional families, angels, ex-lovers, and even insects. At 80 years old, Paul Taylor’s work is still controversial, provocative, and astonishingly athletic. Hancher is honored to bring Paul Taylor Dance Company to Iowa City for a night of mixed repertoire.

ptdc.org

Roseneath Theatre, Danny, King of the Basement by David S. Craig Horn Elementary School Tuesday & Wednesday, November 8-9, 2011, Time TBA

Themes:

- American Cultural/Society
- Homelessness
- Single Parent Families/Divorce
- Illiteracy
- Economic status
- Social Justice

David S. Craig’s Danny, King of the Basement, offers a look into the unstable world of a young boy and how he embraces the never ending changes in his life. Danny and his mother are constantly moving, struggling to overcome poverty and to keep a roof over their heads. When they move into a basement apartment on Clinton Street, Danny meets kids with greater problems than his own. This show addresses issues such as poverty, divorce, illiteracy, and joblessness and how they affect a child’s self esteem, friendships, and future success. The audience will watch Danny assist his friends in coping with their hardships by creating an alternative world to offer them hope for a better future. This performance is a great opportunity for service learning and will serve as an educational experience for all ages.

holdenarts.org/danny.htm

American String Quartet & Maia String Quartet Friday, November, 18, 2011, 7:30 PM Riverside Recital Hall

Themes:

- Music performance
- Important pieces of art in the world

Experience the ensemble perfection of the American String Quartet, internationally known as one of the world's foremost quartets, as well as the Hancher debut of the University of Iowa's own excellent quartet-in-residence, the Maia Quartet. The performance will feature each ensemble individually and culminate in a string collaborative finale.

americanstringquartet.com & www.maiaquartet.com

2011 Holiday Pops Tour
Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra
Keith Lockhart, conductor
Rockapella, featured guests
Sunday, November 27, 2011, Time TBA
Carver Hawkeye Arena

Themes:

American traditions
Traditional holiday music performance

For the first time ever, "America's Orchestra" the Boston Pops will join America's leading a cappella group, Rockapella, for a light hearted and unforgettable holiday show! Audiences of all ages can expect a performance jam-packed with material from The Boston Pops' albums Holiday Pops and Sleigh Ride and Rockapella's Comfort & Joy and Christmas.

bso.org

Club Hancher, Catherine Russell
Thursday, December 8, 2011, 7:30 PM
The Mill

Themes:

Modern face of jazz
American traditions

Catherine Russell is the rarest of musical entities — a genuine jazz and blues singer who can soulfully caress virtually any song or style. While her father was the long time musical director for Louis Armstrong, this New York City native is easily the equal to the big name artists with whom she has performed, including Paul Simon, David Bowie, Steely Dan, Jackson Brown, Michael Feinstein, and Roeanne Cash.

catherinerussell.net

American Beauty Project
Friday, December 9, 2011, 7:30 PM
Riverside Casino & Golf Resort, Event Center, Riverside

Themes:

Music history

The American Beauty Project is a reimagining of the Grateful Dead, in which the band treats classic Grateful Dead albums, American Beauty and Workingman's Dead, as essential and complex entries within the American musical canon. The American Beauty Project includes an all-star lineup of musicians, including the folk group Ollabelle, jazz singer Catherine Russell, and other special guests.

americanbeautyproject.com

John Oliver

January 28, 2012, 7:30 PM

Iowa Memorial Union, Main Lounge

Themes:

American Culture
Economy
Government/Politics

Emmy-winning British comedian John Oliver comes to Iowa City ready to slam and satirize. Best known as the Senior British Correspondent in Jon Stewart's band of media pranksters on The Daily Show, John Oliver has also found success in the States through his recurring role on NBC's Community and his Comedy Central series John Oliver's New York Stand Up Show. His intelligent comedy offers insight about American values and politics only an outsider can provide.

Stew and the Negro Problem

Thursday, February 2, 2012, 7:30 PM

Englert Theatre

Themes:

Original song writing
Social satire
Social Justice

Stew and the Negro Problem is a unique and successful mix of social satire, psychedelic pop, sly humor, sophisticated wordplay, and theatricality. The band performs an acclaimed blend of "genre-defying rock-pop-funk-cabaret... 'Afro-baroque' music" (The New York Times). Stew is acclaimed for his songwriting and lyrics. He won a TONY Award for his rock musical Passing Strange, which he wrote and starred in. Stew will visit Iowa City in the fall and collect material to create a collection of songs commissioned by Hancher. The songs will be premiered at the concert.

negroproblem.com

Chucho Valdes and the Afro-Cuban Messengers

Friday, February 10, 2012, 7:30 PM

Englert Theatre

Themes:

Cross cultural experience
Global Tradition

This multi-Grammy winner returns to the U.S. stage after a seven year absence. Chucho Valdes, born in 1941 in Cuba, is a pianist, composer, and music professor who “can tickle the ivories with the soft grace of Bill Evans and dazzle with the thunderous dexterity of Art Tatum or Oscar Peterson...Whether Valdez is performing a gentle ballad or a rousing foot-stomper, his joy in playing and his love of the music always shines through” (All About Jazz).

valdeschucho.com

L.A. Theatre Works, The Rivalry
Thursday, February 23, 2012, 7:30 PM
Englert Theatre

Themes:

American History
Civil War
Politics/Government
Slavery (Race, Social, and Economic Inequity)
Concept of Freedom
Social Justice

In *The Rivalry*, Norman Corwin uses dialogue taken from historical transcripts to illustrate the gravity and passion on display in the 1858 Illinois Senate race debates in which Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas’ clash of ideology and oratory forever changed our country. *The Rivalry* also offers a chance to reflect on the messy partisan politics of the present.

baylinartists.com/artist/la_theatre_works & www.latw.org

Tower of Power
Friday, March 2, 2012, 7:30 PM
Riverside Casino & Golf Resort, Event Center, Riverside

Themes:

Artistic influences
Musical innovators

Since storming the 1970s funk scene with blockbuster Billboard hits including “You’re Still a Young Man,” “So Very Hard to Go,” and “Don’t Change Horses (in the Middle of a Stream),” Tower of Power has amazed sold-out audiences worldwide. After celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2008, Tower of Power released their latest album, *The Great American Soulbook*, in 2009. The Tower of Power horn section has also recorded and toured with top artists including Elton John, Phish, and Santana.

towerofpower.com

Los Angeles Guitar Quartet
Thursday, March 6, 2012, 7:30 PM
Coralville Center for the Performing Arts

Themes:

- Exploration of musical genres
 - Bluegrass/Folk
 - Latin
 - African
 - Far East
 - Irish

The Los Angeles Guitar Quartet is a multifaceted group armed with both fresh interpretation of classical masterworks and expressive arrangements of contemporary world pieces. These Grammy-winning guitar masters have consistently set the standard for virtuosic performances over the past thirty years. They deliver a program that also includes Latin, African, Irish and Folk music.

lagq.com

Lucky Plush Productions, Punk Yankees
Thursday, March 8, 2012, 7:30 PM
Space Place Theatre, North Hall

Themes:

- Modernism in art
- Computer science
 - Technology in art
 - Programs to create art
- Intellectual property
 - Fair use
 - Authenticity

Using live performance, video, and the internet, Punk Yankees addresses the controversial topics of intellectual property in our modern world. First premiering in 2009 at the Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago, this contemporary dance theater work addresses issues of fair use including mash-ups, stylistic reference, impersonation, and sampling.

luckyplush.com

Soweto Gospel Choir
Tuesday, March 27, 2012, 7:30 PM
Riverside Casino & Golf Resort, Event Center

Themes:

- Cross Cultural Experience
 - South Africa
- Music fusion
 - African Gospel
 - Spirituals
 - Reggae
- Global Tradition

The magnificent voices in the Grammy-winning Soweto Gospel Choir celebrate the human and the divine. This South African ensemble performs in 6 of South Africa's 11 official languages while accompanied by a 4-piece band and percussion section. 52 members strong, the Soweto Gospel Choir combines rich harmonies and a cappella numbers with energetic dance and vibrant costumes to create a performance that explores the spirituality of a unique culture.

sowetogospelchoir.com

Dave Pietro

Thursday, April 5, 2012, 7:30 PM

Englert Theatre

Themes:

Music performance

Dave Pietro, an alto saxophonist, educator, and composer, has not only been on the New York music scene since 1987, but has performed across the world in more than 30 countries. His warm tone and lyrical sensibility have garnered him critical accolades as "a radiant soloist" (Jazz Educators Journal) possessing "one of the most appealing alto sounds in jazz" (Jazz Times Magazine). He has performed alongside legends like Ray Charles, Harry Connick Jr., Toshiko Akiyoshi, and The Village Vanguard Jazz Orchestra. Dave Pietro will also work with high school musicians across the state in a three week residency.

davepietro.com

Sean Christopher Lewis & Working Group Theatre, Mayberry

Thursday-Saturday, April 26-28, 2012, 7:30 PM

Sunday, April 29, 2 PM

Riverside Theatre

Themes:

Community Understanding

Social justice

Class

Race

Gender

Partnering with local director, playwright, and actor Sean Lewis and Working Group Theatre, Hancher has commissioned a play featuring a relatively small, overwhelmingly white, well-educated, and culturally-engaged college town that prides itself on its acceptance of diversity. This Midwestern community is having an influx of immigrants from a neighboring metropolis relocating to that community, bringing with them new opportunities as well as new challenges. Mayberry explores how Iowa City has responded to an increase in its African American population. It's an Iowa story with national implications, asking how, in an enlightened world, do we embrace and engage in true discourse about living together in communities in transition.

Enso String Quartet

Friday, May 4, 2012, 7:30 PM

Zion Lutheran Church

Themes:

Music performance

“Enso” in the Japanese language refers to the fullness of spirit, making it a fitting descriptor for the group quickly ascending the ranks of the country’s most accomplished young string quartets. The Enso String Quartet is comfortable with many styles, committed to the classics as well as strong advocates for new music. They have held residencies at Rice University’s Shepherd School of Music and Boston University’s Tanglewood Institute, and they were nominated for a “Best Chamber Music Performance” Grammy award.

Ensoquartet.com

The Gizmo Guys

Sunday, May 20, 2012, 2 PM

City High School, Opstad Auditorium

SPOT-The Hancher Family Arts Adventure

Themes:

Physics and Science

Modern response to ancient art

Much more than a comedy juggling act, The Gizmo Guys use their amazing skills and quick wit to inform the masses about math and science. Using a theatrical routine to connect with everyone from toddlers to great-grandparents, The Gizmo Guys present a new and entertaining way to teach.

Study Guide

http://www.thegizmoguys.com/pdf/t_studyguide.pdf

thegizmoguys.com