

"BROADWAY DEITY" PERFORMS AT FTH GALA

BY MABEL PAIS

The Flushing Town Hall (FlushingTownHall.org) holds its annual gala, theme: 'Around the World & Home Again,' on Thursday, June 15. The gala will celebrate the Smithsonian affiliate's mission to bring people together through arts and culture from around the globe.

This year, the gala will honor Broadway Deity André De Shields, President and CEO of the Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC) Wayne Ho, and Founder of the Guru Krupa Foundation Mukund Padmanabhan.

PROGRAM

The evening will consist of a cocktail hour, a sit-down dinner in the theater, and live entertainment, including a show-stopping performance from none other than De Shields himself.

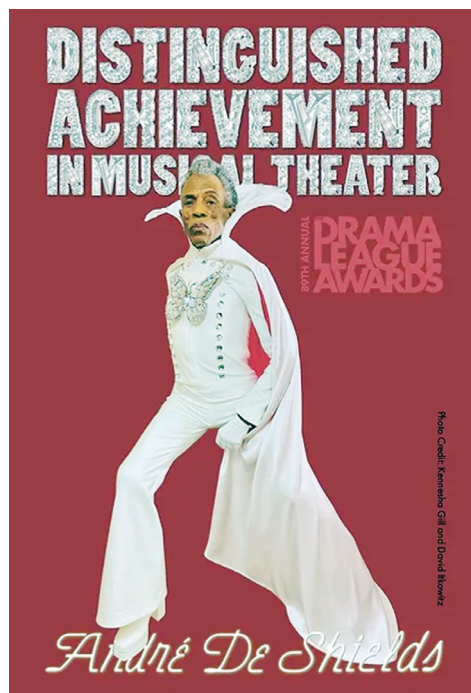
As the nonprofit's main benefit event of the year, the Gala raises critical funds for Flushing Town Hall.

"Like all of our programming at Flushing Town Hall, our gala is an opportunity to bring the community together in celebration of the arts and our borough's rich, global culture. It is also a chance to celebrate the remarkable individuals who, through their leadership, generosity, and extraordinary craft, have helped Flushing Town Hall to thrive and educate and inspire our audiences," said Ellen Kodadek, Executive & Artistic Director at Flushing Town Hall.

THE HONOREES

ANDRÉ DE SHIELDS

"The shifting cultural paradigm calls for every artist to advocate for Foundational Democracy--the doing of the greatest good for the greatest number of people. During the month of February in both 2021 and 2022, Flushing Town Hall provided the forum for my demonstrating the



Andre de Shields

Photo Credit/andredeshields.com

intersection of art and activism by inviting me to perform my tribute to Frederick Douglass--Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory--in commemoration of Black Heritage Month. Accepting the Award for Life Achievement and serenading the audience with song are my expressions of immense gratitude." says André De Shields

Perennially known for his show-stopping performances in four legendary Broadway musicals--The Wiz, Ain't Misbehavin (Emmy Award), Play On!, and The Full Monty--Mr. De Shields has achieved the status of "Broadway Deity." Learn more at andredeshields.com.

WAYNE HO

Wayne Ho is the President and CEO of the Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC), the nation's largest Asian American social services agency. With a mission to promote the social and economic empowerment of Chinese

American, immigrant, and low-income communities, CPC serves over 280,000 community members in education, family support, and community and economic empowerment at 35 locations throughout New York City.

Since the pandemic started, CPC has led successful advocacy efforts to secure \$20 million from the State and \$5 million from the City to promote Asian American recovery and safety, spoken out against the rise in anti-Asian hate crimes, led the #Providers4FairPay campaign in support of living wages for home care workers, distributed over \$7.4 million in cash assistance and over 400,000 pounds of food to community members, and has been quoted in over 250 news stories.

Most recently, Ho served on the transition teams for Mayor Eric Adams, Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine, Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, and the joint nonprofit procurement task force of Mayor Eric Adams and Comptroller Brad Lander.

Ho has been recognized by City and State in the inaugural Asian Power 100 in 2020, in the inaugural Nonprofit Power 50 in 2018, and as a member of the 40 Under 40 New York City Rising Star in 2014. He was one of 10 leaders invited to meet with President Obama during the White House's Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebration in 2011. Ho serves on numerous boards, including the Human Services Council and Coro New York Leadership Center. He has also been appointed to several New York City and State advisory boards, including the NYC Independent Budget Office. Learn more at cpc-nyc.org.

MUKUND PADMANABHAN

Dr. Mukund Padmanabhan, founder of the Guru Krupa Foundation (guru-krupa.org - GKF). He has worked as a Research Scientist at the IBM T. J. Watson Research Lab. Then he pivoted to Wall Street, applying his technical expertise at

the hedge fund Renaissance Technologies. Dr. Padmanabhan's work has been published prolifically in several international technical journals. He is also a recipient of the Professional Achievement Award from UCLA Samueli School of Engineering and the Distinguished Alumnus Award from IIT Kharagpur. The foundation takes a holistic approach to charity and philanthropy, addressing various issues from social, educational, cultural/spiritual to environmental. GKF gives grants to partner organizations in the United States and India. GKF handed out over 70 grants in 2022 alone.

GKF's social projects assist vulnerable groups to help them break out of the cycle of poverty. The projects address child welfare (funding orphanages, schools, and book banks), food insecurity (funding food banks), and youth, women, and disabled empowerment (funding skill training programs). GKF's higher educational projects provide scholarships to students at institutions of higher learning. GKF's cultural/spiritual projects support preserving Hindu traditions and promoting cross-cultural integration and collaboration. Their environmental projects focus on water preservation and cleanup in India.

TICKETS

Single gala tickets and table packages are available. Gala ads and donations are greatly appreciated. For more detailed ticket, sponsor, and advertising information or to make a contribution, visit flushingtownhall.org/gala or contact Jessica Peña, Director of Development, at jpena@flushingtownhall.org

FLUSHING TOWN HALL

Learn more at flushingtownhall.org

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

NJYS WITH KOREA BLIND GROUP PRESENTS CONCERT

BY MABEL PAIS

New Jersey Youth Symphony Joins Korea Blind Performance Group and Bella Music Foundation at Merkin Hall



Top left to right: Helen Cha Pyo, NJYS Music Director with three Visually Impaired Musicians.

Bottom: New Jersey Youth Symphony (NJYS).

Photo Credit/ NJYS

The New Jersey Youth Symphony (NJYS) performs the captivating concert "Darkness to Light: Hanbit Trio J," presented in collaboration by Korea Blind Performance Group and Bella Music Foundation on Friday, June 16 at 8:00 p.m. at the Kaufman Music Center's Merkin Hall in New York City.

Hanbit Trio J (Jae Hyouk Lee, piano; Jisun Kim, violin; Minjoo Kim, cello) is an exceptional group of visually impaired musicians who belong to the renowned Korean music company of persons with visual disabilities, Hanbit Performing Arts Company. The ensemble's accomplished soloists have honed their skills at prestigious institutions including the New England Conservatory and Manhattan School of Music and have garnered acclaim with

their performances across the globe.

The trio's captivating performance of Mendelssohn's Piano Trio No. 1 in D Minor, Op. 49 in the first half will be followed by a stirring rendition of Beethoven's Triple Concerto in C Major, Op. 56 with the acclaimed NJYS Youth Symphony conducted by Helen H. Cha-Pyo, promising an unforgettable musical experience.

TICKETS

Ticket to the performance are available at kaufmanmusiccenter.org/mch/event/darkness-to-light-hanbit-trio-j-with-new-jersey-youth-symphony

"We are honored to collaborate with the Korea Blind Performance Group and

Bella Music Foundation in presenting this extraordinary concert featuring the incredibly talented Hanbit Trio J and the New Jersey Youth Symphony," said Helen H. Cha-Pyo, Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of NJYS. "This promises to be an unforgettable musical experience for both performers and audience alike, showcasing the unifying power of music that transcends borders and brings people together from across the globe. We cannot wait to share this unique and powerful performance with our audiences."

WHARTON ARTS

Learn more at whartonarts.org.

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