

THE LIFE AND MUSIC OF GEORGE MICHAEL

A TRIBUTE, A PARTY, AN EPIC SHOW!



McANINCH ARTS CENTER

Nov 9, 2025

Welcome to the McAninch Arts Center!



Dear Friends,

It is always a joy to welcome you to the McAninch Arts Center. Each season, our stage becomes a home for extraordinary artistry from around the world, and we are thrilled to share these experiences with you. From unforgettable music and breathtaking dance to thought-provoking theatre and laugh-out-loud comedy, our touring performances bring the very best of the arts right here to DuPage County.

Your presence here is more than just attending a show—it is a celebration of the arts and a vital part of keeping them alive in our community. Every ticket purchased, every standing ovation, and every shared moment in this theater helps us fulfill our mission to make the arts accessible, engaging, and transformative.

As you enjoy today's performance, I encourage you to explore everything the MAC has to offer—from our gallery exhibitions and educational programs to our local and international collaborations. Whether this is your first visit or your fiftieth, we are honored to share this experience with you and look forward to making you feel right at home.

If you enjoy coming to the MAC, the greatest help you can offer us is to share your experiences with friends and neighbors. Word-of-mouth is one of the most powerful ways to keep the arts thriving in our community. If there is anything we can do to make your experience more enjoyable, please do not hesitate to let us know.

We look forward to entertaining you this evening, and we thank you sincerely for your support of the MAC.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Diana'.

Diana Martinez
Executive Director
McAninch Arts Center

McAninch Arts Center
at College of DuPage
presents

THE LIFE AND MUSIC OF
**GEORGE
MICHAEL**
A TRIBUTE, A PARTY, AN EPIC SHOW!

This is a tribute production. It is not associated with or endorsed by George Michael's estate or George Michael Entertainment.

The show will have a 20-minute intermission.

McAninch Arts Center acknowledges support from
the Illinois Arts Council Agency.



Sun, Nov 9, 2025, 7p
Belushi Performance Hall

ABOUT THE SHOW

The Life and Music of George Michael chronicles the amazing journey George Michael had with music and his fans. The show captures the performance and sound of George Michael with staging and lighting while telling his story through early music hits from Wham! and his illustrious solo career.

As one of the biggest international stars of our time, the show will have fans on their feet dancing and singing along to blockbuster hits including “Wake Me Up Before You Go Go,” “Freedom,” “Faith,” “Careless Whisper,” “Father Figure,” and many more. Spanning a four decade career with over 115 million albums sold, *The Life and Music of George Michael* shows his rise to fame as a member of Wham! in the 80’s. He went solo in 1987 with “Faith,” one of the biggest albums of all time which included multiple number one hits.

Throughout George’s career, he won two Grammy Awards, three Brit Awards, three American Music Awards, and four MTV Video Music Awards. The show is produced by Ruckus Entertainment, the creators of *The Simon & Garfunkel Story* and other touring hits.



CAST

Craig Winberry..... Lead vocals
Connor Antico..... Lead vocals
Collin Keller..... Music Director, guitar and background vocals
Autumn Jones..... Lead and background vocals
Marc Encabo..... Keyboards and background vocals
Sam Ruff Drums
Jennifer Giammanco..... Bass guitars and background vocals
Grace MaukKeyboard and background vocals

CREW

Charles A. Miericke.....Tour and Advancing Production Manager
Heather Bey Audio Engineer and Asst. Company Manager
Eli Medina..... Lighting Tech/Operator and Stage Manager
Curtis Fairbrother Driver

ABOUT RUCKUS ENTERTAINMENT

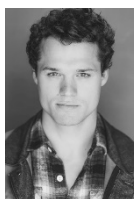
Ruckus Entertainment, based in Los Angeles and formed in 2022, brings together veteran entertainment producers Alison Spiriti, Justin Sudds, Dean Elliott, and Ralph Schmidtke who are collectively responsible for producing over 100 touring productions seen by millions around the world. Their burgeoning production company brings audiences world-class concerts and live events and is focused on celebrating the history and music behind iconic, globally recognized musical artists. Current productions include *The Simon & Garfunkel Story*, *The Life and Music of George Michael*, and *The British Invasion*.

PROFILES



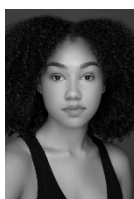
Craig Winberry is a singer, actor, and songwriter whose debut album *Sidewalk Survival Guide* blends pop, rock, jazz, and contemporary influences. He is also one half of the NYC dance group Basesuite. Winberry currently stars in the North American tour of *The Life and Music of George Michael*. Stage credits include *Shoot Star* (Off-Broadway), *The Wild Party* (off-off-Broadway), *The Golden Girls Musical Parody*, the New York Musical Festival, and *Mamma Mia!* (AR Rep). He wrote and starred in *Christmas Spirits: Neat Edition* at 54 Below, has appeared in tv and film, and modeled in NYFW. Thank you to family, friends, and those who support live entertainment!

PROFILES



Connor Antico is a versatile actor, singer, and songwriter with a B.F.A. from Pace University NYC. He has performed in notable theater productions, including playing Jack in *Jack & Diane* musical workshops by John Mellencamp, and Carlo in *The Comedy of Tenors* at the Arrow Rock Lyceum.

TV: Antico appeared as a co-star in Amy Schumer's *Girl You Need No Makeup*. Film: co-starred in *Greater, The Brandon Burlsworth Story*. Antico fronts his band Connor Antico & McLeers. He also sings lead for guitarist Paul Pesco (Hall and Oates, Madonna.) He is excited to bring joy through his performances and draws inspiration from George Michael! Instagram@connorantico.



Autumn Jones is a soulful R&B singer-songwriter and an alumni of Berklee College of Music in Boston. She's had a busy few years along with her band The Smoke releasing her debut EP "4.4.4.," winning a Tracks Music Award for her single *Bittersweet* and showcasing her music at venues like Boston City Winery, The Groove, and Rockwood

Music Hall in New York City. *Notion Magazine* described her work as having a "neo-soul-style with full and effusive vocals reminiscent of blues veteran Corrine Bailey Ray."



Marc Encabo (Keyboards and Background Vocals) is a Los Angeles-based multi-instrumentalist and performer. Being heavily surrounded by music throughout his upbringing in San Diego, CA, he would find his musical voice through school, YouTube, and church, leading to teaching himself to play guitar, piano, and bass, and to furthering his studies as

a jazz bassist at the renowned Bob Cole Conservatory of Music at CSU Long Beach. As a songwriter, composer, and collaborator, he has arranged for, performed, and recorded with and for various artists and groups across the US, UK, Europe, and the Philippines.



Sam Ruff is a drummer and music producer residing in Los Angeles, CA. He holds two degrees from Berklee College of Music and has shared the stage with artists such as Lee Ritenour, Wayne Brady, and many more.

PROFILES



Born at a young age, **Collin Keller** makes music that sits in the glow between pop, rock, and soul; tracks that feel like they've lived in your chest for years. As a touring guitarist, songwriter, and producer born in Vail, the heart of the Rocky Mountains, now based in Los Angeles, Keller writes music with a deep sense of place and a restless heart.

After fronting projects like *luhx.*, and writing guitar for Dutch Melrose his songs mark a return to something more intimate: stories and emotions that could only be told in his own voice.

Seen live in *The Life and Music of George Michael*, *Dirty Dancing in Concert*, *The Simon and Garfunkel Story*, and acts at Osheaga, and Switchyard music festivals. IG: @TheCollinKeller

Jenny Giammanco is a bassist and music educator based out of LA/ NYC. She started 2025 by touring with the production of *Dirty Dancing Live in Concert*. Prior to that, she held the bass chair for the Off-Broadway musical, *That Parenting Musical* at Theatre Row in NYC, toured on the first North American tour of *Jagged Little Pill*, and the first national tour of *An Officer and A Gentleman*. In between tours, she enjoyed the opportunity to play at the Lincoln Center summer stage in 2023 and has worked with many local artists and new musicals. She absolutely loves to perform live and is very excited to be a part of *The Life and Music of George Michael*! @jennyonthebass.

Grace Mauk is a professional pianist from Toledo, Ohio. She began studying classical piano at the age of four years old. However, rock and roll and pop music, specifically The Beatles, were her first loves and are still her greatest interests. Mauk graduated with her master's degree in collaborative piano performance from Eastern Michigan University in 2017. Since finishing graduate school, she has been steadily gigging across the Midwest at churches, bars, festivals, weddings, and concert halls. She has performed with the Toledo Symphony on several pops concerts and recently completed an international tour with the show, *Dirty Dancing in Concert*. Mauk is also an avid songwriter and released an original EP in December 2024.



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The Friends of the MAC is a family of those who have decided that a world-class performing and visual arts center should reside in their community. Ticket sales provide only 42 percent of our \$4 million operating budget. It is through the support of College of DuPage and through the generous gifts from patrons and local businesses that we can keep art in our museum and on our stages.

Your Gift to the MAC

- Brings nationally and internationally renowned artists to our community
- Supports our SchoolStage program that annually offers affordable arts experiences to thousands of schoolchildren
- Provides students and community members the opportunity to interact with artists
- Enhances quality of life in our community

Without the generous support of the Friends of the MAC, we would not be the beacon for the arts in DuPage County. We gratefully thank our friends, and we invite others to join them.

Arts Center and MAC-tastic Treat Seats Endowments

Donor may choose to direct gifts to the Arts Center Endowment or the MAC-tastic Treat Seats – Tickets for Kids & Families Endowment. Donations made to these MAC Endowments, our “savings accounts,” go into principal secured, invested accounts that will provide ongoing support for arts programs and arts accessibility for years to come.

The McAninch Arts Center and the College of DuPage Foundation can also provide you with information on planned giving options, gifts of stock, IRA Charitable Rollovers and other giving opportunities.

**For complete details, visit the MAC Box Office or
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 Ms. Sonia Trevino
 Colleen and Paul Trinko
 Two Bostons
 Helen Vick
 Village Links of Glen Ellyn
 Viride Wellness Spa
 Susan and Robert Vogt
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael Volk
 Ms. Martha Wadsworth
 Penelope Wainwright
 Walden Floral Design Co.,
 Inc.
 Mr. Vince Walsh-Rock
 Larry Ward
 Watercolor My House
 Dr. Sonia Watson
 Eleanor and Roland Webb
 James Weinberger
 Mr. Brian Weisberg
 Anne and Jim Wengerd
 Fonz Weninger
 Wheaton Drama
 Wheaton Meat Co
 Wheaton Park District
 Robert and Jeanne Whisler

Mr. and Mrs. Charles A.
 Williams
 Lee Williams
 Roger Williams
 Ms. Wendi Wilson
 Diane Meiborg and Roger
 Zacek
 Zanies Comedy Nite Club

Corporate and Community Partners

A Toda Madre
 Adelle's Modern Kitchen +
 Bar
 Altiro Latin Fusion
 Anonymous Design, Inc.
 Aronberg Golghen
 Arrowhead Golf Club
 Ball Horticultural Company
 Brookdale Glen Ellyn
 Capstone Financial Advisors
 Christopher B. Burke
 Engineering
 College of DuPage
 Foundation
 DoubleTree by Hilton Lisle
 Naperville

DuPage Convention and
 Visitors Bureau, DuMore
 DuPage
 DuPage County Board
 DuPage Foundation
 Enjoy Illinois/Department of
 Commerce and Economic
 Opportunity
 G. Carl Ball Family
 Foundation
 Illinois Arts Council Agency
 Ivy Restaurant
 Japanese Chamber of
 Commerce and Industry of
 Chicago
 Leslie A. and Mary E. Wiberg
 Fund of DuPage
 Foundation and Arts
 DuPage
 Molex
 Reserve 22 at Village Links
 Santa Fe Restaurant
 Vistex Corporation
 West Suburban Art Society
 Wight & Company
 90.9FM WDC



Volunteer at the MAC

We are always looking for enthusiastic, dedicated, reliable and customer service-oriented people to become volunteers serving as ushers, greeters and docents at our events. Volunteers provide invaluable service by assisting guests to their seats, answering questions and most importantly creating a welcoming environment for our guests. Volunteers are unpaid, but that doesn't mean you won't be rewarded. The cultural perks you'll enjoy as a volunteer include vouchers for every shift worked offering discounts to use at the MAC Box Office and invitation to our annual volunteer appreciation dinner including prizes and gifts.

Visit AtTheMAC.org/Volunteer to fill out an online application and for more information on requirements and qualifications. Applications accepted year-round.

For more information, contact Volunteer Coordinator
 Rob Nardini: nardinir@cod.edu | (630) 942-3705.

HOUSE NOTES

- Cameras and recording devices are not allowed in the theater and are prohibited by our contracts with the artists.
- Smoking is not permitted in the theater or on campus.
- For your comfort and security, all backpacks and large bags must be checked.
- Please turn off all cell phones and any other alarms while in the theater.
- Emergency phone number at COD Police Department for after-hour calls is (630) 942-2000.
- Latecomers seated at discretion of the House Manager.
- Groups of 10 or more may contact (630) 942-3026 or groupitx@cod.edu to arrange for group discounts.
- If you notice a spill in the theater, please notify an usher.
- McAninch Arts Center volunteers are people who assist the house staff in areas of ticket taking, ushering and general management during performances. To get involved, call (630) 942-3705.
- **For Americans With Disabilities Act** accommodations, call (630) 942-2141 (voice) or (630) 858-9692 (TDD).
- **Infrared Assistive Listening Devices:** For audience members who desire audio amplification of performances, headsets with individual volume controls are now available. You may check out the headsets at the Box Office with a driver's license. *Underwritten by a generous gift from The Knowles Foundation.*

MAC STAFF LISTING

MAC Administrative Staff

Director of the McAninch Arts Center.....	Diana Martinez
Business Manager	Molly Junokas
Assistant Business Manager	Linda Sharbaugh
Curator, Cleve Carney Museum of Art	Justin Witte
Assistant Curator.....	Julia Walker
Gallery Assistant	Madelene Przybysz
Marketing and Patrons Services Coordinator	Janey Sarther
Graphic Designer.....	Wendy Melgar
Director of Development for Cultural Arts.....	Jon Nadel
Education and Community Engagement Coordinator.....	Mandy Rakow
Project Manager	Kari Schoettle
Office Manager/Events Coordinator	Morgan Bainbridge
Student Clerical Assistants	Kate Cadag, Claudia Mah Eng Muzquiz

MAC Box Office and Front of House Staff

Box Office Manager	Julie Elges
Assistant Box Office Supervisors	Daniel Arzola, Elise Wash
Box Office Assistants	Patrick Garon, Joanne Hunt
Patron Services Manager	Tom Murray
House Manager/Volunteer Coordinator	Rob Nardini

MAC Resident Professional Ensembles

Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Managing Artistic Director	Gus Menary
Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Associate Artistic Director.....	Daniel Millhouse
Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Business Manager	Bryan Burke
New Philharmonic, Music Director and Conductor	Kirk Muspratt
New Philharmonic, Associate Conductor and Librarian	Benjamin Nadel
New Philharmonic General Manager	Paula Cebula
New Philharmonic Personnel Manager.....	Karen Dickelman
New Philharmonic Assistant Librarian.....	Ryan Michel

MAC Design and Technical Staff

Technical Production/Lighting/Sound Coordinator.....	Richard Arnold, Jr.
Technical Theater Supervisor	Sabrina Zeidler
Costume and Make-up Design Coordinator	Kimberly G. Morris
Assistant Costume Coordinator and Stitcher	Gretchen Woodley
Production Manager	Joe Hopper
Sound and Lighting Specialist.....	Ben Johnson
Lighting Production Specialist	Elias Morales
Audio Production Specialist	Fisher Parsons
Events Production Specialist/Tech. Director – BTE	Caitlyn Woods
Stage Hands	Bobby Bryan, Zak Zubka

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