

Friday Evening, December 10, 2021 at 7:30  
Judy and Arthur Zankel Hall

PLATT HOUSE ADVISORY COUNCIL OF  
THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

presents

# A TOAST TO DEAR OLD PENN

A Celebration of Student Performing Arts at  
the University of Pennsylvania

ACT I

Onda Latina

The Excelano Project

Dischord

The Mask and Wig Club

ACT II

Penn Dhamaka

PennYo

Bloomers

*Onda Latina*



**dischord**  
ESTABLISHED 1998



Producers:

Laurie McCall, Director, Platt Student Performing Arts House  
Andrea Alhadari Patton, Director of Strategic Partnerships, University Life  
Joshua Slatko '00  
Sarah Zerod '17

PLEASE SWITCH OFF YOUR CELL PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES.



# THE Artists

## ONDA LATINA

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Onda Latina was founded in the fall of 1996, when a small group of students had the vision to educate the Penn community about Caribbean and Latino culture through dance. Onda Latina, which means “Latin Wave,” is Penn’s first and only dance group of its kind. That very same semester, Onda gave its first performance as an exhibition for the Lambda Upsilon Lambda Thanksgiving Dinner.

Since then, Onda Latina has become an immensely popular name on Penn’s campus and the community, performing to sold-out crowds every semester. Over the years, the Onda Latina family has grown to more than 40 members, who bring together many ethnic backgrounds, unique talents, and fresh ideas. The group’s passion for dance, however, goes far beyond Penn’s campus. Not only does Onda Latina guest perform for various campus organizations and events, but the group also spreads its special flavor throughout

the community and at other colleges and universities. The goal is to continue in the tradition of Onda Latina, as promoters of education, entertainment, and the true experience of dance: fun.

The pieces presented tonight are from Onda’s most recent show *Alicia in Ondaland*. This show was Onda Latina’s first in-person show in two years. It was performed in front of sold out audiences in late October. The current members of Onda Latina would like to express their gratitude to the incredible alums who came to the show to make the Onda Magic happen after all this time.

The dancers tonight would also like to thank Sabrina Aponte, Luis Rosario, and Sophia Lindner - all of whom are present in the audience tonight - for choreographing two of the pieces you will see on stage. Your dancers all learned so much from you and are so grateful for your continued love and support.

## THE EXCELANO PROJECT

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The Excelano Project is the University of Pennsylvania’s first and premiere spoken word group. Supposedly derived from Latin, “Excelano” means, “We march forth,” and from its foundation in 2001 by poets and then-Penn students Carlos Gomez and Warren Longmire, EP has been doing just that. Performing on campus and having competed at the national level, The Excelano Project has made a name for itself. In 2007 and in 2009 the group took home the College Union’s Poetry Slam Invitational title. Excelano’s poets

have been featured at the White House, on HBO, at the famous Nuyorican Poets Cafe, on Broadway, and all around the world.

But EP goes beyond the poetry; the group is a family. Excelano is about finding voice. It is dedicated to the power of the mic and using personal experience to touch the lives of audience members. It’s about breaking down barriers. It’s about holding a speaker up to life’s white noise, to find that every one of us can be heard.

## DISCHORD

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Founded in 1998, Dischord A Cappella is the University of Pennsylvania's premier Pop and R&B co-ed A Cappella group. Dischord has grown significantly over the past decade, performing at pre-Super Bowl events like the Silver Chord Bowl in Massachusetts and Penn's 2021 Freshman Convocation and boasting a feature on *Buzzfeed* for top 17 Indie A Cappella covers. Recently, the group also became a new member of Penn's Performing Arts

Council. The group's leaders like to think that Dischord is 49 percent music and 51 percent family. The group has members that are athletes, dancers, comedians, physics majors, language majors, Wharton students, nurses, and pretty much anything else you can think of! The individuals that constitute Dischord are sewn into the fabric of Penn's community. It just so happens that those same individuals have an incredible knack for singing.

## THE MASK AND WIG CLUB

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The Mask and Wig Club, founded in 1889, is the oldest all-male collegiate musical comedy troupe in the United States. Founded as an alternative to the existing theatrical and dramatic outlets at the University of Pennsylvania, the Club has presented comedy, music, and dancing to the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, and audiences across the country for 132 years.

Mask and Wig has a rich history interwoven with Penn's own. On its founding, the group began planning and holding burlesque-style performances, staging its first production at the Chestnut Street Opera House on June 4th, 1889. In 1894, the Club purchased its own theater and clubhouse space at 310 South Quince Street, a building it still owns and uses for performances. Throughout its history the Club has

been guided by its motto, "Justice to the Stage; Credit to the University," with everything from paying for construction of a dorm in the Quad to the recent endowment of a Penn scholarship for leadership in performing arts and the creation of a performing arts senior honor award.

With an alumni Club of more than 400 members spanning seven decades, Mask and Wig is a lifetime connection. Once elected to membership in the Club's alumni organization, members' caricatures are painted on the wall at the Clubhouse. Alumni Club members dedicate countless hours to help produce the Annual Production, maintain the Clubhouse, support the undergraduates' efforts, raise money to support the Club and the University, and much else.

## PENN DHAMAKA

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Penn Dhamaka is the University of Pennsylvania's first and only all-male dance team combining South Asian and Western dance. The group has created entertaining and exciting fusion dance sets since 2001 using styles such as Bollywood, Hip-Hop, Bhangra, Raas,

Contemporary, Indian Classical, and more. Dhamaka hopes to reach new and diverse audiences while still maintaining its roots in the Penn and Philly community. While the group performs several times throughout the year on Penn's campus and hosts an annual

show of its own, Penn Dhamaka recently began competing on the national circuit. Penn Dhamaka was ranked second overall in the nation in the 2019-2020 season and plans to compete again this spring. The group strives to spread its

members' passion for dance, entertainment, and South Asian culture to people across the country, while also developing a sense of brotherhood and community among the team.

## PENNYO

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PennYo is the premier Chinese a cappella group at the University of Pennsylvania and the first collegiate Chinese a cappella group in the United States. The group's members hail from all corners of the world, and were brought together by a mutual love of Chinese music.

Founded in the spring of 2002, PennYo has toured around the United States and Asia, performing an ever-changing variety of songs and medleys that members select and arrange themselves. From classics like the "Jian Dan Ai/Truly Madly Deeply" mashup that have been there since the group's beginnings to newer favorites like "Hei Se You Mo" and "Every Summertime/R&B All Night," PennYo's repertoire has expanded to include a wide collec-

tion of Mandarin ballads, throwback Cantopop songs, Hokkien rock songs, and even Korean and Japanese pop.

Over 20 years, PennYo have grown to become a cornerstone of the Asian and Asian American communities at Penn. In addition to performing at various gigs all over campus, the group has also performed for Asian-interest events like Mid-Autumn Festival, Lunar New Year, and Asian Pacific American Heritage Week. The members of PennYo look forward to spreading the love of their own musical culture to Penn students and the wider Philly community through the group's concert every semester. PennYo's goal is to bring a facet of Chinese musical culture to the United States, and then to the rest of the world.

## BLOOMERS

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Bloomers Comedy is the University of Pennsylvania's premiere sketch comedy troupe for ABCD: Anyone But Cisgender Dudes. The group is open to all gender identities historically underrepresented in comedy and was historically the nation's first collegiate all-female musical and sketch comedy troupe.

Bloomers was founded in 1978 by a group of Penn women who began creating their own comedy sketches in their dorm. Together, they opened the

doors to an Ivy League tradition of musical sketch comedy that had been available to men for years. The group's namesake is Amelia Jenks Bloomer, an early member of the women's liberation movement. When she popularized the long, loose trousers gathered at the ankles and worn under a short skirt in 1851, the uproar rivaled those over hot pants and miniskirts in the 1960s. The new look was adopted by collegiate women of the time. They were freed from the confines of their skirts as they donned bloomers.

The heart of Bloomers has long been its completely student-run productions, and the group produces shows in the fall and spring semesters. Bloomers shows are composed of completely new material, written by each year's group of Bloomers, and often have an overarching theme.

Bloomers also performs bits throughout the year in floor shows at a number of on-campus "coffeehouses," academic programs, and special campus events. The group has also performed over the years at benefits for organizations and non-profit groups in New York, Miami, and Philadelphia, and has been invited to National Comedy Festivals.

## ONDA LATINA

Wilder Bravo '22  
Kira Brizill '22  
Ashley Cheng '22  
Jadel Contreras '22  
Milo Dominguez  
Jazmin Estevez-Rosas '22

Cerinn Hwang '22  
Serena Jankovic '22  
Julia Lottman '23  
Rachel Pak '22  
Rodolfo Pena, Jr. '23  
Joseph Pineda '23

Justin Pita '22  
Giancarlo Rendon  
Marvin Rodas '25  
Madeline Smith '22  
Fabian Vergara '22  
Isabela Viswanath '24

## THE EXCELANO PROJECT

Laura Eugene '24  
Andres Gonzales-Bonillas '23  
Stephanie Hasford '22

Maggie O'Hare '22  
Deborah Olatunji '24  
Madeleine Song '23

Cynthia Zhou '23  
William Zong '24

## DISCHORD

Bianca Altamirano '22  
Leslie Camacho-Sosa '24  
Allegra Greenawalt '23  
Frida Herdan '24  
Ande Isom '24  
Daniel Kim '23

Yeo-Re Lee '24  
Ben Lin '25  
Collin Lovelace '25  
Isabella Mancene '22  
Mikey Marcus '25  
Mary Grace Meredith '23

Ankit Poudel '25  
Gabriella Rabito '23  
Divya Ramamurthy '22  
Teo Reimbold-Thomas '24

## THE MASK AND WIG CLUB

Brendan Chapko '24  
Eli Cohen '23  
Tom Fanelli '23  
Ryan Ghose '25  
C.H. Henry '25

Wyatt Keating '22  
Ryan Kim '24  
Max Mester '24  
Michael Nolan '24  
Jackson Parli '22

Charlie Ross '23  
Daniel Scanlon '25  
Rohil Sheth '23  
Zaccariah Wright '22

## **PENN DHAMAKA**

Akshay Adaikalavan '25  
Praneeth Alla '23  
Amogh Bhalerao '23  
Ritvik Bodducherla '22  
Praneel Chakraborty '24  
Praneet Gundepudi '24  
Nikhil Gupta '22  
Nathan Kan '23

Arjun Kanthawar '22  
Zain Khan '24  
Rohan Mehta '25  
Gautham Nair '24  
Vivek Nair '25  
Akaash Padmanabha '22  
Gantavya Pahwa '22  
Aditya Rathi '23

Vatsal Sahani '22  
Arsam Shaikh '23  
Aryan Singh '24  
Pranav Tadikonda '24  
Sahill Yadav '22

## **PENNYO**

Harrison Chen '22  
Sylvia Chen '23  
Christopher Chien '22  
August Fu '25  
Tommy Hu '24  
Eddie Huang '22

Natalie Kung '23  
Daniel Lee '22  
Dontr Lokitiyakul '23  
Sophia Mark '22  
Chardonnay Needler '23  
Justin Ng

Michael Tu '24  
Suzanna Wang '25  
Jacqueline Wu '24  
Geshi Yeung '23  
Anna Zhang '24

## **BLOOMERS**

Hanna Baniassad '24  
Amanda Bello '22  
Alex Goldstein '23  
Allegra Greenawalt '23  
Mahailya Hinsey '23

Ellie McKeown '24  
Daryn Naiburg-Smith '22  
Drew Naiburg-Smith '25  
Carey Salvin '25  
Morgan Singer '23

Megan Striff-Cave '23  
Isabel Sweeney '25  
Mallika Tatavarti '25  
Anika Tiwari '24  
Breanna Trainor '22

## PLATT STUDENT PERFORMING ARTS HOUSE

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In 1999, at the behest of Penn Provost Robert Barchi, Deputy Provost Peter Conn added a section on the value of “hubs” to the State of the University Report. Conn identified Kelly Writer’s House and Civic House as Penn’s first two hubs, spaces on campus dedicated to a shared interest, and he pointed toward a future where more hubs at Penn could enhance the overall student experience. These words inspired Ty Furman, then Director of Student Performing Arts, to locate a performing arts hub on campus, offering students a better space to rehearse, perform, share, and call home.

This project was not always easy, but Ty made a connection with Penn Band supporter Chris Mario ’85, who was interested in funding a space for the marching band. After much planning and searching, the future student performing arts hub was discovered in the basement of Stouffer Commons, in previous lives a bowling alley and the Down Under Dining Hall. Many alumni and donors came forward to support the project, and Julie and Marc Platt (both ’79) stepped up to really make it happen. Ty remembers Julie sharing that she really wanted the lobby to be a comfortable place for students to hang out. In 2006, their shared vision was fulfilled in the Platt Student Performing Arts House. Under Ty’s leadership, students now had priority access to rehearsal studios designed specifically for them.

With five rehearsal spaces, a cabaret stage, lounge, and marching band space, Platt House has helped many students reach their creative goals. When Ty moved on to Boston University in 2013, Laurie McCall took over as Director, building upon the solid foun-



ation Ty created. Platt House usage has grown from 5,988 hours in its first full year to more than 13,671 hours during the last fully in-person year on campus. The Performing Arts Council (PAC) boasts 46 groups producing more than 70 shows each year. PAC groups receive priority space in Platt House, and about 20-25 more groups, and many individuals, use the space. Collaborations with the Provost’s Office, the Executive Vice President, Penn Live Arts, Solomon Building, Hillel, and Perelman Quadrangle have brought four additional rehearsal spaces to manage as well as some priority in other rehearsal and performance spaces across campus. The staff has grown from two to four, not including the extended family at the wonderful PAC Shop on 41st and Walnut Streets. Platt House has become the ideal venue for technical training, master classes, workshops, alumni events, career mentoring, after school programming for the community, vocal instruction, a free cup of coffee, study breaks, meetings, visits from therapy dogs for stress relief, and more. Platt House is now one of Penn’s many hubs, that dreamed-of home for the student performing arts community, as well as a wonderful place to work.



## PENN PERFORMING ARTS COUNCIL

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The arts are a vibrant and integral part of the University of Pennsylvania's culture, and The Performing Arts Council (PAC) offers students the opportunity to participate in more than 46 different student-run performance organizations. PAC is organized into four sub-committees: Dance (DAC), Theatre (TAC-e), A Cappella (ACK), and Singers Musicians and Comedians (which also includes spoken word) (SMAC). PAC and its advisory office, Platt Student Performing Arts House, help support all these groups' rehearsal, performance, and organizational goals. PAC groups receive guaranteed support for two shows each academic year and can boast of producing more than 70 shows annually. PAC groups are represented by the PAC Executive Council,

which consists of sub-committee chairs and the community service and tech chairs. PAC groups are also supported by the Technical Shop, run by Amanda Labonte, where groups design and build sets and costumes. In addition to each group's two shows a year, each sub-committee hosts a collaborative show, including the One Acts Theater Festival, Emily Sachs Dance Benefit, Raise Your Voice A Cappella Charity Show, and SMAC Down, the charity show for the Singers, Musicians, and Comedians Subcommittee. In recent years, PAC has built a solid community of performers, tech staff, marketing staff, business staff, playwrights, dramaturgs, producers, set designers, costume designers, tour managers, and directors. Bravo, PAC!



# SPECIAL THANKS

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Elise Betz and Penn Development/Alumni Relations  
Megan Edelman '11  
Carla Hoge '17

Jill Marshall, Chad Zodrow, Denise Alfarone, Tabitha Glista, and the staff of Carnegie Hall  
Jacky McCall  
Brian Nguyen '22  
Sara Outing '13  
The Penn Club of New York  
PennNYC  
Penntertainment  
Djung Tran  
Kristin Winch

## HOST COMMITTEE

**A Toast to Dear Old Penn** would not have been possible without the efforts of our host committee, a group of Penn alumni and parents cutting across many generations, interests, and careers who have supported and promoted the event.

David Blatte '86	Nick Hunsicker '19	Janet Pisansky '91
Timothy Bloom '17	Mohammed Shaik Hussain Ali '08	Julie Platt '79
David Cohen	Lolita Jackson '89	Allison Powell '93
Jake Cohen '13	Mara Jacobs '87	Milan Savani '17
Levi Cooper '20	Susanna Jaramillo '19	Jason Shapiro '09
Minnie Cui '08	Sally Katz '82	Ayaka Shimada '21
Stacy Donck '89	Kyle Kozloff '90	Jeffrey Smith '94
Rebecca Ginzburg	Jenny Libien '91	Gregory Suss '75
Carlos Gomez '04	Louis Lin '20	Jesse Tendler '02
Lisa Grabelle '93	Hannah Lottenberg '21	Olivia Troye '99
Jon Greenawalt '91	Sarah Marcus Hansen '10	Miguel Vargas
Joan Harrison '81	Donnamarie Mazzola '85	Julie Yannalfo Walker '05
Mandee Heller Adler '94	Kwaku Owusu '20	

We would especially like to thank the Penn Performing Arts Regional Councils of New York and Los Angeles, which are sponsoring the live stream of this evening's show.

The Penn Performing Arts Initiative is a collaboration among Penn Live Arts, the Platt Student Performing Arts House, and the Music Department and Theatre Arts Program of the School of Arts and Sciences. The Penn Performing Arts Regional Councils are the volunteer groups of alumni advisors serving as ambassadors for this Initiative. The three main objectives of the Penn Performing Arts Initiative include:

1. Providing a regional opportunity for Penn Alumni with a performing arts affiliation or interest to connect back to the University in a meaningful way.
2. Expanding University and alumni awareness of the thriving performing arts community at Penn, and the importance of the arts to the educational and University life experience.
3. Increasing funding for the performing arts at Penn.

### The Penn Performing Arts Regional Council of New York:

Amalia Delicari '95	Sarah Marcus Hansen '10	Ian Seltzer '09
Ankit Dhir '10	Andrew Marolda '92, Co-Chair	Samir Sheth '08
Todd Donovan '95	Karen Greve Milton '78	Elisa Zied '91
Maria-Lisa Farmakidis '03	Allison Powell '93, Co-Chair	
Stacy Friedman '93	Carolyn Rubin Shapiro '98	

### The Penn Performing Arts Regional Council of Los Angeles:

Allison Druyanoff '92	Kyle Kozloff '90	Corey Singer '10
Fielding Edlow '95	Heather Lieberman '94	
Joshua Goldsmith '92	Matt Rosler '96	