

TOP OF THE WORLD

A CARPENTERS TRIBUTE



McANINCH ARTS CENTER
Nov 23, 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

TOP OF THE WORLD

A CARPENTERS TRIBUTE

The show will have a 20-minute intermission.

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



Sun, Nov 23, 2025, 3p
Belushi Performance Hall

ABOUT TOP OF THE WORLD

Top Of The World is The World's Premiere Tribute to The Carpenters! Fronted by singer Debbie Taylor, her Karen Carpenter vocal resemblance is absolutely astonishing. She is backed by a seven piece band consisting of top-notch, professional industry musicians who have had amazing careers in their own right. The band members are all multi-instrumentalists and at times use three keyboards to recreate the incredibly complex arrangements created by Richard Carpenter. The attention to detail paired with saxophone, trumpet, flute and many more instruments complete every song to perfection!

This show does not use tracks or pick up musicians like other shows. This is an eight piece band that travels and performs all shows together.

Who can forget the incomparable music of the Carpenters? The popular brother/sister duo of the 70's and early 80's gave us some of the most unforgettable ballads and melodic pop songs of all time.

This Carpenters Tribute Band brings the most authentic versions of the Carpenters music to the stage. No doubt, you will be singing along as they perform hits like; "Close To You", "We've Only Just Begun", "Rainy Days And Mondays", "Please Mr. Postman", and "Yesterday Once More", to name a few. Debbie captures the warm tones and contralto range that made Karen's voice so unique. Sit back and enjoy as Debbie and her band take you on a nostalgic journey through the Carpenters greatest hits while sharing some of the backstories behind the music.



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CAST

Debbie Taylor	Lead Vocalist
Paul Stewart	Guitar & Keys
Felix Gomez	Piano
Jack Ciano	Drums
Rafael Valencia	Bass Guitar
Alvaro Rosario	Vocals
Diana Hernandez	Vocals, Trumpet, and Percussion
Tiffany Delit	Visual Technical Director
Ross Goldman	Saxophone, Flute, Ewi, and Keys - Our Sub

PROFILES



Debbie Taylor started her career on stage at the age of seven performing in Children’s theatre. After directing numerous productions in children and community theatre, her career path led her to the world of professional singing. For the past 20 years, she has been the owner and leader of ‘The Debbie Taylor Band’, a wedding, corporate, and private party band. As well as opening numerous times for Barry Gibb at DRI corporate Galas, Taylor and her band have been flown to St. Martin and St. Barts to entertain on the Silversea luxury cruise line.

The music of the Carpenters has always been close to Taylor’s heart. That sweet spot at the low end of her contralto range is a comfortable fit for singing Karen’s songs.

This is a project of love and passion for incredible music and to be shared with my fellow Carpenters fans.



Paul Stewart has been a professional musician for more than 40 years. He is an amazingly diverse guitarist who can play in almost any genre of music. Although guitar is his main instrument, he also plays the electric bass, keyboards, and just about anything that has strings.

As a band leader in New York City, he performed at the Plaza Hotel, the Waldorf Astoria, the Pierre Hotel, the St. Regis Hotel, The 21 Club, and Windows of the World. In New York City, he appeared with some well-known names in the jazz world such as; Jo Jones Jr., John Scofield, Bob Berg, Marcus Miller, and played in nightclubs such as; The Brass Rail, The Village Gate, CBGB’s, Limelight, The Village Corner, S.N.A.F.U, etc.

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Now living in South Florida, he has performed in venues such as; The Breakers, The Four Seasons, The Biltmore, The Van Dyke, The Ritz Carlton, The Mandarin Oriental, and The Versace Mansion. He has played at events such as the SunTrust Jazz Festival, Las Olas Art Festival, Delray Art Festival, and more. Some of the nightclubs Stewart has performed at include; O'Hara's, The Button South, Blue Jean Blues, The Hemisphere Lounge at The Loews Miami Beach, etc. He is currently a part-time co-host of the "Jazz Lounge" radio show on WDNA 88.9 FM every Tuesday from 12:00 midnight until 2:00 a.m.



Felix Gomez graduated from the University of Miami with a Masters of Music in 2008. He has won several awards including; The National Dean's List, Best Soloist, and Best Composition at the North Texas Jazz Festival, and Outstanding Band Performance in the Down Beat Student Music Award. Felix has performed with artists such as; Gloria Gaynor and Julio Iglesias. In the jazz world, he has shared the stage with saxophonist Ed Calle, flutist Nestor Torres, violinist Federico Britos, saxophonist Carlos Averhoff, drummer Duffy Jackson, saxophonist Paquito D' Rivera, saxophonist Ira Sullivan, guitarist Simon Salz, percussionist Sammy Figueroa, flutist Dave Valentin, and trumpeter Arturo Sandoval, among others.

In the field of music education, Felix has taught jazz studies at three accredited colleges and universities in South Florida such as; Miami Dade Community College, Florida International University, and lastly, the University of Miami.

Felix is presently teaching Jazz Piano Lessons at Miami Dade Community College, Kendall campus, and continues to perform with different bands throughout South Florida.



Born in Lima, Peru to a family of musicians, **Ismael Vergara's** professional career started as a young child recording commercial jingles singing with his mother and sister.

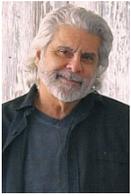
After emigrating to the US in the late 1980's, Ismael studied classical clarinet at the famed New World School of the Arts High School. In the decades since, he has become a sought after studio musician, recording saxophone, clarinet, and flute tracks on countless Grammy and Latin Grammy Award winning albums. His recording

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credits include work with Ricky Martin, Sheila E, Shakira, Alejandro Sanz, Tony Succar, Ricardo Arjona, Luis Enrique, and many more.

Additionally, Ismael has performed on stage with a wide range of notable acts such as The Who, Gloria Gaynor, Gino Vanelli, Jennifer Lopez, Jennifer Hudson, The OJ's, Ricardo Montaner, and Brian McNight, among others.

Ismael has enjoyed playing in many pit orchestras for Broadway Across America as well as local musical theater productions. He is proficient in all saxophones, flute, piccolo, clarinet, bass clarinet, and oboe, making him an in demand woodwind doubler.



Jack Ciano has performed in every facet of the music business. In the music industry he is considered an eclectic musician whose talents are always in demand. Jack Ciano has extensive performing and recording experience working with the following artists; Gloria Estefan, John Secada, Natalie Cole, Be Bop innovator Dizzy Gillespie, electric bass pioneer Jaco Pastorius, RCA recording artist Bruce Hornsby, Late Night With David Letterman bassist Will Lee, Bruce Springsteen's saxophonist Clarence Clemmons.



Rafael Valencia is an electric bass instructor and conductor of the salsa ensemble at Miami Dade College (Kendall Campus). He was the bass player at Univisión television network from 1987 to 2015 performing on hit shows including;

- *Sabado Gigante* – #1 rated TV show for more than 30 years
- *Don Francisco Presenta* – Late night talk show

Valencia has recorded and performed with Arturo Sandoval, Paquito D'Rivera, Carl Fontana, Bill Watrous, Joe Williams, Ed Calle, and Néstor Torres (This Side of Paradise). He was the musical arranger and bass player on two Grammy award winning albums in the category of "Best Latin Jazz Album", *No Te Enamoras* and *Dazon de Amor*.

He has performed with a wide variety of Latin artists including; Celia Cruz, Marisela Verena, Tito Puente, Luis Enrique, Ismael Miranda, Willie Chirino, Lissete, Raul DiBlasio, Olga Guillot, Jose Luis Rodriguez, Maria

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Marta Serralima, Nelson Ned, Braulio, Angela Carrasco, Suzi Lemans, Carlos Oliva, Daddy Yankee, Don Omar, Lucero, and Julio Iglesias.



Alvaro Rosario, better known as ‘Al’, has been singing for the South Florida music scene for the past 18 years. He began his musical career in the United States Army singing in the Fort Benning Infantry chorus. He has traveled across the United States during his military term singing for Generals, military hospitals, and various community functions.

In 2003, Alvaro was also the winner of South Florida’s version of American Idol called ‘Gimme the Mic’, where he had the opportunity to work and record with Pop legend John Secada, and Grammy award winning producers Joel Somellian, Emilio Estefan, and Immanuel Ramirez. As a current member of the Debbie Taylor Band, his talented vocal stylings allow him to cover all genres of music including; Latin, pop, jazz, and rock. His love and knowledge of the Carpenters music has made him a perfect fit in the Top Of The World band!



Diana Hernandez has been involved in music her entire life. She has been singing background vocals and playing trumpet for many years. She is an ardent music lover with a diverse interest in all genres. She is a fan of the Carpenters and has always enjoyed their music.



Tiffany Delit creates visual and experiential storytelling that amplifies event experiences and delivers unforgettable visual encounters engaging people throughout the event or performance. She applies her Wow Factor to audience experiences and specializes in creative direction, special event production and business development at local, roadshow, international and non-profit events and productions.

Tiffany is CEO/President of CreateCo. LLC, she ignited her “show fever” when launching a foundation concert for a local entrepreneur, from concept to implementation – directing “Be My Jazzy Valentine -Concert of Hope” with Gerald Albright & Bobby Caldwell. Because she loves what she does, Tiffany dedicates her spare time volunteering, helping to design and construct props and other visuals for public school and local theater productions.

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She is a south Florida resident and transplant from the northeast after moving from New Jersey to South Florida. Tiffany holds a B.S. in Marketing Management, minoring in International Marketing from Florida Atlantic University.

Tiffany is blessed to be working, watching and listening to every TOTW show with the remarkable Debbie Taylor and her gifted band.



Ross Goldman is a native South Floridian raised in a musical family. Playing in a variety of situations throughout childhood contributed to his extensive familiarity in most genres of music. This gave him an appreciation for performing on multiple instruments including saxophones, flute, clarinet, piano, bass, and drums. While Ross attended the prestigious Frost School of Music at the University of

Miami on scholarship, he was able to participate in masterclasses and play alongside many notables in the Jazz world including Joshua Redman, Benny Golson, Maria Schnieder, Jim Snidero, John Fedchock, Jeff Coffin, Troy Roberts, and many more.

Now in Colorado, Goldman is an in-demand freelance musician performing for private events and sitting in with the top Jazz/Salsa orchestras in town, while also maintaining his career as a music educator. In his tenure at Pace High School in Miami Gardens, he created the curriculum for the music program, and is a co-founder of the schools Academy of Performing/Visual Arts providing a platform for his students to pursue their own careers in music.



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For all your pre-show meals and post-show bites, we are thrilled to be partnering with these neighborhood restaurants. Our dining partners offer MAC patrons exclusive discounts and special offers. All MAC ticket orders receive coupons to these local favorite restaurants!

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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 contact the College of DuPage Foundation at (630) 942-3088 or foundation@codfound.org.

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 Koze Wine Bar
 Ms. Christina K. Kozich
 Mary Krska
 Ms. Barbara Kwiatkowski

Mr. John L. Ladle, Jr.
 Margaret Lansky
 Ms. Allison K. Lanthrum
 Mr. Andrew Larsen
 Ms. Leigh Anne Larsen
 Ms. Cynthia J. Laughlin
 Mr. Tommy Lenahan
 Barbara Limburg Mancini
 Linea Hair Salon & Day Spa
 Local Glass Studio
 Dr. Kiantra Loza
 Ms. Phyllis Ludwig
 Mr. and Mrs. Mark Lundberg
 Lu's Fine Asian Cuisine LLC
 Lynfred Winery
 Ms. Elizabeth Mabilangan
 Mr. and Mrs. Deryk A.
 Madsen
 Madeleine Marbach
 Ms. Sharon M. Marcisz
 Marinella's Ristorante Italiano
 Katherine Markham
 Janet Marks
 Dechantal Markus
 Marriott Theatre
 John Mategrano
 Ms. Diane M. Maurer
 Mr. and Mrs. Karl J. Maurer
 Ms. Denise McAleer
 Amanda McCarthy
 Ms. Kathleen McCullough
 Caroline McGowan
 Marty and Marian McGowan
 Kari McKinley
 Michael Meehan
 Mr. Todd Meggos
 Alice Melady
 Patricia Mellinger
 Jackie Micek
 Mr. and Mrs. Craig Miller
 Gail Minkus and Daniel
 Minkus
 Mion Artisan Soap
 Miroballi Shoes
 Michael Monteith
 Janis Mooney
 Hugo Moran
 Ms. Pamela A. Morong
 Ms. Kimberly G. Morris
 The Morton Arboretum
 Mr. and Mrs. David W.
 Morton
 Bud and Pat Motz
 Cathy Mousseau
 Mrs. Sally Mullan
 Ms. Dawn S. Mulrow
 Jane Munsie
 Barbara and Ted Nagengast
 Mr. Stanley Nardoni
 Ms. Erika Nelander

Michael and Judith Nigro
 Brian and Jessica Niksa
 Mark R. Oliphant
 Olive 'N Vinnie's Oil and
 Balsamic Bar
 Ms. Judith W. Olson
 Karen Omeara
 Alice E. Packard
 Mr. Andrew Palomo
 Mr. Levi Palomo
 Paramount Theatre
 Pet Smart
 Mr. and Mrs. Patrick
 Peterson
 Mr. Michael Petrushka
 Ms. Sharon Pfister
 Phil Stefani Signature
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 Alicia and Marshall Pufundt
 Tom and Karen Pulver
 John and Mandy Rakow
 Ms. Diane G. Rath
 Ms. Tracey J. Reid
 Reserve 22 Restaurant at
 Village Links
 Ms. Sarah Richardson
 Timothy Ricordati
 Marilyn and Neil Ringquist
 River Bend Golf Club
 Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth
 Robbins
 Ms. Yolanda E. Rocio
 Nancy L. Ruby
 Tina Rudins
 Shari Ryan
 Sandra Sansone Brennan
 Janey Sarther
 Patrick Scheid
 Mr. Dennis Shanks
 Ms. Sherie Shapiro
 Ms. Joanne Sikorski
 Ms. Lisa Sikorski
 Ms. Lisa Simonson
 Walt and Sandy Slazyk
 Barbara Smilanic
 Barbara Smith
 Mallory Spann
 Sue Stealey
 Mr. and Mrs. D. G.
 Stephenson, Jr.
 Ms. Hanna Stevens
 Gerald Stewart
 Robert and Sandra Strutzel
 Mr. and Mrs. Frank Studnick
 Suzette's Creperie
 Grace and Len Swanson
 The Cottage
 The Graceful Ordinary
 TIAA
 Mr. and Mrs. Gary L. Tice

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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.,
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Mr. Vince Walsh-Rock
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Watercolor My House
Dr. Sonia Watson
Eleanor and Roland Webb
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Mr. Brian Weisberg
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Wheaton Meat Co
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Williams
Lee Williams
Roger Williams
Ms. Wendi Wilson
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Illinois Arts Council Agency
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Japanese Chamber of
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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
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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 grouptix@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 Manager	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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