

SONDHEIM

on



PHOTO BY JOAN MARCUS

Music and lyrics by
**Stephen
Sondheim**

*Conceived and directed
on Broadway by*
James Lapine

Directed by Curtis J. Williams
Music Direction by Julian Bryson

JUNE 5-21, 2026



SEASON 106

5th PRODUCTION



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Music and lyrics by
**Stephen
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Conceived and
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CAST

Emily Charleton
Leanne Gullo
Julia Fallon Johns
Morgan Perry
Daniel Pesante
Alyssa Stark
Josh Waller
Tevin Washington
Jon Woodbine

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

*SONDHEIM ON SONDHEIM is presented through special arrangement with
Music Theatre International (MTI).*

*All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
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Originally produced on Broadway by the **Roundabout Theatre Company.**

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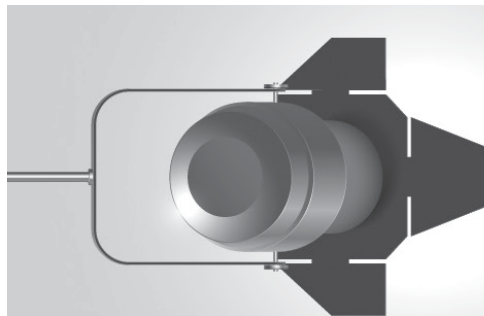
DIRECTOR'S LETTER

The first time I heard a song by Stephen Sondheim, I didn't even realize it was his work. I only remember being deeply invested in what would happen to Tony and Maria. "Tonight, tonight, it all began tonight. I saw you, and the world went away." That is the beauty of Sondheim's music: the words capture emotional vulnerability and take it on a rollercoaster ride.

Sondheim on Sondheim is a rare show that allows the audience to see behind the costumes, behind the sets, behind the spectacle. It is a show about music. Its true rarity lies in learning how, and sometimes why, these songs were written by Sondheim himself. As an audience, we are given a glimpse into the inner workings of the mind of a musical genius. Sometimes it is cluttered, sometimes it is messy, but it is always honest.

Directing this show has been equally complex and enjoyable. It is a show that will make you laugh, make you cry, and make you think. It is a testament to the true power of music. Sondheim takes that power a step further through his ability to express a myriad of emotions, ideas, and lessons within each bar of music on the page. He reminds us that the human condition is universal and not always easy, but surrounding ourselves with the people we love can help us along our journey.

— Curtis J. Williams



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MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT ONE

OVERTURE

I'LL MEET YOU AT THE DONUT

INVOCATION/FORGET WAR

LOVE IS IN THE AIR

COMEDY TONIGHT

TAKE ME TO THE WORLD

SO MANY PEOPLE

SOMETHING'S COMING

YOU COULD DRIVE A PERSON CRAZY

THE WEDDING IS OFF

NOW YOU KNOW

FRANKLIN SHEPARD, INC.

GOOD THING GOING

WAITING FOR THE GIRLS UPSTAIRS

EPIPHANY

LOVING YOU

HAPPINESS

EVER AFTER

A WEEKEND IN THE COUNTRY

SUNDAY

ACT TWO

GOD

LOSING MY MIND/NOT A DAY GOES BY

OPENING DOORS

THE BEST THING THAT EVER HAS

HAPPENED

MULTITUDES OF AMYS

HAPPILY EVER AFTER

BEING ALIVE

AH, BUT UNDERNEATH

IN BUDDY'S EYES

SOMETHING JUST BROKE

GUN SONG

DO I HEAR A WALTZ

SMILE, GIRLS

FINISHING THE HAT

BEAUTIFUL

CHILDREN WILL LISTEN

SEND IN THE CLOWNS

COMPANY/OLD FRIENDS

ANYONE CAN WHISTLE

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Tom Kimbrough

Kristen & Tom
Majdanics

Janice & C. David
Martin

Rosemary McCorkle

Linda & Ken McEneyr

Denise & Robert
Meissner

Sandra Myers

Farah Nesargi

Mildred Gloria Pepe

Laura Jane & Buck
Pittman

COMPANY BIOS

EMILY CHARLETON studied musical theatre at NYU's Steinhardt School. She is a Navy Brat, a Navy Veteran, and a Navy Spouse. She spent eight years in the U.S. Navy fleet bands as a vocalist. Recent roles include Berthe in *Pippin* (Theatre Jacksonville), Miss Shingle in *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* (OPCT), and Penelope Pennywise in *Urinetown* (5 & Dime). She and her husband, Ian, have traveled the world thanks to the U.S. Navy and have been living in Jacksonville since 2023.

LEANNE GULLO is honored to have the opportunity to perform alongside so many talented artists on this stage. She was last seen on the Theatre Jacksonville stage in their recent production of *Pippin* as Fastrada. Leanne has appeared on stage all over the Jacksonville area. Some favorite roles include Mother Superior (*Sister Act*, PBTS), Tammy (*Escape to Margaritaville*, ABET), and Eva Kavanova (*Traces in the Wind*, TJ). During the day, Leanne is a K-2 Music Teacher at Yulee Primary School in Yulee, FL.

JULIA FALLON JOHNS is elated to return to the Theatre Jacksonville stage. You may remember her from previous performances such as *Beehive!*, *Something Rotten!*, and *Into The Woods*. Julia has loved Stephen Sondheim's music as long as she can remember and is proud to be a member of this cast. Other recent performances include *Batboy!* (ABET), *Urinetown* (The 5 & Dime) and *Much Ado About Nothing* (Perused By A Bear Shakespeare). Julia would like to thank Curtis, Julian and the entire team as well as her family, friends, and especially her son Jude for supporting her dream to perform.

MORGAN PERRY is so excited to be performing again with Theatre Jacksonville in *Sondheim on Sondheim!* She was most recently seen onstage with Theatre Jax as Philia in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, and Sister Mary Jo in *Desperate Measures*. Other favorite roles include Belle (*Beauty and the Beast*), Maria (*The Sound of Music*), Portia (*Something Rotten!*), and Anytime Annie (*42nd Street*). Offstage, Morgan is a nurse practitioner at Well&You, and dog mom to Bella. Many thanks to her family and friends for always supporting her theater endeavors!

DANIEL PESANTE is thrilled to return to Theatre Jacksonville for *Sondheim on Sondheim*. He was last seen at Theatre Jacksonville in Sarah Boone's *Mom Before Dad*. A Douglas Anderson alumnus and Jacksonville University vocal performance graduate, his recent credits include *Godspell*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, and starring as Guido Contini in *Nine*. He has performed extensively across the Jacksonville area for over a decade and formerly served as director of the Big Orange Chorus. He is incredibly grateful to celebrate Sondheim's legacy with this wonderful cast.

ALYSSA STARK is excited to perform in her first show with Theatre Jacksonville for *Sondheim on Sondheim!* She's always had a passion for music since she was a child, and thought of choir as her home away from home growing up. She graduated last year from Jacksonville University with her bachelor's degree in music performance, and a minor in Women and Gender Studies. She has enjoyed her roles in *The Magic Flute*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Elijah*, *Well Behaved Women*, *Mary Poppins*, *Macbeth*, and various shows attributed to different composers. When she's not practicing or on the stage, she can be found reading mythology, preparing for her master's degree, or spending time with her family. Alyssa would like to thank her family, friends, and teachers for their continued support in her journey, and she hopes you enjoy the show!

JOSH WALLER's history with Stephen Sondheim goes all the way back to his very first musical: Tony in *West Side Story* his senior year of high school. Since then, he's had the amazing honor of performing in many of Sondheim's shows, namely Pseudolus in *A Funny Thing Happened...* (Jacksonville University), Anthony in *Sweeney Todd* (Players by the Sea), Charley in *Merrily We Roll Along* (ABET), Bobby in *Company* (The 5 & Dime), Guitau in *Assassins* (The 5 & Dime), and as Marcus Lycus in *A Funny Thing Happened...* last year with Theatre Jacksonville and the Florida Theatre. Josh is a familiar face on the Theatre Jax stage, starring as Nick Bottom in *Something Rotten!*, Jean Valjean in *Les Misérables*, Jean François Millet in *Is He Dead?*, and Archibald Craven in *The Secret Garden*, among many others. Some of his other favorite local credits include Marvin in *Falsettos* (The 5 & Dime), Burrs in *The Wild Party* (PBTS), Bruce in *Fun Home* (Limelight Theatre), Leo Frank in *Parade* (PBTS), and Hedwig in *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (The 5 & Dime).

TEVIN WASHINGTON is overjoyed to be back on the Theatre Jacksonville stage this season. This time, to perform musical works composed by the industry titan that was Stephen Sondheim! His introduction to the genre of "musical theatre" was in high school. During that time, he performed "Sunday" with another small vocal ensemble right here at Theatre Jacksonville (weird, right!?) That has remained one of his favorite musical numbers to date. After stepping into theatre performance just last year, his musical credits so far include *Oliver!*, *Meet Me in St. Louis*, and *Oklahoma* (A.C.T.). Offstage, he enjoys fashion design and garment construction with a concentration on tailoring. He also spends his time exploring the intersection of creativity and science through baking. He would like to thank Theatre Jacksonville for another fantastic privilege to perform with them and both directors Curtis and Julian for the amazing opportunity they've provided. He'd also like to thank his fellow cast mates (a tenured company of musically skilled and talented artists) for such a memorable experience.

JON WOODBINE is thrilled to be doing his second Theatre Jacksonville show. A Jacksonville native with a passion for singing, composition, acting, and education. Graduated from UNF with a BA in Music Education, Jon works as an elementary music teacher where he directs multiple ensembles, and he also sings with the Voices of Jacksonville. He would like to thank his family, friends, and teachers for their love and support throughout his journey as a musician.

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- Page 8 -

CREATIVE TEAM BIOS

JULIAN BRYSON (MUSIC DIRECTOR) is Director of Choral Activities at Radford University (VA), where he directs multiple choirs and teaches courses in conducting, music education, and musical theatre. He earned a doctoral degree in Choral Conducting from the University of Kentucky and has served as musical director for a variety of high school and community shows ranging from *Urinetown* and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* to *Carmen*, *The Mikado*, and *Oliver*. A commissioned composer and arranger, Julian holds degrees in conducting and composition from the University of Tennessee. His works have earned international performances and recognition from the Yale Glee Club, American Choral Directors Association, The American Prize, and the Florida Vocal Association. His works are published via EC Schirmer, MusicSpoke, and www.julianbryson.com.

CURTIS J. WILLIAMS (DIRECTOR) spent his childhood in musical theatre but was soon taken in by the world of ballet. From 2000 to 2008, he worked as a company artist/resident choreographer with The Florida Ballet and attended the University of North Florida and American University during the first years of his professional career. During that time, he also served as a permanent guest artist and choreographer with Virginia Ballet Theatre, Sierra Nevada Ballet, Los Angeles Ballet, Dayton Contemporary Ballet, and various dance galas across the U.S. After retiring from the world of classical performance, Mr. Williams first returned to musical theatre as a rehearsal director of works from the Bob Fosse repertoire. Since then, he has directed, choreographed and/or costumed productions of *Ragtime*, *Sister Act*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Mamma Mia!*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Hot Mikado*, *Nine to Five: The Musical*, *Schoolhouse Rock Live!*, *Les Misérables*, *Always A Bridesmaid*, *Hairspray*, *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*, *Love Goes To Press*, *The Laramie Project* and *The Explorer's Club*. An avid hat maker, his millinery skills can be seen in shows around the southeast.

SQUIRREL PITTS (STAGE MANAGER) wants to thank Theatre Jacksonville for giving them a place to get started on or at least near the stage. They have stage managed *SHOUT*, *The Boys Next Door*, and *Dear Jack, Dear Louise* here in San Marco. When they aren't wrangling actors, Squirrel enjoys camping, reading, and people-watching.

JANETTE HORN (PROJECTIONS) is a first timer working backstage on a production and she's excited to continue working with Theatre Jacksonville in the future. Outside of theatre and her work as an analyst, she enjoys cooking, reading, photography, architecture, and exploring new places locally and abroad.

SARA GREEN (SOUND) is happy to be back at Theatre Jacksonville and thankful she gets to end the exchange year doing one last show with her 10th exchange student. She has averaged 2 shows annually since 2004, with notable favorites: *Pajama Game*, onstage as Gladys and *Beauty and the Beast*, as the Director.

TYMOFII “TIMA” SMIRNOV (ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER) is in Florida on exchange from the Ukraine. He wants to thank Theatre Jacksonville and his host mom for making this one last theatre experience possible in his exchange year.

TECHNICAL PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Curtis J. Williams
Music Director	Julian Bryson
Production Manager	Michelle Leigh
Costume Design	Classic Costumes
Light Design	Triple O Productions
Sound Design/Operator	Brent Mulberry
Stage Manager	Squirrel Pitts
Assistant Stage Manager	Tima Smirnov
Lighting Board Operator	Aspen Krill
Projection Operator	Janette Horn
Music Sound Board Operator	Sara Green
Wardrobe	Lourdes “Lou” Acosta



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SEASON 2026-2027 107



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2019 Olivier Award for Best New Musical

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Adapted by Patrick Barlow

From the novel by John Buchan

January 16, 17*, 21, 22, 23, 24*, 28, 29, 30*, 31*, 2027

"Ingenious! A dizzy delight!"

- *Daily News*

Crimes of the Heart

By Beth Henley

February 27, 28*, March 4, 5, 6, 7*, 11, 12, 13*, 14*, 2027

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize

"overflows with infectious high spirits."

- *The New York Times*

Theatre People, or The Angel Next Door

By Paul Slade Smith

April 17, 18*, 22, 23, 24, 25*, 29, 30, May 1*, 2*, 2027

"a glittering, effervescent hit romantic comedy"

- *Broadway World*

Nunsense

Book, Music and Lyrics by Dan Goggin

June 12, 13*, 17, 18, 19, 20*, 24, 25, 26*, 27*, 2027

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