

PALACE THEATER

SHOW INTEL

Season 2024–2025 | Issue 6: Broadway Scores



Broadway SCORES

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF BROADWAY HITS

MAY 17, 2025

Conductor & Executive Producer

ANDREW CARL WILK

CONDUCTS THE

WATERBURY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Featuring Broadway Stars

DEBBIE GRAVITTE

JESS LEPROTTO

ANDREA MCARDLE

SOARA-JOYE ROSS

ANTOINE L. SMITH

ALLISON STRONG

GENE TAYLOR

DONNA VIVINO

Master of Ceremonies

NICK WYMAN

Director

ANNETTE JOLLES

Add'l Arrangements & Orchestrations

GERARD CHIUSANO

CLICK FOR TICKETS TO
BROADWAY SCORES
OR CALL 203.346.2000

ABOUT THE SHOW

Do you remember where you were when you first heard *The Phantom of the Opera*, or who you were with when you saw shows like *Fiddler on the Roof*, *A Chorus Line*, *Annie*, or *Les Misérables*? Did you walk down East Main Street humming memorable melodies like “*Beauty and the Beast*,” “*I Don’t Know How To Love Him*,” or “*Dancing Queen*” after seeing shows at the Palace? There is something special about seeing a live performance in this beautiful historic venue!

The Palace Theater is currently celebrating its **20th Anniversary Season** since its reopening in 2004 — that’s a score in years!

To commemorate the occasion, the Palace and the Waterbury Symphony Orchestra (WSO) are presenting *Broadway Scores*, an evening of music and songs selected from our two decades of Broadway shows. Enjoy some of your favorite songs performed in a new way, by a full symphony orchestra and eight stars from Broadway and beyond!

PRE-SHOW CELEBRATION

To add to the evening’s festivities, we are also offering tickets to the 20th Anniversary Reception before the show (5:00 pm) with light fare, desserts, and a signature cocktail.

We hope you’ll help us toast to the Palace’s continued success!

To reserve tickets to *Broadway Scores* and the **20th Anniversary Reception**, please contact the Box Office at 203.346.2000 or tickets@palacetheaterct.org.



PERFORMERS

Eight incredible Broadway performers will be joining the Waterbury Symphony Orchestra for this concert. These talented actors have earned numerous accolades, including Tony, Grammy, and Emmy Awards. Here are some of the shows and projects that have kept them busy:



Debbie Gravitte: Broadway: *Jerome Robbins' Broadway*, *They're Playing Our Song*, *Chicago*, *Les Misérables*; Regional: *The Goodbye Girl*, *Love Life*, *Fiddler on the Roof*; Film: *Isn't She Great*, *The Little Mermaid*.



Antoine L. Smith: Broadway: *MJ The Musical* (Berry Gordy), *The Color Purple*, *Memphis*, *Cinderella*, *Miss Saigon*, *Carousel*; TV: *Nella The Princess Knight* (King Dad).



Jess LeProtto: Broadway: *A Beautiful Noise*, *Carousel*, *Hello, Dolly!*, *Cats*, *On The Town*, *Newsies*, *How The Grinch Stole Christmas*, *The Boy From Oz*; Film/TV: *Stephen Spielberg's West Side Story* (A-Rab), *So You Think You Can Dance* (Season 8).



Allison Strong: Broadway: *Bye Bye Birdie*, *MAMMA MIA!* TV/Film: *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, *Leo*, *The Week Of*.



Andrea McArdle: Broadway: *Annie* (Annie), *Jerry's Girls*, *Starlight Express*, *State Fair*, *Les Misérables*, *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* (Belle). Film/TV: *Annie* (The Star to Be), *Rainbow* (Judy Garland), *The Leading Ladies of Broadway*, *Andrea McArdle on Broadway*.



Gene Taylor: Tours: *Man of La Mancha*, *The Rock Orchestra*; TV: *NBC's The Voice* (Season 25).



Soara-Joye Ross: Broadway: *Hadestown* (Fate 3/Persephone), *Les Misérables*, *Dance of the Vampires*; Off-Broadway: *Carmen Jones*, *Promenade*, *Jerry Springer at the Opera*, *Single Black Female*, *Disenchanted*, *Dessa Rose*; Regional: *My Best Friend's Wedding*; Film/TV: *Flight Attendant*, *Crashing*.



Donna Vivino: Broadway: *Les Misérables* (Cosette), *Wicked* (Elpheba), *Cats* (Grizabella), *Next to Normal* (Diana), *Merrily We Roll Along* (Mary).



MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Nick Wyman: Broadway: *Catch Me If You Can*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Les Misérables*, *My Fair Lady*, *Sly Fox*, *Very Good Eddie*, *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*, *Doubles*, *On the Twentieth Century*. Film/TV: *Die Hard with a Vengeance*, *Planes, Trains & Automobiles*, *Maid in Manhattan*, *Boardwalk Empire*, *Elementary*, *Madame Secretary*, *One Life to Live*, *The Good Wife*, *The Chappelle Show*.



Photo Credit: Felix Manuel Photography



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GUEST CONDUCTOR: ANDREW CARL WILK

Andrew Carl Wilk is a five-time Emmy Award-winning executive producer and director of network television. He is also an accomplished stage director, writer, and symphony orchestra conductor. This concert marks his debut with the WSO.

Over the span of his successful career, he has produced over 45 acclaimed television programs, series, and specials. He served as Executive Producer with *Live From Lincoln Center*, Chief Creative Officer at Sony Music Entertainment, and Executive Vice President of Programming & Production for the National Geographic Channel.

Mr. Wilk has also maintained a second career in music. A frequent Musical Director & Conductor at the Paper Mill Playhouse, he has also conducted hundreds of regional musicals and concert performances, served as Music Director & Conductor of the Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra, Guest Conductor of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra.

FUN FACTS

- The Palace Theater, built by theater impresario Sylvester Z. Poli, opened in 1922.
- The Waterbury Civic Orchestra was founded in 1938 by Waterbury public school music teacher Mario DiCecco. It became known as the Waterbury Symphony Orchestra in 1956.
- After going dark for 17 years, the Palace Theater was fully renovated & restored and reopened in 2004.
- *Evita* was the first show to tech at the Palace in 2004, before the theater had officially opened.
- Broadway shows in our inaugural season (2004–2005) were *Lord of the Dance*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Chicago*, and *Smokey Joe's Café*.
- The longest running show at the Palace to date was *The Phantom of the Opera* (2017), with a two-week, 16 performance engagement.
- The Palace and the WSO have co-presented screenings of classic films with live orchestral accompaniment in recent years: *Casablanca*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *E.T.: the Extra-Terrestrial*, *Home Alone*, and *Back to the Future*.
- 50 WSO musicians will be on stage for *Broadway Scores*.
- Palace CEO Frank Tavera's favorite musical is *Les Misérables* (2019).

