



The Metropolitan Opera  
in association with Adrienne Arsht  
presents

# Harry Connick Jr

## A Celebration of Cole Porter

METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 2025, 8PM

# The Met ropolitan Opera

2024–25 SEASON

## Harry Connick Jr A Celebration of Cole Porter

Music and lyrics by Cole Porter

Additional songs and all music arranged  
and orchestrated by Harry Connick, Jr.

Written and directed by Harry Connick, Jr.

Presented by special arrangement with the  
Cole Porter Musical and Literary Property Trusts

**CONDUCTOR/KEYBOARDS**

Andrew Fisher

**CONCERTMASTER**

Louise Owen

**ALTO SAXOPHONE, FLUTE,  
CLARINET**

Geoff Burke

**ALTO SAXOPHONE**

Chris Hemingway

**TENOR SAXOPHONE**

Jimmy Greene

Jerry Weldon

**BARITONE SAXOPHONE**

Carl Maraghi

**TRUMPETS**

Sam Hoyt

John Lake

Mark Braud

Dave Adewumi

**TROMBONES**

Dion Tucker

Noah Bless

Danny Hall

**BASS TROMBONE**

Joe Barati

**BASS**

Neal Caine

**DRUMS**

Arthur Latin

**VIOLINS**

Kristina Musser Gitterman

Rachel Handman

Sylvia D'Avanzo

**VIOLAS**

Whitney La Grange

Hiroko Taguchi

**CELLOS**

Emily Brausa

Kate Spingarn

**DANCER**

Luke Hawkins

*Cole Porter (on film),*

*Bartender*

*Choreographer of*

*Begin the Beguine*

*Cole Porter (on stage),*

*Usher, Policeman*

*Harry Connick Jr.: A Celebration of Cole Porter*  
will be performed without an intermission.



## A CONVERSATION WITH HARRY CONNICK, JR.

As he prepared for his five-day residency at the Met, Harry Connick, Jr., reflected on the role of Cole Porter's music in his artistic life and the honor of representing the composer on this historic stage.

**You've sung music by many of America's greatest composers. What makes Cole Porter particularly special to you?**

Cole Porter is unique among composers of the American Songbook because he not only wrote the lyrics and the melodies, but he was also an orchestrator and an arranger. He was an incredible, complete musician—one of the few, actually, that had a comprehensive knowledge of music. His lyrics are beautifully poetic, and his melodies are perfect. Really, his work has everything: music, rhythm, harmony, poetry. It's the complete package.

**Do you remember the first time you heard Porter's music?**

I was probably in my early teens. My dad used to listen to radio stations in New Orleans that played songs from the American Songbook. I didn't really know who the composers were, but I remember hearing melodies that were beautiful and lyrics that were captivating, and those were usually songs by Cole Porter.

**This is a show that you first presented on Broadway in 2019. What does it mean for**

**you to now revisit it on the Met stage?**

I've performed in venues all over the world, from tiny clubs in New Orleans to magnificent stages and huge outdoor venues. Performing at the Metropolitan Opera is something I've only dreamed about, because I'm not the type of performer who would ever typically be on this stage. The history here and the magnitude of this space are overwhelming. But that's what I live for. I'm so humbled to be able to pay tribute to Cole Porter on this stage. I think his music belongs right up there with all the great operas that have been performed here.

**Of all the classic Porter songs on the program, is it possible to choose a favorite?**

It's almost impossible to pick my favorite, but if I were to pick one, it may not be what you think it would be. I'm almost certain that it wouldn't be Cole Porter's favorite song either. It's "True Love." It's almost like a lullaby. It's so simple, but it's just so beautiful. And when I sing "True Love," I'm really thinking about him because my love for Cole Porter is as true as it gets.

## About the Artists



### Harry Connick, Jr.

Harry Connick, Jr.'s career has exemplified excellence across multiple platforms in the entertainment world. He has received Grammy and Emmy Awards, as well as Tony Award nominations, for his live and recorded musical performances, his achievements in film and television, and his appearances on Broadway as both an actor and a composer.

The foundation of Connick's art is the music of his native New Orleans, where he began performing as a pianist and vocalist at age five. Highlights of his music career include several multi-platinum albums (*When Harry Met Sally*, *Blue Light*, *Red Light*, *When My Heart Finds Christmas*, *Come by*

*Me*, and *Only You*). The Grammy-nominated *True Love: A Celebration of Cole Porter* was released in 2019 in conjunction with performances on Broadway. In 2020, as the world entered the pandemic lockdown, Connick retreated to his home studio and emerged with an album of songs of faith and inspiration. *Alone with My Faith*, released during the spring of 2021, displays the sheer breadth of Connick's talents as he wrote new songs, arranged all songs, played every instrument, and sang every voice. *Alone with My Faith* earned Connick his 16th career Grammy nomination for Best Roots Gospel Album.

Connick has appeared in 21 films and most recently starred in *Find Me Falling*, a romantic comedy filmed in Cyprus and released by Netflix in July 2024. Immediately upon release, *Find Me Falling* shot to the #1 English Language Film globally on Netflix. Connick has starred in *Dolphin Tale* with Morgan Freeman, *Hope Floats* with Sandra Bullock, *P.S. I Love You* with Hilary Swank, *Bug* with Ashley Judd, and *Copycat* with Sigourney Weaver, and on television (*American Idol*, *Will & Grace*, *South Pacific*, and his Emmy Award-winning concert specials). In December 2021, he stepped into the shoes of Oliver "Daddy" Warbucks in *Annie Live!*, which aired on NBC. In 2016, he launched *Harry*, a national daytime television show featuring his touring band, which earned 11 Daytime Emmy nominations in its two seasons, including two nominations for Best Host, and a Critics' Choice nomination for Best Talk Show.

On Broadway, Connick received Tony nominations as both a lead actor in *The Pajama Game* and as a composer/lyricist for *Thou Shalt Not*. He last performed on Broadway in December 2019 in *Harry Connick Jr: A Celebration of Cole Porter*.

## About the Artists CONTINUED

Despite his busy career, Connick has always found the time to be charitable and has done some of his most important work in his efforts to help New Orleans after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. He, along with friend Branford Marsalis, conceived of Musicians' Village and its centerpiece, the Ellis Marsalis Center.

Connick's honors—including a star on the celebrated Hollywood Walk of Fame as part of the 2019 class of honorees, induction into the Hollywood Bowl Hall of Fame, Honorary Doctorates from Tulane and Loyola Universities, and the Jefferson Award for Public Service—have not led him to slow his creative pace. They only confirm his determination to apply his talents in ways that prove inspirational to other artists and publicly spirited citizens.



### Cole Porter

#### MUSIC AND LYRICS

Cole Porter was born in Peru, Indiana, in 1891. He attended Yale University, where his football songs are still popular. After the failure of his first Broadway show, he lived in Europe, where he met and married legendary beauty Linda Thomas. Returning to New York in the late 1920s, he gained renown for composing many of the greatest songs for stage and screen, among them "Night and Day," "You're the Top," "Begin the Beguine," and "I

Get a Kick Out of You." His 1930s were highlighted by such Broadway offerings as *Anything Goes*, *Gay Divorce*, and *Jubilee*. A crippling riding accident in 1937 left him in constant pain, yet he continued to write memorable scores, among them *Can Can*, *Silk Stockings*, *High Society*, and his masterpiece, *Kiss Me, Kate*. He died in California in 1964.



### Luke Hawkins

#### DANCER / BARTENDER / CHOREOGRAPHER

Luke Hawkins has toured with Harry Connick, Jr., to more than 40 cities, including Paris, London, and the Hollywood Bowl. He has also performed as a solo tap dancer at Carnegie Hall, as well as with six different orchestras: the National Philharmonic, America Pops Orchestra, Manhattan Symphonie, Omaha Symphony, Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, and West Virginia Symphony Orchestra. Broadway: *Xanadu*, *Harry Connick*

*Jr.: A Celebration of Cole Porter*. Cirque du Soleil: *Banana Shpeel*, *Jóya*. TV: 2015 Tony Awards, *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*, *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*. On faculty at Broadway Dance Center and Broadway Dreams Foundation. Mr. NY 2012. Capetio Athlete. Proud member of SAG-AFTRA, AEA, AGVA, and SDC. He recently finished writing *Every Step of the Way*, a full-scale tap musical, and is currently in the development process of bringing it to life on the stage.

## Andrew Fisher

### CONDUCTOR/KEYBOARDS

Andrew Fisher previously worked with Harry Connick, Jr., as the musical director of the NBC daytime television show *Harry*. He was the conductor for the 2019 production of *Harry Connick Jr: A Celebration of Cole Porter* at the Nederlander Theatre and has been a member of Connick's touring band since 2017. Other notable career highlights include tours with various pop, R&B, and hip-hop stars, and recordings for major motion pictures and television. A native New Yorker, he graduated from the University of Miami in 2007.

## Connick Performances, Inc.

### PRODUCER

Ann Marie Wilkins, a senior executive in Connick Performances, Inc., oversees the operations of the company that has produced all of Harry Connick, Jr.'s entertainment properties for the past three decades.

## SCENIC DESIGN

Beowulf Boritt  
Alexis Distler

## CONNICK PERFORMANCES, INC.

MANAGER Ann Marie Wilkins	ASSISTANT CARPENTER/ RIGGER Jeff Bray	VIDEO/MEDIA OPERATOR Jeremy Fliss
TOUR MANAGER Brendan Goedde	CARPENTER/BACKLINE AND COMPUTER TECHNICIAN Darrin Schweitzer	VIDEO RIGGING OPERATOR Nicholas Claypool
PRODUCTION MANAGER Ted Jonas	BACKLINE TECHNICIAN Kyle Eltzroth	VIDEO TECHNICIANS Michael Sonneman Raymond Newport
MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATE Maria Betro	AUDIO SYSTEM TECHNICIAN Jake Moore	BAND RISER OPERATORS Jeremy Adams Jon Bond
LIGHTING DESIGNER AND DIRECTOR Mitchell Fenton	AUDIO SYSTEM/ RF TECHNICIAN Mike Petrow	PROPS AND PRODUCTION ASSISTANT Jessica Jonas
FOH AUDIO ENGINEER Joshua Sprague	HEAD ELECTRICIAN Rob Dilk	ASSISTANT TO MR. CONNICK Julia Mackin
MONITOR ENGINEER Dave Sockrider	ELECTRICIAN/RIGGER Anthony Stultz	HAIR AND MAKEUP STYLIST Cassandra Brennan
HEAD CARPENTER Andrew Jones	ELECTRICIAN Melissa Franklin	

## TECHNICAL CREDITS

Technical scenic support, sound, and backline equipment provided by Jonas Productions, Inc.

Video equipment and band riser provided by Dodd Technologies, Inc.

Lighting equipment provided by Mid-America Sound Corporation.

Trucking provided by Les Enterprises Truck'N Roll, Inc.

## NATIONAL PRESS REPRESENTATION

Full Coverage Communications: Kristen Foster and Gabi Hollander

## FILM CREDITS

CREATIVE PRODUCER Lucas Ajemian	VFX SUPERVISION / COMPOSITOR John Budion	NEW ORLEANS PRODUCTION COMPANY Worklight Pictures
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY (NEW ORLEANS) Joshua Reis	STORYBOARDS / DIGITAL MATTE PAINTING Gabriel Pages	NEW ORLEANS STUDIO WYES
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY (NEW JERSEY) Alex Fernbach	EDITOR Tyler Byrnes	NEW JERSEY STUDIO Cobalt Stages
	COLOR/FINISHING Mark French	