

# PLAYBILL®

ARIZONA MUSICAL THEATRE ORCHESTRA  
All Saints Lutheran Church  
November 16, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

# RAGTIME

★ THE MUSICAL ★



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# CAST

The Little Boy .....	CONNOR GERKIN
Father.....	ADAM GUINN
Mother .....	ALLISON GRAHAM
Mother’s Younger Brother.....	LOGAN TALARICO
Grandfather .....	RICHARD POWERS HARDT
Coalhouse Walker, Jr. ....	LOREN BATTIESTE
Sarah.....	JENINA GALLAWAY
Booker T. Washington.....	CHRIS ELLIOTT
Tateh.....	DARREN FRIEDMAN
The Little Girl .....	CHARLOTTE MIKALSKY
Harry Houdini .....	JONATHAN MEADER
Emma Goldman .....	ALICE JOHNSON
Evelyn Nesbit.....	SARAH WIECHMAN
Willie Conklin.....	PAT RUSSEL
J.P. Morgan .....	TODD CORBEIL
Henry Ford/Charles S. Whitman.....	MIKE ARSENEAULT
Admiral Peary .....	TOM GLOW
Matthew Henson .....	MICHAEL LEETH
Stanford White.....	JONATHAN LANG
Harry K. Thaw .....	CAMERON ABAROA
Kathleen .....	ALLI LAMBERT
Sarah’s Friend .....	SAVANNAH INEZ

## CHORUS

Soprano 1: Rebecca Bryce, Jennifer Couldry, Brittany Foster, Jenina Gallaway, Kathie Merritt, Sarai Phillips-Dunlap, Rachel Phillippi, Robyn Pitman, Katherine Talley Matt, Joanna Torla, Jessica Turner; Soprano 2: Jordan Abrams, Hayden Beth Burwick, Kerri Christie, Lindsay Decoste, Sharon Friendly, Allison Graham, Liv Knoblauch, Alli Lambert, Charlotte Mikalsky, Bailey Pearce, Linda Peters, Laura Stevens; Alto 1: Jordan Applegate, Natalie Booth, Connor Gerkin, Brenna Keck, Lily Norton, Nikki Reeves, Kathy Travous, Sarah Wiechman; Alto 2: Edie Chudnow, Savannah Inez, Alice Johnson, Tina Lloyd Meals, Amanda Roca, Jan Schmidt, Thylma Stamaria, Jenna Sweet; Tenor 1: Darren Friedman, Tyler Galley, Mark Knoblauch, Jonathan Phillippi, Cris Mory Barrón, Logan Talarico, Elijah Viray; Tenor 2: Cameron Abaroa, Mike Arsenault, Kadeem Hinton, Jonathan Lang, Raul Sanchez, Zachary Walsh; Bass 1: Todd Corbeil, Chris Elliott, Adam Guinn, Michael Leeth, Pat Russel; Bass 2: Frederick Alphonso, Loren Battieste, Tom Glow, Richard Powers Hardt, Jonathon Meader, Scott Neese

Chorus Director: Billy Mattison | Rehearsal Pianists: Helen Kohler, Joni Van Rossum

## RAGTIME ORCHESTRA

Conductor: Stephen Shermitzler

Reeds: Tim Solarz, Marcie Kneisley, David McConaughy, John Shepherd; Horn: Brian Alan, Gail Rittenhouse; Trumpet: Brian Stoneberger, Davey Aguilera; Trombone: Erik Ketcherside, Bret Wagner; Tuba: Mike Burt; Violin: Angela Storey, Heather Merchut, Sylvia Depta, Christian Ortega, Natalie Kruit; Viola: Kelli Anderson, Holly Jackson, Leila Lubovac; Cello: Sandra Leen, Samuel Turner; Bass: Alyssa Carpenter, Rudy Trujillo; Harp (Keyboard): Sharon Hansen; Keyboard 1: Helen Kohler; Keyboard 2: Michael Samuel; Guitar/Mandolin: Wes Crenshaw; Banjo: Maryanne Kremer-Ames; Percussion: Shawn Jordan, Chris Woodward

*THERE WILL BE ONE 15-MINUTE INTERMISSION*

## CREW

Audio Technician .....

Percussion Equipment..... All Saints Lutheran Church, Pro Musica Arizona Orchestra

AZMTO Volunteers..... Edie Chudnow, Sheri Dixon, Mary Kelly, Margaret Miller, Barb Napoletano, Mauricio Perusquia, Sarai Phillips-Dunlap, Robyn Pitman, Abraham Quezada, Rick Ross, Raul Sanchez, Jan Schmidt, Brandon Spevak, Dylan Suehiro, Kyle Varble, Susan Woods

All Saints Lutheran Church Staff..... Shari Clark, Jerry Gunderson, Dan Hoeger, Duncan Moore, Donald Wade

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# SCENES & MUSICAL NUMBERS

## ACT I

Prologue:	RAGTIME.....	The Company		
Scene 1:	Dock in New York Harbor/At Sea GOODBYE, MY LOVE.....	Mother JOURNEY ON.....	Father, Tateh, Mother	
Scene 2:	A vaudeville theatre, New York City THE CRIME OF THE CENTURY.....	Evelyn Nesbit, Younger Brother, Ensemble		
Scene 3:	Mother's garden, New Rochelle WHAT KIND OF WOMAN.....	Mother		
Scene 4:	Ellis Island/Lower East Side A SHTETL IZ AMEREKE.....	Tateh, The Little Girl, Ensemble SUCCESS.....	Tateh, J.P. Morgan, Harry Houdini, Ensemble	
Scene 5:	The Tempo Club, Harlem/Ford's assembly line GETTIN' READY RAG.....	Coalhouse, Ensemble HENRY FORD.....	Henry Ford, Coalhouse, Ensemble	
Scene 6:	Railroad station, New Rochelle NOTHING LIKE THE CITY.....	Tateh, Mother, The Little Boy, The Little Girl		
Scene 7:	Emerald Isle Firehouse			
Scene 8:	Mother's house, New Rochelle YOUR DADDY'S SON.....	Sarah NEW MUSIC.....	Father, Mother, Younger Brother, Coalhouse, Sarah, Ensemble	
Scene 9:	A hillside above New Rochelle THE WHEELS OF A DREAM.....	Coalhouse, Sarah		
Scene 10:	A union hall in New York City/Lawrence, Massachusetts/A train THE NIGHT THAT GOLDMAN SPOKE AT UNION SQUARE.....	Younger Brother, Emma Goldman, Ensemble		
Scene 11:	New Rochelle and New York City JUSTICE.....	Coalhouse, Ensemble PRESIDENT.....	Sarah TILL WE REACH THAT DAY.....	Sarah's Friend, Coalhouse, Emma Goldman, Younger Brother, Mother, Tateh, Ensemble

## ACT II

Entr'acte.....		Orchestra		
Scene 1:	The streets of New Rochelle/Mother's house COALHOUSE'S SOLILOQUY.....	Coalhouse COALHOUSE DEMANDS.....	The Company	
Scene 2:	The Polo Grounds WHAT A GAME!.....	Father, The Little Boy, Ensemble		
Scene 3:	Mother's House ATLANTIC CITY.....	Evelyn Nesbit, Harry Houdini, Father NEW MUSIC (Reprise).....	Father	
Scene 4:	Atlantic City/Million Dollar Pier/Boardwalk ATLANTIC CITY, PART II.....	Evelyn Nesbit, Harry Houdini, Ensemble BUFFALO NICKEL PHOTOPLAY, INC.....	Baron Ashkenazy OUR CHILDREN.....	Mother, Baron Ashkenazy
Scene 5:	Harlem/Coalhouse's hideout SARAH BROWN EYES.....	Coalhouse, Sarah HE WANTED TO SAY.....	Emma Goldman, Younger Brother, Coalhouse, Coalhouse's Gang	
Scene 6:	The beach, Atlantic City BACK TO BEFORE.....	Mother		
Scene 7:	The Morgan Library, New York City LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE.....	Booker T. Washington, Coalhouse, Coalhouse's Gang MAKE THEM HEAR YOU.....	Coalhouse	
Epilogue:	RAGTIME/THE WHEELS OF A DREAM (Reprise).....	The Company		

# WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST



**LOREN BATTIESTE** (*Coalhouse Walker, Jr.*)

currently lives in Phoenix after completing an Artist's Diploma with the Chicago College of Performing Arts and received his bachelor's degree in music from University of Redlands. Loren served as a Resident Artist with both Chicago Opera Theater and Pittsburgh Festival Opera. He made his professional debut in 2010 as Jim in *Porgy and Bess* with New Orleans Opera. Recent shows include *Beauty and the Beast* (Beast) with Showtune Productions, *The Little Mermaid* (King Triton) with Hale Centre Theatre, *Parade* (Newt Lee) with Arizona Regional Theatre, and the opera *La Bohème* (Marcello) with Chandler Opera Company. Loren has had the wonderful opportunity to perform in opera houses across the country.



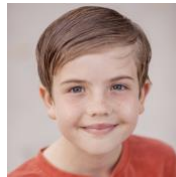
**JENINA GALLAWAY** (*Sarah*)

has performed extensively in musical theatre and opera with companies across the US and internationally, including Arizona Opera, Utah Festival Opera, and more. Recent roles include Hannah and Medda Larkin (u/s) in *Newsies* at Hale Centre Theatre and a solo debut with the Prescott Pops Symphony. Her operatic roles feature *Serena* in *Porgy & Bess*, *Suor Angelica*, *Rosalinda* in *Die Fledermaus*, and more. An Arizona Opera teaching artist for four seasons, she also covered principal roles and performed in *La bohème* and *Carmen*. Jenina is a Metropolitan Opera National Council district winner and holds degrees in Vocal Performance (B.A., M.M.) and is completing her DMA in 2025. She teaches K-8 music and drama in Phoenix and is an adjunct instructor at Grand Canyon University.



**CHRIS ELLIOTT** (*Booker T. Washington*)

is excited and honored to return to the stage for AZMTO in *Ragtime!* Select credits: Judas in *Godspell* (ASU); Jimmy Campbell (u/s) in *Bandstand*; Wayne in *Dreamgirls* (The Phoenix Theatre Company); and Sebastian in *Twelfth Night* (SSC). Education: B.A. in Sociology and Music from Goucher College, and M.M. in Musical Theatre from ASU. Outside of performing, Chris has been a champion for the arts through his work at the Arizona Commission on the Arts and, currently, the Arizona Humanities. "Huge shoutout to all of my lovely friends and family who have supported me throughout my journey!" @sincerelychriselliott



**CONNOR GERKIN** (*Little Boy*)

is excited to make his debut with AZMTO. Past favorite roles have included Zeke in *High School Musical, Jr.* and his upcoming role as Pinocchio in *Shrek, Jr.* When not on stage, Connor enjoys running, playing Flag Football, Chess and collecting Pokémon Cards. He would like to thank Stephen and the rest of the staff at AZMTO for this amazing opportunity.



**DARREN FRIEDMAN** (*Tateh*)

is proud to be returning to the stage with AZMTO. Originally from Edison, NJ, Darren has resided in Phoenix for the past 20 years. Mr. Friedman is experienced in performing and teaching both classical and Musical Theatre repertoire. He has performed with Arizona Opera, Phoenix Theatre Company, Herberger Theater, AZ Jewish Theatre, and Arizona Regional Theatre. Mr. Friedman earned his B.A. from ASU in Vocal Performance, a M.M. in Musical Theatre from Boston Conservatory, and is a certified, nationally accredited teacher of music specializing in Voice. Show credits include *Into the Woods*, *Working*, *Miss Saigon*, *Kiss Me*, *Kate*, *Sunset Blvd*, *Secret Garden*, *Songs for a New World*, and *As Bees in Honey Drown*.



**ALLISON GRAHAM** (*Mother*)

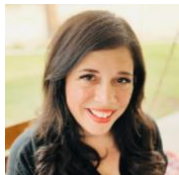
is excited to make her AZMTO debut singing this beautiful score! Favorite roles include Narrator in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, Guenevere in *Camelot*, Betty in *White Christmas*, and Belle in *The Days of '98 Show with Soapy Smith*. Soloist highlights include Dickinson College Orchestra, Open Stage of Harrisburg, Gamut Theater (PA), St. Bart's and St. John the Divine (NYC). Otterbein University.



**ADAM GUINN** (*Father*)

is thrilled to be making his AZMTO debut. This musical has been dear to Adam ever since he first saw it on Broadway in 1998. Recently he had the great honor of playing Tateh in Fountain Hills Theatre's production. Adam would like to thank Stephen and everyone else involved in AZMTO for this opportunity!

# WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST



**ALICE JOHNSON** (*Emma Goldman*) is beyond thrilled to be a part of the beautiful story of *Ragtime*. It is definitely a dream come true! Alice was last seen performing with AZMTO as Irene in *Crazy for You* and Sally Slaton in *Parade*. Select Credits: *Fiddler on the Roof* (Golde, Hale Centre Theatre), *Nunsense* (Robert Anne, Hale Centre Theatre) and *Chess* (Florence, DST). Special thanks to Stephen Schermitzler for all his contributions to live Music Theatre, Education and Community belonging.

Theatre Artists Studio, *Dark of the Moon*, *All Through the Night* and *Almost Maine* for TheaterWorks.



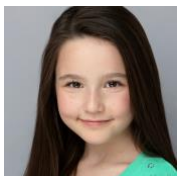
**PAT RUSSEL** (*Willie Conklin*) has performed on stages around Arizona for over 40 years in every role from Charlie Brown to Roy Cohn. He is very happy to be reprising his role as Willie Conklin, having appeared in the recent production at Fountain Hills Theater. He is also feeling very old, having gone to high school with Stephen Schermitzler's dad.



**JONATHAN MEADER** (*Harry Houdini*) was raised in Phoenix where he spent his youth in the Phoenix Children's Chorus and the Phoenix Symphony Chorus. With a B.A. in Theatre from California Baptist University, Jonathon was honored to perform in Southern California in such shows as *Les Misérables* at Performance Riverside and spent several years as the technician at the Riverside Box Theatre. Most recently, he was seen on stage in *Stray Cat's Assassins* as Czolgoz and performing in five AZMTO shows including *Guys and Dolls* and *Parade*.



**LOGAN TALARICO** (*Younger Brother*) is a tenor from Phoenix. From a young age they were interested in music, starting with the clarinet, then piano and voice. They were most recently seen as Henry Ford in Fountain Hills Theater's production of *Ragtime* and can be regularly seen performing in the Arizona Opera chorus. When not on stage, Logan can be found singing as a featured soloist in concerts around the valley and working as an arts advocate all over Phoenix. [www.logantalarico.com](http://www.logantalarico.com)

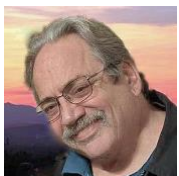


**CHARLOTTE MIKALSKY** (*Little Girl*) is so excited to be performing with such a talented group! Charlotte is in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. She loves singing, acting and softball. She has been awarded several times through NATS.



**SARAH WIECHMAN** (*Evelyn Nesbit*) is thrilled to be participating in AZMTO's Showcase of *Ragtime!* Originally from Wichita, KS, she found a love for combining dance and song in musical theatre at Wichita State University. In 2015, she moved to Phoenix and has performed and choreographed for Arizona Opera, Phoenix Theatre Company, Arizona Theatre Company, TheaterWorks and Mesa Encore Theatre. Favorite Credits include: Cassie in *A Chorus Line* (TPTC), Bombalurina in *Cats* (TW), Velma in *West Side Story* (TPTC), and a Rockette in the *Radio City Christmas Spectacular*. She would like to thank her family and friends for believing in her throughout the years. To L&L for putting up with the track on repeat day in and day out, I am so grateful for your unwavering love and support!

Past favorite roles on stage include Molly in *Annie*, Nemo in *Finding Nemo* and Lottie in *A Little Princess*. She sincerely hopes you enjoy this performance.



**RICHARD POWERS HARDT** (*Grandfather*) has been acting, designing, and writing for the theatre in Arizona since 1976. His production of Fountain Hills Theatre's *Shakespeare in Love* six ariZoni Theatre Award nominations, including a directing nomination for Richard and Outstanding Overall Production. His favorite acting credits include Phinneas Fogg in *Sweeney Todd*, Charlie Fox in *Speed the Plow*, Toby Belch in *Twelfth Night*, Dr. Carasco in *Man of La Mancha*, and J.P. Morgan in *Ragtime*. As a director, Richard is very proud of his productions of *God of Carnage* and *Rabbit Hole* for Ghostlight Theatre, *Doll House 2*, *The Christians* and *Grand Concourse* for



**JONI VAN ROSSUM** (*Rehearsal Pianist*) is an accomplished musical director and composer. Originally hailing from the Netherlands, Joni's 15-year passion for music and theatre led him to embark on a journey to citizenship in the US. Throughout his

# WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

career, Joni has been associated with remarkable productions including acclaimed shows like *Blood Brothers*, *Hair*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Lion King*, and countless others. In 2015, Joni's outstanding musical works were recognized with an esteemed composition award. Since 2016, Joni has been living in Phoenix. He served as Musical Director for the Scottsdale Musical Theater Company and is now the Director of Media & Production at a local Tempe church. *Ragtime* is Joni's ninth production with AZMTO.



**ANDREA GUDEYON** (Audiovisual Technician) has been an integral part of every production since AZMTO's inception in 2022, overseeing the critical technical elements of balancing the ensemble and managing precise sound cues. Her work spans acclaimed Showcase productions like *Titanic*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, and *Parade*, in addition to supporting AZMTO's Underscore events. Andrea also brings her skills to Detour Theatre as a sound designer and engineer and works as an AV technician for Encore Event Services. She holds a degree in Audio Production from Phoenix College.



**WILLIAM (BILLY) MATTISON** (*Chorus Director*) is proud to be participating in his fifth AZMTO production (*Titanic*, *Crazy for You*, *Parade*, *A Little Night Music*). Mattison carries

extensive musical experiences both on and off the stage. Additionally, he serves an organist for Christ Church Anglican Phoenix and St. Bernadette's in Scottsdale. This season, he makes his debut singing with the Phoenix Chorale. A licensed insurance agent in 40 states, Mattison spends most of his days saving his clients 40% on their health insurance premiums. By night, he projects his voice healthily at the New York Yankees and implores them to stop losing. Unlike this evening's chorus, the Bronx Bombers remain deaf to his pleas.



**STEPHEN SCHERMITZLER** (*Conductor*) is the Founder and Executive Director of the Arizona Musical Theatre Orchestra. After earning a BFA in Music Composition from ASU in 2010, Stephen became

the resident music director for Detour Company Theatre and the Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre (now Silver Star), along with several independent local community productions. As a pianist, he has collaborated with artists who have performed Broadway and national touring runs of *1776*, *Dear Evan Hansen*, *Waitress*, *Hamilton*, *Camelot*, *New York, New York*, and *42<sup>nd</sup> Street*. As a singer, he has been featured with Arizona MusicFest, Phoenix Chorale, Arizona Bach Festival, Symphony of the Southwest, North Valley Chorale, and the West Valley Symphony. He is intensely devoted to the nurture of authentic artistic development of all actors and musicians. Love always to Ray and the Pod.

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## AZMTO Founders Circle

Thank you to our generous supporters!

It is our privilege to list the following donors who have contributed \$1,000 or more since the inception of the Arizona Musical Theatre Orchestra. Every donor is a valued partner in each achievement, both onstage and throughout our community outreach and future programming.

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# ABOUT THE SHOW

BOOK BY  
**Terrence McNally**

MUSIC BY  
**Stephen Flaherty**

LYRICS BY  
**Lynn Ahrens**

Based on the novel by E.L. Doctorow

*Ragtime* is presented through special arrangement with Musical Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. [www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com)

The unauthorized recording of this production, in whole or in part, is strictly prohibited.  
AZMTO thanks you for your cooperation.

## SYNOPSIS

Based on the novel of the same name by E.L. Doctorow, Ahren's and Flaherty's *Ragtime* is a compelling epic capturing the American experience at the turn of the 20th century. Tracking three diverse families in pursuit of the American dream in the volatile "melting pot" of turn-of-the-century New York, *Ragtime* confronts the dialectic contradictions inherent in American reality: experiences of wealth and poverty, freedom and prejudice, hope and despair. Over the course of the show, the worlds of a wealthy white couple, a Jewish immigrant father and his motherless daughter, and an African American ragtime musician intertwine. Together, they discover the surprising interconnections of the human heart, the limitations of justice and the unsettling consequences when dreams are permanently deferred. Featuring many of the historical figures that built and shaped turn-of-the-century America, including J.P. Morgan, Emma Goldman, Harry Houdini, Evelyn Nesbit and Henry Ford, this musical sweeps across the diversity of the American experience to create a stirring epic that captures the beats of the American experience: the marches, the cakewalks and - of course, the ragtime. *Written by Aival Shira*

## CONTENT ADVISORY

This production includes negative depictions and/or mistreatment of people or cultures. These stereotypes were wrong then and are wrong now. Rather than remove this content, we want to acknowledge its harmful impact, learn from it and spark conversation to create a more inclusive future together.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

# THE SOUND OF MUSIC



January 25, 2025 | All Saints Lutheran Church

**THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE | Date and Location TBA**

**Tickets & Info: [WWW.AZMTO.ORG](http://WWW.AZMTO.ORG)**