

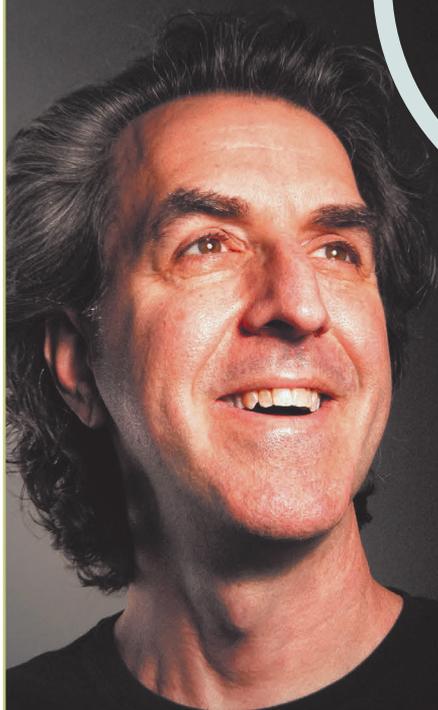
Wiley Hausam, Director
Daniel Gurskis, Dean, College of the Arts



PRESENTS

AN EVENING WITH
JASON ROBERT
BROWN

FEATURING
ASHLEY PÉREZ FLANÁGAN
AND NASIA THOMAS



Thursday February 19, 2026, 7:30 PM

Alexander Kasser Theater

MONTCLAIR
STATE UNIVERSITY

An Evening with Jason Robert Brown

Featuring

Ashley Pérez Flanagan and **Nasia Thomas**

Musicians

Hidayat Honari Guitar

Sam Minaie Bass

Jamie Eblen Drums

Alison Shearer Woodwinds

About the Artists



Photo: Joe Mazza/BraveLux

Jason Robert Brown is the ultimate multi-hyphenate—an equally skilled composer, lyricist, conductor, arranger, orchestrator, director, and performer—best known for his dazzling scores to several of the most renowned musicals of our time, including the generation-defining *The Last Five Years* (revived on Broadway in 2025 with Nick Jonas and Adrienne

Warren); his debut song cycle *Songs for a New World*; and the seminal *Parade*, winner of the 1999 Tony Award for Best Score and the 2023 Tony for Best Revival of a Musical.

Brown has been hailed as “one of Broadway’s smartest and most sophisticated songwriters since Stephen Sondheim” (*Philadelphia Inquirer*), and his “extraordinary, jubilant theater music” (*Chicago Tribune*) has been heard all over the world, whether in one of the hundreds of productions of his musicals every year or in his own incendiary live performances. Brown’s score for *The Bridges of Madison County*, a musical adapted with Marsha Norman from the bestselling novel, received two Tony Awards (for Best Score and Orchestrations). *Honeymoon in Vegas*, based on Andrew Bergman’s film, opened on Broadway in 2015 following a triumphant production at Paper Mill Playhouse. A film version of his epochal Off-Broadway musical *The Last Five Years* was released in 2015, starring Anna Kendrick and Jeremy Jordan and directed by Richard LaGravenese. His major musicals as composer and lyricist include *13*, written with Robert Horn and Dan

Elish, which opened on Broadway on 2008 and became a celebrated Netflix musical in 2022; *The Last Five Years*, which was cited as one of *Time Magazine's* 10 Best of 2001 and won Drama Desk Awards for Best Music and Best Lyrics (and was later directed by the composer in its record-breaking Off-Broadway run at Second Stage Theater in 2013); *Parade*, written with Alfred Uhry and directed by Harold Prince, which won both the Drama Desk and New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards for Best New Musical, as well as garnering Brown the Tony Award for Original Score; and *Songs for a New World*, a theatrical song cycle directed by Daisy Prince, which has since been seen in hundreds of productions around the world since its 1995 Off-Broadway debut, including a celebrated revival at New York's City Center in the summer of 2018. *Parade* was also the subject of two major revivals: the first, directed by Rob Ashford, at London's Donmar Warehouse and then at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles; and the second, Michael Arden's Tony-winning 2023 Broadway production starring Ben Platt and Micaela Diamond. In 2022, Brown collaborated with comedy legend Billy Crystal on a Broadway musical of *Mr. Saturday Night* with lyrics by Amanda Green and a book by Lowell Ganz and Babaloo Mandel. Brown conducted his orchestral adaptation of E.B. White's novel *The Trumpet of the Swan* with the National Symphony Orchestra and recorded the score for PS Classics. Last year saw the premieres of two new JRB shows: *The Connector*, created with Jonathan Marc Sherman and Daisy Prince, which completed a triumphant run at New York's MCC Theater; and *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, written with Taylor Mac based on John Berendt's book and directed by Rob Ashford, currently in preparation for its Broadway premiere after playing at Chicago's Goodman Theatre.

Brown is the winner of the 2018 Louis Auchincloss Prize, the 2002 Kleban Award for Outstanding Lyrics, and the 1996 Gilman & Gonzalez-Falla Foundation Award for Musical Theatre. Brown's songs, including the cabaret standard "Stars and the Moon," have been performed and recorded by Ariana Grande, Jennifer Nettles, Brandi Carlile, Audra McDonald, Kristin Chenoweth, Billy Porter, Betty Buckley, Renée Fleming, Jon Hendricks, and many others.

As a soloist or with his band, Brown has performed concerts around the world, including his solo debut at Carnegie Hall in 2024 and a sold-

out performance at the London Palladium with Cynthia Erivo. For six years, his monthly performances at New York's SubCulture featured many of the music and theater world's most extraordinary performers, including a star-studded concert at Town Hall with Stephen Sondheim, which can be heard on the Concord release *Jason Robert Brown and Stephen Sondheim: Live in Concert*. His previous collection, *Coming from Inside the House*, featuring Ariana Grande and Shoshana Bean, commemorates the final SubCulture concert, recorded remotely during the pandemic. His other albums, *How We React and How We Recover* and *Wearing Someone Else's Clothes* are available from Ghostlight/Sh-K-Boom Records. Brown's 2012 concert with Anika Noni Rose was broadcast on PBS, and he was the featured soloist for an episode of BBC Radio's long-running *Friday Night Is Music Night*, broadcast live from the London Palladium and featuring the BBC Concert Orchestra. His collaboration with singer Lauren Kennedy, *Songs of Jason Robert Brown*, is available on PS Classics. Brown is also the composer of the incidental music for the Broadway revival of *You Can't Take It with You*, David Lindsay-Abaire's *Kimberly Akimbo* and *Fuddy Meers*, and Kenneth Lonergan's *The Waverly Gallery*, and he was a Tony Award nominee for his contributions to the score of *Urban Cowboy the Musical*. He has also contributed music to the hit Nickelodeon television series *The Wonder Pets*, as well as *Sesame Street*. Brown spent ten years teaching at the USC School of Dramatic Arts and has also taught at Harvard University, Princeton University, and Emerson College.

For the musical *Prince of Broadway*, a celebration of the career of his mentor Harold Prince, Brown was the musical supervisor and arranger. Other New York credits as conductor and arranger include *Urban Cowboy the Musical* on Broadway; *Dinah Was*, Off-Broadway and on national tour; *When Pigs Fly* off-Broadway; William Finn's *A New Brain* at Lincoln Center Theater; the 1992 tribute to Stephen Sondheim at Carnegie Hall (recorded by RCA Victor); Yoko Ono's *New York Rock* at the WPA Theatre; and Michael John LaChiusa's *The Petrified Prince* at the Public Theater. Brown orchestrated Andrew Lipka's *john and jen*, Off-Broadway at Lamb's Theatre. Additionally, Brown served as the orchestrator and arranger of Charles Strouse and Lee Adams's score for a proposed musical of *Star Wars*. Brown has conducted and created arrangements and orchestrations for Liza Minnelli, John Pizzarelli, and Michael Feinstein, among many others.

Brown studied composition at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY, with Samuel Adler, Christopher Rouse, and Joseph Schwantner. He lives with his wife, composer Georgia Stitt, and their daughters in Nyack, NY. Brown is a proud member of the Dramatists Guild and the American Federation of Musicians Local 802.
www.jasonrobertbrown.com.



Ashley Pérez Flanagan has Broadway credits including *Freestyle Love Supreme* and *Natasha, Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812*. Select Off-Broadway credits include *Oratorio for Living Things* (Signature Theatre and Ars Nova, Lortel Award), *Safety Not Guaranteed* (BAM), *The Connector* (MCC Theater), *The Beautiful Lady* (La MaMa), *Morning//Mourning* (HERE), *In the Green* (LCT3, Lortel Award nomination), *The Lucky Ones* (Ars Nova), and *Hadestown* (NYTW). Regional credits include *Bye Bye Birdie* (5th Avenue Theatre), Williamstown Theatre Festival, *Cowboy Bob* (Alley Theatre), *The Tattooed Lady* (Philadelphia Theatre Company, Barrymore Award nomination), *Life After* (Goodman Theatre), *A Crossing* (Barrington Stage Company), *Moby-Dick* (A.R.T.), *The Great Comet of 1812* (A.R.T.), *Prometheus Bound* (A.R.T.), *Evita*, *West Side Story*, and *The Sound of Music*. Concerts include Carnegie Hall, Jazz at Lincoln Center, Joe's Pub, 54 Below. Film credits include *The Kitchen*.



Nasia Thomas just concluded her run as the principal standby for Cathy in the Broadway production of *The Last Five Years*. She made her Broadway debut in *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* and went on to perform in *Ain't Too Proud*, *Caroline or Change*, and as Anna of Cleves in the smash Broadway production *Six: The Musical*. She made a powerful impression starring as Cathy Hiatt in Out of the Box Theatrics' award-winning streamed production of *The Last Five Years* in 2021. Other credits include Off-Broadway: *Jelly's Last Jam*; select Regional: The Muny, Sacramento Music Circus, and TUTS; and TV: *The 4400* and *Harlem*. Thomas is a proud graduate of Elon Music Theatre and the Governor's School for the Arts. IG: @nasiathomas



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College of the Arts

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