

Wiley Hausam, Director

Daniel Gurskis, Dean, College of the Arts



PRESENTS



2026 US Tour

Sunday, February 22, 2026, 3:00 PM

Alexander Kasser Theater

**MONTCLAIR**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

## Staff and Credits

### Production Credits

Book, Music, and Lyrics by **Jonathan Larson**

Musical Arrangements by **Steve Skinner**

Original Concept/Additional Lyrics by **Billy Aronson**

Music Supervision and Additional Arrangements by **Tim Weil**

Dramaturg **Lynn Thomson**

Orchestrations by **Sean O'Loughlin**

Director **Sara Brians**

Music Director, Conductor **Heidi Joosten**

Symphonic Accompaniment by **Contemporaneous**

### Cast (in order of appearance)

**Kris Carrasco** singing the songs of *Angel*

**Ruchir Khazanchi** singing the songs of *Benny*

**Candice Woods** singing the songs of *Joanne*

**Tommy Kaiser** singing the songs of *Mark*

**Alex Lugo** singing the songs of *Maureen*

**Jasiana Caraballo** singing the songs of *Mimi*

**Ben Cherington** singing the songs of *Roger*

**Terrance Lamont** singing the songs of *Tom Collins*

Ensemble **Chachi Delgado, Joseph DePietro, Rodney McKinner,**

**Nisa Mercado, Leonay Reina**

### Contemporaneous Members

**Helen Newby** Cello

**Milena Gligic** Keyboard

**Jordan Bartow** Cello

**Daniel Linden** Trombone

**Eileen Mack** Clarinet

**Hugh Ash** Trumpet

**Adam Holmes** Drums

**Dudley Raine IV** Viola

**Pat Swoboda** Electric Bass

**Tiani Butts** Violin

**Tim Hommowun** Flute/Oboe

**Miguel Calleja** Violin

**Neil Beckmann** Guitar

**Daniel Constant** Violin

**Violetta Norrie** Harp

**Ben Goldstein** Violin

**Grant Abelson** Horn

**Justus Ross** Violin

Program Subject to Change

**Running Time:** Two hours, 10 minutes, including one 20-minute intermission.

*RENT* was originally produced in New York by New York Theatre Workshop and on Broadway by Jeffrey Seller, Kevin McCollum, Allan S. Gordon, and New York Theatre Workshop.

*RENT in Concert* created and produced by AMP Worldwide.

This production of *RENT in Concert* is licensed by Music Theatre International.

MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL [[www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com)] is one of the world's leading theatrical licensing agencies, granting theatres from around the world the rights to perform the greatest selection of musicals from Broadway and beyond. Founded in 1952 by composer Frank Loesser and orchestrator Don Walker, MTI is a driving force in advancing musical theatre as a vibrant and engaging art form. MTI works directly with the composers, lyricists, and book writers of these musicals to provide official scripts, musical materials, and dynamic theatrical resources to over 100,000 professional, community, and school theatres in the US and in over 150 countries worldwide. MTI is particularly dedicated to educational theatre and has created special collections to meet the needs of various types of performers and audiences. MTI's Broadway Junior® shows are 30- and 60-minute musicals for performance by elementary and middle school-aged performers, while MTI's School Editions are musicals annotated for performance by high school students.

## Program Notes

### About *RENT in Concert*

An ensemble of stellar vocalists and instrumentalists come together to share the iconic music of *RENT* like never before. This symphonic take on Jonathan Larson's beloved musical encompasses the full score of the show, including favorites like "Seasons of Love," "La Vie Bohème," and "Take Me or Leave Me."

Set in the East Village of New York City, *RENT* is about falling in love, finding your voice, and living for today. Winner of the Tony Award for Best Musical and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, *RENT* has become a pop cultural phenomenon with songs that rock and a story that resonates with audiences of all ages.

Based loosely on Puccini's *La Bohème*, Jonathan Larson's *RENT* follows a year in the life of a group of impoverished young artists and musicians struggling to survive and create in New York City's Lower East Side, under the shadow of HIV/AIDS. The physical and emotional complications of the disease pervade the lives of Roger, Mimi, Tom, and Angel. Maureen deals with her chronic infidelity through performance art while her partner, Joanne, wonders if their relationship is worth the trouble. Benny has sold out his Bohemian ideals in exchange for a hefty income and is on the outs with his former friends. Mark, an aspiring filmmaker, feels like an outsider to life in general. How these young bohemians negotiate their dreams, loves, and conflicts provides the narrative thread to this groundbreaking musical.

# About the Artists

## Creative Team



**Sara Brians** (Director) is an award-winning director and choreographer who loves developing new musicals in addition to directing and choreographing revivals. Brians's Broadway credits include *Matilda*, *Billy Elliot*, *White Christmas*, *The Hills of California*, *42nd Street*, *The Terms of My Surrender*, and *After the Night and the Music*. Regional directing credits include *Waitress*, *Rock of Ages*, *Godspell*, *Cabaret*, and *Matilda*, and choreography credits include *White*

*Christmas*, *Anything Goes*, *Mary Poppins*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Shrek*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and *Spring Awakening* among others. She has directed and choreographed numerous industrials, concerts, and entertainment events worldwide, including additional choreography for *Born to Dance* with Princess Cruise Line. She has performed, directed, and choreographed for prestigious institutions including the Radio City Rockettes, the Kennedy Center, New York City Center Encores!, Goodspeed Opera House, the 5th Avenue Theatre, Asolo Repertory Theatre, Theatre Aspen, and many more. She holds a BA in Cultural Anthropology from Hunter College and is an associate professor of musical theater at the University of Oklahoma's Weitzenhoffer School of Musical Theatre. sarabrians.com



**Heidi Joosten** (Music Director, Conductor) is a Jeff Award-winning music director, composer, orchestrator, multi-instrumentalist, and educator. Since 2014, she has contributed to 125+ new theatrical, comedic, and concert productions across the globe. Her international national live-to-picture credits include *The Witcher in Concert* (music director/conductor); *Avatar: The Last Airbender in Concert*—1st National and 20th Anniversary tours

(associate conductor); *Naruto: The Symphonic Experience* (associate conductor, orchestrator, score supervisor); *Labyrinth in Concert* (orchestrator); *Barbie: Live in Concert* at the Hollywood Bowl and Royal Albert Hall (associate conductor, score supervisor); *Tokyo Ghoul: 10th Anniversary Concert* (score supervisor), and *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse* (associate conductor). Chicago highlights include *Children of Eden* (Broadway in Chicago), *Assassins* (Theo Ubique, 2024 Jeff Award for Music Direction), *American Psycho* and *Alice by Heart* (Kokandy Productions, both Jeff-nominated), *Beauty and the Beast* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater), *Don't Quit Your Daydream* (The Second City), *Grease* (Drury Lane Theatre), and *Hunchback of Notre Dame in Concert* with the Elgin Symphony. An active classical and educational composer, her award-winning work has been performed throughout the US, Canada, Europe, and Australia. She holds composition degrees from UW-Eau Claire and CCPA and is a member of ASCAP and the Dramatists Guild. IG: @heidijoosten, www.heidijoosten.com

## Cast



**Jasiana Caraballo** (Mimi Marquez), a Chicago-native, is thrilled to go back Out Tonight! Recent credits include *RENT in Concert* (Seegerstrom Center for the Arts), *Pump Up the Volume* (The Hudson Theatres), *Cindy & the Disco Ball* (Garry Marshall Theatre), *Joseph...Dreamcoat* (La Mirada), and *Dogman: The Musical* (National Tour.) Caraballo is thankful for every role that allows her to explore a character's heart and journey and is continually inspired by the communities each show creates. She extends her heartfelt thanks to her team at Aperture Talent and Rothman Andres Entertainment for their dedication and sends endless love to her family and all of her loved ones, whose support grounds and uplifts her every day. Welcome to the show! Let's measure this night in love!



**Kris Carrasco** (Angel Dumott), Latino sensation (and American menace), marks their National Tour debut with this production! Credits include Off-Broadway: *House of Telescopes* (Cartographer); Regional: *Chasing Rainbows* (World Premiere), *Tuck Everlasting* (Jesse Tuck, under the direction of Broadway's Joe Barros), as well as many new musical workshops and readings in New York City. You can also hear Carrasco on the studio cast recording of *SUEÑOS: Our American Musical* (currently being developed for Broadway audiences), streaming now. To everyone with a dream, NEVER give up. Thank you DGRW, Penn State University, the radical power of queer friendship, and every mentor past and present. This performance is dedicated to his brothers Nathan, Joseph, and Alex, and to the Black and Brown Queer and Trans Community. @KrisDCarrasco



**Ben Cherington** (Roger Davis) is honored to be performing alongside this company. Previous national tours include *Parade* and *Les Misérables*. Other favorite credits include *Sweet Smell of Success* (MasterVoices, Jazz at Lincoln Center), *A Christmas Carol*, *Godspell*, *Kinky Boots* (Pittsburgh CLO), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (ACT of Connecticut), and *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* (Clinton Showboat Theatre). Endless gratitude for all the places and people Cherington calls home. BFA Carnegie Mellon School of Drama.



**Chachi Delgado** (Ensemble) is super excited to return to *RENT in Concert!* An Afro-Latino originally from the Bay Area, his credits include the recent 20th Anniversary Benefit Concert of *In the Heights*, directed by KO, multiple productions of *Mystic Pizza*, including at Paper Mill Playhouse and Riverside Theater, and regional productions of *My Fair Lady*, *Choir Boy*, *Evita*, *Fun Home*, *A Chorus Line*, *Into the Woods*, *Follies*, and *Hello, Dolly!* Television and film

work includes *Loop* (Disney+), *Freaky Tales* (Lionsgate), and commercials for McDonald's and Toyota. Delgado was also a choreographer and dancer for the video game NBA 2K25. "Big shout out to Korsa Musical Theater, dear friends, big family, and Whole Artist Management. Dropout 20."



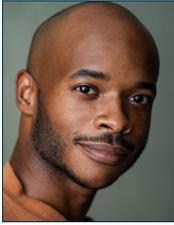
**Joseph DePietro** (Ensemble) is an actor, singer, director, and teaching artist based in New York City. Credits include Broadway/Tour: *The Phantom of the Opera*; TV: *Law and Order*; select Regional and Concert work: *The Unofficial Bridgerton Musical* at the Kennedy Center, *Altar Boyz*, *Hair*, *Jersey Boys*, *Ragtime*, and *1776*. DePietro is passionate about his work with Co\_Lab Theater Group, who use theater to provide an artistic and social outlet to folks with developmental disabilities. Favorite role to date: uncle to the best nephews and niece imaginable. [www.josephdepietro.com](http://www.josephdepietro.com) or IG @josephdepietro. No day but today.



**Tommy Kaiser** (Mark Cohen) (he/him) is over the moon to be touring with *RENT in Concert* following his performance in the production with the San Diego Symphony. He is also an alum of the 25th Anniversary National Tour of *RENT* (Swing, u/s Mark, u/s Roger). Other recent credits include *Frozen* (Hans), *Jersey Boys* (Swing, u/s Frankie Valli), and featured artist on *In Pieces: A New Musical* (Highlights). Endless gratitude to Ally Taylor Artists & Zuri Agency, the *RENT in Concert* team, and to his friends and family for their boundless support. @tommykaiser\_



**Ruchir Khazanchi** (Benjamin Coffin III) is an actor, writer, and musician originally from Omaha, NE. As a musician and songwriter, he is currently working on his debut EP, entitled *True American*. His writing projects have been semifinalists for the National Music Theater Conference and the National Alliance for Musical Theatre Conference. He is represented by Lohne/Graham Management. Theater credits include *Dolly: A True Original Musical* (The Fisher Center for Performing Arts), *Once* (Syracuse Stage), *Legally Blonde* (Paramount Aurora), *Mr. Dickens' Hat* (Northlight Theatre), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Lyric Opera of Chicago), *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity* (TheatreSquared), *Guards at the Taj* (Chester Theatre Company), *The Apple Tree* (Porchlight Music Theatre), *Heaven Is a Place in the Sky* (The Tank), *Something in the Game* (American Music Theatre Project), *Kiss* (Haven Chicago), and *Mâyá* (Symphony Space). Film credits include *The Becomers* (Dark Star Pictures) and *Thumb* (Weed Road Pictures/Bluestone Entertainment). Khazanchi is a Northwestern Theatre Alum. Thank you to my friends, family, and teachers. Instagram: @ruchir.khazanchi [www.ruchirkhazanchi.com](http://www.ruchirkhazanchi.com)



**Terrance Lamont** (Tom Collins) is overjoyed to be reprising his dream role with *RENT in Concert!* His performance credits include *RENT* (Collins) at the Muny, the Kennedy Center, and Paper Mill Playhouse; *BHANGIN' IT* (Jake) at La Jolla Playhouse; and *Dreamgirls* (C.C. White) on the National/International Tour. He sends much love to his friends and family for their unending support! Socials @TerranceLmnt



**Alex Lugo** (Maureen Johnson) (they/them) is a Black, Queer, and Nonbinary artist from Miami, FL. Lugo has been seen on Broadway in the Tony Award–winning *Hadestown*, as Toby on HBOMAX's *And Just Like That*, and on *The Late Late Late Show with James Corden*. For my family, Adreanna, Ben, and TNB2S+ pioneers. With endless gratitude to the DGRW Team. @alexmarialugo alexmlugo.com



**Rodney McKinner** (Ensemble) is from Memphis, TN. His passion for singing and performing began when he was a young child, and his love for the stage has only grown deeper over time. After receiving his BFA in Musical Theatre from the University of Oklahoma in 2023, McKinner went on to complete two contracts as a lead vocalist with Royal Caribbean International. During this time, he had the opportunity to sing and travel all over the world, visiting over 25 countries. He would like to thank his friends, family, teachers, and wonderful agents at Henderson Hogan for their constant support. IG: @rodney.mckinner



**Nisa Mercado** (Ensemble) is thrilled to be back with AMP Worldwide for *RENT in Concert*. Her favorite credits include *The Wiz*—Virginia Repertory Theatre and *A Chorus Line*—Virginia Theatre Festival. She attended Shenandoah Conservatory for her BFA in Musical Theatre. She wants to thank her wife, mom, grandparents, and friends for their endless love and support.



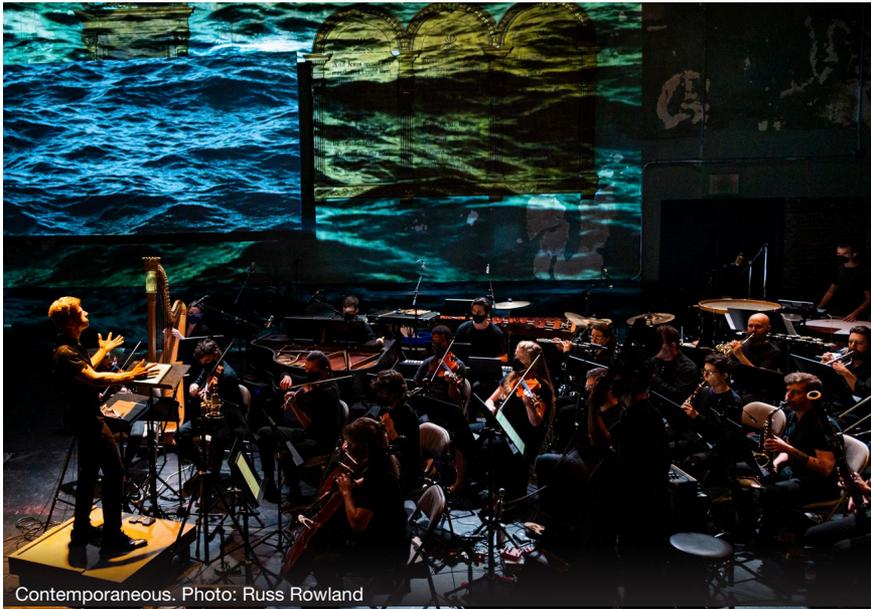
**Leonay Reina** (Ensemble) is thrilled to be a part of *RENT in Concert on Tour!* Credits include Off-Broadway: *Little Miss Sunshine* (Second Stage Theatre); Regional: *EVITA* (American Repertory Theater, Shakespeare Theatre Company), *Because of Winn-Dixie* (Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Delaware Theatre Company); Film/TV: *Good Funk* (dir. Adam Kritzer), *Nicki* (Freeform, unreleased). Other credits include *9 to 5* (Doralee Rhodes), *She Loves Me* (Ilona), and *Pippin* (Leading Player). Reina holds a Pace BFA in Musical Theater. @leonayreina



**Candice Marie Woods** (Joanne Jefferson) (they/she) is thrilled to join the company of *RENT in Concert*, lending their voice as Joanne. Broadway and National Tour credits include *1776 Revival* (Joseph Hewes/u.s. John Adams), *Ain't Too Proud: The Life and Times of the Temptations* (Diana Ross), *The Book of Mormon* (Ensemble/u.s. Nabalungi), *Nice Work if You Can Get It* (Flo/Ensemble), *Catch Me if You Can* (Ensemble), *Hairspray* (Dynamite), *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* (Swing), *Legally Blonde* (US Tour) (Pilar), and *Dirty Dancing* (Ensemble/Female Lead Vocalist). Some international performances include Deena Jones in *Dreamgirls* (Korea tour) and *Let's Broadway Camerata* (Brazil) —Featured Soloist. Recent regional credits include Becky in *Waitress* (Pioneer Theatre Company), Millie Davis in *Trouble in Mind* (Dallas Theater Center), and Brenda in *Smokey Joe's Cafe* (Merry-Go-Round Playhouse). On screen, Woods has been seen on *Law & Order* (Rachelle Jones) and as a soloist on the Kennedy Center Honors honoring Berry Gordy. They send love to their family and friends for their continued support, with special Titi kisses for Jolie, Ava, and Sean.

## Musicians

**Contemporaneous** is an ensemble whose mission is to bring to life the most transformative music of today's world through performances, commissions, recordings, and educational programs. Described as “exact and detailed, but also lively and openly dancing” (*The New York Times*) and “leading new music towards its better self” (*I Care if You Listen*), Contemporaneous is based in New York City and active throughout the United States. Contemporaneous has premiered over 200 new works and has been presented by such institutions as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Park Avenue Armory, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Walt Disney Concert Hall, PROTOTYPE Festival, Merkin Concert Hall, MATA Festival, St. Ann's Warehouse, and Bang on a Can and has worked with such artists as David Byrne, Donnacha Dennehy, Iarla Ó Lionáird, Dawn Upshaw, and Julia Wolfe. Contemporaneous's programming has also received acclaim from community members, artists, and press of all kinds, with the ensemble's recent performance of *Stranger Love* being listed as one of 2023's “best classical music performances” by the *New York Times*. Contemporaneous champions “dream projects” of musical creators across the world and leads participatory programs for public school students in the communities where the ensemble performs. These workshops are designed to instill a passion for new music and to convey the power of careful listening and meaningful expression through music. The ensemble has held residencies at such institutions as Colgate University, Hamilton College, City University of New York, the University of New Orleans, Williams College, and Bard College, where the group was founded in 2010. Contemporaneous is a federally tax-exempt not-for-profit organization, supported by a dedicated community of listeners.



Contemporaneous. Photo: Russ Rowland

## **Tour Staff**

**Aaron Quintana**, Tour Manager  
**Grace Griffin**, Production Stage Manager  
**Mario Alonso**, Audio Engineer  
**Sebastian Villota**, Audio Engineer  
**James Ecton**, Merch Manager

### **Special Thanks to:**

**Sammi Cannold**, Consultant  
**Sean O'Loughlin**, Orchestrations  
**Dylan Mattingly**, Contemporaneous  
**Adam Deremer**, MTI  
**Peter Dunn**, Casting Consultant  
**Scott McRae**, Janan Music  
**Diane Burrell**  
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**One Heart Collective**



## Staff Credits:

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## College of the Arts

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**Kathleen Kelley** | Chairperson, Department of Theatre and Dance

**Wiley Hausam** | Director, Arts + Cultural Programming

**Hillery Makatura** | Director, Performance Operations

**Patricia Piroh** | Director, Broadcast and Media Operations

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Programs in this season were made possible, in part, by the Alexander Kasser Theater Endowment Fund and PEAK Patrons.

PEAK Performances develops, presents, and produces a broad range of world-class dance, film, master classes, music, opera and music theater, talks, and theater in the Alexander Kasser Theater on the campus of Montclair State University for students, faculty, staff, and the general public. We are building community through live performance. PEAK Performances is a program of the university's Arts + Cultural Programming Department.

## College of the Arts

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**Aboubacar Cisse, Abigail Drueding, Jacqueline Mancía Hernandez, Shantel Maysonett, Ashley Wallis** | Lead Ushers, Season 2025–26

**Andrea Armando, Riona Askins, Aboubacar Cisse, Jacqueline Mancía Hernandez, Audrey Lassanske, Shantel Maysonett, Ben Renfrow** | Box Office Lead Associates, Season 2025–26

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We respectfully acknowledge that Montclair State University occupies land in Lenapehoking, the traditional and expropriated territory of the Lenape. As a state institution, we recognize and support the sovereignty of New Jersey's three state-recognized tribes: the Ramapough Lenape, Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape, and Powhatan Renape nations. We recognize the sovereign nations of the Lenape diaspora elsewhere in North America, as well as other Indigenous individuals and communities now residing in New Jersey. By offering this land acknowledgement, we commit to addressing the historical legacies of Indigenous dispossession and dismantling practices of erasure that persist today. We recognize the resilience and persistence of contemporary Indigenous communities and their role in educating all of us about justice, equity, and the stewardship of the land throughout the generations.



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