

# CARNEGIE HALL

December 2023

PLAYBILL®

Presented at Carnegie Hall by  
**Scott Stander**

Sunday, December 10, 2023 at 8 PM  
Judy and Arthur Zankel Hall

## **Judy Garland: We Need a Little Christmas**

**Debbie Wileman**

with special guest **Barry Bostwick**  
and other surprises

**Steve Orich**, Musical Director and Arranger

**Jason Loffredo**, Piano

**Leo Huppert**, Bass

**Jon Berger**, Drums

**Jack Cavari**, Guitar

**Simon Hutchings**, Reeds

**Evan Zavada**, Synthesizer

**Mike Ponella**, Trumpet

**Jules Geiss, Mallorie Mendoza, Nick Nazzaro, Maci Terry,  
Brad Weatherford, and Yoyo Zhou**, Dancers

This evening's concert will be performed without intermission.



SCOTT STANDER PRESENTS

Henry LaMar



*"Judy Garland"*  
**WE NEED A LITTLE  
CHRISTMAS**

STARRING

*Debbie*  
**WILEMAN**

ALONG WITH SPECIAL GUESTS

MUSICAL DIRECTOR AND ARRANGER

*Steve Orick*

**ZANKEL HALL at CARNEGIE HALL**

CARNEGIEHALL.ORG | CARNEGIECHARGE 212-247-7800

BOX OFFICE AT 57<sup>TH</sup> AND SEVENTH

TICKETS START AT \$100

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 10, 2023 • 8PM**

THESTANDERGROU.P.COM

Joe Cabrera, Production Manager and Lighting Designer

Eric Winterling, Ms. Wileman's Costume Design | Michael Todd Belasco, Ms. Wileman's Makeup  
Katz PR, Public Relations | Christopher Powich, Company Manager

Original choreography for "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" by Peter Gennaro,  
recreated by Jason Wise with Liza Gennaro





## The Artists

### Debbie Wileman

Debbie Wileman is a 39-year-old suburban mum from North Essex, England, who rose to fame during the pandemic after receiving worldwide praise for her impersonation videos of Shirley Bassey, Marilyn Monroe, Julie Andrews, Billie Holiday, and Judy Garland. As the world was on lockdown, Wileman began posting "A Song a Day" on Facebook, garnering millions of views, earning global acclaim, and winning her the 2020 BroadwayWorld Audience Award for Vocalist of the Year. Shortly after, she embarked on a multi-city US tour to celebrate what would have been Judy Garland's 100th birthday, performing to sold-out crowds, standing ovations, and rave reviews in Ft. Lauderdale, Orlando, Los Angeles, Provincetown, and New York City's iconic Carnegie Hall, the latter for which she received the BroadwayWorld Award for Best Solo Special Event. That June, on Garland's birthday, Wileman released her debut album *I'm Still Here*, a tribute to Garland conducted and produced by Grammy Award winner Steve Orich. The album went on to receive praise from the likes of Stephen Schwartz and Carol Burnett, and won the 2022 BroadwayWorld Award for Best Independent Recording. Wileman will make her West End debut this spring.



### Steve Orich

Steve Orich is a composer, arranger, and orchestrator with more than 40 years of experience in film, television, theater, and recording. He is best-known for his Tony-nominated orchestrations of *Jersey Boys* and the Grammy-winning original cast album. Much of his work has been as a musical director and orchestrator at most of the regional theaters across the country. He orchestrated, conducted, and produced Debbie Wileman's album *I'm Still Here*. He's also arranged and/or conducted dozens of recordings, including original cast albums and solo albums for Helen Reddy, Petula Clark, and Debbie Gibson. As a composer, he has created musical scores for numerous television series, documentaries, specials, sitcoms, movies of the week, animated series, and game shows. His orchestrations have been performed by the National Symphony Orchestra, Boston Pops, and BBC Symphony Orchestra, as well as at the Kennedy Center, White House, and around the world.

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### Jason Loffredo

Jason Loffredo is a New York City-based pianist and music director mostly working on Broadway and off-Broadway on shows such as *Mr. Saturday Night*, *Kinky Boots*, *Rock of Ages*, *Avenue Q*, *Altar Boyz*, and many more. He has also played piano and/or conducted for many notable solo acts such as Michael Amante, Kate Rockwell, Chita Rivera, and Debbie Wileman (as Judy Garland), among others. Loffredo is also an arranger, orchestrator, and copyist. As a copyist, he has worked on everything from blockbuster films to Broadway musicals to small concerts and publishing projects. More recently, he has added "professor" to his list of titles, now teaching a music notation course in the screen scoring program at NYU. This performance marks the second time Loffredo has appeared at Carnegie Hall, his debut being at the age of 15 when his high school musical was asked to present a number from *Fiddler on the Roof* at an event highlighting school musical theater programs in the tri-state area. Although the amateur accordion debut was quite a thrill at the time, he's more than happy to be making his professional debut as a pianist for the remarkably talented Debbie Wileman! Thanks to all involved, especially Steve Orich for bringing him on board and Scott Stander for making all of this happen!

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### Leo Huppert

Leo Huppert arrived in New York 30 years ago and quickly found himself playing in the Broadway pits, where he has performed in hit shows ever since, going back to *Crazy for You* in 1994, and more recently *Jersey Boys*, *Dear Evan Hansen*, *Frozen*, *In the Heights*, and *The Book of Mormon*. Huppert was most recently bassist for last year's revival of *The Music Man* starring Hugh Jackman and Sutton Foster. Earlier this year, he performed



at Lincoln Center for PBS' *Great Performances: Celebrating 50 Years of Broadway's Best* television special. In addition to Broadway, Huppert has been active in jazz, rock, and cabaret, performing everywhere from the Bitter End to Lincoln Center, the 92nd St. Y Lyrics & Lyricists series, Café Carlyle, and Radio City's *Christmas Spectacular*. Backing artists such as David Clayton-Thomas and Blood, Sweat & Tears, Bobby Caldwell, Sutton Foster, Stephanie J. Block, Mandy Gonzalez, and many others, Huppert has earned a reputation as a solid accompanist and versatile instrumentalist. He also can be heard on soundtracks for film and TV, including PBS, ESPN, and HBO.

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#### Jon Berger

Jon Berger leads a diverse musical life, having backed Gloria Gaynor, Petula Clark, Aretha Franklin, Jazz with Joel Martin's Jazzical, the Roy Meriwether Trio with Santi Debriano, Leon Dorsey, Harvie S., The Washington Ballet, Ocean City Pops, Cidinho Teixeira, Roy Orbison, and the Buddy Holly hologram. He also has 24 Broadway show credits, including *Funny Girl*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Hello Dolly*, *Summer*, *In the Heights*, *Next to Normal*, *The Addams Family*, *Jersey Boys*, *Les Misérables*, *Saturday Night Fever*, and Neil Berg's *100 Years of Broadway*. He holds a BFA in percussion from SUNY Purchase. DW, Remo, Paiste, Vater endorsing artist.

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#### Jack Cavari

Jack Cavari has performed on recordings, in concert, and on world tours with Frank Sinatra, Shirley Bassey, Lea Salonga, Liza Minnelli, Art Garfunkel, Aretha Franklin, and Sesame Street. His Broadway credits include *By Jeeves*, *Lennon*, and *Thoroughly Modern Millie* to name a few. He is delighted to add the most wonderful and talented Debbie Wileman to his list.

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#### Simon Hutchings

Simon Hutchings is a native of London, England, and moved to the US in the mid 1990s for graduate school. He has enjoyed living and working as a woodwinds player in Arizona, Florida, and, for the last 10 years, New York City. Hutchings has had the privilege of sharing the stage with many legendary artists, including Johnny Mathis, Sting, Aretha Franklin, and Bernadette Peters, and enjoys regularly performing on Broadway and off-Broadway in such shows as *The Lion King*, *The Book of Mormon*, *The Music Man*, *Company*, and *Romeo and Bernadette*. For the last few years, he has also enjoyed performing as part of Radio City's *Christmas Spectacular* orchestra. As an educator, Hutchings is proud to be the featured clarinet and saxophone pedagogue on Alfred Publishing's innovative *Sound Innovation* method books for band.



### **Evan Zavada**

Evan Zavada is a New York City-based music director, pianist, and arranger originally from Seattle, Washington. He spent the last several years on the national tour of *Wicked*, and prior to that was on the music team for the world premiere of *Superhero* at Second Stage Theatre and the pre-Broadway lab of *Jagged Little Pill*. As musical director, his off-Broadway credits include *Fiorello!* (Classic Stage) and *Showtime!* (The York), and his regional credits include *Girlfriend* (TheaterWorks), *Mamma Mia!* (ACT of CT), and *Next to Normal* (Farmers Alley Theatre). He holds a BFA in jazz studies from the University of Michigan.

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### **Mike Ponella**

Mike Ponella is a native of New York City. He received a Bachelor of Music degree in jazz studies from the New England Conservatory of Music. For more than 25 years, he has been the lead trumpeter with the Toshiko Akiyoshi Jazz Orchestra, as well as previous lead trumpet / soloist work for the United Nation Orchestra with Paquito D'Rivera, and also with Slide Hampton & The Jazz Masters. For more than 10 years, Ponella has been the first trumpeter with Vince Giordano's Nighthawks, which won a Grammy Award for the soundtrack recording of HBO's *Boardwalk Empire*. As a freelance musician, he has played for recordings and live performances, including radio, television, and film, consisting of a variety of musical styles that range from performances with Dizzy Gillespie to Maestro Anton Coppola. In HBO's recent series *Vinyl*, Ponella both participated in recording and served as a trumpet instructor and coach on set. His most recent soundtrack recording work includes *Z: The Beginning of Everything*, *The Only Living Boy in New York*, and *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*. Ponella was also a regular orchestra member of the 2015–2016 Broadway show *Dames at Sea* and performed in the US premiere of the musical version of *The Bodyguard*. In 2009, one of Ponella's career goals was realized as he released an album of his original music called *G.W.B. Shuffle*. A recent Epix-TV placement of one of his original compositions was made as well. Recent performances include soloist and principal trumpet for the New Haven Symphony Orchestra Pops series of concerts. He recorded and performed live for *Michael Feinstein's American Songbook* PBS series. Radio broadcasts with Garrison Keillor's *A Prairie Home Companion*. Ponella also recorded for documentaries *Johnny Carson: King of Late Night* and *Always at The Carlyle*.

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### **Scott Stander**

Scott Stander has produced concerts and theater attractions for more than 20 years, including *The Rocky Horror Picture Show Spectacular Tour* with original stars Barry Bostwick and Patricia Quinn, and *Judy Garland: We Need a Little Christmas* at Carnegie Hall starring internet sensation Debbie Wileman. He has also produced Wileman's *Happy 100th Birthday, Judy!* concert and her debut album, *I'm Still Here*. He is currently producing Tony



Award winner Rupert Holmes's new play *All Things Equal: The Life and Trials of Ruth Bader Ginsburg*, which is currently touring and planning a Broadway engagement next season. Past hits include *An Evening with Sophia Loren* (national tour); *Dance to the Movies* starring Shirley Jones and Lesley Ann Warren; *Dance to the Holidays*; *Ballroom with a Twist* starring TV's Derek Hough, Cheryl Burke, Maksim Chmerkovskiy, Karina Smirnoff, Tony Dovolani, and Peta Murgatroyd (national tour); *If You Ever Leave Me ... I'm Going With You!* starring Renée Taylor and Joe Bologna (Broadway, Chicago, and national tour); *Steve Allen and Phyllis Diller—Together Again for the First Time* (12-city concert tour); *An Evening with Shirley Bassey* (10-city concert tour); *Milton Berle's 90th Birthday Celebration* (13-city tour); *Breaking Legs* starring Frank Gorshin (national tour); *Say Goodnight Gracie* (Second National Broadway Tour starring Don McArt—three-year tour); *The Odd Couple: Female Version* starring Barbara Eden, Rita McKenzie, and Georgia Engel (national tour); *Love Letters* starring Barbara Eden, Larry Hagman, and Hal Linden (national tour); *Bermuda Avenue Triangle* starring Renée Taylor, Joe Bologna, and Lainie Kazan (national tour); and *Ethel Merman's Broadway* starring Rita McKenzie (Off Broadway and national tour).



Producer Scott Stander, Debbie Wileman as Judy Garland, and conductor/arranger Steve Orich pictured during the recording of *I'm Still Here* at the original MGM studio, now known as Sony's Barbra Streisand Scoring Stage.

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