

Season 37

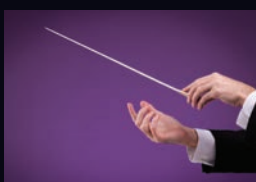
2022-2023

# COMMA

PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

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401 S. College St. | Morganton, NC 28655

[commaonline.org](http://commaonline.org)

# Dear Friends of CoMMA,

It is hard for me to believe a whole year has passed and that I am now headed into my second season with CoMMA. It has been such a new and positive challenge for me personally. I am once again inspired to take a look at a long time community gem and then think beyond what is, to what could be. The building has been incredibly well preserved, but after 36 years it is time for some much needed renovations and additions. I am very excited to let you know that we have hired an architect and theater consulting firm out of Charlotte to lead us through a Visioning and Master Planning Process.

The opportunity for public input is coming for our forever season ticket holders, new season ticket holders, one-time attendees and for those who have never come through our doors. When the time comes, I hope you will assist! This plan should be reflective of our community and its needs to secure CoMMA's future in the Performing Arts arena.

Tour companies are experiencing continued labor shortages and now with the added rising cost of fuel and travel, they are simply having to close their tours altogether. We are excited to say that we can FINALLY announce CoMMA's 37th Season's incredible lineup! Amber Austin, CoMMA Manager, deserves all the credit as she has worked diligently to get an ever changing line-up in place. I am also thrilled that the World Ballet Series will be using CoMMA again for The Nutcracker! A treat for sure! And if you are looking for something different, be sure to check out the Girls Night Out Package which goes on sale August 1, 2022.

I am truly looking forward to seeing everyone this year!

Sincerely,



Sharon Jablonski, CoMMA Director



On Sale July 1 - July 29.....\$425<sup>00</sup>



On Sale August 1 at 12pm.....\$150<sup>00</sup>

**Single Tickets**..... On Sale August 1 at 12pm

## How to Order

In Person

Tickets may be purchased at CoMMA  
401 South College Street, Morganton, NC 28655  
Box Office Hours are Mon. - Fri., 12pm to 5pm.

Online – [www.commaonline.org](http://www.commaonline.org)

By Phone

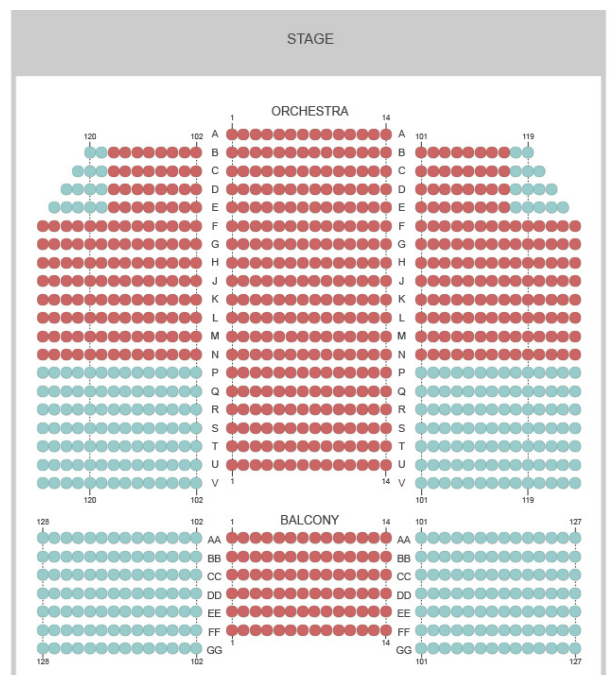
Call the CoMMA Box Office at 828-433-7469  
Or 800-939-7469 \*TDD: NCRELAY-711

Service/Mailing

Facility Fee: \$1.50 - \$3.00 per ticket  
*(included in advertised brochure prices)*

Mailing Fee: \$1.00 per order

*All tickets are subject to 6.75% NC sales tax.*



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# Concessions

Light snacks and beverages are available for you to enjoy while viewing our performances.



### Beer - \$5

- Miller Lite
- Coors Lite
- Stella
- Austin Eastciders
- Blood Orange Cider

### Snacks - \$1

- Twix Bar
- Lance Crackers
- Goldfish Crackers
- Trailmix
- Snickers Bar

### Merrill Mischief Candies (Variety) - \$3

*\*Please note that inventory and pricing is subject to change.*

### Non-Alcoholic Beverages - \$2

- Pepsi / Diet Pepsi
- Mtn Dew / Diet Mtn Dew
- Dr Pepper / Diet Dr Pepper
- Sierra Mist
- Bottled Water

### Wine - \$5

- Santa Julia Chardonnay
- Santa Julia Malbec
- Jam Jar Sweet White Moscato
- Underwood Pinot Gris
- Underwood Pinot Noir
- Underwood Rose
- Prosecco

# Summer Theatre Camp



## 2nd Annual Summer Theatre Camp

Offered Annually -  
 Call the box office  
 for details.

**Camp instructors:**  
 Keshia Nichols, Susan  
 Cato-Chapman, Derek  
 Long, Marny Pritchard,  
 Meredith Potter





## Masters of Soul

Thursday | September 22, 2022 | 7:30pm

Masters of Soul is a celebration of the legendary songs and performers that defined Motown and soul music. This 90-minute show features stylishly costumed, fully choreographed performances of both male and female groups backed by a live band.

For many, Masters of Soul is the ultimate stroll down memory lane. For younger generations, the show offers an opportunity to experience an era in our country's history that produced many of the greatest music acts ever recorded.



## Luca Stricagnoli Italy's Guitar Prodigy

Thursday | October 6, 2022 | 7:30pm

After 100 million YouTube views and two astounding tours with International Guitar Night, Italy's Luca Stricagnoli is back with his own solo show, featuring high-energy renditions of rock songs played on a variety of custom acoustic guitars, including his own triple neck acoustic guitar. With multiple melodies and rhythms and special playing techniques, Luca has transformed his instrumentals into a solo art form all his own.



Tier 1  
\$40

Tier 2  
\$35

Student  
- Group  
\$30

Tier 1  
\$35

Tier 2  
\$30

Student  
- Group  
\$25





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## Lonestar

Thursday | October 27, 2022 | 7:30pm  
 lonestarnow.com

Not every musician has the opportunity to revisit and even potentially improve upon their biggest hits. But on the forthcoming TEN to 1 record, the award-winning band Lonestar – Dean Sams (keyboards, acoustic guitar, background vocals), Michael Britt (lead guitarist, background vocals), Keech Rainwater (drums) and Drew Womack (lead vocals, guitar) – are taking a fresh look at all 10 of their chart-topping country songs.

This streak started in 1996 with the band's second single, the rock-edged "No News," and continued with the following year's "Come Cryin' to Me" and "Everything's Changed." The band's quadruple-platinum 1999 album Lonely Grill spawned four No. 1 hits (including the beloved global smash "Amazed") and established Lonestar as music's preeminent pop-country band – a status they'd maintain through the 2000s and beyond.

304 S. Sterling St.  
 Suite 100  
 Morganton, NC



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Tier 1	Tier 2	Student - Group
\$55	\$50	\$45





Pictured: Alex Bellisle, Carisa Barecca, Kaye Winks  
Photo By: Timothy M. Schmidt

The Second City -

## She The People

Girlfriends' Guide to Sisters Doing It for Themselves

Saturday | November 5, 2022 | 7:30pm  
secondcity.com

Hot off rave reviews and extended engagements in Chicago and Toronto, She the People: Girlfriends' Guide to Sisters Doing It for Themselves is heading to CoMMA!

A high-octane show entirely created, designed and performed by the fearlessly funny women of world-famous comedy mecca The Second City.

She the People is a mimosas-and-madness-fueled foray that proudly roasts the patriarchy in a mashup of sketches and songs that reclaims comedy for everyone!

*\*This event is for adult audiences 18+*

★ **Season PACKAGE**

Girls Night Out PACKAGE

Tier 1	Tier 2	Adult - Group
\$55	\$50	\$45

Tier 1	Tier 2	Student - Group
\$35	\$30	\$25

★ **Season PACKAGE**



## Sons of Serendip

Thursday | November 17, 2022 | 7:30pm  
sonsofserendip.com

Sons of Serendip is a musical group of four friends, who through a series of serendipitous events, came together in graduate school at Boston University. Micah Christian, a former teacher from Randolph, Massachusetts, is the lead vocalist of the group; Cordaro Rodriguez, a former attorney from Charlotte, North Carolina, is the pianist and guitarist; Kendall Ramseur, a former cello instructor from Charlotte, NC, is the cellist and vocalist; and Mason Morton, who is a former teacher from Atlanta, GA, is the harpist for the quartet.

In 2014 they came together to begin what they know will be a long beautiful journey of creating music that touches people's hearts by competing and becoming finalists on America's Got Talent, Season 9 (NBC). They hope that their music will resonate deeply with listeners and that, in some way, it will make their lives a little better – even if just for a moment.

# 38

BREWS  
FOODS  
SPIRITS  
ARTS  
SIGHTS  
SHOPS



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DOWNTOWN  
MORGANTON



World Ballet Series:

## Nutcracker

Thursday | December 1, 2022 | 7:30pm  
[worldballetseries.com](http://worldballetseries.com)

Step into the whimsical magic of one of the world's most beloved fairy tales, coming to CoMMA Performing Arts Center this Holiday Season!

A part of the World Ballet Series, the Nutcracker is performed live by a multinational cast of 50 professional ballet dancers gathered to bring this most beloved holiday tradition to life.

A family-friendly experience accompanied by Tchaikovsky's timeless music, more than 150 hand-sewn costumes, hand-crafted sets, and classic Marius Petipa choreography.

This fairy tale will take you on a Christmas night adventure with Clara and the Nutcracker to the Land of Sweets. See the iconic Waltz of Flowers and the Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy; meet Mother Ginger and the Drosselmeyer.

Mark your calendars and snag your tickets early for this unforgettable experience!

Tier 1  
\$75

Tier 2  
\$70

Student  
- Group  
\$65



# Nochebuena: A Christmas Spectacular

Monday | December 5, 2022 | 7:30pm

This concert features an all-star cast of music and dance, with the esteemed Ballet Folklórico de Los Ángeles and Mariachi Garibaldi de Jaime Cuéllar, presenting traditions and customs that people in Mexico celebrate during the Christmas season.

This spectacular show focuses on Nochebuena (Christmas Eve), where Mexican families attend midnight mass before returning home to a late-night feast and lots of music! In Mexico, Christmas is a whole season of Christmas-related celebrations, representing a blend of indigenous culture, Spanish heritage, and influences from other cultures.

Tier 1  
\$55

Tier 2  
\$50

Student  
- Group  
\$45

 **Season**  
PACKAGE





## Shimmer: A Winter Cirque Reverie

Friday | December 16, 2022 | 7:30pm  
cirquetacular.com

Journey to a shimmering winter wonderland of circus spectacle and derring-do! Marvel at the bendy ballerina in her glistening snow globe. Find yourself aglow as this aerial snow show mesmerizes your senses. Astonishing acrobatics, dazzling specialty acts, and glittering costumes abound in this “cool”, warm and whimsical world of *Shimmer!* A cirque winter reverie the whole family will enjoy!



## A Winter Solstice & Christmas Jazz Concert

Featuring Joseph Hasty & Centerpiece Jazz

Wednesday | December 21, 2022 | 7:30pm  
josephhasty.com

In a musical career that has spanned over 30 years, Joseph Hasty's extensive performing experience has carried him to stages in America, Australia and Europe - where he lived for seven years. A three-time recipient of the Regional Artist Grant awarded through the North Carolina Arts Council, Joseph is a gifted performer who displays talents as a composer and arranger.

Centerpiece Jazz has been pleasing audiences for over a decade with their unique arrangements of Holiday and Christmas classics. Featuring Geoff Clapp (drums), Andy Page (guitar), Zack Page (bass) and Rick Hefner (sax), this concert is sure to put you in the Holiday spirit.

★ **Season**  
PACKAGE

Tier 1  
\$35

Tier 2  
\$30

Student  
- Group  
\$25

All Seats \$25



# Winnie The Pooh:

Thursday | January 26, 2023 | 6:00pm

Disney's iconic Winnie the Pooh, Christopher Robin and their best friends Piglet, Eeyore, Kanga, Roo, Rabbit, and Owl (*oh... and don't forget Tigger too!*) have come to life in a beautifully crafted musical stage adaptation.

Featuring the Sherman Brothers' classic Grammy Award-winning music with further songs by A.A. Milne, this beautiful fresh stage adaptation is told with stunning life-sized puppetry through the eyes of the characters we all know and love, in a new story from the Hundred Acre Wood.



This production is created by renowned family entertainment creator Jonathan Rockefeller, and made by Rockefeller Productions alongside Disney Theatrical Productions. Following a record-breaking New York premiere in 2021, *The Hundred Acre Wood* is heading across the United States in 2023.

Tier 1	Tier 2	Student - Group
\$45	\$40	\$35

 **Season**  
PACKAGE



STOMP - Created by Luke Cresswell and Steve McNicholas  
© Steve McNicholas

# STOMP

Monday | January 30, 2023 | 7:30pm  
stomponline.com

STOMP is explosive, inventive, provocative, witty, and utterly unique—an unforgettable experience for audiences of all ages.

The international percussion sensation has garnered armfuls of awards and rave reviews and has appeared on numerous national television shows.

The eight-member troupe uses everything but conventional percussion instruments – matchboxes, wooden poles, brooms, garbage cans, Zippo lighters, hubcaps – to fill the stage with magnificent rhythms.

Year after year, audiences worldwide keep coming back for more of this pulse-pounding electrifying show.

As the Boston Globe says, “If you haven’t seen STOMP, GO! If you have seen it, take someone and share the pleasure!” STOMP. See what all the noise is about.



# ZuZu African Acrobats

Thursday | February 9, 2023 | 7:30pm  
zuzuafricanacrobat.com

Hailing from Tanzania, the ZUZU African Acrobats celebrate the 2,000-year-old Bantu culture of East Africa in every performance.

Performing ancient traditions passed on by elders, this troupe delivers incredible acrobatics, energizing African drumming, singing and dancing, and gravity defying stunts while simultaneously displaying the grace, beauty and strength of the African culture.



Tier 1	Tier 2	Student - Group
\$55	\$50	\$45

Tier 1	Tier 2	Student - Group
\$35	\$30	\$25





# Who Hijacked My Fairytale?

## Starring Kelly Swanson

Thursday | February 23, 2023 | 7:30pm  
[whohijackedmyfairytale.com](http://whohijackedmyfairytale.com)

Join Kelly Swanson - award-winning storyteller, comedian, motivational speaker, author of Who Hijacked My Fairy Tale - as she takes you on a twisted journey to a happier ever after.

You'll laugh yourself silly! From muffin tops to age spots to "the girls" gone wild, no topic is off limits as Kelly laughs about being a woman in today's world. But underneath the humor is a lot of heart and a powerful message about embracing what makes you unique.

★ **Season PACKAGE**

Girls Night Out PACKAGE

Tier 1	Tier 2	Student - Group
\$35	\$30	\$25



# Fairytales on Ice

Friday | March 10, 2023 | 7:30pm  
[fairytalesiceshow.com](http://fairytalesiceshow.com)

Welcome to Fairytales on Ice where dreams are reality and adventures are around every corner!

Featuring Beauty & The Beast!

Join Belle, The Beast, and some new friends as they skate through adventures, magic and celebration - But beware of the enchantress who wants to have the beast remain a monster for the rest of his days.

Can Belle, her friends and our audience help save the day?

This non-stop thrilling adventure features over the top magic illusions, spectacular special effects, an all original award winning soundtrack, and thrilling jumps, spins, and pair-lifts - All on ICE!

Tier 1	Tier 2	Student - Group
\$40	\$35	\$30

★ **Season PACKAGE**



# Hiplet Ballerinas

Saturday | March 25, 2023 | 7:30pm  
[hipletballerinas.com](http://hipletballerinas.com)

The only company in the world to perform the signature trademark style, Hiplet Ballerinas of Chicago, Illinois fuse classical pointe technique with African, Latin, Hip-Hop and urban dance styles rooted in communities of color.

Promoting inclusivity in both their cast and audience, Hiplet features true-toned tights, modern music, and dancers of all shapes, sizes and colors.

Since going viral in 2016 thanks to appearances on Good Morning America and BuzzFeed, the company has amassed over a billion views on YouTube, starred in a feature documentary, made a cameo in Shawn Mendes' "Youth" music video, and performed across the world.

The Hiplet Ballerinas are also often found in high-fashion campaigns from the runways of Paris Fashion Week to ads for Desigual and Swarovski Crystal.

Their premiere tour will support the Chicago Multicultural Dance Center and the scholarships the studio provides.

★ **Season**  
PACKAGE

Tier 1	Tier 2	Student - Group
\$55	\$50	\$45

*Girls Night Out*  
PACKAGE



# SOUTHMOUNTAIN

## Children and Family Services



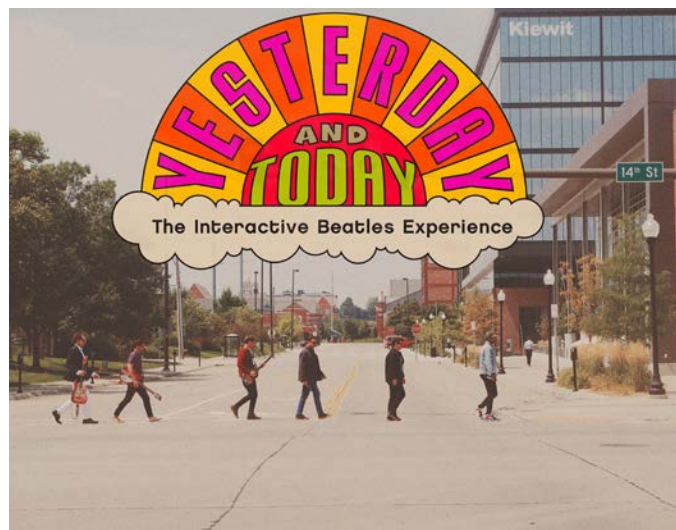
Your life-changing, tax-deductible gift helps Southmountain improve the quality of life for children living in our unique foster community near Lake James.

Donations also support our eleven children's advocacy centers across NC, where child victims of abuse receive compassionate support and consolidated care, reducing continued trauma and accelerating healing.

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[FACEBOOK.COM/SOMOCFS](https://Facebook.com/SOMOCFS)



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## Yesterday & Today

### The Interactive Beatles Experience

Friday | March 31, 2023 | 7:30pm  
[billymcguigan.com](http://billymcguigan.com)

Yesterday and Today: The Interactive Beatles Experience is the nation's most innovative and unique show utilizing the works of the Beatles. This amazing band, anchored by brothers Billy, Matthew and Ryan McGuigan perform as themselves and leave the song choices completely in the hands of the audience. This is done through request cards that audience members fill out prior to the show. On those cards, the audience member only needs to fill out three things: their name, their favorite Beatles song and the reason why they chose that song. The cards are collected and two minutes before the show begins, a set list is created based upon the songs chosen by that particular audience. As an added treat, the reasons that the audience members chose those songs make up the narrative of the evening.

Every show is different, every show is interactive, and every show proves that The Beatles music truly is the soundtrack to our lives.

Tier 1	Tier 2	Student - Group
\$35	\$30	\$25

 **Season**  
PACKAGE



Photo Credit: DJ Corey

# ON YOUR FEET!

## The Story of Emilio & Gloria Estefan

Monday | April 3, 2023 | 7:30pm  
onyourfeetmusical.com

### Her Voice. His Vision. Their Story.

**ON YOUR FEET!** is the inspiring true story about heart, heritage and two people who believed in their talent – and each other – to become an international sensation: Gloria and Emilio Estefan.

Now their story is an all-new exhilarating original musical winning the hearts of critics and audiences alike, with the Chicago Tribune declaring “IT’S A HIT!” and The New York Times cheering,

“The very air in the room seems to vibrate in this undeniably crowd-pleasing musical!”

**ON YOUR FEET!** features some of the most iconic songs of the past quarter-century, including “Rhythm is Gonna Get You,” “Conga,” “Get On Your Feet,” “Don’t Want To Lose You Now,” “1-2-3” and “Coming Out of the Dark.”

Prepare to be on your feet from start to finish!

★ **Season**  
PACKAGE

Tier 1	Tier 2	Student - Group
\$75	\$70	\$65

Girls Night Out  
PACKAGE



Amos Nachoum's

## Killer? A Photographic Exploration

Tuesday | April 18, 2023 | 7:30pm  
amos-nachoum.com

Amos Nachoum has lead great expeditions for individual adventurers and institutions like Apple, IBM, Microsoft, Discovery Channel, Armani, Disney, and Colombia Pictures. For National Geographic, he was team leader for separate photo expeditions to document the Red Sea, Great White Sharks, and Killer Whales.

Above all else, Amos loves people as much as wildlife. His concern for both inspired him to co-found Israel's Marine National Park on the Red Sea.



Though his interest in conservation began with sharks, he looks to bring attention to the most fragile regions of the underwater realm with preservation of the environment foremost in his mind. His favorite way to raise awareness and stimulate passion for the ocean is to help guests experience it first-hand. For those unable to join him on his adventures, he brings the oceans to the world through his photography and public speaking engagements.

Tier 1  
\$40

Tier 2  
\$35

Student  
- Group  
\$30

 **Season**  
PACKAGE





Photo Credit: Jeremy Daniel

## Chicago

Tuesday | May 2, 2023 | 7:30pm

After 25 years, Chicago is still the one musical with everything that makes Broadway shimmy-shake: a universal tale of fame, fortune, and all that jazz, with one show stopping song after another and the most astonishing dancing you've ever seen. No wonder Chicago has been honored with 6 Tony Awards®, 2 Olivier Awards, a Grammy®, and thousands of standing ovations.

As we celebrate our 25th anniversary – you've got to come see why the name on everyone's lips is still ... Chicago.

# Did you skip your wellness check last year?



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# Don't delay your care.

Let Blue Ridge Medical Group get you back on track. Once a year check-ups are essential even if you are healthy. They set up a baseline for your health and help keep other conditions such as diabetes and high blood pressure, under control.

★ **Season**  
PACKAGE

Tier 1  
\$75

Tier 2  
\$70

Student  
- Group  
\$65

VISIT [uncbr.org/care](https://uncbr.org/care) or call 828-580-1344

# Become a Season Ticket Holder

## Preferred Seating...

Subscribers are guaranteed prime reserved seating for each performance and the assurance of the same seats throughout the season.

## Renewal Privileges

Subscribers are offered an advance opportunity to renew, ensuring the best seats and personalized attention year after year.

## Lost Tickets Replaced

Subscription tickets are sent well in advance. If lost or misplaced, replacement tickets will be issued ... even minutes before a performance.

## The Fine Print

*\*All sales are final, no returns or exchanges.*

*\*All persons, regardless of age must have a ticket.*

*\*Schedule is subject to change, however in the unlikely event of a cancellation or change of date, notice will be made via the CoMMA website and Facebook page.*

*\*Photographic and audio/video recording devices are not permitted. Cell phones should be silenced or turned off as a courtesy to others.*



# Become a Volunteer

Interested in becoming a CoMMA volunteer? The mission of the Volunteer Event Staff of CoMMA is to assist in the smooth and safe operation of the facility by courteously enforcing the rules and regulations of the facility.

# Meeting Special Needs

Striving to provide everyone the opportunity to enjoy performance events, CoMMA makes every effort to accommodate guests who have special needs and/or disabilities.

## Accessibility

Parking, ramped entrance, wheelchair seating spaces with companion seating, and compliant restroom facilities are standard features.

## Assistive Listening Devices

FM headsets may be requested from the Box Office at no charge.

## Vision Seating

Patrons with impaired vision may request special seating. *\*Subject to availability.*

## Sign Interpretation

ASL interpretation for appropriate events will be provided at no expense to the patron. CoMMA requires a minimum of two weeks advance notice to secure sign interpretation services.

# All Roads Lead to CoMMA



**2022-2023**

**Season 37**

09.22.22 - Masters of Soul

10.06.22 - Luca Stricagnoli - Italy's Guitar Prodigy

10.27.22 - Lonestar

11.05.22 - The Second City: She The People

11.17.22 - Sons of Serendip

12.01.22 - World Ballet Series: Nutcracker

12.05.22 - Nochebuena: A Christmas Spectacular

12.16.22 - Shimmer: A Winter Cirque Reverie

12.21.22 - A Winter Solstice & Christmas  
Jazz Concert – Featuring Joseph Hasty  
& Centerpiece Jazz

01.26.23 - Winnie The Pooh

01.30.23 - STOMP

02.09.23 - ZUZU African Acrobats

02.23.23 - “Who Hijacked My Fairytale” starring  
Kelly Swanson

03.10.23 - Fairytales on Ice

03.25.23 - Hiulet Ballerinas

03.31.23 - Yesterday & Today:  
The Interactive Beatles Experience

04.03.23 - On Your Feet!  
The Story of Emilio & Gloria Estefan

04.18.23 - Amos Nachoum's Killer?  
A Photographic Exploration

05.02.23 - Chicago



**commaonline.org | 828-433-SHOW**