



LINCOLN CENTER'S *AMERICAN SONGBOOK*  
2006–2007 SEASON

Series Highlights include:

New York Premiere by John Pizzarelli

Mos Def's Big Band

Betty Buckley and Quintessence

The music of Jason Robert Brown, Fred Hersch, and Bob Dylan

Alan and Marilyn Bergman: A 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

Cabaret with Ute Lemper, Judy Kuhn, and Jane Monheit

Today's Hottest Singer-Songwriters: Josh Ritter, Neko Case, Calexico, Sasha Dobson, Jesse

Harris, and Richard Julian

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Lincoln Center's acclaimed series *American Songbook* returns for its ninth season celebrating the diversity and breadth of American popular song. For 18 nights of cabaret, folk, pop, country, rock, and bluegrass, the series will explore the best of the golden age of musical standards and today's most dynamic contemporary songwriting. The 2006–2007 season will bring to The Allen Room stage some of today's most gifted interpreters of song including Betty Buckley and Jane Monheit. It will also feature genre-crossing performances by Audra McDonald and Mos Def and celebrations of great popular songwriters, including the works of Fred Hersch, Bob Dylan, and a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary tribute to Alan & Marilyn Bergman. This season continues the tradition of presenting some of today's most innovative singer-songwriters, from a variety of genres, who are expanding the American songbook in their own unique ways.

**TICKETS** for the general public go on sale October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2006 and can be purchased via CenterCharge at 212-721-6500, at the Avery Fisher Hall Box Office, online at Lincoln Center's website [www.lincolncenter.org](http://www.lincolncenter.org), or at the Frederick P. Rose Hall Box Office beginning January 3, 2007. Tickets for The Friends of *American Songbook* go on sale October 4<sup>th</sup>.

Major support for Lincoln Center's *American Songbook* is provided by Richard L. Fisher.

Lincoln Center's American Songbook 2006-2007 Season  
October 11, 2006 – February 24, 2007

Allen Room, Frederick P. Rose Hall, Broadway at 60<sup>th</sup> Street

**COMPOSER SERIES:**

*American Songbook* celebrates the accomplishments of songwriters who set the course for popular song as well as those who continue to contribute new ideas and expand the scope of the great American songbook.

Wednesday-Thursday, October 11&12, 2006: **AUDRA MCDONALD & Friends: Build a Bridge** launches the ninth season of *American Songbook*. For two nights the four-time Tony Award winning singer will be joined on stage by **Jason Robert Brown, Nellie McKay, and Patti LuPone** in a dynamic exploration of songs by contemporary American singer-songwriters. The shows will feature works from McDonald's new album "Build a Bridge" by such artists as Nellie McKay, Jason Robert Brown, and Laura Nyro, as well as standards from the American Songbook. McDonald's unique concert will draw connections between composers like Rodgers and Hammerstein with today's most accomplished songsmiths. Ted Sperling, McDonald's longtime music director, will lead the instrumental ensemble. The October 12<sup>th</sup> performance will be broadcast on *Live From Lincoln Center*.

Thursday, January 18: **FRED HERSCH**, one of the most respected and accomplished composers and jazz pianists of our time, comes to the Allen Room for an evening highlighting his original and provocative songs. He will be joined on stage by some of the day's most respected interpreters of song: **Peter Eldridge, Kate McGarry, Jessica Molaskey, and Michael Winther**. Selections from "Leaves of Grass" and other seminal works by Hersch will be on the program.

Thursday, February 1: *American Songbook* celebrates **Bob Dylan** with **HOWARD FISHMAN: Bob Dylan and The Band's Basement Tapes**, a review of the nearly mythical recordings made by the groundbreaking songwriter in the late 1960's. Dylan is without doubt one of the most influential singer-songwriters in the American canon, divining the trends that guided American popular music for several generations. The Basement Tape recordings achieved nearly legendary status as their release was delayed for many years, and bootleg copies only served to whet the popular appetite. Howard Fishman, a unique and respected interpreter of American song in his own right, delves into these works and showcases a sampling of Dylan's masterful skills as represented by these recordings.

Friday, February 2: **ALAN & MARILYN BERGMAN: Celebrating a 50 Year Collaboration**. Alan and Marilyn Bergman are one the most prolific and highly acclaimed popular songwriting teams in American history, having penned some of the most cherished songs of the last 50 years. *American Songbook* celebrates the enormous contribution they've made over the last half-century to popular American music. A roster of special guests, including Brian Stokes Mitchell, Sandy Stewart, Lari White, Jessica Molaskey, and Melissa Errico, will perform selections from the Bergman songbook, including such beloved tunes as "The Way We Were," "You Don't Bring Me Flowers," "Nice n' Easy," and "Papa Can You Hear Me?" The winners of boundless honors, including three Oscars and an induction into the Songwriters Hall of Fame, the Bergmans will also be celebrating their wedding anniversary on this night.

Friday, February 9: **JASON ROBERT BROWN** has made his mark on popular American song, winning a Tony Award for his score for the Broadway hit *Parade*, delving deep into the popular psyche with his show *The Last Five Years*, and writing such standards as "Stars and Moon." With wide-ranging talents as an arranger, conductor, singer-songwriter and pianist, Brown leads a night that surveys his accomplishments as a highly regarded contributor to the great American songwriting tradition.

**CABARET:**

Set against the shimmering backdrop of the New York skyline and Central Park, *American Songbook* presents three nights of cabaret in the Allen Room with some of the genre's most treasured interpreters.

Friday, January 19: Broadway's **JUDY KUHN** brings her star-powered voice to *American Songbook*. One of The Great White Way's most sought after sopranos, she received critical acclaim for her standout performances in *Eli's Coming*, *Les Misérables*, and *She Loves Me*. Kuhn takes the stage in the Allen Room to explore the works of celebrated singer-songwriter Laura Nyro and songwriters who were influential to her or influenced by her, like Carole King, Joni Mitchell and Burt Bacharach.

Wednesday, February 21: **UTE LEMPER** personifies cabaret. Known for her moody interpretations of songbook standards, her shows are laced with witty asides and knowing looks, weaving an atmosphere that draws in audiences like

few other performers today. For her *American Songbook* performance, expect to hear some of her original works, as well as songs by Kurt Weill, Tom Waits, and Van Morrison.

Saturday, February 24: What better way to close out the *American Songbook* season than with a dazzling night of cabaret with **JANE MONHEIT**. One of the most celebrated young interpreters of American standards, her style and voice deftly meld the past with today. Monheit brings her sultry voice and jazz-influenced interpretations to a night of pure American song.

### **AMERICAN POPULAR SONG:**

Lincoln Center's *American Songbook* series is as much about interpreters and interpretations as it is about the canon of American popular song, and for the ninth season a diverse roster of singers will lend their unique talents and vision to interpreting the American songbook.

Wednesday, January 17: Reaching across genres and generations **MOS DEF's Big Band** takes its turn at the traditional American songbook. A fearless performer, who is best known as an award-winning, introspective rapper, Mos Def is familiar with taking artistic chances. A highly regarded songwriter Mos Def has won accolades for his hip-hop and R&B work, as well as for his acting both on stage and screen. Now, for *American Songbook*, he revisits a project he first touched on three years ago, taking on the role of bandleader and crooner to put his own jazz-influenced spin on works by such artists as Gil Scott-Heron and Miles Davis and jazz-inspired R&B works.

Saturday, February 3 (2 shows): **JOHN PIZZARELLI's** new show *Dear Mr. Sinatra* makes its New York premiere in the Allen Room. As the show title suggests Pizzarelli will celebrate Ol' Blue Eyes as he did on his latest album by the same name, garnering great critical acclaim and popular success for his take on the Sinatra classics and tunes written specifically for him. Pizzarelli's urbane style and cool sensibility will be on display when he takes the mic and leads his band for two shows, playing such hits as "Witchcraft" and "You Make Feel So Young."

Saturday, February 10(2 shows): Legendary singer **BETTY BUCKLEY** returns to American Songbook for a glamorous night of song. The Tony Award-winning singer brings her new jazz-influenced show to the Allen Room for a transcendent evening of beloved songbook classics. For this tour-de-force performance Buckley will be accompanied by her long-time collaborator and musical director Kenny Werner and her band Quintessence.

### **CONTEMPORARY-ROCK-POP-FOLK:**

*American Songbook* continues its mission of presenting established and emerging popular American singer-songwriters, including those who represent contemporary genres, such as rock, pop, folk, indie, and alternative music.

Saturday, January 20: Singer-songwriter, and guitarist **MICHAEL FRANKS** is known for his romantic and sometimes whimsical songs, including the off-beat "Popsicle Toes." Franks brings his unique jazz-influenced pop sound to *American Songbook* as he performs works from his new samba-inspired album "Rendezvous in Rio," as well as some old time favorites.

Wednesday, January 31: **JOSH RITTER** has a smoldering folk-rock sound supported by a strumming guitar and thoughtful lyrics, which combine to make for strong musical storytelling. His latest album "Animal Years" draws openly on the styles of Bob Dylan, Simon & Garfunkel, and Bruce Springsteen. Ritter is establishing himself as a singer-songwriter to watch, having garnered strong critical success and popular interest. The 29 year old makes his *American Songbook* debut this season.

Thursday, February 8 (2 shows): **CALEXICO** draws on influences as diverse as country, 50's jazz, blues, rock, and even gypsy music, and Portuguese Fado, but you can also hear echoes of the indigenous music found around their home base in the American southwest. All of this lends an eclecticism to their driving indie-rock recordings, and it will surely be on display for their *American Songbook* double-bill debut.

Thursday, February 22: *American Songbook* presents a night featuring on-the-rise singer-songwriters; ingénue **SASHA DOBSON**, singer-guitarist **RICHARD JULIAN**, and indie-powerhouse **JESSE HARRIS**. These three young musicians all have new albums out and back each other on their most recent efforts. Dobson's samba-influenced album *Modern Romance* is receiving positive reviews for its lilting melodies, and her jazz-inflected vocal style is garnering comparisons to Norah Jones. Sharing the bill with Dobson is her producer, co-singer-songwriter Jesse Harris, who won a Grammy for his work on Jones' breakout hit "Don't Know Why." Harris has now put out an album of his own *Mineral* which features a stripped-down folk-rock sound and is receiving a warm response as well. Richard Julian, a singer-songwriter, guitarist who has also worked with Jones, Suzanne Vega, and Bonnie Raitt rounds out the evening. His album *Slow New York* is a modern folk rumination which relies on softly sung, well-crafted lyrics surrounded by a strumming guitar.

## **COUNTRY-BLUEGRASS:**

Country and bluegrass are part of the bedrock of American popular song. *American Songbook* presents artists in these genres who harken back to the traditional songs and styles, as well as those who are forging new ground while honoring their roots.

Wednesday, February 7: **THE CHERRYHOLMES** take over the Allen Room for a night of foot-stomping, rousing bluegrass. This family of six is taking the bluegrass community by storm, traveling around the country presenting their hard-driving take on traditional American music. Mom and Dad lead the ensemble, and their four children ranging in age from 16 to 21 all play instruments and take their turn at singing and songwriting. With only four years on the bluegrass circuit the Cherryholmes have already made a name for themselves winning an International Bluegrass Association Award for Entertainer of the Year and a Grammy nomination for Best Bluegrass Album.

Friday, February 23 (2 shows): Proud of her country influences, **NEKO CASE** collects fans from many stripes; rock, folk, country, and indie-rock. An evocative storyteller, Case is an emotionally-charged singer-songwriter, whose warm, rich voice gives her music a power that transcends genres. Case will perform two sets highlighting works from her latest album "Fox Confessor Brings the Flood," as well as other selections from her repertoire.

PHOTOS ARE AVAILABLE AT: [www.lincolncenter.org/aboutLC/media\\_home.asp](http://www.lincolncenter.org/aboutLC/media_home.asp)

Since it was launched in 1998, *American Songbook* has been dedicated to celebrating the extraordinary achievements of the popular American songwriter from the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to the present day. Spanning all styles and genres from Tin Pan Alley and Broadway to the eclecticism of today's songwriters working in pop, cabaret, rock, folk and country, *American Songbook* traces the history and charts the course of the American song from its past and current forms to its future direction.

Artists who have appeared on the *American Songbook* series include Andy Bey, Betty Buckley, Ann Hampton Callaway, Liz Callaway, Laura Cantrell, Barbara Carroll, Rosanne Cash, Michael Cerveris, Kristin Chenoweth, Peter Cincotti, Eric Comstock, Victoria Clark, Sutton Foster, Mary Cleere Haran, Darius de Haas, Jane Krakowski, Judy Kuhn, La Chanze, Rebecca Luker, Patti LuPone, Nellie McKay, Marin Mazzie and Jason Danieley, Audra McDonald, Jane Monheit, Megan Mullally, Tonya Pinkins, Kenny Rankin, Steve Ross, Phil Roy, Stephin Merritt with The Magnetic Fields, Brian Stokes Mitchell, Bernadette Peters, Sufjan Stevens, Elaine Stritch, The Fountains of Wayne, They Might Be Giants, Rhonda Vincent and the Rage, Deborah Voigt, Lillias White, and Dar Williams. The series has also presented concerts highlighting the music of composers and lyricists such as Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty, Harold Arlen, William Bolcom and Arnold Weinstein, John Bucchino, Michael John LaChiusa, Cy Coleman, Ricky Ian Gordon, Adam Guettel, Frank Loesser, Stephin Merritt, Andy Razaf, Richard Rodgers, Arthur Schwartz, Duncan Sheik, Stephen Sondheim, Stew, Billy Strayhorn, Jule Styne, Jimmy Van Heusen, and David Zippel.

Major support for Lincoln Center's *American Songbook* is provided by Richard L. Fisher. Additional support is provided by The DuBose and Dorothy Heyward Memorial Fund, F. M. Kirby Foundation, Inc., The Shubert Foundation, The Evelyn Paige Foundation, Inc., New York State Council on the Arts, Great Performers Circle, Chairman's Council, and Friends of Lincoln Center & American Songbook.

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LINCOLN CENTER PRESENTS AMERICAN SONGBOOK 2006-2007

At the Allen Room, Frederick P. Rose Hall  
Broadway at 60<sup>th</sup> Street

Wednesday, October 11, 2006 at 8:00 p.m.

Audra McDonald & Friends: Build a Bridge  
With Special Guests Nellie McKay and Patti LuPone

Thursday, October 12, 2006 at 8:00 p.m.

Audra McDonald & Friends: Build a Bridge  
With Special Guests Nellie McKay and Patti LuPone

Wednesday, January 17, 2007 at 8:30 p.m.

Mos Def's Big Band  
Tickets: \$65, 55, 50, 30

Thursday, January 18, 2007 at 8:30 p.m.

Songs by Fred Hersch with Peter Eldridge, Kate McGarry, Jessica Molaskey, and Michael Winther  
Tickets: \$60, 50, 45, 30

Friday, January 19, 2007 at 8:30 p.m.

Judy Kuhn  
Tickets: \$70, 60, 45, 30

Saturday, January 20, 2007 at 8:30 p.m.

Michael Franks  
Tickets: \$70, 60, 50, 30

Wednesday, January 31 at 8:30 p.m.

Josh Ritter  
Tickets: \$65, 55, 45, 30

Thursday, February 1 at 8:30 p.m.

Howard Fishman: Bob Dylan and The Band's Basement Tapes  
Tickets: \$70, 60, 55, 35

Friday, February 2 at 8:30 p.m.

Alan & Marilyn Bergman: Celebrating a 50 Year Collaboration  
With Special Guests Brian Stokes Mitchell, Sandy Stewart, Lari White, Jessica Molaskey, and Melissa Errico  
Tickets: \$80, 65, 55, 35

Saturday, February 3 at 8:30 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.

John Pizzarelli: Dear Mr. Sinatra  
Tickets: \$80, 65, 55, 35

Wednesday, February 7 at 8:30 p.m.

The Cherryholmes  
Tickets: \$60, 50, 40, 30

Thursday, February 8 at 7:30 p.m. & 9:30 p.m.

Calexico

Tickets: \$65, 55, 45, 30

**Friday, February 9 at 8:30 p.m.**

**Jason Robert Brown**

Tickets: \$70, 60, 45, 30

**Saturday, February 10 at 8:30 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.**

**Betty Buckley: Quintessence featuring Kenny Werner**

Tickets: \$90, 75, 65, 40

**Wednesday, February 21 at 8:30 p.m.**

**Ute Lemper**

Tickets: \$65, 55, 50, 30

**Thursday, February 22 at 8:30 p.m.**

**Sasha Dobson, Jesse Harris, Richard Julian**

Tickets: \$60, 50, 40, 30

**Friday, February 23 at 8:30 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.**

**Neko Case**

Tickets: \$65, 55, 45, 30

**Saturday, February 24 at 8:30 p.m.**

**Jane Monheit**

Tickets: \$70, 60, 55, 35

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