

MARCH 2022



FROM THE WINGS

COMING SOON: 2022-2023 SEASON REVEAL

Spring is always an exciting time for us, as we get to reveal the sensational lineup of touring Broadway shows coming to RBTL's Auditorium Theatre in the coming season. As always, we and our Partner/Presenter, Albert Nocciolino, strive to offer something for everyone, and this year will be no different!

A sincere and special thank you to our Season Sponsor, M&T Bank, for making Broadway in our community possible, year after year. And thank you to all of our Season Subscribers and show patrons, for your continued support and patience in our return to live entertainment.

We look forward to sharing our 2022-2023 M&T Bank Broadway Season with you here next month, but in the meantime, be sure to tune in to our website and social media for more information coming soon.

We hope you'll be as excited as we are about the award-winning lineup!



The Official Sponsor of the Broadway Season
at the Auditorium Theatre

UPDATED COVID-SAFETY PROTOCOLS

In accordance with changes in guidelines from the CDC, New York State and Monroe County, proof of COVID-19 vaccination will no longer be required when attending performances at RBTL's Auditorium Theatre, beginning March 31. (Proof of vaccination still required for performances occurring through March 30.)

Appropriately worn masks will still be required for all patrons, regardless of vaccination status, upon arrival and departure in lobby areas, and within the theatre for the entirety of the performance. (Brief removal for food/beverage consumption is permitted.) Patron cooperation and understanding is appreciated as we continue to make our transition back to a "normal" theatre-going experience.

RBTL's Auditorium Theatre safety protocols will continue to evolve as conditions change. Those with questions or concerns may contact the Auditorium Box Office at 585-222-5000 or mail@rbtl.org. To read the Rochester Broadway Theatre League's full venue safety policy, please visit rbtl.org/safety.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

DIANA KRALL

MARCH 30

RIVERDANCE

MARCH 31-APRIL 2

FUNNY ASF

APRIL 8

DEAR EVAN HANSEN

APRIL 12-17

JIM GAFFIGAN

APRIL 29



RBTL'S AUDITORIUM THEATRE

885 EAST MAIN STREET

ROCHESTER, NY 14605

585.222.5000 - RBTL.ORG



@RBTLAUD

**MASK
POLICY**



MASKS REQUIRED
FOR ALL PATRONS, REGARDLESS
OF VACCINATION STATUS.

Patron Safety Sponsor:
**ROCHESTER
REGIONAL HEALTH**



Wikipedia Photo: Reese Wynans & Joe Bonamassa

REESE WYNANS & RBTL'S STEINWAY PIANO

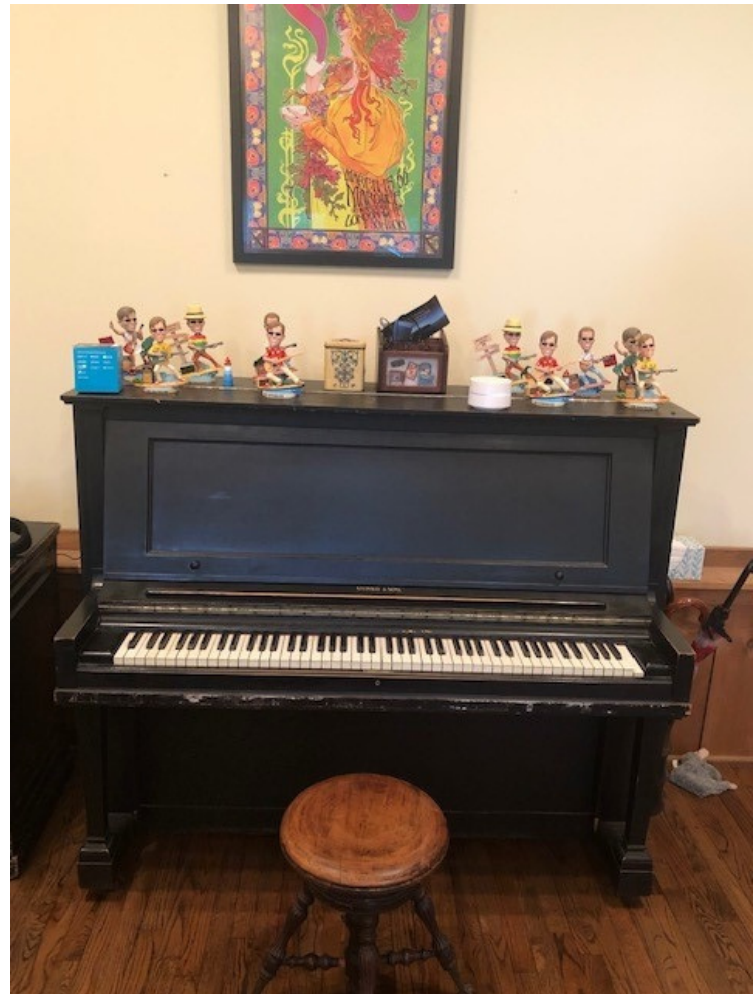
For Joe Bonamassa fans, the Auditorium has served as host for four concert tour stops over the past 10 years. Joe's shows are among the most well attended with an extremely devoted Rochester fan base. Most recently, Joe and his band joined us on the night before Thanksgiving, 2021. Always a favorite among the local crew too, this time, upon stepping through the backstage door, Joe greeted by exclaiming... "Oh yeah! This is the place where we got the piano!"

The "Piano Story" began at Joe's 2018 Auditorium Theatre show, when band member and Rock and Roll Hall of Fame member Reese Wynans (blues and rock keyboardist who boasts an extraordinary band lineage), in killing pre-show time backstage, stumbled upon the Aud's old upright Steinway - which on that given night, was being unceremoniously stored in an unused hallway. Acquired by RBTL years earlier from the Eastman School's collection of old, unused inventory, the piano was deemed 'unable to be rehabbed' by even the area's most skilled technicians. As a result, it was only able to be used occasionally for rehearsals. It eventually became the subject of much consternation among the local crew, who were forever having to shuffle it around and stow it out of the way of shows and tours.

That night in 2018, though, new life was breathed into the old relic, through Reese. The piano, which was perpetually at least a little bit out of tune and tinny, sounded fantastic, being played in remarkable true honky-tonk bluesy rock fashion, by truly one of the best in the business. After being told 'that piano's been here a long time, and it's NEVER, EVER sounded that good', Reese suggested in his understated manner that we send it home with him. By the end of the night, Union Steward Gary Zaccaria informed management that indeed, the piano was leaving with the band. After some initial squawking amongst the crew, the piano was loaded on the tour truck and bid a fond farewell.

Reminiscing about that memorable night at the recent November Show, Reese and staff traded emails. Within a few days, we received a picture of the piano from its new home in Reese's personal music room and a note saying that he 'plays it just about every day'.

Fare thee well, old friend!



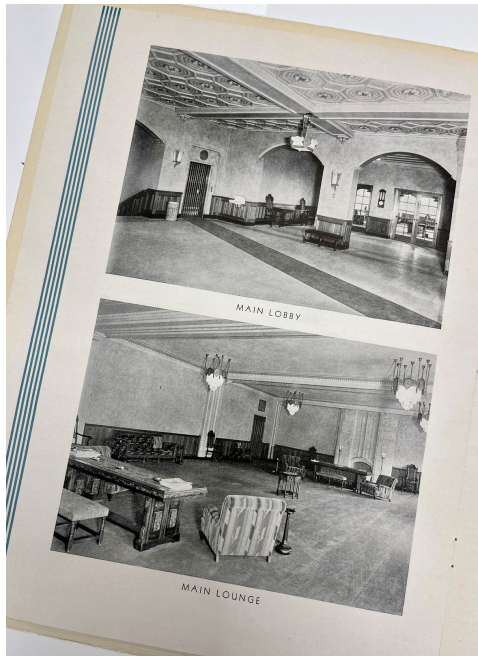
Left: The piano in the parking lot of the Auditorium Theatre, waiting to be loaded onto the tour truck after the show.

Above: The piano now located in Reese Wynans' music room in Nashville, Tennessee.

REOPENING THE ROTHSCHILD LOUNGE

After a long pandemic-pause, the Rochester Broadway Theatre League is pleased to announce we will, once again be opening Ethan Allen's Rothschild Lounge! Starting with performances of "Dear Evan Hansen" (April 12-17), you can take your theatre experience to the next level with exclusive access to the President's Club!

Located off the side lobby of RBTL's Auditorium Theatre, the President's Club at Ethan Allen's Rothschild Lounge offers top-shelf bar/beverage service and hors d'oeuvres (provided by Palmer's Direct to You Market), one hour prior to the performance, with no worries of missing curtain time. Dessert, coffee, and tea are also available during intermission, allowing guests to avoid the usual concession lines. Complimentary coat-check is included.



Designed to enhance your theatre-going experience, the Lounge is a private, comfortable setting, featuring design and beautiful furnishings by Ethan Allen. However, not everything in the room comes from the Victor furniture store. In fact, the large, long antique table (pictured below) that can be seen to your left as you walk through the brass doors, was a fixture during the room's original days as a Masonic Temple lounge space for the Masons.

A great alternative to pre-show restaurant dining and an easy and fun way to mingle with those in your party.

President's Club passes require advance purchase and are available via the Box Office at 585-222-5000. Give us a call! Our Customer Service team will be happy to assist you.

Above: Photos of the lounge in the 1930's.

Below: Original furniture piece.



**THANK YOU
FOR SUPPORTING
UKRAINE RELIEF!**

RBTL Patron Donations:

BABY WIPES
113 packs

DIAPERS
66 packs

TOOTHBRUSHES
628

RUBBER GLOVES
1,200

UNDERWEAR
87 packs

SOCKS
131 packs

SLEEPING BAGS
7



INTERVOL



SUMMER STARS: CELEBRATING SONDHEIM

Believe it or not, summer is fast approaching, which means it's almost time for our Broadway summer camp, Summer Stars, to make its return! After a two-year hiatus because of the pandemic, RBTl will once again be welcoming campers to the stage.

Students in grades 4-12 can take part in the intensive day camp July 18-30 at RBTl's Auditorium Theatre. Hours are 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday-Saturday. The camp is led by Artistic Director Nikki Snelson (original Brooke Wyndham on Broadway in "Legally Blonde: The Musical") and her team of Broadway professionals from New York City. Each day, students will focus on singing, acting and dancing, allowing them to develop their individual talents, all while having the opportunity to learn, grow and become inspired! Summer Stars concludes with a Gala Showcase performance on July 30, which gives the campers a chance to highlight their newly honed skills.

This year, Summer Stars will celebrate the life, work and influence of composer and lyricist Stephen Sondheim, who passed away in November 2021. Sondheim is known for his decades-long career, which includes Broadway classics such as, "West Side Story," "Company," "Sweeney Todd," "Into the Woods," and many more. Not only will Summer Stars look at his legendary work, but also the work of current Broadway stars he mentored and inspired.

Limited spaces still remain for this year's Summer Stars camp. Register today at rbtl.org/summer-stars.

MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH®

The month of March is Music in Our Schools Month® (MIOSM®) and is a designated time for teachers to focus on music education. March was designated as MIOSM® by the National Association for Music Education more than 30 years ago. According to the Association, "the purpose of MIOSM is to raise awareness of the importance of music education for all children – and to remind citizens that school is where all children should have access to music."

March also happens to be a time when many local schools premiere their spring musicals. 22 of the 26 area schools taking part in this year's Stars of Tomorrow program, premiered their spring musicals during the month of March. You can find a full list of what shows schools performed at rbtl.org/stars-of-tomorrow.

RBTl's youth arts education programs are made possible with vital support from our patrons and sponsors. This Music in Our Schools Month, please consider making a donation at rbtl.org/donate to keep all of our arts education programs going. Our passion drives us, but your support ensures our success.



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH SPOTLIGHT: MILESTONES IN THEATRE

- **"Waitress" (2015):** "Waitress" became the first Broadway musical with an all-female creative team (book writer Jessie Nelson, director Diane Paulus, composer/lyricist Sara Bareilles, choreographer Lorin Lattaro). It was nominated for 17 awards, including four Tony Awards® and one Grammy Award®.
- **Jeanine Tesori:** Jeanine Tesori has written four Tony®-nominated scores. Her original musical, "Fun Home," was the first with music, lyrics and book written by women to win Best Musical. Tesori is the first woman composer to have two new musicals running concurrently on Broadway.
- **Helen Hayes:** It took her a record 45 years, but Helen Hayes became the first woman to earn EGOT status in 1977. She has two Tony Awards®, one for "Happy Birthday" (1947), and one for "Time Remembered" (1958).
- **Audra McDonald:** Audra McDonald has earned six Tony Awards® – a record as a performer. She has also received awards for her work in film, TV, music and as an activist for LGBTQ and youth homelessness. In 2016 she was awarded the National Medal for the Arts by President Obama.