

45TH ANNUAL MCELHERAN VISITING ARTIST

MATHIS PICARD

Book 1 of Preludes & Fugues



 **CPS** Community Performance Series

Saturday, October 25, 2025 at 3:00 pm

SNELL THEATER | SUNY POTSDAM

45th McElheran Visting Artist

MATHIS PICARD

October 25, 2025 at 3:00 PM

SNELL M. SNELL MUSIC THEATER
SUNY POTSDAM, POTSDAM, NEW YORK

Preludes & Fugues & Beyond

PASSING TIME (PRELUDE IN C MAJOR)	M. PICARD
LA DEUXIÈME (PRELUDE IN DB MAJOR)	M. PICARD
ECHOES OF SPRING / FAST & FURIOUS	W. SMITH / D. ELLINGTON
NOCTURNE IN B MAJOR	F. CHOPIN
SCENERIES (OF A NEW HOME) (PRELUDE IN E MINOR)	M. PICARD
MESSAGE IN THE STARS (FUGUE IN F# MINOR)	M. PICARD
INNER CHILD (FUGUE IN G MAJOR)	M. PICARD
MEDITATION: WORLD'S A MIRROR (PRELUDE IN AB MAJOR)	M. PICARD
IS THIS LOVE	B. MARLEY
A DOPO	M. PICARD

Over the next 90 minutes you will hear a set of music comprising of selections from Mathis Picard's newest work *Preludes & Fugues: Book 1*, interjected within the set are a few pieces from inspirational composers such as Duke Ellington, Frederik Chopin and Willie "The Lion" Smith.

Mathis' music is rooted with deep respect and admiration of all musical traditions. This creates a rich ground for music to grow on, to then explore potential new sonic avenues. Whether Picard's compositions aim to evoke a spirit of reflection; challenge the performer's physical barriers; or investigate the inter-generational bridges that lie in music; Mathis' main source of inspiration comes from a desire to connect with the world and audience around him.



Season Underwriters



CRANE
School of Music at SUNY Potsdam



THE CRANE OPERA ENSEMBLE PRESENTS

DOWN IN THE VALLEY

AN AMERICAN FOLK-OPERA BY KURT WEILL

October 30th to Nov 2nd, 2025

The award-winning Crane Opera Ensemble at SUNY Potsdam's Crane School of Music will present Kurt Weill's American folk opera, "Down in the Valley," alongside scenes from the composer's New York City-inspired "Street Scene," in a fall production running from Oct. 30 to Nov. 2.

Friday, Oct. 31, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 1, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 2, at 3 p.m.

Proscenium Theater, Performing Arts Center
SUNY Potsdam

CRANE

School of Music at SUNY Potsdam



FROM THE COMMUNITY PERFORMANCE SERIES DIRECTOR

This Fall season I'm grateful to come together as a music supporting community.

Autumn is a season of gratitude and I am deeply grateful for the relationships that make performances like this one possible. Mathis Picard has joined us on campus on two previous "Jazz at Lincoln Center Presents" tours as a both a musician and teacher. His classes were deep and impactful, forming lasting connections with students. In the undeniable magic that is live music, he connected to the audience, as well. Hosting Mathis on his first solo tour was a welcome opportunity. He has the unique gift of calling an audience in to be fully present and connected; a grounding force in the midst of an increasingly noisy, attention-diverting world.

These events are never done alone and rely on strong relationships with dedicated people. I am grateful for a hard-working team, wonderful student interns, excellent colleagues, and the continuous generosity of volunteers and donors.

To our audience: *thank you* for supporting the arts and live music - we appreciate each and every one of you for choosing to spend your afternoon with us in this busy season. We look forward to welcoming you back again soon.

With a heart full of gratitude,

Vanessa N. Vaverchak



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PROUD TO SUPPORT THE ARTS—AND
GRATEFUL TO COMMUNITY PERFORMANCE
SERIES FOR LEADING THE WAY.

PRE-CONCERT ANNOUNCEMENT:

PLEASE SILENCE ALL MOBILE DEVICES BEFORE THE PERFORMANCE BEGINS.

PHOTOGRAPHY OR RECORDING OF ANY PERFORMANCE IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE MANAGEMENT.

FOR ACCESSIBILITY ASSISTANCE, PLEASE NOTIFY THE BOX OFFICE IN ADVANCE OF THE START OF THE PERFORMANCE.

FIRE NOTICE: IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE, **WALK TO THE EXIT NEAREST TO THE SEAT YOU OCCUPY** AND **LEAVE THE BUILDING IMMEDIATELY.**

CONCERT SURVEY

We want to hear from you! Please answer our quick 6-question survey at the end of the performance to share your thoughts and suggest a show for future years.

Survey URL:

<https://forms.office.com/r/isNQpckPnZ>

OR

scan the QR code to the right



Community Performance Series

36TH SEASON

IN RESIDENCE AT SUNY POTSDAM SINCE 1989, COMMUNITY PERFORMANCE SERIES IS A COLLEGE-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP THAT PRESENTS DISTINCTIVE AND RENOWNED PERFORMING ARTS EVENTS IN NORTHERN NEW YORK.

Community Performance Series Staff

Director	Vanessa Vaverchak M'27
Assistant Director	Meghan Stever
Audience Services Coordinator	Haley Billings '13, M'26

Community Performance Series Interns

Box Office Associate	Gloria Diederich '27
Box Office Associate	Ethan Hurst '26
Box Office Associate	Elena Kaplan '26
Front of House Lead, Music Business Practicum	Marco Ingrassia '26
Youth Programming Coordinator	Julia Ellison '28
Youth Programming Coordinator	Michael Wong '26

Special Thanks to:

Our generous sponsors and donors whose gifts make incredible performances like these possible.

Additional Thanks to:

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Crane School of Music, especially:

Interim Dean, Dr. David Heuser
Interim Assistant Dean, Dr. Charles Guy
Crane/Performing Arts Center Director of Operations, Dr. Matthew Gatti '10
Crane/Performing Arts Center Director of Production, Josh Barkley '21
Audio Video Engineer, Douglas McKinnie
Senior Piano Technician '04, Ryan Mix

Community Performance Series Advisory Board

Founding Director: Sal Cania, Jr. '79

Advisory Board Members

Salvatore Cania '79	Jerry Manor '78
Josh Barkley '21	Mona Ouimet Vroman '85

CPS WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE SPONSORS WHO HAVE MADE THIS SEASON POSSIBLE.

Endowed Annual Performances



Season Underwriters



Sponsors



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RECIPROCAL ADVERTISING:

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2025 Contributions

Recipient of a 2025 State Community Regrants award through the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature, and administered by the St. Lawrence County Arts Council.

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MATHIS PICARD BIO

Mathis Picard is an internationally renowned pianist, composer and producer. Based in New York City and originally from France & Madagascar, Mathis finds his voice by merging his many musical and cultural backgrounds. Named a “rising star” by *The Scotsmen* paper at the age of 10, Mathis is now one of the most prominent rising voices on the piano of his generation today. Picard is an ASCAP Next Generation of Songwriters Recipient, a member of the Montreux Jazz Foundation, a Juilliard School Alumni under the mentorship of Kenny Barron and has performed all over the globe. London reviewers describe Mathis as a “knockout, as dynamic a personality as he is virtuosic on the keys” (whatsonstage.com), while he is deemed as “one to watch” by *Jazzwise Magazine*.

A bandleader in his own right, Picard runs *The Sound Orchestra* (formally known as *M.S.O*), his large-scale ensemble which has performed on both coasts of The United States, from NuBlu and Dizzy's Club in New York City to Black Cat in San Francisco. Their debut genre-bending EP “*World Unity*” came out in 2020 on Outside In Music Records which put him on the map as “a fascinating name to follow in any context” (All About Jazz). As a solo artist, Picard then released his first solo piano album, “*Live at the Museum*” (Winter 2022) for which he was praised as having a “brilliant classical technique and a vivid imagination” (Downbeat). Recorded with a live audience at the National Jazz Museum of Harlem in New York City, this work is a sonic journey through which Mathis explores the museum of his own varied musical upbringing.

Globe trotting between the E.U, U.K. and the U.S in his formative years, Picard picked up the piano while living in Pittsburgh with his family, at the age of 4. Beginning official studies soon thereafter, Picard's followed a rigorous musical education which carried through to his adult life. Starting with the *Pittsburgh Suzuki Academy* (Pittsburgh, USA) (1999-2000); then the *The Conservatoire of Fontainebleau* (France) (2001-2002); the *Centre de Musique de Didier Lockwood* (France) (2003-2005); and most significantly *Chethams School Of Music* (2006-2012), a specialist boarding school in Manchester, England. During his time in the U.K, Picard, became youngest ever finalist at the Montreux Jazz Piano Competition at the age of 10; was inducted in the North West Real Book for his composition “*Why Don't You See?*”; wrote his first orchestral piece for Jazz trio and Orchestra “*Akire*” commissioned by the N.C.O (Northern Chamber Orchestra), and was featured on *Jazzwise's* Magazine for his composition “*Bird Like*”.

Mathis now spends his time touring and recording as a leader of his own sound and with other bands. In Spring 2022, Picard toured the U.S. as a solo Artist, playing a dozen shows across the United States which led to the release of “*Live At Blue Llama*”, a 3-track Live EP of original music recorded at the club during the tour. During this same time Picard released his first fugue “*Mysticism Of Money in D minor*” as a music video with NPR Live Sessions and WRTI 90.1 for International Jazz Day. This past summer of 2022, Picard completed another EU solo piano highlighted by and invite from Umbria Jazz Festival to be the festival's resident artist.

Most recently, Picard's latest album “*Heat Of The Moment*”, was given a 5-star “glorious” review from the *The Times*, praising Mathis as a pianist and composer. The 10-track full-length original music album feature performances from this new generation's top leading voices in jazz (Joel Ross, Melanie Charles, Braxton Cook, Jonathan Pinson, Savannah Harris, Russell Hall , Giveton Gelin, Kyle Poole & More...).

When not leading his own projects, Picard has shared the musical stage with artists such as Ron Carter, Lillias White, Lee Ritenour, Kindness, Wynton Marsalis, Veronica Swift, Etienne Charles, Christian McBride, Dee Dee Bridgewater & more.

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Performances in Watertown & Potsdam



NOVEMBER

Creative Spirit Hours:
 Tues & Wed: 10 - 4pm
 Friday: 10 - 5pm
 Saturday: 10 - 4pm

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Highlighted programs require pre-registration						1 38 th Annual Studio Tour: Day 1 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
2 38 th Annual Studio Tour: Day 2 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM	3 Potsdam Pride Paper Arts Meet-up 6:00 PM	4 Ornament Painting with Shubha 6:00 PM	5 Writers' Group 6:00 PM	6 Hooks & Needles 6:00 PM Coaster Making: Part 1 6:00 PM	7 Friday Art Group 10:00 AM Wild Theater Speaker Series 5:30 PM Potsdam Library Friday Punk Show 6:30 PM	8 Patch Making with Nav 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM Mending with Nav 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM
9 Science Day with Clarkson 10:00 AM	10 Playwriting Circle 6:00 PM	11 Coaster Making: Part 2 6:00 PM	12 Open Mic 6:00 PM	13 Solo Exhibition Opening 5:00 PM Potsdam Town Hall Figure Drawing 6:00 PM (18+)	14 Friday Art Group 10:00 AM Wild Theater Speaker Series 5:30 PM Potsdam Library	15 Playful Palettes: Pumpkin Collage 11:00 AM
16 Second Sunday Poetry 2:00 PM	17 Crochet Class Series (1/5): Learn Basics with Nav 6:00 PM	18 Watercolor Painting with Rita 6:00 PM	19 Writers' Group 6:00 PM	20 Fragments Exhibition Opening 5:00 PM	21 Friday Art Group 10:00 AM Wild Theater Speaker Series 5:30 PM Potsdam Library Accessible Arts 6:00 PM	22 Warped Reality Drawings with Will 11:00 AM Man Must Explore & Boyden Brook Band 6:30 PM with a Silent Auction!
23	24 Crochet Class Series (2/5): Basic Hats with Nav 6:00 PM Playwriting Circle 6:00 PM	25	26 Open Mic 6:00 PM	27 Closed	28 Closed	29 Small Business Saturday - Store Early Opening at 9 AM
30	Unless stated otherwise, all events take place at the Creative Spirit Community Arts Center, located at 6-8 Raymond Street, Potsdam NY 13676					

Details and registration information at:
<https://slcartscouncil.org/>

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UNDER PRESSURE!

SHOW DESCRIPTION (60 min):

Be amazed by the power of pressure - and what it can teach us.

Equal parts interactive science, comedy, and personal empowerment messages, Doktor Kaboom returns with a new show. ***Doktor Kaboom: Under Pressure!*** illustrates physical science concepts, which are also metaphors for real-life mental and emotional pressures.

Praised for keeping crowds riveted with interest and rolling with laughter, Doktor Kaboom is also known for empowering volunteers from the audience to be the heroes of the moment. In *Under Pressure!*, Kaboom validates the pressures some students may feel, and shares tools and life lessons as resources for dealing with the difficulties that face us all.

SHOW FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC: Tues, March 3, 2026

Sara M. Snell Music Theatre, SUNY Potsdam

7:00 PM SHOW - General Admission. **Tickets on sale at cpspotsdam.org**

SCHOOL GROUPS IN GRADES 4-7: Wed, March 4, 2026

Sara M. Snell Music Theatre, SUNY Potsdam

9:30 AM SHOW -200 student cap. **11:00 AM SHOW** - opens once 9 am show is full.

Student Tickets: \$7

Teachers, Bus Drivers: Free

Chaperones (1:10 required ratio): Free

Chaperones over the 1:10 ratio: \$7

Contact to Book:

Meghan Stever

CPS Assistant Director

315-267-2412

mta@potsdam.edu

Check us out!



More information & tickets:

<https://cpspotsdam.org/doktor-kaboom-1>

Fall Patron Offer: use code **BOOM25** at checkout to take 25% off early bird tickets to the March 3rd public performance now through December 31, 2025.

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