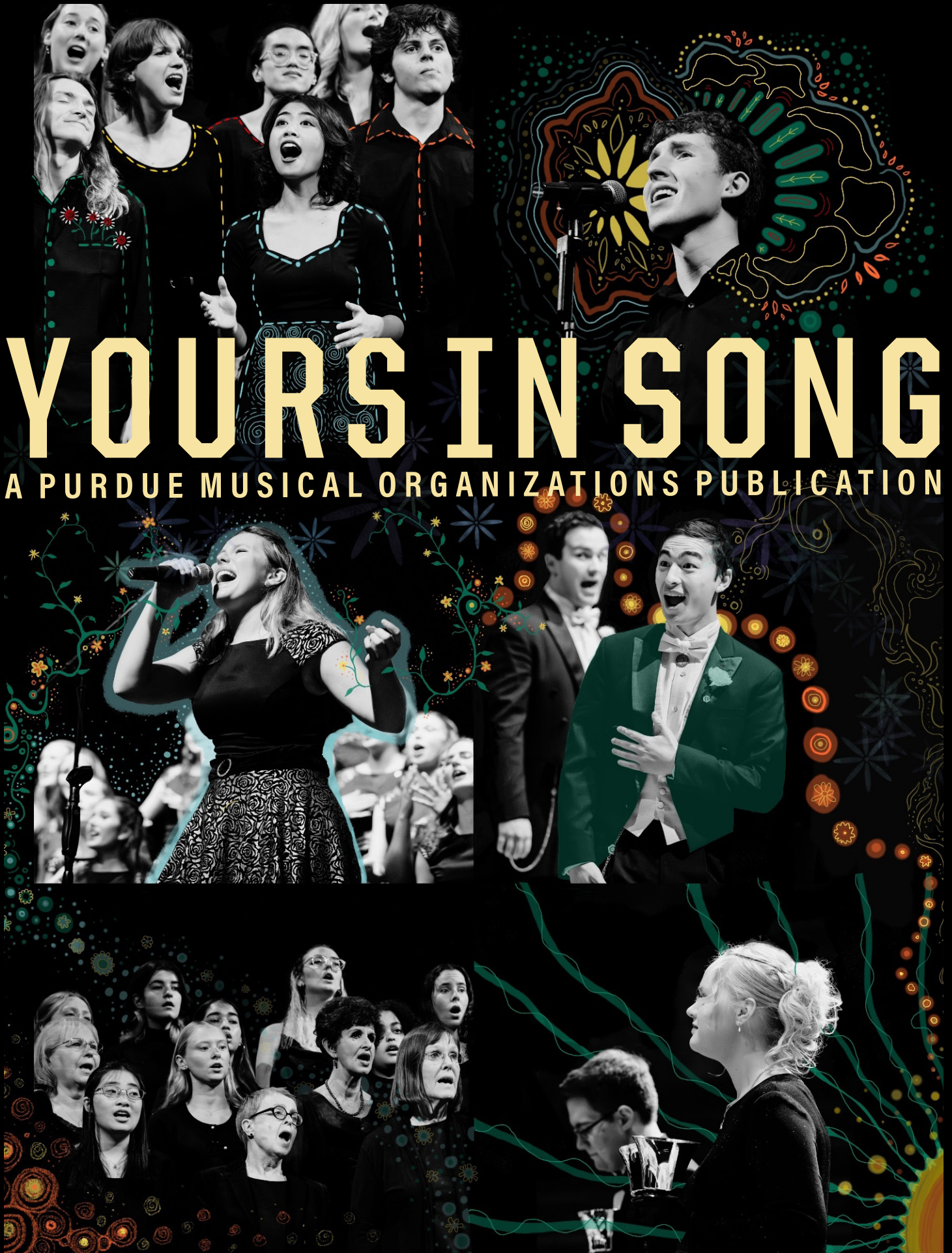


SPRING 2024



YOURS IN SONG

A PURDUE MUSICAL ORGANIZATIONS PUBLICATION

FEAT. ALL-CAMPUS & COMMUNITY CHORALE | PURDUE BELLS | HEART & SOUL | PURDUETTES | UNIVERSITY CHOIR | PURDUE VARSITY GLEE CLUB

YOURS IN SONG - SPRING 2024

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Over the past couple months, I've been watching a lot of the reality show *Below Deck*. Now just hear me out before you jump ship (pun intended) and head to the next page.

There's a moment during one of the later seasons where Boson Eddie Lucas is saying goodbye to Captain Lee Rosbach at the end of a particularly difficult charter season.

"It's always a pleasure working for you, Cap," Eddie says.

"You don't work 'for' me, you work 'with' me," Lee responds.

It's safe to say nobody turns on this type of show expecting to hear something that summarizes their entire leadership mindset, but you never know when or where a little affirmation is going to come your way.

This semester, our students went out into the world and worked with some truly amazing people. The Glee Club were invited to perform at the ACDA Conference in Omaha. Heart & Soul's sojourn to Tennessee was punctuated (with an exclamation point) with an afternoon workshop with American Idol finalist Melinda Doolittle. University Choir sang their hearts out during the Total Eclipse event held in Indianapolis with thousands in attendance. A few of our students even found time to act in a Purdue Theatre musical.

None of these things would be possible, or as impactful, without the "with" of it all. I learn more and more about myself as a leader and as a person each semester working with these students. It's a big reason why I

enjoy the work I do, and I know all our directors would agree.

But, much like the end of a charter season, we have to say our goodbyes. Our seniors graduate and head out into the big blue to do great things. We wish them the best of luck, sad to see them go but grateful for having had the great fortune to work together for a short time, looking forward to the day our paths cross again.



Christopher Wolford
MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

PURDUE MUSICAL ORGANIZATIONS MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS



Abi Bruno
VISUAL MEDIA ASSISTANT



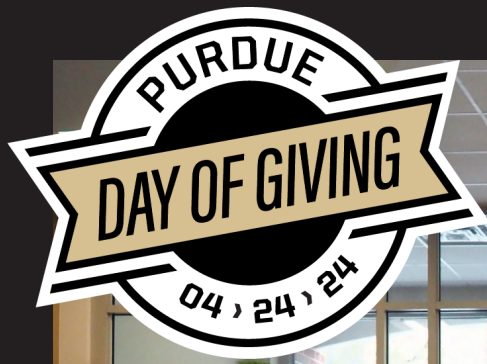
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Erin Wilson
COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST



ONCE MORE, WE RALLIED ON APRIL 24, 2024!

Thank you to all who made Purdue Day of Giving 2024 a success for Purdue Musical Organizations!

Our program would look very different without the contributions we receive during this 24-hour fundraising day, and your help to promote and support the event makes ALL the difference - here are just a few of our big wins for the big day:

- Ranked #7 in overall participation with 889 gifts, gaining \$5000 in additional bonus funds
- Ranked #27 in overall donations, receiving \$128,191, and \$169 in additional bonus funds
- Met the Challenge and beat our gift total of 880 from last year with 889 gifts, gaining an additional \$37 in bonus funds
- Won an additional \$200 in bonus funds during the Introductory Video Sharing Challenge
- Won an additional \$350 in bonus funds during the I Gave Challenge

This is all because of you - the amazing PMO students, parents, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends supporting us every step of the way. So once again, thank you, today and everyday, from the bottom of our hearts to the highest of our notes!

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GLEE CLUB HITS A HIGH NOTE AT ACDA CONFERENCE IN OMAHA

WORDS: CHRISTOPHER WOLFORD

PHOTOS: MATTHEW HAAN



Setting the Stage

On February 10, 2024, the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) Midwestern Region Conference in Omaha, Nebraska became the stage for a remarkable performance by the Purdue Varsity Glee Club. The conference, a gathering of choral directors from across the Midwestern region, provided a platform for Purdue University, which lacks a dedicated school of music, and Purdue Musical Organizations to showcase the

incredible student talent refined within the walls of Ralph and Bettye Bailey Hall.

Taking place at the magnificent Holland Performing Arts Center in downtown Omaha, the performance was a blend of timeless classics and contemporary works from the Glee Club's repertoire. Among the highlights were the classic medley "Tribute to World Peace" and the newer piece "Wedding Qawwali," a student-led and choreographed song from the

Bollywood-themed musical Bombay Dreams (Qawwali being a form of devotional singing originating in South Asia).

"After we concluded 'Wedding Qawwali,' I fought back the tears of joy that welled up during the standing ovation from that audience of professional musicians," Glee Club member Brendan Duffy said. "I'm blessed to be a member of this amazing Glee Club class and to have shared the gift of music with [our directors'] colleagues and contemporaries."

Director Insights

PMO Director Bill Griffel emphasized the significance of the ACDA convention as a platform for professional growth and networking. For Griffel, the conference served as a source of inspiration and rejuvenation, fostering connections with colleagues, and an opportunity to learn about innovative choral practices from around the country.



***"[PERFORMING] AT ACDA...
MADE ME PROUD TO BE IN
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Reflecting on the experience, Joe Bandi, Assistant Director of Purduettes and University Choir who accompanied the Glee Club on this particular outing, expressed the profound impact of the conference on the group's future endeavors. He highlighted the invaluable insights gained from workshops and sessions focused on enhancing expressiveness and exploring diverse musical traditions.

Looking Back, Looking Ahead

Other members of the Glee Club shared their perspectives on the trip, recounting the camaraderie forged during the road trip there and the thrill of receiving standing ovations from an audience of music professionals.

"I was so honored to be able to perform at the ACDA convention as a freshman," Glee Club member Wes Blalock said. "It made me proud to be in the Glee Club and eager to give back to it as much as I can in the years to come."

With the performance behind them and several more exciting events to come this semester, including a 130th PVGC

Anniversary Celebration, both students and staff return to campus with a sense of pride in representing Purdue University on a national stage, a deeper appreciation for the power of music to unite and inspire, and a renewed commitment to excellence.

About ACDA

Founded in 1959, ACDA is a nonprofit music education organization whose central purpose is to promote excellence in choral music through performance, composition, publication, research, and teaching. In addition, ACDA strives through arts advocacy to elevate choral music's position in American society.

Through concerts, educational clinics, choral music reading sessions, and exhibits by music-industry partners, ACDA members have access to diverse and practical conference forums in which to develop their skills and professional knowledge. National conferences are held in odd-numbered years and regional conferences are held in even-numbered years. For more information about ACDA, please visit acda.org

BEHIND THE MUSIC

WEDDING QAWWALI

A.R. RAHMAN (B. 1967)

ARR. ETHAN SPERRY (B. 1972)

Soloists: Yash Mehta, Odhm Shah, Sukrith Raman, Arjun Chakraborty, Ritesh Ray

Instrumentalists: Vidyaratnam Ganapathy, Jake McMahon

///

The song Wedding Qawwali by A.R. Rahman is a celebratory song that is typically played at weddings or other joyful occasions. The song is in Hindi, and it is full of lively, upbeat music that reflects the excitement and happiness of a wedding. The lyrics of the song are primarily focused on the beauty and charm of the bride and the stylishness and grace of the groom.

The chorus of the song repeats the phrase "Mubaraqa, mubaraqa, mubaraqa" three times to offer congratulatory wishes to the newlyweds. The rest of the lyrics focus on the traditional Indian wedding rituals and customs.



MUSIC CITY MEMORIES

Heart & Soul Visit Nashville for Spring Break Concert Tour



Heart & Soul's specialty group Prism performing at City Tap House in Downtown Nashville

WORDS/PHOTOS ~ CHRISTOPHER WOLFORD

Heart & Soul traveled south for spring break this year to perform at a variety of venues, take in the local culture, and more. The trip was their first larger tour since their establishment in 2004.

Led by Director Scott Hines, the ensemble kicked off their tour with a trip aboard the General Jackson showboat for some good food and even better music.

The following day, Sunday, Heart & Soul were invited to perform during the morning service at the historic West End Methodist Church.

"They offered that tremendous arrangement of Precious Lord and it was magnificent," said churchgoer and former West End Methodist Church Director of Music Resources Dean McIntyre, "I find their dedication and talents astounding, especially since Purdue has no music school."

Immediately following the service, they hopped on a bus to downtown for a Purdue Basketball watch party, accompanied with halftime and post-game performances, at City Tap House, arranged by the Purdue University Alumni Club of Nashville.

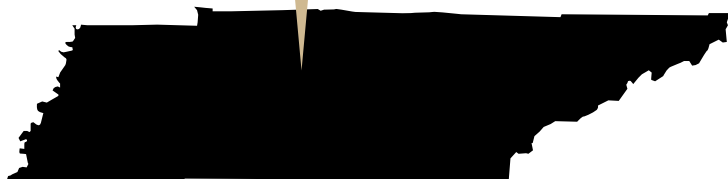
During their free Monday, students wandered around Opryland and spent the rest of the day exploring Nashville's sights and sounds.

The tour concluded on Tuesday with a visit to the National Museum of African American Music followed by a one-on-one workshop with American Idol finalist Melinda Doolittle, whom Hines first met when she was a first-year student at Belmont.

"I had the amazing opportunity, and pleasure, to be Melinda's accompanist and knew immediately she was destined for great things," Hines said. "The chance to introduce my students to [her] and have them experience her expertise, generosity and absolute joy of music is something I will keep with me forever."



**SCAN FOR AN
EXCLUSIVE
BEHIND THE
SCENES LOOK
AT THE TRIP!**





LOOKING BACK AT UNIVERSITY CHOIR'S STELLAR PERFORMANCE AT THE INDIANAPOLIS MOTOR SPEEDWAY ON APRIL 8, 2024

WORDS: ABI BRUNO PHOTOS: PURDUE MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Smiling for the cameras pointed our direction, we waited in anticipation to sing for the enormous crowd of people gathered at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway for the total solar eclipse. We were excited to perform in front of such a massive audience, the largest University Choir had ever seen. We all laughed as the announcer referred to us as the "Men's Glee Club", but even that mishap could not stop us from singing our hearts out. Starting around one o'clock, we took the stage and performed several songs alongside the Purdue All-American Marching

Band, including "On the Banks of the Wabash, Far Away" and "Purdue Hymn." Ensemble member Paige Gonzales expressed her appreciation for this important opportunity for the ensemble..

"University Choir...[has] really started to make a name for ourselves on campus, but nothing compares to sharing our talents and passions with that many people," Gonzales said. "It was a once in a lifetime experience with a once in a lifetime group of people."

In the downtime before the cosmic event, we explored the circuit. We walked around, chatted, killed time. The smell of sizzling barbecue and fried foods from local vendors filled the air. The crowd buzzed with excitement. Children ran around wearing their eclipse glasses while their parents, donned in eclipse themed t-shirts, took photos to commemorate the occasion. Periodically, someone would gaze up to the sky, checking the progress of the moon's orbit. At this unique event, we were also the giddy crowd waiting for the performance to begin, with the sun and moon the literal stars of the show.

Around three o'clock, excitement reached a fever pitch. The temperature began to drop, and a cool breeze rushed over us as a blanket of darkness slowly covered the sky. High above us, the sun turned into a tiny sliver of light. Six minutes later, an ethereal ring replaced the blinding sunlight. Taking off their glasses, the elated crowd clapped and cheered. It was the moment we had all been waiting for. Under the sun and moon's subtle glow, people waltzed to music playing on the venue's speaker system, others took photos and videos, many just looked up in awe.

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Strauss' "The Blue Danube" waltzed out of the speakers, and I was struck with amazement, thinking of how thousands of people, including all of us in the University Choir, traveled many miles for this stunning celestial experience. For those four and a half minutes, all I could think of was how beautiful and unifying it was to be there, in that place, with all those stargazers. I wasn't alone in that feeling either. Lilly Pirotto expressed her gratitude for sharing this special experience with everyone in the ensemble.

"Not only did we get to travel to the Speedway, perform in front of 50,000 people, and witness a once in a lifetime event, we did all of it together," Pirotto said. "The day was full of new challenges, but I wouldn't have had it any other way, experiencing it as a choir, a team, a family."

After the moon departed, we navigated through the crowd, consolidated ensemble members, hopped on a single bus, and left. The day had its difficulties, and the long ride back was no different - crowded, humid, stuck in seemingly endless traffic - but we couldn't help but look back on our day together with joy, forever amazed by the overwhelming feeling of unity when when we lifted our eyes, and our voices, up to the cosmos, together.



WORLDS COLLIDE

PMO STUDENTS SHINE IN PURDUE THEATRE'S *BRIGHT STAR*

Words by Erin Wilson



Left to right: Erin Wilson, Liam Gay, Madeline Thomas

For over 90 years, Purdue Musical Organizations has served as an outlet for the arts at a primarily STEM-focused university, but artistic opportunities abound on campus. You just need to know where to look.

This past spring, Purdue Theatre staged a production of *Bright Star*, a musical written by Edie Brickell and Steve Martin, that tells the story of Alice Murphy and how her life changed forever when she got pregnant at 16. It explores themes of success, failure, love, and loss. Three PMO students were cast in the production - Liam Gay (Purdue Varsity Glee Club), Madeline Thomas (Heart & Soul), and Erin Wilson (Purduettes).

While *Bright Star* allowed all its actors to engage with different types of music and a whole new community, the show served as an opportunity for people in STEM majors to engage further with the arts. In Madeline Thomas' case, participating in PMO and Purdue Theatre allowed

her to explore creativity, emotional expression, and storytelling in ways that complement the analytical and problem-solving skills in cybersecurity, her major.

"Through the arts, I have discovered new avenues for innovation and critical thinking, while my technical background has provided me with a framework for understanding the technical aspects of production and performance," Thomas said. "Overall, engaging with the arts while majoring in [cybersecurity] has allowed me to cultivate a more well-rounded perspective, emphasizing the interconnectedness of STEM and the arts."

The opportunity to explore all sorts of interests, related or not to a student's chosen academic focus, is all part of the college experience and beyond - something that Purdue Theatre Chair Rich Dionne champions in his department.

"We can be so eager to prepare students for their future that we push them to make hard choices: to study the thing that will get them a high paying job, to cut out activities that don't directly lead to a career path," Dionne said. "But human beings are large; we have the capacity to, as Walt Whitman once said, contain multitudes, to be engineers and singers, dancers and physicists. The students I talk to who make space for both in their lives say they are more fulfilled, and I am glad that Purdue Theatre can provide an avenue for that to happen."

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To learn about upcoming performances and more, visit www.purdue.edu/theatre

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST 31, 2024

PURDUE VARSITY GLEE CLUB PRESENTS "FIRST NIGHTER"

7:00 PM | Loeb Playhouse | Purdue University | West Lafayette, IN

SEPTEMBER 6, 2024

PURDUETTE PREMIERE

7:30 PM | Loeb Playhouse | Purdue University | West Lafayette, IN

SEPTEMBER 27, 2024

ALUMNI DAY (OPEN REHEARSALS, BUILDING TOURS, AND MORE!)

8:00 AM-5:00 PM | Bailey Hall | Purdue University | West Lafayette, IN

OCTOBER 5, 2024

HEART & SOUL + PURDUE VARSITY GLEE CLUB CONCERT

TIME TBD | Memorial Island Amphitheatre | Columbian Park | Lafayette, IN

NOVEMBER 2, 2024

FALL SHOW (FEAT. AC3, PURDUE BELLS, HEART & SOUL, UNIVERSITY CHOIR)

7:30 PM | Long Center for the Performing Arts | Lafayette, IN

DECEMBER 7-8, 2024

91ST ANNUAL PURDUE CHRISTMAS SHOW

Saturday, December 7, 2024 | Noon & 4:00 PM

Sunday, December 8, 2024 | 2:00 PM

Elliott Hall of Music | Purdue University | West Lafayette, IN



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