

WIPA WEDNESDAYS FEATURES BROADWAY STARS

By Mabel Pais

“Our ‘Wednesday Webinars at Wharton’ provide unique opportunities for students of all ages across the country to learn directly from some of the best artists in the musical theater industry.” - Helen H. Cha-Pyo, Artistic Director-WIPA

A WEEKLY VIRTUAL WORKSHOP SERIES FEATURING BROADWAY STARS, MUSIC INDUSTRY VETERANS

The Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts (WIPA) will have world-renowned Broadway stars and music industry veterans Capathia Jenkins, Marissa McGowan, Michael Mendez, Pam Sousa, Michael Keller, and Doug LaBrecque join the line-up of Performing Arts School faculty to participate in "Wednesday Webinars at Wharton," a series of weekly one-hour virtual workshops exploring what it means to have a career in the professional musical theatre world, including the sharing of personal experiences, behind-the-scenes stories, tips, training, and more. Proceeds from the nine-week webinar series will benefit the Wharton Institute for the Performing



From top left (clockwise): Capathia Jenkins, Michael Mendez, Marissa McGowan, Michael Keller, Pam Sousa, and Doug LaBrecque
Photo / Courtesy WIPA

Arts Scholarship Fund. "Especially in these challenging times, Wharton Arts sees it as its duty to expand its footprint by bringing our offerings online," said Peter H. Gistelneck, Executive Director of the Wharton Institute for the Performing

Arts. "Our 'Wednesday Webinars at Wharton' provide unique opportunities for students of all ages across the country to learn directly from some of the best artists in the musical theater industry," said Helen H. Cha-Pyo, Artistic Director of the Wharton

Institute for the Performing Arts. The first event will take place on Wednesday, July 1 and will feature an intimate conversation with American actress and singer Capathia Jenkins, best known for her work as a Broadway performer with roles in shows such as "Caroline, or Change", "Newsies", and Martin Short's "Fame Becomes Me". Stage favorites Marissa McGowan ("Kiss Me Kate") and Michael Mendez ("Chaplin", "Grease") will appear together on July 15. Broadway dancer and choreographer Pam Sousa ("A Chorus Line"), a player in the original Bob Fosse production of "Pippin", will follow on August 5, Broadway music contractor and drummer Michael Keller (music contractor for the legendary Marvin Hamlisch) on August 12, and Broadway veteran Doug LaBrecque ("Phantom of the Opera") will appear on August 19.

Each weekly webinar will be hosted on Zoom on Wednesday afternoons, July 1-August 26, from 4-5 PM Eastern time.

Tickets
For Tickets or more information, visit WhartonArts.org/wednesday-webinars, call (908) 790-0700 or email info@whartonarts.org

WIPA MONDAYS: JAZZ LISTENING HOUR

By Mabel Pais

“Music lovers of all ages will enjoy exploring the history of America’s great art form through guided listening sessions. Whether you are a Jazz newbie or seasoned fan, these sets will expand your horizons right from your living room.” - Dave Schumacher, host

The Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts (WIPA) is offering a month-long Jazz Listening Hour every Monday at 7:00 p.m. EST beginning June 29.

Hosted by saxophonist Dave Schumacher, this informal survey of the history of Jazz will explore classic as well as rare, live un-issued recordings generally unavailable to the public. This series of five online listening/discussion sessions covers eras in the development of Jazz from its early roots through swing, bebop, and beyond. Featured Jazz legends include Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Dizzy Gillespie, Thelonious Monk, and more.

Tickets

There is a participation fee for the Jazz Listening Hour. For more information and registration, visit www.WartonArtsOnline.org

About Dave Schumacher



Dave Schumacher
Photo / Courtesy WIPA

Dave Schumacher, Chicago native, has been a key player in the New York jazz scene for more than three decades, touring throughout the United States and internationally with the Lionel Hampton Orchestra, Art Blakely Big Band, T.S. Monk on Monk Ensemble, Nicholas Payton's Louis Armstrong Tribute Big Band,

and as an original member of the Harry Connick, Jr. Orchestra. Highlights of his international career include an appearance at Mount Fuji Jazz Festival in Japan with the Art Blakely Big Band.

Schumacher can be heard on nearly a dozen Columbia Records recordings with the Harry Connick, Jr. Orchestra and with such jazz greats as Lionel Hampton and Mel Tormé. Schumacher received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Jazz Performance from Rutgers University/Livingston College and a Master of Music degree in Jazz Performance from New Jersey City University.

About WIPA

The Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts' (WIPA) is located in Berkeley Heights, New Providence and Paterson, NJ and reaches students from 10 counties. WIPA is New Jersey's largest independent non-profit community performing arts education center serving over 1,500 students through a range of classes and ensembles including the 15 ensembles of the New Jersey Youth Symphony, which serve 500 students in grades 3 - 12 by audition. Beginning with Out of the Box Music and Pathways classes for young children, Wharton offers private lessons, group classes, and ensembles for all ages and all abilities at the Performing Arts School.

Its mission is to provide the highest quality performing arts education to a wide range of students in a supportive and inclusive environment, where striving for personal excellence inspires and connects those they teach to the communities they serve. To learn more, visit WhartonArts.org

(Mabel Pais writes on The Arts and Entertainment, Social Issues, Health & Wellness, and Spirituality)