

## THE WAYBACKS

Venue TBA

Friday, July 24, 2009

Tickets on sale to OPAS members Monday, June 8, 2009

Tickets on sale to the public Monday, June 15, 2009

OPAS continues its *String Masters* series which began last October with the performance of internationally recognized band **Abigail Washburn & The Sparrow Quartet** featuring **Béla Fleck**. On Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup> **The Waybacks** will perform their own style of music which has become known as "Americana," a blend of Memphis soul, honky-tonk, Parisian swing, classical music, vintage blues pop, full-tilt roadhouse boogie and more.



**The Waybacks** draw freely from the old school and the old world, but they are no throwback. They are as uninhibited and un-predictable as the eclectic San Francisco Bay area that claims them, and for nearly a decade, their experiments have always proven sharp-witted and musically dazzling. They are living proof that in music anyway, evolution and intelligent design are entirely compatible. "The whole spirit of improvisation ó that's always been the cornerstone of this band for me," says founding singer, songwriter and

guitarist James Nash. "Through all the stylistic changes and regardless of the instruments we're playing, to me the fun of this band has always been that in some ways I can do whatever I feel like doing at any moment."

Nash and Hood have stepped forward as songwriters, allowing **The Waybacks** to assemble their first project of entirely original music. They're finding a new collective voice, right before our ears.

**"The musical maelstrom known as The Waybacks sent up such a startling tornado of aggressively performed high-spirited melodies as to remove all air from the room."**

- Buzz McClain, *The Washington Post*

**A Concert Performance of  
*THE KING & I***

**The Plaza Arts Center, Eatonton  
Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 pm  
Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm**

**Tickets on sale to OPAS members Monday, August 31, 2009  
Tickets on sale to the public Monday, September 7, 2009**

**Presented in cooperation with The National Asian Artists Project**

OPAS, in cooperation with The National Asian Artists Project (NAAP), will light up the stage on October 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> with the magic of Rodgers & Hammerstein's *The King & I* in a concert performance at The Plaza Arts Center in Eatonton.

***The King & I***

**Richard Rodgers / Oscar Hammerstein II**

**Starring Leslie Denniston as Anna**

**Hoon Lee as the King**

**Directed by Baayork Lee**

**Conducted by Kevin Farrell**

**Atlanta Pops Orchestra, John Head, Music Director**

**OPAS Festival & Children's Chorus, Neal Dolvin, Chorus Master**

*The King & I* opened on Broadway in 1951, the sixth collaboration for the team of Rodgers and Hammerstein. It ran for 1,246 performances, won the Tony for Best Musical, and spawned numerous revivals and a popular 1956 film version. A sumptuous feast of voices telling the story of the Welsh widow Anna Leonowens who goes to Bangkok to teach the Royal children and becomes an advisor to the King of Siam. With a rich musical score and idiomatic lyrics, this is one of Rogers & Hammerstein's best. One of the musical highlights is "Shall We Dance", one of the best-written scenes in all musical theatre.



**Leslie Denniston** (Anna) is well known to you through her many roles on Broadway in *City of Angels*, *Copperfield* and *Shenandoah*, and on television in *The Sopranos*, *Law and Order*, *Guiding Light*, and *As the World Turns*.



**Leslie Denniston is every bit the match for this King, and deserves all the affection audiences give her.**

- Bob Wilcox, *St. Louis Municipal Opera*



**Hoon Lee** (King), who will be playing the role of the King, is a veteran of the Broadway stage. His credits include: *Pacific Overtures*, *Urinetown* and *Flower Drum Song*, where he originated the role of *Chao*. He played *David Henry Hwang* in David Henry Hwang's play *Yellow Face* at both the Mark Taper Forum and The Public Theatre in New York, for which he received a Theatre World Award and a Drama League Nomination. Off-Broadway and Regional credits include *SIDES: The Fear is Real í* (The Culture Project, P.S.122, Ma-Yi Theater), which he co-wrote as a founding member of Mr. Miyagi's Theatre Company, *Hamlet* (New York Shakespeare Festival), *Children of Vonderly* (Ma-Yi Theater), *American Hwangap* (Play Company, Ma-Yi Theater, Lark Play Development Center) and *The King & I* (Papermill Playhouse) and

others. TV and film appearances include *Fringe*, *The Unusuals*, *Sex and the City*, *Law & Order*, *We Own the Night* and *Saving Face*. Interactive credits include voice-over work for *Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas* and *Midnight Club III*. He is the recipient of a TCG Fox Foundation Fellowship and is a graduate of Harvard University.

**Baayork Lee** (stage director) has been an established part of the New York theatre scene for her entire life, starting from the age of 5 as *Princess Yingyaulak* in the original Broadway production of *The King & I*, starring legends Yul Brynner and Gertrude Lawrence. Currently, she is represented on Broadway as choreographer of the new critically-acclaimed revival of *A Chorus Line*, of which she originated the role of *Connie Wong* in its original Broadway inception.



Ms. Lee's extensive theatrical experience includes recently directing the New York City Opera production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* (starring Eartha Kitt, Dick Van Patten and Ana Gasteyer), and the national tours of *The King & I* (starring Sandy Duncan, then Stefanie Powers) and the first national tour of *Bombay Dreams*. Additional notable directing credits include The Kennedy Center's *Carmen Jones* (starring Vanessa Williams and conducted by Placido Domingo), the Australian production of *Barnum* for Cy Coleman, European tours of *Porgy and Bess* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Gypsy* for The Signature Theater (Arlington, VA), and a

2001 New York City revival of *A New Brain*. She was also Associate Director for *Barbara Cook: A Broadway Evening*. With *A Chorus Line*, Miss Lee has directed more than 35 companies all over the world.

As a performer, Ms. Lee's career includes 11 original Broadway casts from *The King & I* (with Yul Brynner); *Flower Drum Song* (directed by Gene Kelly); *Bravo Giovanni*; *Mr. President*; *Here's Love*; *Golden Boy* (starring Sammy Davis, Jr.); *A Joyful Noise*; *Henry, Sweet Henry*; *Promises, Promises*; *Seesaw*, and culminating in her biographical and most noted role of *Connie Wong* in *A Chorus Line*, with friend and long-time colleague Michael Bennett.

Ms. Lee is also co-author of *On the Line: The Creation of A Chorus Line* published by William Morrow.

Ms. Lee is also honored by a number of awards bestowed upon her, including the 2003 Lifetime Achievement Asian Woman Warrior Award from Columbia College in Chicago

**Kevin Farrell** (conductor) works as a composer, conductor, arranger, and pianist on both the Broadway and concert stages. Some of his theatre credits include musical direction of the Tokyo production of *Rent*; the Tony Award winning *Fiddler On the Roof* with Topol; Cathy Rigby in *Peter Pan*; and *Cats*, both on Broadway and in Los Angeles. His involvement with *The King & I* spans from the Broadway revival with Yul Brynner, for which he was pianist and assistant conductor, to musical direction of the two most recent US National Tours. He was musical director/supervisor for all four of the US National Tours of *Evita* and also conducted its premiere in Rome. He held this same position for the national tour of *Bombay Dreams*. Mr. Farrell was the recipient of the Los Angeles Theatre Critic's award "Best Musical Direction" for the Royal National Theatre's production of *Carousel*. He was twice Music Director of New York's Radio City Music Hall (during which he appeared as such in the movie *Annie*), was for two seasons music director of Lee Theodore's *The American Dance Machine*, and is a frequent guest conductor at the St. Louis Municipal Opera, for which he was nominated in 2007 for the Kevin Kline Award for Best Musical Direction. He is privileged to have performed for three American Presidents, both in the theatre and at The White House.

As a performer and musical director, Mr. Farrell created the role of *Bob* in the off-Broadway musical, *Open Heart* at the Cherry Lane Theatre. Currently, he is developing a one-man show based the life of pianist/composer/actor/comedian Oscar Levant.

Mr. Farrell has also done much work abroad. In Italy he has conducted concerts highlighting the works of Copeland, Thomson, and Bernstein. At Venice's La Fenice Opera, he premiered George Gershwin's *Lady Be Good*. He has appeared at the San Carlo Opera house in Naples and at the Verdi Conservatorio in Milan. Last summer he was honored to guest conduct at *Maestro Riccardo Muti's Ravenna Festival*.

Kevin Farrell's arrangements have been heard in the U.S. and on BBC London, and he has composed the incidental music for productions at *New York's Circle in the Square*, *The New York Fringe Festival* and the *Berkshire Theatre Festival*, among others. He has conducted international broadcasts with the BBC Concert Orchestra honoring the American composers Irving Berlin and Jule Styne. For two years Mr. Farrell was a creative consultant for Disney Entertainment and The Disney Channel.

Mr. Farrell resides in New York with his wife, Karin, who is the vice president of On Location Education.

**The National Asian Artists Project (NAAP):**

The National Asian Artists Project is dedicated to artists of Asian descent, and their potential to positively impact communities locally, regionally and nationally. NAAP seeks to present artistic projects of the highest standard throughout the country, and develop outreach programs that will: support the artistic growth of performers, visual and technical artists through professional employment opportunities; build and cultivate new local and national audiences that encourage patronage and participation in the arts; nurture and educate professional and non-professional, current and future artists through training opportunities; and promote and reflect racial/ethnic inclusion, subscribing to the aesthetic that effective artistic growth is fed through diversity. NAAP believes that the arts in America in its many forms is constantly changing, always encouraging new artistic voices and communities, and artists of Asian descent have many vital roles to play as part of the evolution.

## HUBBARD STREET 2 DANCE COMPANY OF CHICAGO

The Plaza Arts Center, Eatonton

Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 pm

Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm

Tickets on sale to OPAS members Monday, September 28, 2009

Tickets on sale to the public Monday, October 5, 2009



St. John's Wort © Todd Rosenberg Photography

OPAS will present a program of modern dance at The Plaza Arts Center in Eatonton on Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup> with the **Hubbard Street 2 Dance Company of Chicago**. In conjunction with these public performances, there will be several programs scheduled for the area's school children.

**Hubbard Street 2** is a company of seven dancers between the ages of 17 and 25 who perform a repertoire of works by some of the nation's most promising young choreographers. HS2 reaches more than 35,000 people annually through performances in schools,

community centers and theaters. Since its inception in 1997, the company has become a respected training ground for young, professional dancers and choreographers; a major component of Education & Community Programs; a resource for the Hubbard Street Dance Company of Chicago main company; and a troupe performing a diverse and engaging repertory nationally and internationally.

**öHubbard Street: an avenue of smiles!ö**

- *The Chicago Sun-Times*



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