



**MUSICAL
THEATRE
ALLIANCE**
OF ARIZONA

25 SHOWCASE
26 SEASON



*Always look on the
bright side of life!*

MONTY PYTHON'S SPAMALOT™

October 25, 2025, 7:00 PM
All Saints Lutheran Church

CAST

King Arthur.....	JESSE BERGER
The Lady of the Lake	CATHERINE RICAFORT McCREARY
Patsy.....	STEVE VELARDI
Robin.....	AUSTIN ALLISON
Lancelot	STEPHEN SCHERMITZLER
Dennis/Galahad	ZACH WETZEL
Mother/Mrs. Galahad	ALLI LAMBERT
Bedevere/The Black Knight.....	JEFF SKIBA
Herbert	DAVID WECK
Not Dead Fred.....	JOHN JADWISIAK
French Taunter	BRIAN REECE
Head Ni Knight	BRADEN PASTORE
Mayor of Finland.....	RICK ROSS
Fins.....	MAZZY ELLIS, PATTI GRAETZ
Head Minstrel.....	JENNIFER COULDRY
Concorde.....	TODD CORBEIL
Guards.....	KERRI CHRISTIE, ROB HAHN-LOWRY
Historian	JORDAN APPLGATE
Knights.....	ERIC CHILDS, CHEYENNE MITCHELL
Father	JONATHAN FATTU
Tim the Enchanter.....	WILLIAM DEIHL
Dead Bodies.....	ERIC CHILDS, LEE COOK, ROB HAHN-LOWRY, CHEYENNE MITCHELL WILLIAM SHELLEY, GEORGE SUNNY
Laker Girls.....	MAZZY ELLIS, JULIA HUYG, ASHLYNN McKELVEY, ROBYN PITMAN, JENNA SWEET
Frenchies	KELBY BAUDER, JENNIFER CURTISS, JENNA SWEET, ROBIN KREUTZBERG, CHRIS GAMBLE
Ni Knights.....	JILL MARION, DEVIN BAHESHONE, CAMERON ABAROA, ZACK WELLS
Voice of God	ERIC IDLE

CHORUS

Robyn Pitman, *Chorus Director*

Shara-Dawn Chambers, *Rehearsal Pianist*

Soprano 1: Jennifer Couldry, Kathryn Ellefsen, Mazzy Ellis, Faith Forbis, Mary LaValley, Peggy Wensman; **Soprano 2:** Kerri Christie, Patti Graetz, Julia Huyg, Alli Lambert, Robyn Pitman, Shannon Rankin, Beth Zollars; **Alto 1:** Jennifer Curtiss, Jenni Eisel, Ashlynn McKelvey, Margaret Miller; **Alto 2:** Jill Marion, Catherine Ricafort McCreary, Thylma Stamaria, Kathy Travous; **Tenor 1:** Jordan Applegate, Robin Kreutzberg, George Sunny, Jenna Sweet, David Weck, Zack Wells; **Tenor 2:** Devin Baheshone, Kelby Bauder, William (Doc) Deihl, Chris Gamble, Rob Hahn-Lowry, John Jadwisiak, Zach Millwood, Cheyenne Mitchell; **Bass 1:** Austin Allison, Brian Reece, Rick Ross, Stephen Schermitzler, Steve Velardi, Zach Wetzler, Charles Wickens; **Bass 2:** Jesse Berger, Eric Childs, Kenneth Lee Cook, Todd Corbeil, Jonathan Fattu, William Shelly, Jeff Skiba

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

Overture	Orchestra
“Fisch Slapping Song”	Historian, Mayor, and Villagers
“King Arthur’s Song”	King Arthur and Patsy
“I Am Not Dead Yet”	Not Dead Fred, Lancelot, Robin, and Dead Bodies
“Come With Me”	King Arthur, Lady of the Lake, Laker Girls, and Patsy
“The Song That Goes Like This”	Sir Galahad and Lady of the Lake
“All for One”	King Arthur, Patsy, Sir Robin, Sir Lancelot, Sir Galahad, and Sir Bedevere
“Knights of the Round Table”	Lady of the Lake, King Arthur, Patsy, Sir Robin, Sir Lancelot, Sir Galahad, Sir Bedevere, and the Court of Camelot
“Find Your Grail”	Lady of the Lake, King Arthur, Patsy, Sir Robin, Sir Lancelot, Sir Galahad, Sir Bedevere, and the Court of Camelot
“Run Away”	French Taunter, King Arthur, Patsy, Sir Robin, Sir Galahad, Sir Bedevere, French Guards, and French Citizens

ACT II

“Always Look on the Bright Side of Life”	Patsy, King Arthur, Mother, and The Knights of Ni
“Brave Sir Robin”	Sir Robin and Minstrels
“You Won’t Succeed in Showbiz”	Sir Robin, Minstrels, and Ensemble
“Diva’s Lament”	Lady of the Lake
“Where Are You”	Prince Herbert
“His Name Is Lancelot”	Sir Lancelot, Prince Herbert, and Ensemble
“I’m All Alone”	King Arthur, Patsy, and the Court of Camelot
“The Song That Goes Like This” (Reprise)	Lady of the Lake and King Arthur
“The Holy Grail”	King Arthur, Patsy, Sir Robin, Sir Lancelot, Sir Galahad, Sir Bedevere
“Find Your Grail Finale”	Company

ORCHESTRA

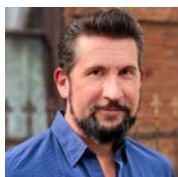
Dylan Suehiro, *Conductor*

Reeds: Tim Solarz, Mandy Gifford; **Horn:** Gail Rittenhouse; **Trumpet:** Brian Stoneberger, Jon Hembree; **Trombone:** **Keyboards:** Joni Van Rossum, James Melberg, Shana-Dawn Chambers; **Guitar:** Wes Crenshaw; **Violin:** Josh Lynch, Cindy Petty, Clark Drinkall, Heather Merchut; **Viola:** Jason Hsung, Marcella Columbus; **Cello:** Sandra Leen; **Bass:** Nolan Zubeck; **Drum Set:** Evan Kirschbaum; **Percussion:** Shawn Jordan; **Keyboard Programming:** Stephen Schermitzler, Joni Van Rossum

CREW & STAFF

Artistic Director	Stephen Schermitzler
Staging Director and Visual Technician	Cameron Abaroa
Audio Technician	Andrea Gudeyon
Additional Percussion Equipment	All Saints Lutheran Church, ProMusica Arizona Orchestra
MTAA Event Volunteers	Susan Woods, Edie Chudnow, Gillian Lunn, Mary Kelly, Sheri Dixon, Lacey Dixon, Jessica Bondy, Lyle Brown
All Saints Lutheran Church Staff	Courtney Krueger, Jerry Gunderson, Dan Hoeger, Duncan Moore, Erik Ekstrom

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST



JESSE BERGER (*King Arthur*) was most recently seen in MTA's production of *Pirates of Penzance* (Pirate King), as well as *A Little Night Music* (Carl Magnus), *Parade* (D.A. Dorsey) and the title role in *Sweeney Todd*.

Selected regional credits: *Legally Blonde* (Professor Callahan), *Brigadoon* (Tommy Albright, nat'l tour), Prather Entertainment; *The Secret Garden* (Neville), *The Odd Couple* (Felix), *Miracle On 34th Street* (Fred Gailey), *Guys & Dolls* (Benny Southstreet), Arizona Broadway Theatre; *Ferdinand the Bull* (Duque Dodó, nat'l tour), Childsplay. Jesse is a founding member of December '63, the International Tribute to Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, and spends his free time raising two extremely active boys in north Phoenix.



CATHERINE RICAFORT (*Lady of the Lake*) Eight Broadway shows in NYC: *Mamma Mia*, *SpongeBob SquarePants* ("Karen The Computer"), *Cinderella*, *Holiday Inn*, *Allegiance*, *Honeymoon in Vegas*, *Disaster*, *Miss Saigon*. Off-

Broadway: *Alice By Heart* (orig. cast recording). TV: *The Sing-Off*, Tony Awards. Co-Founder: Artists Who Code (Forbes, LA Times). Back in AZ as director, private theater coach, engineer, & Mama of two!



STEVE VELARDI (*Patsy*) is a native of Brooklyn, NY. Since moving to Phoenix four years ago, he has appeared in *School of Rock* at Desert Stages, *Annie Get Your Gun* with MTA, and *Tony and Tina's Wedding*, to be performed again in November at

Cliff Castle Casino. He has also sung the national anthem several times for Milwaukee Brewers spring training games, where he is also the scoreboard producer. In NYC, Steve spent nine years as a bartender/entertainer at the legendary piano bar, Marie's Crisis Cafe.



AUSTIN ALLISON (*Robin*) Born and raised in Tucson, AZ and standing at a towering 6'8", Austin is beyond excited to be portraying Sir Robin in only his second principal role ever! While he has spent most of his life

engulfed in the visual arts as an illustrator, he is thankful to his friends and family, namely Lani and Cheyenne, for believing in him as he ventures onto the world's stage as a singer and performer.



ZACH WETZEL (*Dennis/Galahad*) is from Los Angeles. Arizona acting credits: *Ragtime* (Father), *The Pajama Game* (Sid), *Guys and Dolls* (Nathan), *Matilda* (Harry Wormwood), *Tick Tick Boom* (Michael), *A Jazz Nativity* (Soloist), *Troubadour Café*

(Soloist), *The Pirates of Penzance* (Major General), *Seussical* (The Cat), *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Chorus Master), and *Titanic: The Musical* (Ismay). Arizona venues booked: Gaslight Music Hall, Phoenix Third Street Theatre, Unity Tucson and Phoenix, Green Valley Recreation, ATC Cabaret, University of Arizona McKale Center. The Phoenix Theatre Company: *Zombies*, *Descendants*, *The Wiz*, *Willy Wonka*, *Descendants 2* (Youth Music Director). Utah venues booked: Tuacahn Amphitheatre Market, Covey Center for the Arts, Madsen Recital Hall. @mister.wetzel



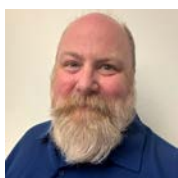
ALLI LAMBERT (*Mother/Mrs. Galahad*) Alli's first MTA event was in March 2023 and she has loved being in the ensemble in *Ragtime* (Kathleen), *Brigadoon*, *Hunchback...*, *Parade*, and many Underscores. Credits include Enid in *Legally Blonde* (Starlight)

and Countess Gregory in *Anastasia* (Don Bluth FRT). She has sung at Carnegie Hall, in Paris, and with The Phoenix Symphony Chorus and ASU Choral Union. Thanks for supporting the arts!



JEFF SKIBA (*Bedeivere/The Black Knight*) is excited to be back in the Valley performing. Some of his acting credits include *Jekyll and Hyde*, *Les Misérables*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Jeff's directing credits

include *Anastasia*, *The Play That Goes Wrong*, *Check Please*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *An Experiment With An Air Pump*, and *Curtains*.



DAVID E. WECK (*Herbert*) is giddy to be prancing about in Spinalot. When not standing dramatically in doorways, he directs choirs at Shadow Mountain High School and Shea Middle School, and has served as Music Director for the award-

winning North Valley Arts Academy for the past 6 years. Recently seen as Barry in *The Prom* at Desert Stages Theatre and many MTA productions.

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST



JOHN JADOWSKI (*Not Dead Fred*) is excited to be on stage after joining the chorus for MTAA's Showcase *Annie Get Your Gun*. John is a graduate of the Capital University Conservatory of Music in Columbus, Ohio. He has been in

the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in NYC the last three years as a member of the Macy's Inc. Choir and currently sings with the Phoenix Gay Men's Chorus. He relocated three years ago to Phoenix from Ohio with his husband Brett. They share a love of travel and exploring new restaurants.



BRIAN REECE (*French Taunter*) is Associate Dean of Students at ASU and a lifelong musician. After earning a vocal performance minor at the University of Delaware, he's performed with choirs nationwide, including the

Phoenix Gay Men's Chorus and in MTAA productions. With nearly 20 years in higher education, he blends student affairs leadership with a passion for building inclusive communities.



JORDAN APPLIGATE (*Historian*) has been performing with MTAA since *Big Fish*, and she is so excited for the opportunity to be in this production of *Spamalot*! While most of her performing experience is from high school,

she returned to the stage after a six-year break in early 2024 and is thrilled to be back doing what she loves. With two young toddlers at home, she is so grateful for her family support and for the wonderful opportunities she has had over the last two years.

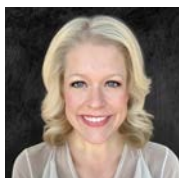


DYLAN SUEHIRO (*Conductor*) was born and raised in Hilo, Hawai'i. He serves as the Principal Conductor and Communications Director of MTAA. As a performer, he is an avid multi-instrumentalist, playing with Tempe Winds in addition to

the MTAA Orchestra. *Spamalot* marks Dylan's ninth Showcase; he previously conducted *The Pajama Game*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *The Sound of Music*, and *Annie Get Your Gun*, and he played in the pit for *Titanic*, *A Little Night Music*, *Big Fish*, and *The Pirates of Penzance*.

Dylan holds degrees from Indiana University and ASU in music education and conducting. Since moving to Arizona in 2013, he has taught at multiple schools in the Paradise Valley Unified School District, in addition to serving as a clinician and adjudicator for bands and orchestras around the Valley.

An avid baker and passionate supporter of the local food community, Dylan is also a member of Emerging Leaders and volunteers at the Desert Botanical Garden. He lives in Phoenix with his husband Kyle.



ROBYN PITMAN (*Chorus Director*) is an Arizona-born performer and music director who has worked in theaters across the country touring in *Brigadoon* (Fiona), *The Music Man* (Mrs. Squires/Marian Understudy), and *Legally Blonde* (Elle's

Mom/Judge).

Regional credits include: *The Music Man* (Marian), *Brigadoon* (Fiona), *Carnival* (Lili-AriZoni Winner for Best Actress in a Musical), *Hello Dolly* (Irene), *Titanic* (Alice), *Into the Woods* (Rapunzel), 1776 (Martha Jefferson), *Lucky Stiff* (Annabel), *Cinderella* (Portia), *A Little Night Music* (Mrs. Anderssen) and *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* (Woman One). Music Directing credits include: *Les Misérables*, *Brigadoon*, *The Sound of Music*, *Legally Blonde*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Lucky Stiff*, and *Honk!*

As an educator, Robyn taught high school choir for 14 years and was the proud director for multiple National award-winning Show and Jazz Choirs. She holds a BIS in Music and Education from ASU and an MBA from Southern Indiana University. In addition to performing and music directing, Robyn currently works as a Human Resources Business Partner and Arizona Realtor.



CAMERON ABAROA (*Staging Director*) has directed over twenty productions at the high school and college level and is currently the Theatre Teacher at Alhambra High School in Phoenix. He previously worked in Education and Development at Arizona

Theatre Company as well as the Utah Shakespeare Festival. Cameron holds a B.A. in Theatre and Communications from BYU-Hawai'i and an MFA in Arts Administration from Southern Utah University. His professional directing experience includes serving as Assistant Director for *Love's Labour's Lost* with Southwest Shakespeare Company. As a performer, he has performed with the Phoenix Boys Choir, Arizona Opera, Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra, and MTAA.

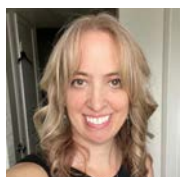


STEPHEN SCHERMITZLER (*Lancelot/Artistic Director*) is the Founder of the Musical Theatre Alliance of Arizona. After earning a BFA in Music Composition from ASU in 2010, Stephen became the resident music director for Detour

Company Theatre and the Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre (now Silver Star), along with several

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

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 *42nd 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.



ANDREA GUDEYON (*Audio Technician*) has been an integral part of every production since MTAA'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*, *Parade*, *Ragtime*, and *The Sound of Music*, in addition to supporting MTAA'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.

Board of Directors

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 Faith Forbis.....Treasurer
 Rick Ross..... Secretary
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 Natalie Booth.....Education & Engagement
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MTAA 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 Musical Theatre Alliance of Arizona. Every donor is a valued partner in each achievement, both onstage and throughout our community outreach and future programming.

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MTAA is proud to be Arizona's home for live, orchestra-led musical theatre, bringing Broadway works to life with exceptional music and storytelling. Your support makes it possible to produce these performances, provide opportunities for local artists, and keep live musical theatre accessible to the community.



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Underscore

MTAA's Underscore events are one-night, educational read-throughs where singers explore a full musical score in a relaxed setting. No rehearsal, no audience, no memorization—all fun!

Interested in joining our next Underscore on **Saturday, November 15?**

Email us at
communications@theatricallyaz.org
for details!

Special Thanks

All Saints Lutheran Church Staff for facilitating venue arrangements, providing equipment storage, and being an integral part of MTAA's story.

Patti Graetz for graciously hosting rehearsals at her home.

Faith Forbis, CPA for coordinating payments and ensuring financial compliance.

Jessica Bondy for her support with communications and keeping our participants informed.

Dylan Suehiro for designing the digital and printed programs.

Kyle Varble for leading operations behind the scenes and helping manage communications.

Susan Woods, Edie Chudnow, and Thylma Stamaria for coordinating volunteers and hospitality for participants and patrons.

CHANDLER
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invites you to attend
our 33rd Season of Concerts!

Coming up next:

Cheers to Youth!

Sunday, November 9, 2025 at 3PM
Chandler Center for the Arts
250 N. Arizona Ave., Chandler
Admission is by donation

Deck the Holidays

Sunday, December 7, 2025 at 3PM
Risen Savior Lutheran Church
23620 S. Alma School Rd., Chandler
Tickets (\$15): chandlersymphony.org



chandlersymphony.org

ABOUT THE SHOW

BOOK AND LYRICS BY

Eric Idle

MUSIC BY

John du Prez & Eric Idle

Spamalot is presented through special arrangement with Theatrical Rights Worldwide (TRW). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by TRW. www.theatricalrights.com
The unauthorized recording of this production, in whole or in part, is strictly prohibited.
MTAA thanks you for your cooperation.

HOW TO SUCCEED IN SHOWBIZ WITHOUT REALLY TRYING (TOO HARD)

At its heart, *Spamalot* is a story about knights, quests, and destiny—but mostly about silliness, bad dancing, and killer rabbits. Adapted from the 1975 film *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, the show takes the familiar tropes of Arthurian legend and gleefully dismantles them, replacing solemn heroism with irreverent sketches, meta-theatrical gags, and a Broadway diva in a sparkly gown. It's a musical that insists on laughing at itself—and invites the audience to laugh right along.

When *Spamalot* premiered in 2005, it became an unlikely Broadway juggernaut, winning the Tony Award for Best Musical and introducing Monty Python's brand of British absurdism to a new generation of theatergoers. Eric Idle's adaptation stayed true to the film's anarchic spirit while also lampooning the conventions of musical theatre itself—poking fun at showbiz clichés, romantic ballads, and even the very idea of a finale.

Of course, part of *Spamalot*'s magic is the way it revels in contradictions. It's a parody that has become a beloved classic in its own right; a satire of theatrical spectacle that somehow delivers theatrical spectacle. Beneath the slapstick and satire lies a surprisingly affectionate portrait of community—the kind you build when you're forced to sing, dance, and gallop onstage with coconuts for hooves.

25–26 SHOWCASE SEASON



August 16, 2025

"Anything you can do, we can do... in a weekend!"
Saddle up for this Wild West showdown of wit and melody.



October 25, 2025

Lovingly ripped off from *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, this absurd, hilarious romp will have you singing about coconuts for days.



January 24, 2026

Tradition! Heart, humor, and timeless melodies come together in this beloved classic. L'chaim!



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