

Lynn University presents

# A CELEBRATION OF *Americana*

performed by the Lynn University Philharmonia  
led by Jon Robertson and featuring special guests

Sponsored by Len Camber Charitable Trust -  
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Sunday, Nov. 4, 2012

6:30 p.m.

Mizner Park Amphitheater



LYNN  
UNIVERSITY

CONSERVATORY  
OF MUSIC

*When talent meets inspiration, the results are extraordinary.*

# *Musical Program*

The Star-Spangled Banner  
John Stafford Smith  
orch. by Walter Damrosch

Hoe Down from *Rodeo*  
Aaron Copland

Essential Ellington:  
Music of Ellington and Strayhorn  
Duke Ellington & Billy Strayhorn  
arr. by Jeff Tyzik

My Baby Just Cares For Me  
Music by Walter Donaldson  
Lyrics by Gus Kahn

Fever  
Eddie Cooley and Otis Blackwell

*Nadège Bellande Robertson, mezzo-soprano  
and Lynn University Jazz Trio*

Superman March from *Superman*  
John Williams

Ol' Man River from *Showboat*  
Music by Jerome Kern  
Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II  
orch. by Robert Russell Bennett

Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin'  
from *Oklahoma!*  
Music by Richard Rodgers  
Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II  
orch. by Robert Russell Bennett

*Neil Nelson, bartione*

*West Side Story*: Selection for Orchestra Leonard Bernstein  
arr. by Jack Mason

Summertime from *Porgy and Bess* George Gershwin  
Lyrics by DuBose Heyward  
*Kristen DiNonno, soprano*

People Will Say We're In Love Music by Richard Rodgers  
from *Oklahoma!* Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II  
orch. by Robert Russell Bennett  
*Kristen DiNonno, soprano and Brian Ricci, tenor*

Impossible Dream from *Man of La Mancha* Music by Mitch Leigh  
Lyrics by Joe Darion  
*Brian Ricci, tenor*

Armed Forces Salute arr. by Bob Lowden

A Tribute to America: arr. by Nelson Navarrete  
America the Beautiful, Music by Samuel Ward, Nelson Navarrete  
Freedom and Progress & Irving Berlin  
and God Bless America Lyrics by Katharine Lee Bates & Irving Berlin

*Kristen DiNonno, soprano; Nadège Bellande Robertson, mezzo-soprano;  
Brian Ricci, tenor; and Neil Nelson, baritone*



### **Kristen DiNonno**

Kristen DiNonno has been performing professionally in South Florida since 1994. She has been seen in many local productions of musicals: in roles such as Julie and Carrie from *Carousel*, Maria and Liesel from the *Sound of Music*, and Nellie in FAU's production of *South Pacific*. Kristen has been featured as a guest soloist for many local productions and professional organizations including FAU's

ensemble-in-residence, the Wind Symphony of Florida, the Boca Music Guild, Coral Springs Friends of Music, and The Master Chorale of South Florida where she served on the board of directors and held the position of soprano section leader. In the fall of 2007, Kristen was a soloist for The Master Chorale's performance of Vivaldi's Gloria. She has since been a featured soloist in their performances of Mendelssohn's Elijah, Morten Lauridson's Lux Aeterna, and Bernstein's Chichester Psalms. Kristen DiNonno is in the process of recording a solo CD to be released at the end of February 2013. Her voice is currently featured on the Pure Energy Productions CD, *Looking Up*, released in 1999 and she performs two songs on the released *PROJECT LIFE* CD by Golden Dome Records.



### **Nadège Bellande Robertson**

Born in California to a family of musicians and academicians, Nadège Bellande Robertson began playing the piano and violin as a child, but found her true talent as a vocalist. In 1994, she moved to Haiti pursuing her career as a soloist and also creating the band N'Didgenous with Gregory Vorbe. Their album *First Breath* is an eclectic mix of jazz influenced vocals, indigenous instruments, traditional

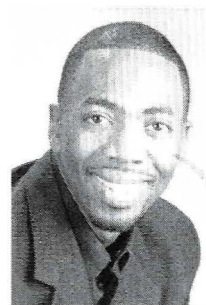
Caribbean rhythms and electronica. Nadège has also worked with Jean Pierre Grasset, the Widmaiers, Strings, and performed with Wyclef Jean, The Marleys, Gilberto Gil and Bernard Lavilliers among others. Married to Hans Tippenhauer, she has three children, currently resides in Delray Beach, Fla., and is pursuing her master's in international communication at Lynn University.



### **Brian Ricci**

Originally from New York, Brian Ricci received his B.M. in vocal performance from the New England Conservatory of Music. He continued his graduate studies in the New England Conservatory opera department, where he sang the role of Chevalier de la Force in *Dialogues of The Carmelites*, Sam in Carlisle Floyd's *Susannah* and Dandy in *Ballad of Baby Doe*, among others. After moving back to

New York City in 1997, Brian studied acting at the 29th Street Reperatory Theatre School. While still in school, he was contracted with the Boston Lyric Opera Company, where he sang chorus and compremario roles in *La Traviata*, *The Ballad of Baby Doe*, *Elixir of Love* and *Street Scene* to name a few. His professional musical theater roles include Curly/Will Parker (*Oklahoma*), Tommy (*Brigadoon*), Perchik (*Fiddler on the Roof*) and Sam (*Street Scene*). He was hand-chosen by Phillip Glass to premiere a role of the reporter, and the cover role of Cegeste in his opera *Orpheus* at the American Rep Theater, Boston, and Brooklyn Academy of Music. Richard Dyer (music critic of *The Boston Globe*) wrote, "Brian is a rich, warm baritone with a compelling middle register."



### **Neil Nelson**

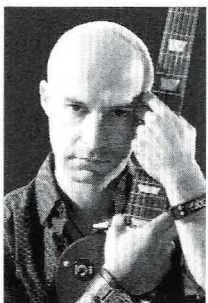
Neil Nelson graduated from New England Conservatory with a degree in music performance. Winning awards such as the Stephen Shrestinian Award for Excellence (Boston Lyric Opera), the Heinz Refuss Singing Actors Award (Orlando Opera), and placing top ten in the New York Metropolitan Opera auditions launched him into his professional career. Neil has performed lead roles with

Boston Lyric Opera, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Berkshire Opera, Orlando Opera, and Boston Symphony Orchestra. Some of his roles include Leporello in *Don Giovanni*, Papageno in *Die Zauberflote*, Figaro in *Le Nozze di Figaro* and Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.



## **Jon Robertson**

Jamaican born maestro Jon Robertson, dean of the Lynn University Conservatory of Music, enjoys a distinguished career as a pianist, conductor and academician. He began his piano studies with Ethel Leginska at age 7 and made his Town Hall debut in New York City at age 10. A graduate of The Juilliard School of Music, he studied piano performance under Beveridge Webster, choral conducting with Abraham Kaplan at Juilliard, orchestral conducting with Richard Pittman of the New England Conservatory of Music and Herbert Blomstedt, former director of the Gweandhaus Orchestra (Germany). His conducting career spans the globe from symphony orchestras in Norway, China, Egypt, South Africa and Austria to the Redlands Symphony Orchestra in California, where he has been principal conductor since 1982. Robertson is former chair of the Herb Alpert School of Music at UCLA. He continues to guest-conduct and to perform in concert as a member of the Cole-Robertson Trio.



## **Nelson Navarrete**

Nelson Navarrete is an American composer, performer, arranger, and producer. Born in Colombia, he started his musical studies at the age of 8 at the National University of Colombia (South America) Conservatory's youth program. Nelson has always been strongly motivated to create music with an open and unbiased attraction to different musical genres. He has attended the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana (Colombia), Broward College, Berklee College of Music, and he is currently studying composition in the master's program at the Lynn University Conservatory of Music, under the guidance of Thomas McKinley. As a composer, arranger and producer, Nelson's credentials include two albums of his music, original scores for ABC national network, and numerous commissions by The Boston String Quartet, Les Terrasses Ibiza, Lulu Gainsbourg, Lynn University and The Nathan Cole Foundation. Nelson has also performed in several projects including: "Doble Via" (Colombian Progressive rock band), the BCC Jazz big band and the president ensemble, Les Terrasses Ibiza, ABC, and solo project.

## About Lynn University

Lynn University is an independent, nonprofit university located in Boca Raton, Fla. The university is home to the Burton D. Morgan School of Aeronautics, the College of Business and Management, the Eugene M. and Christine E. Lynn College of International Communication, the College of Liberal Education, the Conservatory of Music, the Donald E. and Helen L. Ross College of Education and the Institute for Achievement and Learning. The university is dedicated to individualized learning, innovative approaches and an international focus. Lynn currently enrolls more than 2,000 students representing 44 U.S. states and 84 nations and competes in NCAA Division II.

## About the Philharmonia Orchestra

The Conservatory's Philharmonia Orchestra sets the standard for conservatory-level symphonic training. Now in its 19th season as a full symphony, the Philharmonia is an integral part of the education of the conservatory's graduate and undergraduate music students. It presents an annual series of high-quality concerts with a wide range of repertoire.

# Join us as we raise the curtain for our golden anniversary



Be a part of Lynn University's yearlong 50th anniversary celebration by joining us for an exceptional 2012-2013 Season of the Arts. We're capping five decades of achievement with a spectacular array of musical and dramatic performances on our campus. Many of them will take place in our magnificent Keith C. and Elaine Johnson Wold Performing Arts Center, which was dedicated in spring 2010.

The site of the final 2012 presidential debate, this 750-seat venue is rapidly becoming patrons' premier choice for its beauty, acoustics and comfort. Make your reservations today for an exciting—and historic—Season of the Arts at Lynn University.

**For more information, call 561-237-9000 or visit <http://events.lynn.edu>**



*Thank you!*

A special thank you to the **sponsors** who have made this event possible.

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