

Saturday, December 3, 2022 at 7:30 PM
Judy & 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

Arts House Dance Company
Penn Atma
Penn Lions
Pennchants / Quaker Notes

ACT II

Penn Jazz
iNtuitons Experimental Theatre
West African Vibe (WAVE)



Producers:

Laurie McCall, *director*, Platt Student Performing Arts House
Kristin Winch, *director of development*, Penn Live Arts
Joshua Slatko '00
Nick Seymour '19

PLEASE SWITCH OFF YOUR CELL PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES.

THE Artists

ARTS HOUSE DANCE COMPANY

Arts House Dance Company began in 1985 through the work of Arts House Graduate Fellow Lisa S. Burton, Arts House resident Jan Ohye, and Joshua Levy. The Company was supported and sanctioned (and given formal recognition) by the Department of Residential Living and the Arts House Living-Learning Program. AHDC is no longer affiliated with the Arts House Program, which gave it its beginnings. The Company is now a separate student-led organization.

The company has an executive board consisting of the following positions: Chair, Artistic Director, Marketing

Director, Business Director, Costume Director, and Scheduling Director. The board offers excellent leadership opportunities for all members of the group and allows individuals to get involved in the Performing Arts Community at Penn. Currently, we are known on campus as a diverse, talented company for experienced dancers who enjoy both excelling in styles with which they are familiar and who strive to expand their horizons with new dance forms and choreography. Although we're a serious company that's grown in both experience and professionalism in recent years, we're also a tight-knit family in and out of the studio.

ATMA

Atma is the University of Pennsylvania's award-winning female and non-binary South-Asian fusion A Cappella group. Since its inception in 2002, the group has been most noted for bringing together a wide variety of genres to create a deep and unique sound. Today, the ladies of Atma continue to develop musically, exploring new sounds and ideas, and driving performances with expression and personality. Atma's music directors create astounding musical compositions, drawing from classical and film South Asian music as well as Western pop, jazz, rock and more. They transcend the language barrier by featuring arrangements in a variety of tongues, including English, Spanish, Hindi, and Tamil. In

recent years, Atma's fame has steadily risen. With performances at Ambassador Amy Gutmann's Farewell Reception, the Alumni Award of Merit Gala, the national Legends Dance Competition, the South Asia Society Annual Cultural Show, and their very own semiannual showcases, Atma has spread its music and talent to areas across Penn's campus and the local Philadelphia community.

Carnegie Hall is historically an epicenter of music from all cultures and regions. Atma, as a South Asian A Cappella team, is honored to add its cultural footprint to the history of this distinguished and renowned venue.

PENN LIONS

Penn Lions is the University of Pennsylvania's premier traditional Chinese lion dance troupe. Founded in 2007, the group's mission is to learn, demonstrate, and teach the art of lion dance in and around the Philadelphia area.

Lion dance is a form of Asian traditional dance that originated in China. Performers mimic a lion's movements in a lion costume to tell a story and bring good luck and fortune to the audience. Each lion is controlled by two people; one orchestrates the head movements, and one follows the other's footwork in the tail. The drum—the “heartbeat of the lion”—guides the lions and leads the cymbals and gong to add excitement and flair.

A typical lion dance performance tells a story of one or two lions overcoming an obstacle before obtaining a meaningful object (e.g., lettuce, scrolls). Some of the obstacles include poisonous animals like snakes and spiders, or treacherous landforms like caves and rivers. These are constructed from a variety of props. The obstacle may also be an adversarial Buddha character, played by another performer. The culmination of most lion dance performances is called *cai qing* (采青), or “plucking the greens.” *Cai qing* is a homonym for “spreading good fortune” (财青). As such, when the lion plucks the lettuce and tosses it at the audience, it is a symbolic act of spreading fortune.

Before 2007, there was no lion dance troupe around Penn's campus. Founding member Henry Chow '10 realized that such an integral part of Asian culture should not be missing from a campus

that had such a large Asian population. The idea for a lion dance troupe began during the Chinese Student Association's Lunar New Year celebration when Henry and some fellow members put together a makeshift lion dance performance. After researching troupes at other schools, he drafted the Penn Lions mission statement: to learn, demonstrate, and teach lion dance.

The following fall, Henry met Winston Ma '11. With ten years of experience, Winston became Penn Lions' first artistic director who taught members the fundamentals of lion dance. The first class of Penn Lions had seven members who practiced all over campus. The group made its official debut in February of 2008 at the Lunar New Year Celebration in Harnwell College House's Rooftop Lounge.

Now at its fifteenth anniversary, Penn Lions has fostered a passion for lion dance in nearly a hundred current and alumni troupe members and established itself as a prominent student group on Penn's campus. Members continue to train diligently multiple times a week to improve their lion dance skills, including the foundational martial arts, storytelling and expressivity within the lion costume, and acrobatic tricks called stacks. The troupe frequently performs around campus, especially during the Lunar New Year. Penn Lions has also earned a name as one of the top collegiate troupes on the East Coast, having won the Intercollegiate Lion Dance Competition three times.

The troupe is excited to bring this traditional art to the stage at Carnegie Hall tonight!

PENNCHANTS

Founded in 1989, The **Pennchants** is Penn's premier Ass-Kicking, Name-Taking, Award-Winning, All-Male A Cappella Group and have been reigning "a cappella champions" on campus since 1991! The Pennchants sing "The Songs of Our Childhood," with songs ranging from Backstreet Boys to Beyonce.

Starting as a branch of the University of Pennsylvania Glee Club, The Pennchants went rogue in 2001 — defining itself as a unique force on campus, with singers priding themselves on their voices, choreography, humor, and overwhelmingly handsome features.

QUAKER NOTES

The **Quaker Notes** are the University of Pennsylvania's premier all-female identifying A Cappella group. The group was founded in 1979, making it the first official a cappella group established on Penn's campus. For more than 40 years, the Quaker Notes have been performing all genres of contemporary music, singing music ranging from oldies to jazz to pop. The group's rich history is embodied as alumni join current group members on the stage at their shows to perform "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy."

The Quaker Notes have opened for several noteworthy groups including Pentatonix and the Radio City Rockettes. In fact, they opened for the Rockettes at Radio City Music Hall last night! The group also performs gigs both on and off campus throughout the year. The Quaker Notes can be seen performing at Penn Memory Center's Memory Café, an engaging event for dementia patients at the center. The group has also performed at GlobeMed Excite the Night, a charity event raising money for CHOICE

Humanitarian, a nonprofit in rural Peru. The Quaker Notes have also performed at student-led club events such as the ILMUNC conference performance night for student attendees.

The Qnotes also have a brother a cappella group at Penn, the all-male identifying Pennchants. The two groups have been performing a joint show in the fall semester for the past 16 years. Members of the Quaker Notes and Pennchants can be seen hanging out on campus getting dinner at Houston Hall and singing karaoke in Center City at Ken's.

The mission of the Quaker Notes is to empower women to share their talents with audiences. The group looks to their long history of female leaders to inspire them to expand the Quaker Notes' reach beyond Penn's campus to reach as many people as possible. The group could not be more excited to perform tonight at Carnegie Hall and share our music with the friends, family, and alumni who provide endless support.

PENN JAZZ

Penn Jazz consists of the University of Pennsylvania's premier big band plus several smaller combo groups. As a student-run performance group, we promote jazz culture and appreciation throughout Penn and neighboring communities. Our repertoire is composed of songs from big band swing and several surrounding genres including funk, fusion, and Latin. In addition to our concerts each semester, we perform frequently at student group events and University functions. Our Musical Director is Skyler Hagner, and we are looking forward to a long, successful future under his direction.

The group was officially formed in the fall of 1973. There had been various jazz groups on campus for the first half of the 20th century, but the first official jazz band at Penn was part of the Penn (marching) Band. This incarnation was the spiritual predecessor to Penn Jazz. After its dissolution, there was a void left, which was filled by the formation

of the University of Pennsylvania Jazz Ensemble: Penn Jazz.

The group's formation coincided with a commercial popularity in which jazz (at least certain styles, like fusion) was enjoyed by many. Musicians such as Maynard Ferguson and Herbie Hancock enjoyed the limelight, and Penn's new jazz band was embraced and touted by the school, who sent them on a tour around the Northeast. Led by Claude White from the Penn Band through most of the 1970's, Penn Jazz played with jazz greats such as Dizzy Gillespie, McCoy Tyner, the Count Basie Orchestra, Wynton Marsalis, and most recently, Christian McBride. The group has also been fortunate enough to work with past directors such as Denis DiBlasio, Nami Leef, Serge Yow, John Cooper, Andrew Nelson, Louis Spagnola, Alan Kinsey, Ed Wise, Dean Schweiger, and Dan Paul. Penn Jazz has experienced great success over its forty-nine year history and looks forward to more to come.

INTUITONS EXPERIMENTAL THEATRE

iNtuitions Experimental Theatre is the premier experimental theatre group at the University of Pennsylvania. We are dedicated to producing alternative or avant-garde performance art that excites viewers and pushes the bounds of conventionality. As the only alternative theatre group at Penn, iNtuitions works tirelessly to provide a supportive home for unique ideas and creative expression that bring a spark of innovation to the arts community.

iNtuitions was founded in 1980 as a home for ideas that were too unconventional to be supported by existing theatre groups at Penn. We produce a

theatre festival at the end of summer in collaboration with the Philly Fringe Festival, as well as three mainstage productions in fall, winter, and spring. Over our 40-year history, we have produced many memorable shows that have been a joy for both the company and audiences. Notable performances include a production of Lewis Carroll's *Wonderland* in which the audience gets to play Alice; a fully fire-lit opera based on classic Simpsons characters in *Mr. Burns, A Post Electric Play*; and a production of John Logan's *Red* that turned the PAC Shop into Mark Rothko's painting studio. In the past year we've continued our legacy of

creative experimentation with a production of *The Walworth Farce* (a show about being trapped inside) outside on College Green during a thunderstorm; *Heatsick*, an original devised piece about extreme heat incorporating dance; and John Cariani's *LOVE/SICK*, being reprised tonight.

LOVE/SICK, a romantic comedy about the highs and lows of love with a slight surrealist twist, was originally performed in a set fashioned after a home, with audiences moving from room to room to witness each vignette.

We are excited to bring a scene from the show back for you tonight, and are so grateful for the support of our Penn community and alumni that have allowed us to be here at Carnegie!

LOVE/SICK is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York. Professional Premiere Production: PORTLAND STAGE COMPANY Anita Stewart, Executive and Artistic Director; Brenda Lewis, General Manager. New York Premiere presented by Royal Family Productions Chris Henry, Artistic Director.

WEST AFRICAN VIBE (WAVE)

Founded by five undergraduate first-year students at the University of Pennsylvania (Penn) in the fall semester of 2013, **West African Vibe (WAVE)** performs more modern and contemporary forms of African music in an effort to contribute to the Penn community's perspective of African culture. Our musical style is centered around West African culture but also includes different aspects of the African diaspora. We perform to Afro

beat, Afropop, Afro hip hop, and Afro R&B artists such as Sarkodie, Iyanya, Awilo Longomba, and many others from across the continent of Africa (with a main focus on Western Africa). We have previously performed at engagements on Penn's campus but have transitioned into putting on a show once a year. Next year will be our 10th anniversary show, and we are very excited to see where the future takes our group.

ARTS HOUSE DANCE COMPANY

Esther Beren C'23
Alexandra Budnick E'24
Abbie Chan C'23
Erica Edman C'25
Liam Flatley C'24
Natalie Ho C'23
Sophia Jorgensen C/W'26

Madison Kang C'26
Erin Koithan N'23
Natalia Lee W'25
Zach Masotto E'24
Emma Riebe N'26
Joanna Shan C'24
Lauren Shanos E'23

Talia Smith C'26
Clarissa Touchstone W'25
Lanie Walsh N'23
Lauren Watkins C'26
Katie Zappetti C'26

PENN ATMA

Isha Bhandaru C'25
Ipsita Das C'24
Vidhya Kalimani E'26
Riya Khosla W'25

Insha Lakhani E'25
Diya Mohnot C'25
Sneha Mokkala C/W'25
Deiya Pandya C'26

Sanya Shetty E'25
Sruthi Srinivas C'23
Akshitha Vijay E'23

PENN LIONS

Music Showcase

Alex Ge E'23 – Drum
Brianna Leung E'25 – Cymbal
Audrey Yang E'23 – Gong

Lion Dance Fight Routine

Audrey Yang E'23 – Lion head
Ryan Ho W'25 – Lion tail
Peter Hong C'24 – Lion head
Sophia Liston C'24 – Lion tail
Michelle Li C'24 – Buddha
Alex Ge E'23 – Drum
Martina Diao C'23 – Cymbal
Pierre Peters C'23 – Cymbal
Katherine Wang E'23 – Cymbal
Cheryl Lim E'25 – Cymbal
Regina Chau C'24 – Gong

Understudies

Vanessa Gong E'26
Aaron Jiang E'26
Amy Liu E'25
Trinity Shiu N'26
Tyler Trang C'26
Alan Wu C'25

PENNCHANTS

Evan Bean E'23
Andrew Beatty C'23
James Bruska LPS'23
Timothy Dietrich N'25
Benji Elkins C'26
Bauti Gallino W'23
Matthew Gaw C'25

Christopher Gergis C'26
Akshat Iyer E'25
Jack Vernon Lee C'23
Giorgio Rawda C'25
Aaron Rivera C'25
Alex Ross C'24
Jack Scioli C'26

David Shon C'26
Robert Snider C'24
Nicky Wongchamcharoen
E/W'24

QUAKER NOTES

Sonia Banker C'26
Christina Cappola C'25
Lia Della Porta C'24
Natalie Heller C'23
Diana Lim E'25

Suzanne Martiska N'23
Clara Moffitt C/W'25
Bryce Nabulsi W'23
Skylar Rasmason C'26
Natalie Riebe C'23

Leslie Roman C'23
Kaylyn Wang N'24
Victoria You W'25
Cathy Zhang C'26

PENN JAZZ

Claire Brinster C'24, piano
Max Du E'23, piano
Conor Dunne E'26, flute
John Fath C'23, bass
Lawrence Froymovich W'24,
trumpet
Skyler Hagner, director
Kaveen Harohalli C'25,
alto saxophone

Jacob Isaac C'25, trumpet
Tyler Jenkins-Wong C'24,
trombone
Zach Levine C'26,
tenor saxophone
Mark Li C'23, trombone
Colin Ly C'24, alto saxophone
Tristan Ly C'24,
baritone saxophone

Henry McDaniel C'25,
tenor saxophone
Anthony Mohr C'24,
drums
Andres Nuñez C'26, voice
Mic Patankar C'25, trumpet
Carson Sargent C'25, trumpet
Josh Valluru C'24, guitar

INTUITONS

Haydn Herrema C'23
Anni Paradise C'25

WEST AFRICAN VIBE

Abigail Adu-Gyamfi C'24
Ugonma Ajomiwe N'25
Ennie Akinwunmi C'23
Atinuke Aliu C'25
Ruth Itua E'24
Diana Lubwama W'25

Dasmine Maynard C'25
Manzi Hugues Mucyo C'25
Chinyelu Ojukwu C'24
Modesola Olaniyi C'23
Nicole Olekanma C'26
Edith Oteng C'23

Summer Peace C'23
Jennifer Salako C'23
Christina Sauveur N'23
Lauren Simmons C'23
Keisha Whitely C'26
Yared Zegeye C/W'25

PLATT STUDENT PERFORMING ARTS HOUSE

In 1999, at the behest of Penn Provost Robert Barchi, Deputy Provost Peter Conn added a section to the State of the University Report on the value of “hubs,” spaces on campus dedicated to a shared student interest. 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. After much planning and searching and with the incredible support of donors like Julie Beren Platt, C’79 and Marc Platt, C’79, the ribbon was cut on Platt Student Performing Arts House.

With five rehearsal spaces, a cabaret stage, lounge, and marching band space, Platt House has helped many students reach their creative goals. In 2013, Laurie McCall took over as Director and built on the existing programming and available spaces across campus. Platt House now manages the schedules for several rehearsal rooms, and usage has grown from 5,988 hours in its first full year to more than 14,000 hours across rehearsal rooms last year. 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 staff work directly with student leaders to cre-



ate relevant and needed programming that incorporates campus and alumni partners. 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. Platt House staff look forward to incorporating new spaces currently in the planning process to help meet the students’ needs and create a more equitable landscape for all student performing arts groups.

PENN STUDENT PERFORMING ARTS GROUPS

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 student-run performance organizations. PAC is organized into four sub-committees: Dance (DAC); Theatre (TAC-e); A Cappella (ACK); and Singers, Spoken Word, Musicians, and Comedians (SMAC). 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, the Community Service Chair, and the Technical

Chair. In addition to the PAC groups, our campus is home to an additional 30 independent performing arts groups focusing on performance, instruction, and competition. Platt Student Performing Arts House helps support all these groups' rehearsal, performance, and organizational goals. These student organizations are also supported by the Technical Shop, run by Amanda Labonte, where groups design and build sets and costumes. It is so rewarding to witness the solid community of performers, tech staff, marketing staff, business staff, playwrights, dramaturgs, producers, set designers, costume designers, tour managers, and directors who fill these spaces every day. Bravo!





SPECIAL THANKS

Jannah Abdul-Aziz
Elise Betz and Penn Development/Alumni Relations
Levi Cooper '20
Megan Edelman '11
Al Freeman
Hannah Lottenberg '21
Jill Marshall, Carolyn Sauer, Joshua Shain, Denise Alfarone, and the staff of Carnegie Hall
Jacky McCall
Sara Outing '13
The Penn Club of New York
PennNYC
Pennertainment
Adam Riggat
Matt Rosler '96
Jesse Tendler '02
Djung Tran

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	Andrew Marolda '92,	Ian Seltzer '09
Ankit Dhir '10	Co-Chair	Samir Sheth '08
Todd Donovan '95	Karen Greve Milton '78	Gregory Suss '75
Stacy Friedman '93	Allison Powell '93, Co-Chair	
Sarah Marcus Hansen '10	Carolyn Rubin Shapiro '98	

The Penn Performing Arts Regional Council of Los Angeles:

Allison Druyanoff '92	Heather Lieberman '94	Corey Singer '10
Joshua Goldsmith '92	Karen Macarah '96	Mark Zachary '91
Kyle Kozloff '90	Matt Rosler '96	