



2019–20 Season

Celebrate the richness of cultural experiences and connections

**CENTER FOR
PERFORMINGARTS**
Governors State University

2019–20 Season AT A GLANCE

SEPTEMBER 2019

**Chicago Southland
International Film Festival**

September 6-8

Opera Up Close All Stars

Sunday, September 22 at 4 p.m.

OCTOBER 2019

**United States Air Force Band
of Mid-America**

Sunday, October 6 at 4 p.m.

Jefferson Starship

50 Years of Rock

Homecoming Concert

Saturday, October 19 at 8 p.m.

NOVEMBER 2019

***The Laramie Project*, TAPS**

Friday, November 1 at 8 p.m.

Saturday, November 2 at 8 p.m.

Sunday, November 3 at 2 p.m.

Jungle Book

Sunday, November 10 at 2 p.m.

Crowns

Saturday, November 16 at 8 p.m.

Sunday, November 17 at 4 p.m.

DECEMBER 2019

Salt Creek Ballet's *The Nutcracker*

Saturday, December 7 at 1 & 5 p.m.

JANUARY 2020

Winter Comedy Festival

Saturday, January 25 at 8 p.m.

FEBRUARY 2020

**The Greatest Love of All:
A Tribute to Whitney Houston**

Starring Belinda Davids

Saturday, February 8 at 8 p.m.

Dar He: The Story of Emmett Till

Monday, February 24 at 7:30 p.m.

MARCH 2020

***Picnic*, TAPS**

Friday, March 27 at 8 p.m.

Saturday, March 28 at 8 p.m.

Sunday, March 29 at 2 p.m.

APRIL 2020

**Chicago Jazz Philharmonic
Legends and Lions**

Saturday, April 4 at 8 p.m.

From Tina to Beyonce:

**50 Years of Female Empowerment
GSU Dance Company, TAPS**

Thursday, April 16 at 7:30 p.m.

Viva Momix

Saturday, April 25 at 8 p.m.

TAPS (GSU Theatre and Performance Studies
Academic Production)

Ticket prices can be found on the inside back cover.

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**CENTER FOR
PERFORMINGARTS**

Governors State University

CenterTickets.net

708.235.2222



Dear Friends,

Welcome to Governors State University's Center for Performing Arts. This year GSU marks its 50th anniversary with special programming designed to celebrate our past, present, and future. This brochure introduces you to the 2019-20 landmark season.

It is important for a healthy campus and community to live in the midst of art. As you walk around the university, you will notice art everywhere, on the grounds, in the hallways, and in the lobby of the CPA. Our campus itself is one and the same with the internationally famous Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park.

GSU was founded in 1969, the year human beings first walked on the moon and thousands danced at Woodstock. We will honor our cultural roots with a performance by Jefferson Starship. We will also celebrate ten years of our Opera Up Close series. In November, Chuck Smith, GSU alumnus and honorary degree recipient, will direct *CROWNS*, supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Orbert Davis, also a GSU honorary degree recipient, will headline the Legends and Lions 50th Anniversary Gala.

Join us as we celebrate GSU's anniversary and, as an anniversary gift, please consider supporting our Arts in Education program, which opens the theater to thousands of underserved students to experience their first live performance. Your donation is an investment in the future, providing life-changing experiences for the next generation of theater goers.

Please visit **CenterTickets.net** for more information. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elaine P. Maimon".

Elaine P. Maimon, Ph.D.
President, *Governors State University*

CHICAGO SOUTHLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

PRESENTED BY  *Governors State*
UNIVERSITY



September 6–8, 2019

Visit www.govst.edu/csiff2019 for pricing and more information.



There's Sundance, Tribeca, Cannes, and now, The Chicago Southland International Film Festival, in its second year. Friday night will feature short comedy films followed by horror films and thrillers. Saturday continues the short film showcase with documentaries, dramas, experimental films, and international selections. The festival closes with feature full-length films on Sunday. Be among the first to screen works from these professional and emerging filmmakers.

Film Festival does not qualify as part of a flex package.

10th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Opera Up Close
All Stars



HOSTED BY JOHN CONCEPCION

Sunday, September 22 at 4 p.m.



Hoss Brock



Michael Cavalieri



Paul Hamilton
Pianist



Desiree Hassler



Carla Janzen



Kimberly Jones



Lisa Kristina
Pianist



Bill McMurray



Sarah Ponder



Dan Richardson



Diana Stoic
Richardson



Pamela Williams

Over 20 of your favorite musical numbers. 12 beloved artists. 10+ greatest composers. 5 languages. 2 masterful pianists. 1 charming host.

Don't miss **Opera Up Close's** 10th Anniversary Celebration as we bring back the voices and the music you loved the most. Our All-Star line-up returns with your favorite selections of musical theater, operetta, spiritual, folk, satirical novelty songs, and operatic numbers from **Bon Appétit!**, **Lift Every Voice** (Porgy and Bess), **The Telephone**, **Viva Italia** (La Bohème), **Best of Bernstein at 100**, **Love & Marriage** and more!

Join us at 2:30 p.m. for red carpet photos, specialty cocktails, and other surprises!

Reserve VIP box seats for personalized table service!



Encore Reception at 6 p.m.

Join the all-star cast for an encore performance of music and "behind the curtain" stories in the VIP Lounge. Enjoy fun and extravagant appetizers, anniversary cake, and raise a champagne toast to 10 years of beautiful music as you mingle with the singers.

JEFFERSON STARSHIP

50 YEARS OF ROCK



GSU Homecoming Weekend

Saturday, October 19 at 8 p.m.

Jefferson Starship rose from the ashes of another legendary San Francisco band, Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Inductees, Jefferson Airplane. Featuring original and historical members David Freiberg and drummer Donny Baldwin, along with longtime members Chris Smith on keyboards and synth bass, Jude Gold on lead guitar and GRAMMY-Nominee Cathy Richardson anchoring the female lead vocal spot made famous by the inimitable Grace Slick (who invited her to sing in her place at Jefferson Airplane's Lifetime Achievement Award acceptance ceremony). The music that defined a generation and spanned decades is alive and well and more relevant than ever in pop-culture as hits such as ***Somebody to Love, White Rabbit, Miracles, Jane, We Built This City, Ride the Tiger, Count on Me, Volunteers, Wooden Ships***, continue to reverberate throughout our collective consciousness today.

ORBERT DAVIS' CHICAGO JAZZ PHILHARMONIC: LEGENDS AND LIONS

Photo credit: Darren Jones



Orbert Davis

Justin Smith

Dee Alexander

Mwata Bowden

Saturday, April 4 at 8 p.m.

In commemoration of GSU's 50th Anniversary, Orbert Davis' Chicago Jazz Philharmonic brings its full 60-member symphonic jazz orchestra to the Center for Performing Arts with a signature production featuring jazz legends alongside young lion musicians.

Notable features include GSU alum and saxophonists Mwata Bowden (MA '79) and Justin Smith (BA '18); vocalist Dee Alexander singing beloved standards from the American songbook; a trumpet fanfare with Orbert Davis alongside his personal idols; and more special guests and surprises!

GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY 50TH ANNIVERSARY UN-GALA

For tickets to the un-Gala, which include reception, dinner, and show, call 708.534.4105 or visit govst.edu/ungala.

GSU Theatre and Performance Studies presents

The **LARAMIE PROJECT**

by Moisés Kaufman and the
Members of Tectonic Theater Project

Directed by Jane F. Cox

Friday, November 1 at 8 p.m.
Saturday, November 2 at 8 p.m.
Sunday, November 3 at 2 p.m.

Recommended for ages 14 and up.

A breathtaking collage that explores the depths to which humanity can sink and the heights of compassion to which humanity can soar.

In October 1998, a twenty-one-year-old University of Wyoming student was kidnapped, brutally beaten, and left tied to a fence in the middle of the prairie outside Laramie, Wyoming. His bloody and battered body would not be discovered until the next day, and he would die several days later in the hospital. His name was Matthew Shepard, and he was the victim of this brutal assault because he was gay.

Following the aftermath of the crime, Moisés Kaufman and fellow members of Tectonic Theater Project made six trips to Laramie over the next year and half. After conducting over 200 interviews with the residents of Laramie, Kaufman and the Tectonic members constructed a theatrical experience based on their interviews and their experiences in Laramie. **Limited, tiered, on-stage seating!**



DAR HE:

The Story of Emmett Till

A Mike Wiley Production

Monday, February 24 at 7:30 p.m.
Recommended for ages 12 and up.

In 1955, a 14-year-old black Chicago youth traveled to the Mississippi Delta with country kinfolk and southern cooking on his mind. He walked off the train and into a world he could never understand — a world of thick color lines, of hard-held class systems and unspeakable taboos. Young Emmett crossed that line and stepped into his gruesome fate by allegedly whistling at a white woman. Through conversations with a *Look* magazine journalist, Emmett's mother, and others caught up in the events that led to Till's devastating fate, this riveting play chronicles the murder, trial and unbelievable confessions of the men accused of Till's murder.

About Mike Wiley

Mike Wiley started his own production company with the goal of bringing stories of key African-American events and figures to life. Wiley has also appeared on Discovery Channel, The Learning Channel, and National Geographic Channel.

CROWNS

A Gospel Musical

by Regina Taylor adapted from the book by Michael Cunningham and Craig Marberry



Presented by MPAACT
Directed by Chuck Smith



Illustration credit: Olga Rogachevskaya

Crowns is a moving and celebratory musical in which hats become a springboard for an exploration of black history and identity as seen through 17-year-old Yolanda's eyes.

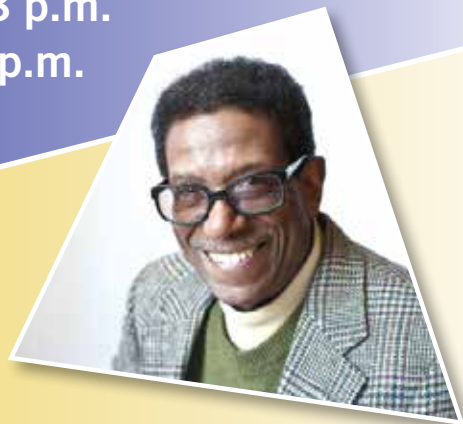
After Yolanda's brother is shot and killed in Brooklyn, her mother sends Yolanda down south to live with her Grandma Shaw where Yolanda is welcomed into her grandmother's inner circle of Hat Queens. Each woman's hat holds a story of a wedding, funeral, baptism as the women share their stories of how they moved through life. Yolanda realizes she's not alone in her challenges; the hats aren't just fashion statements - they are testimonies of sisterhood – they are hard earned Crowns.

Rap, hip-hop, spoken word, jazz, blues, R&B, but predominantly gospel music and dance underscore the story.

Taylor pulls off a Hat Trick:
She scores thrice, turning CROWNS into an artful amalgamation of oral history, fashion show, and musical theater...Hats off to Regina Taylor for a considerable achievement.

—TheaterMania.com

Saturday, November 16 at 8 p.m.
Sunday, November 17 at 4 p.m.



About Director Chuck Smith

Chuck Smith is Goodman Theatre's Resident Director. Goodman credits include the Chicago premieres of *Pullman Porter Blues*, *Meet Vera Stark*; *Race*; *The Good Negro*; and *Proof*; *A Raisin in the Sun*; *Blues for an Alabama Sky*; August Wilson's *Two Trains Running* and *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*; *Ain't Misbehavin'*. He served as dramaturg for the Goodman's world-premiere production of August Wilson's *Gem of the Ocean*. He won a Chicago Emmy Award as associate producer/theatrical director for the NBC teleplay *Crime of Innocence* and was theatrical director for the Emmy-winning *Fast Break to Glory* and the Emmy-nominated *The Martin Luther King Suite*.



This program is generously supported by the National Endowment for the Arts with additional contributions from Arts Midwest's nine-member state arts agencies and the Crane Group.



Southern Tea Party Sunday, November 17 at 2 p.m.

Wear your best Sunday hat, enjoy delicious savories, scones, and sweets, and sip a selection of Southern ice and hot sweet teas before the show.

Winter Comedy Festival

PRESENTED BY GSU STUDENT LIFE

featuring

LEVI DHA KOMEDIAN



PRINCE T-DUB



J BELL



Saturday, January 25 at 8 p.m.

Timothy Wilson AKA Prince T-Dub's performance style of saying what people think but don't always have the courage to say has landed him an unwavering social media following of over 1 million. Inspired by Tyler Perry, he started writing and sharing his own stories with others when he was just 15 years old. He has opened for some comedy greats including the Queen of comedy Mo'Nique.

Detroit stand-up comedian **J Bell** has over 10 years of experience performing at comedy clubs across the country and was recently featured on Kevin Hart's *Hart of the City*.

Levi Dha Komedian is one of the hottest up and-coming stand-up comics in the Chicagoland area. He has opened for comedians such as Michael Blackson, B. Cole, and Damon Williams.

Mature Content. Recommended for audiences 18+

THE GREATEST LOVE OF ALL:

A TRIBUTE TO WHITNEY HOUSTON

starring

Belinda Davids

Presented by *Showtime* ★



Saturday, February 8 at 8 p.m.

Whitney Houston's musical legacy is brought to life in this critically acclaimed show with breathtaking vocals by chart-topping artist **Belinda Davids** – as seen on FOX TV's Showtime at the Apollo and the winner of BBC TV's Even Better Than the Real Thing.

Accompanied by a live band, backing vocalists and dancers, and featuring state-of-the-art sound, lighting, visuals, and theatrical effects, this two-hour production will fill you with joy, nostalgia and wonderment as it takes you on a heartfelt journey through Houston's greatest hits including ***I Will Always Love You, I Wanna Dance With Somebody, How Will I Know, Greatest Love of All***, and many more.

*This production is presented by Showtime Australia which is not affiliated with the Estate of Whitney Houston.



Share Your Love Valentine's Reception 6 p.m.

Savor sumptuous bites and decadent desserts complemented by four wine flights (2 oz samples) and a glass of your favorite.

GSU Theatre and Performance Studies presents



Picnic

by William Inge

**Directed by
Michael Menendian**

On a sweltering Labor Day morning, the women of a small Kansas town are preparing for their annual picnic. Flo Owens has hopes that her beautiful daughter Madge will get a proposal from Alan, the local millionaire's son. Madge's younger sister Millie, the "smart one", yearns to leave her small town behind. Good-natured Mrs. Potts is happy to get a break from taking care of her aged mother. And spinster school-teacher Rosemary Sydney cheerfully keeps her boyfriend Howard at arms' length.

**Friday, March 27 at 8 p.m.
Saturday, March 28 at 8 p.m.
Sunday, March 29 at 2 p.m.**

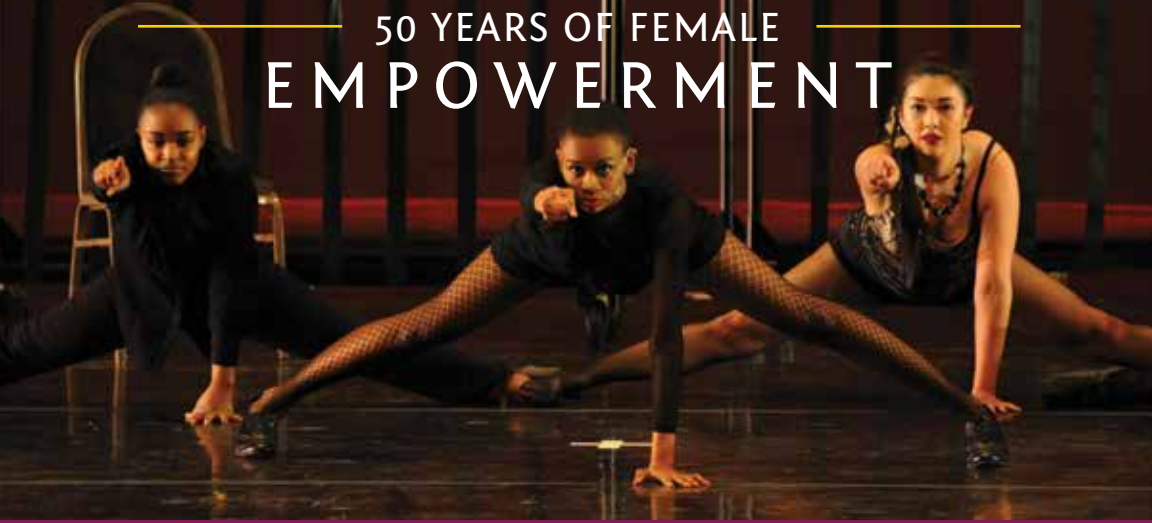
This seemingly peaceful, matriarchal environment is disrupted when Hal Carter – a muscular and charming young drifter – hops off the freight train, and straight into Mrs. Potts' hospitable home. Hearts are broken and lives are changed in the following twenty-four hours as Hal's lively, dangerous, masculine energy wakes up the sleepy community. Set in the 1950s this Pulitzer-Prize-winning drama explores themes of sexuality, repression, rites of passage, and disappointment.

**Limited, tiered, on-stage seating!
PG-13 APPROPRIATE**

GSU Dance Company presents

from **Tina** to **Beyoncé**

50 YEARS OF FEMALE
EMPOWERMENT



“I believe that if you’ll just stand up and go, life will open up for you.”

– Tina Turner

Thursday, April 16 at 7:30 p.m.

The GSU Dance Company, Fatal Dance, and special guests pay homage to strong, empowered, fearless women who have inspired generations to stand up for what they believe, stay strong, and be the change they would like to see in the world. Feminine power and values – love, compassion, resilience, and community – have inspired dance from artists such as Beyoncé, Destiny’s Child, Nina Simone, Janet Jackson, Rhianna, Tina Turner, Jennifer Lopez, Lady Gaga, Diana Ross, Donna Summer and more!



PG-13 APPROPRIATE

VIVA MOMIX

Experience the Exceptional...Expect the Unexpected!



Photo credit: Eddy Fernandez



Photo credit: Max Pucciariello



Photo credit: John Kane

Saturday, April 25 at 8 p.m.

Known internationally for presenting work of exceptional inventiveness and physical beauty, MOMIX is a company of dancer-illusionists under the direction of Moses Pendleton. Transporting audiences from their everyday lives to a fantasy world through its trademark use of magical lighting and imagery, MOMIX has thrilled fans in over 22 countries and has been featured on stage, screen and television.

In an endless search for another gravity, MOMIX combines athletic dance, astonishing acrobatics, riveting music, outrageous costumes, inventive props, and pure talent to create an entertaining multimedia experience that will surprise, enchant, and astonish.



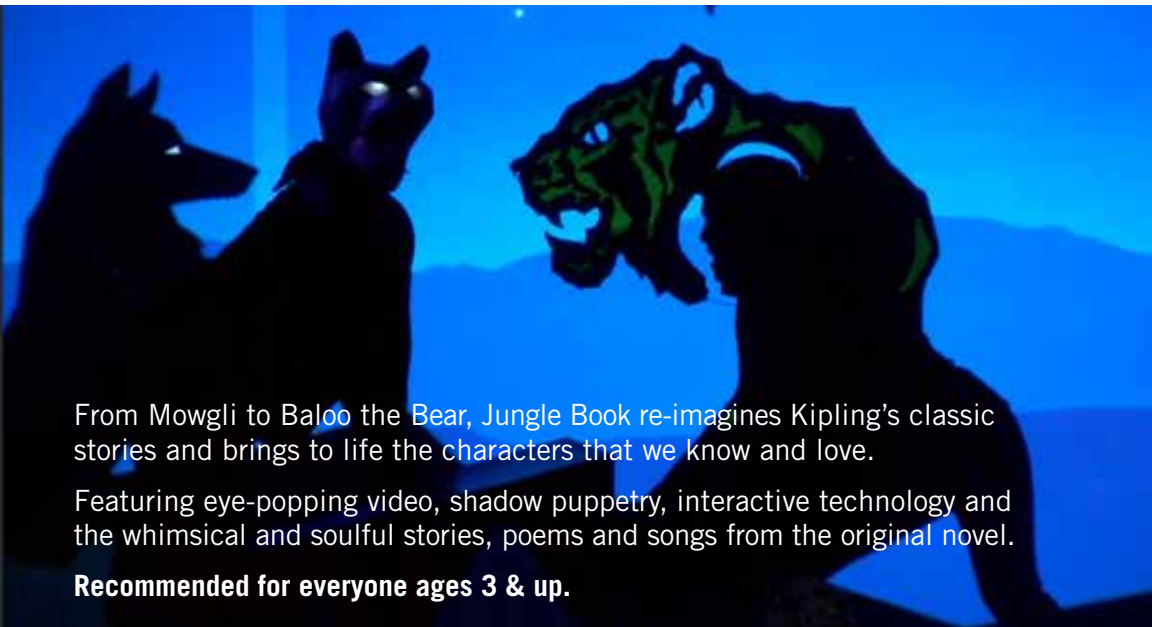
This engagement is supported by the Arts Midwest Touring Fund, a program of Arts Midwest that is funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional contributions from Illinois Arts Council and the Crane Group.

Jungle Book

Written by Craig Francis and Rick Miller
Based on the book by Rudyard Kipling

Sunday, November 10 at 2 p.m.

**BUNDLE
Family Fun
shows and
save with a
FLEX PACKAGE**



From Mowgli to Baloo the Bear, Jungle Book re-imagines Kipling's classic stories and brings to life the characters that we know and love.

Featuring eye-popping video, shadow puppetry, interactive technology and the whimsical and soulful stories, poems and songs from the original novel.

Recommended for everyone ages 3 & up.

Salt Creek Ballet

The Nutcracker

Saturday, December 7 at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m.



A magical tale featuring Tchaikovsky's enchanting score, festive sets and costumes, waltzing flowers, giant mice, and the Sugar Plum Fairy. A delightful holiday tradition for all ages!

**Sugar Plum Party and
pictures with Santa at 3 p.m.**

SAVE WITH A FLEX PACKAGE

Buy 3 or more shows to:

- Save 15%
- Access pre-sale (July 17-31) to receive best seats
- Receive ticket refund privileges*

To receive discount, three or more shows must be purchased in one order.

**Flex packages qualify for exchanges and refunds within a 48-hour notice prior to curtain.*

BUY 10+ TICKETS AND ENJOY GROUP BENEFITS:

- Save 15-20%
- Access pre-sale (July 17-31) to receive best seats
- Waived handling fees
- Flexible payment policy

Visit govst.edu/BoxOffice or call 708.235.2222 for information about discounts, pricing, and box office policies. Some restrictions apply. Discounted tickets are not available online. Purchaser must inform box office that a discount may apply when ordering. Discounts may not be combined.

DIRECTIONS & PARKING

From I-57, take exit on Stuenkel Rd/ University Pkwy east and turn right at GSU entrance. For more directions, visit CenterTickets.net.

PARKING IS FREE



NATHAN MANILOW SCULPTURE PARK

Heralded as one of the top ten sculpture parks in the world, this outdoor sanctuary is strikingly beautiful throughout all four seasons and remains open 365 days a year pending weather conditions. Visit govst.edu/sculpture for more information.



Oscar's Inclination 1982
Michael Dunbar
painted steel
Gift of Dr. Christopher Graf

TO PLACE YOUR TICKET ORDER

Call **708.235.2222** or stop by the box office during hours:

Monday – Friday: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Open until 6 p.m. on Thursdays.

The Box Office is open two hours prior to curtain and through intermission.

Online at **www.CenterTickets.net**

PLAN YOUR VISIT to BUNDLE AND SAVE

REGULAR PRICES

FLEX PRICES

OPENING NIGHT	VIP Box	Main Front	Main Rear	Child	Spec Event	VIP Box	Main Front	Main Rear	Child	# of Tix	Subtotal
Opera All Stars	\$65	\$50	\$40	\$20	\$50	\$55	\$43	\$34	\$17		
2019-2020 EVENTS	Main Front	Main Rear	Mezz/ Front Bal	Child	Spec Event	Main Front	Main Rear	Mezz/ Front Bal	Child		
Jefferson Starship	\$60	\$50	\$45	N/A		\$51	\$43	\$38	N/A		
Laramie Project*+	\$15			N/A		\$13			N/A		
Jungle Book	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$20		\$21	\$21	\$21	\$17		
Crowns	\$39	\$34	\$29	\$20	\$50	\$33	\$29	\$25	\$17		
Nutcracker	\$45	\$45	\$40	\$20	FREE	\$38	\$38	\$34	\$17		
Comedy Fest*	\$25			N/A		\$21			N/A		
Greatest Love of All	\$60	\$50	\$45	\$20	\$50	\$51	\$43	\$38	\$17		
<i>DAR HE*</i>	\$15			N/A		\$13			N/A		
Picnic*+	\$15			N/A		\$13			N/A		
Legends & Lions	\$65	\$55	\$45	\$20		\$55	\$47	\$38	\$17		
Tina to Beyoncé*	\$15			N/A		\$13			N/A		
Viva Momix	\$55	\$50	\$45	\$20		\$47	\$43	\$38	\$17		

*General Admission Seating

+Indicates on-stage seating

Processing Fees apply for phone and online orders.

Reserve FREE Tickets to the **United States Air Force Mid-America Concert Band** on **Sunday, October 6 at 4 p.m.** Limit 4 tickets per households. Tickets are free. Reservations are required through the box office or online. This show does not qualify as part of a flex package. Tickets reservations accepted starting August 1. Flex buyers may reserve July 17-31.



CENTER FOR
PERFORMINGARTS

Governors State University

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University Park, IL 60484

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