

2019–20

Planned Giving *at the* Harris Theater

Dear Friends,

The Harris Theater for Music and Dance is a place that is continuously moving forward. Each year, a dedicated community of supporters, volunteers, audience members, staff, and partners work in concert to produce more than 130 unique performances on our stage and welcome over 100,000 visitors through our doors.

As we busily prepare for our 2019–20 season, we pause to reflect on the depth and magnitude of the many individuals who make the work of the Harris possible – simultaneously maintaining and advancing a venue where artists can present their work in a space that was created for them, and audiences of all ages, abilities, and communities can come together to experience the power of the arts. **Thank you.**

We hope that as you reflect on your engagement with the Harris, you will consider including us in your long-term gift planning. A commitment to the **Legacy Society** ensures that the Harris will be able to continue this important work for many years to come. We are grateful for the estate planning bequests of our Legacy Society members that have been committed to date and look forward to sharing information to help inform you of the many ways you are able to support the Theater.

I invite you to visit our website at harristheaterchicago.org/legacy or contact Elizabeth Halajian, Director of Development, at 312.334.2460 to learn about ways to be involved. Thank you for helping ensure a strong future for the Harris Theater for Music and Dance and the arts in our city.

Sincerely,



Mary Kay Sullivan

Chairman

Harris Theater Board of Trustees



Harris Theater Legacy Society

A Way To Say Thank You

The Harris Theater Legacy Society recognizes and thanks the group of generous individuals who are leaving a future gift to the Harris Theater for Music and Dance, payable at the time of passing.

Legacy Society members have remembered the Harris Theater in their estate plans in many ways – through their wills, retirement plans, life-income plans, and many other creative planned-giving arrangements.

In appreciation for these gifts, Legacy Society members have the opportunity to deepen their engagement with the Harris with special benefits, including:

- Artist meet-and-greets
- Recognition in Legacy Society listings in *Harris Theater Presents* program books
- Invitations to special donor events throughout the season

To learn more, please contact Elizabeth Halajian, Director of Development, at 312.334.2460 or visit our website at harristheaterchicago.org/legacy.



Remembering Judith E. Neisser

The Harris Theater is honored to pay tribute to Judith Neisser, a vibrant and treasured civic leader and philanthropist. An early believer in the critical need for a multi-use performing arts center that would be a home for emerging and mid-sized companies in Chicago, Judy began her support of the Theater in 1996 and joined the Board of Trustees in 2008. She remained involved with the Harris as a donor and Life Trustee until her passing in 2018.

A fierce advocate for non-profit organizations throughout Chicago, her generosity and leadership shaped the Museum of Contemporary Art, the Art Institute of Chicago, Shirley Ryan AbilityLab, Fulcrum Point New Music Project, and Erikson Institute, among many others.

While she chose to support every aspect of the Harris Theater's mission, Judy was particularly passionate about artistic work that was adventurous, challenging, and thought-provoking. She recognized the profound importance of investing in the Theater's Resident Companies by underwriting subsidized rent as well as in-kind production and marketing services. Judy understood that this fundamental support enabled companies to invest more strategically in their organizational infrastructure, educational programs, and productions.

In December 2018, Resident Company Fulcrum Point New Music Project dedicated *Peace in Chicago: An Intergenerational Celebration* to her memory. The uplifting and festive evening brought together new art, music, poetry, and hip hop, and featured performances from Judy's grandchildren, Eddie and I.Z. Burns — a fitting and moving homage to her legacy.

The Harris Theater will be forever grateful for Judy's generosity, humor, and vitality, and the enduring impact she has left on Chicago's creative community.



Alina Cojocaru and Isaac Hernández in Akram Khan's *Giselle*, 2019. Photo by Kyle Flubacker.

Become a Permanent Part of the Harris Theater

Dedicating a seat at the Harris Theater is a visible and lasting demonstration of your pride in Chicago's home for music and dance.

Whether you choose to honor a family member, remember a loved one who cherished the arts, or celebrate a special milestone, this is your opportunity to ensure the Theater's future while becoming a permanent fixture in its history.

Seats are available to name at the \$10,000 and \$25,000 levels, and pledges may be paid over five years. To name your seat, please contact the Development Department at 312.334.2456 or support@harristheaterchicago.org.

Did you know?

A qualified charitable distribution (QCD) allows individuals who are 70½ years old or older to donate up to \$100,000 total to one or more charities directly from a taxable IRA instead of taking their required minimum distribution. As a result, donors may avoid being pushed into higher income tax brackets and prevent phaseouts of other tax deductions.

Qualified charitable distributions are made directly to the eligible charity. The money is a direct transfer that never passes through the hands of the IRA holder. Instead, the IRA custodian can send a check directly to either the charity or the account owner, who then delivers it to the charity.

Please contact your financial advisor for more information.

Save the Date

Save the date for these special celebrations for annual donors of \$500+ and Legacy Society members:

A Celebration of Lar Lubovitch

Saturday, October 5, 2019

Opening Night post-performance reception with the artists

Bangarra Dance Theatre

Tuesday, November 19, 2019

Panel discussion and luncheon at the Field Museum

\$15 for lecture; \$150 for lecture + luncheon

Bangarra Dance Theatre

Spirit + Nyapanyapa

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Open dress rehearsal

Bangarra Dance Theatre

Spirit + Nyapanyapa

Friday, November 22, 2019

Opening Night post-performance reception with the artists

Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center

Brandenburg Concertos

Friday, December 20, 2019

Holiday post-performance reception with the musicians

Sir John Eliot Gardiner + ORR

Symphonies 8 + 9

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Opening Night post-performance reception with the artists

Sir John Eliot Gardiner + ORR

Symphonies 6 + 7

Tuesday, March 3, 2020

Closing Night post-performance reception with the artists

Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch

Tuesday, April 28, 2020

Reception and panel discussion with company leadership

Events are subject to change; invitations to follow. For more information or to secure your performance tickets, please contact the Development Department at 312.334.2456 or support@harristheaterchicago.org.



Judy Neisser and John Waters, 2013. Photo by Kyle Flubacker.