

SLOC MUSICAL THEATER

2022-2023 SEASON



ONCE

Book by
ENDA WALSH

Music & Lyrics by
GLEN HANSARD & MARKÉTA IRGLOVÁ

Based on the Motion Picture Written and Directed by John Carney

Director
JAMES W. ALEXANDER

Music Director
ELIZABETH STERLING

Choreographer
CALEY ALYCE LACEY

Producer
MICHAELA TORRES

SEPTEMBER 16-25, 2022

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A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello and welcome back to SLOC as we kick off Season 96! For those who may not know me, my name is Thomas Coon, and I am this year's President of the Board of Directors. You may have seen me in the orchestra pit, as I have played the trumpet for almost a dozen productions over the past decade. I also served as the company's Finance Director for the last two seasons. I am grateful to have an incredible team of Board and Leadership members supporting me as we work to navigate SLOC through this post-COVID world.



We are thrilled to present *Once* as our first show of the year. This rarely produced work features actors who double as musicians, and we are so appreciative of this cast and crew who dared to take on this daunting challenge.

Once tells the story of a guy who gives up on love and music, and a girl who inspires him to dream again. In many ways, this mirrors the story of our theater, as we are coming out of a very difficult point in our history and are inspired to return SLOC to its pre-COVID state of sell-out productions.

Part of our return to normal involves completing work on our campus that we were forced to neglect as we were struggling to earn revenue. We are in the process of replacing the damaged sidewalks on both sides of our building, making them safer for patrons and more visually appealing. Our wonderful artist, Rory Alexa, completed a mural on our storage shed facing the courtyard, which serves as a beautiful tribute to our past seasons. Next up on our list are plans to paint the woodwork on the Franklin Street side of our theater; repair the floors in our Education Building hallways and kitchen and, longer term, continue to beautify our theater facade.

As our ticket revenue does not provide enough income to pay for all the costs associated with our three-building campus, we rely on your donations to help make these projects possible. We also count on our volunteers to help with gardening, cleaning, and the myriad of tasks that keep SLOC running smoothly both on and offstage. We hope you will consider donating or volunteering! See Jeffrey in the Box Office or visit slocheater.org/donate. You can also email membership@slocheater.org for more information on how to get involved.

I am always happy to engage with our donors, patrons, and community. Reach out to me anytime at president@slocheater.org if you would like to learn more about our current plans for the company. We have a great season planned, and I look forward to seeing you at the theater!

Thomas Coon
President, 2022-2023 Season



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A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

"People come into your life for a reason, a season, or a lifetime"
– Unknown



Every show teaches you something. Every show you see, read, or are involved in carries a lesson. It's something I've come to expect as I have remained heavily involved in theater for more than 10 years, but *Once* had something extra for me. I proposed the show under a misunderstanding. I came to SLOC with this description of depression and missed opportunity, how *Once* epitomized the tragedy of the mundane. I insisted that *Once* shows us how something beautiful, something perfect, like the love between Guy and Girl, can be destroyed by something as ordinary as timing. I've never misunderstood a script so fully.

As I worked on this play with an incredible cast and crew, I've never been more put to shame. There are cast members who had never touched the instruments they play in this show. The incredible women surrounding me on this production team filled gaps in my skill set I never knew I had. Everyone involved took something that was once described to me as impossible, and now performs it with skill and flourish. The production side of *Once* reminded me of just how much I still must learn, but the biggest lesson came from the script itself, or more specifically, from the show's name.

I found myself wondering at one point, "Why is the show called *Once*?" What does that have to do with Irish folk music, being a singer-songwriter, or the doomed love story I was so attached to? A cast member mentioned the saying quoted at the top of this page when we discussed the script, and it gave me pause. Guy and Girl meet this once, that's it, and then it's over. She came into his life for a reason, and when her purpose was done, it was over. At one point Girl becomes upset that Guy is making his music for her. "It can't be about that!" And I realized, it wasn't. This script isn't about their love story. It's about the music. And it's not a tragedy, it's beautiful. What Guy creates, what this amazingly talented cast creates, it's beautiful, and must be made for itself, not in service of a tragic love story. Just because something only happens once doesn't mean it's a tragedy.

James W. Alexander
Director, *Once*



96th SEASON

2022 - 2023



SEPT. 16 - 25, 2022



NOV. 4 - 13, 2022



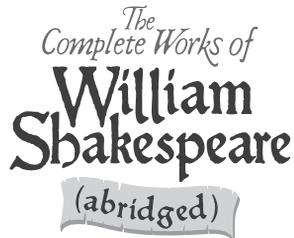
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MARCH 17 - 26, 2023



MAY 5 - 14, 2023



JULY 14 - 23, 2023

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SLOC MUSICAL THEATER

PRESENTS



Book by
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WASLH**

Music & Lyrics by
**GLEN HANSARD &
MARKÉTA IRGLOVÁ**

Based on the Motion Picture Written and Directed by
JOHN CARNEY

Orchestrations by Martin Lowe
Originally Produced on Broadway by
Barbara Broccoli, John N. Hart, Jr., Patrick Milling Smith, Frederick Zollo,
Brian Carmody, Michael G. Wilson, Orin Wolf, The Shubert Organization
Robert Cole, Executive Producer

In association with New York Theatre Workshop

Once was originally produced Off-Broadway at the New York Theatre Workshop in December 2011
Jim Nicola, Artistic Director; William Russo, Managing Director
Once was originally developed at the American Repertory Theater, Cambridge, Massachusetts, in April 2011
Diane Paulus, Artistic Director; Diane Borger, Producer

Director: **JAMES W. ALEXANDER**
Music Director: **ELIZABETH STERLING**
Choreographer: **CALEY ALYCE LACEY**
Producer: **MICHAELA TORRES**

Once is presented through special arrangement with Music Theater International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

www.mtishows.com

Any video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

CAST

(In alphabetical order)

Da	Jim Alexander	<i>Cajon</i>
Andrej	Sean T. Baldwin	<i>Guitar, Banjo, Electric Bass & Mandolin</i>
Emcee/Eamon	Michael Burns	<i>Guitar</i>
Ex-Girlfriend	Lindsey Dodd	<i>Violin</i>
Guy	Nick Foster	<i>Guitar</i>
Ivanka	Josephine Franklin-Rose	<i>Ukulele</i>
Baruška	Kim Kilby	<i>Accordion, Concertina & Guitar</i>
Bank Manager	Kevin O'Toole	<i>Cello & Guitar</i>
Billy	Ryan Ribeiro	<i>Guitar, Melodica, Piano, Cajon & Ukulele</i>
Girl	Emily Rose	<i>Piano & Cajon</i>
Réza	Siobhan Shea	<i>Violin & Tambourine</i>
Švec	A.J. Testa	<i>Mandolin, Ukulele, Electric Bass, Piano & Drums</i>

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director	James W. Alexander
Music Director	Elizabeth Sterling
Choreographer	Caley Alyce Lacey
Producer	Michaela Torres
Stage Manager	Molly Waters
Assistant Choreographer	Andrei Bires
Set Designer	Molly Waters
Master Carpenter	Sharon C. Wemple
Set Construction	Thomas Coon, Robert C. Farquharson, Kim Kilby, Alex Cherry, Marty McCredie, Doug Peek, Michaela Torres & Molly Waters
Scenic Artists	Molly Waters & Sharon C. Wemple
Lighting Designer	Laura Darling
Light Board Operator	Rachel Bratager
Sound Designer	Katie Fitzmorris
Costume Designer	Rory Alexa
Hair & Make-Up Designer	Rory Alexa
Property Designers	Michaela Torres & Molly Waters
Board Liaison	Thomas Coon
Diversity & Representation Liaisons	Rose Biggerstaff & Jordan Kennedy

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Act One

Leave	Guy
Falling Slowly	Guy & Girl
North Strand	Ensemble
The Moon	Andrej (as Ensemble)
Ej, Pada, Pada, Rosicka	Ensemble
If You Want Me	Guy, Girl & Ensemble
Broken Hearted Hoover Fixer Sucker Guy	Guy
Say It to Me Now	Guy
Abandoned in Bandon	Bank Manager
Gold	Guy & Ensemble

15 Minute Intermission

*Concessions provided by Ambition Coffee House & Bistro
are available at the rear of the theater*

Act Two

Sleeping	Guy
When Your Mind's Made Up	Guy, Girl & Ensemble
The Hill	Girl
Gold (<i>a capella</i>)	Company
The Moon	Company
Falling Slowly (<i>reprise</i>)	Guy, Girl & Ensemble

The cast and crew of *Once* sincerely thank the following individuals and organizations for their contributions to this production:

- ❖ Pinhead Susan's ❖
- ❖ Patrick Quinn ❖
- ❖ Anthony Coviello ❖
- ❖ Not So Common Players ❖
- ❖ George Ward ❖

CAST & CREW



Standing: Rachel Bratager, Andrei Bires, Michael Burns, Jim Alexander, Nick Foster, Emily Rose, Kim Kilby, Sean T. Baldwin, A.J. Testa, Laura Darling

Sitting: Caley Alyce Lacey, Elizabeth Sterling, James W. Alexander, Molly Waters, Rory Alexa, Katie Fitzmorris

Floor: Lindsey Dodd, Siobhan Shea, Josephine Franklin-Rose, Kevin O'Toole



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WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST & CREW

RORY ALEXA (*Costume Designer, Hair & Make-up Designer*) is so happy to be back costuming and to be part of this beautiful production. Past SLOC credits include *Ordinary Days* (Costume Designer), *The Addams Family* (Ancestor/Costume Designer), *In the Heights* (Ensemble), *Curtains* (Ensemble), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Apostle/Ensemble), and *Cabaret* (Kit Kat Girl). When not costuming or on stage, Rory is taking graduate classes for a Master's in Visual Development, teaching book binding classes, or probably baking something. Rory would like to thank James for the opportunity, once again, and the cast for being amazing to work with. Enjoy the show!

JAMES W. ALEXANDER (*Director*) has appeared on the SLOC stage regularly over the last 6 years, appearing in *Cabaret* (Cliff), *Urinetown* (Lockstock), *The Glorious Ones* (Flaminio), and many others. He has also been seen at Not So Common Players, Albany Civic Theater, Black Theater Troupe of Upstate New York, and multiple other theater companies in the Capital Region. He made his directorial debut with SLOC's production of *The Addams Family* in 2019 and has also acted as Music Director on SLOC's productions of *Curtains* and *Violet*. Everything you see tonight is the result of the hard work of a hundred people more talented than he is. Thank you to this incredible cast, the most supportive and capable production staff of all time, to my family, and to all the singer-songwriters who've been waiting for this show to happen.

JIM ALEXANDER (*Da, Cajon*) is excited to be making his SLOC debut in the production of *Once*. Most special is having one's son as the director, witnessing firsthand his passion, leadership, and vision for live theatre. He never lost his mind directing his dad and always had an encouraging "You didn't mess up, Dad," even when Jim was convinced otherwise. Thanks

to the cast and crew for their patience in mentoring a newbie to the theatre after over 45 years (one-act play as a high school freshman counts, right?). This has truly been fun and eye-opening at every level. It has been a pleasure being around such talent. Thanks to family and friends threatening to attend and making this so fun, terrifying, and fulfilling. Never assume every personal comfort zone has been slayed. Peace and thanks for playing tonight!

SEAN T. BALDWIN (*Andrej, Guitar, Banjo, Electric Bass, Mandolin*) is delighted to return to SLOC after appearing in the spring production of *Violet*. He would like to thank James and Liz for the opportunity and the cast and crew for all their hard work. It has been an honor to make this music. He is president of Confetti Stage, leader of the Seventh Ward of Albany, and host of Ghostlight Radio on WVCR 88.3 FM. For Pop with gratitude and Shain with apologies.

ANDREI BIRES (*Assistant Choreographer, Featured Dancer*) Originally from Romania, Andrei is a professional dancer, choreographer, and actor. Andrei has honorably and successfully represented both Romania and Norway at major national and international ballroom dance tournaments and has been a member of the National Team of both countries. Besides being a world class professional dancer, he received his Masters of Performing Arts from Hyperion University of Bucharest as well as acted in many theater plays. Currently representing the USA in the Professional American Smooth category, while teaching ballroom at Dance Fire Studio in Niskayuna, New York.

MICHAEL BURNS (*Emcee, Eamon, Guitar*) [he/him] is very excited to be returning to the SLOC stage! Michael has previously been in the productions of *Grease* (Danny), *The Wild Party* (ensemble), and *42nd Street* (ensemble) at SLOC. He has also performed in

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

AUGUST 2022

Molly Waters was last seen at SLOC as Grandma in the September 2019 production of *The Adams Family*. We are so glad to have her back, this time working behind the scenes on our season opener, *Once*. Molly has worn multiple hats in this production, serving not only as Stage Manager, but as Set Designer and Property Designer, as well. She has volunteered many hours to assist with load-in, set building, and painting. She is often at the theater first thing in the morning to work on the set and is also there at the end of the night when rehearsal has finished. We are grateful for her dedication, commitment, and willingness to jump in wherever is needed to make sure the cast and crew has a great experience.



SEPTEMBER 2022

Katie Fitzmorris has been part of the SLOC family since 2016. Her work as a sound designer and assistant is often thankless. With long hours, sound designers are often the last to leave the theater at night, staying long after others have left to organize, put away, and change batteries on microphones. Katie goes above and beyond, attending rehearsals far in advance of the traditional “tech week.” With the additional challenges of COVID and rehearsing in masks, Katie has worked even harder to ensure the cast can be mic’ed early on, helping the process go more smoothly. She has done even more with our current production of *Once*, a show in which every actor doubles as an instrumentalist. Katie has researched, collaborated, and figured out how to balance the sounds of the vocals as well as multiple instruments per cast member, making it all come together seamlessly. We continue to be ever grateful to have her at SLOC, and we can’t wait to see her back as our sound designer for *First Date*.



WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST & CREW

Hairspray (Pepper) and *Beauty and the Beast* (Cogsworth). Michael would like to thank his family for the never-ending love and support!

Laura Darling (*Lighting Designer*) [she/her] first wandered onto a stage during a *Sesame Street Live* show and decided never to leave. She practices law as Sunmark's closing attorney to support her theater habit on stage and backstage. All my love to the hardworking cast and crew. Special thanks to Joe, for everything, always.

Lindsey Dodd (*Ex-Girlfriend, Violin*) [she/her] Out of the courtroom and onto the stage, Lindsey is delighted to make her SLOC debut after a 10-year theatrical hiatus pursuing her legal career and starting a family. Gigantic thanks to her husband, Andy, for his tireless support, and for being an amazing father to their two daughters! Before becoming Counselor and Mommy, Lindsey's favorite roles included *Once on this Island* (Andrea), *Beauty and the Beast* (Mrs. Potts), and *The Magic Flute* (First Lady). Lindsey dedicates this performance to the memory of her late brother-in-law, Nate Dodd, a beloved multi-instrumentalist and jam session instigator.

Katie Fitzmorris (*Sound Designer*) [she/her] is so happy to be back at SLOC for this incredible show. She has previously designed/co-designed *Curtains*, *Sister Act*, *Grease*, *The Wild Party*, *The Addams Family*, *9 to 5*, *A Funny Thing...Forum*, SLOC's first Drag Show and Telethon, *Songs for a New World*, and most recently *Merrily We Roll Along*. She has assisted with others including *HAIR*, *Urinetown*, *Cabaret*, and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. She has also worked with NSCP, CTG, and BARCYTC. Katie would like to thank James, Michaela, and the rest of the team for this opportunity.

Nick Foster (*Guy, Guitar*) is excited and thankful to be a part of his fifth production with SLOC, having previously appeared in *9 to 5* (Franklin Hart), *1776* (Thomas Jefferson), *Cabaret* (Ernst Ludwig), and *Into the Woods* (Rapunzel's Prince). He has also performed with the Black Theatre Troupe of Upstate NY (*Barbecue* - James T.). He would like to thank: James, Liz, and the entire production staff for trusting him with this opportunity, despite him never fully trusting himself; and the entire cast for their patience and grace. As is all that he does, this is for C & G & H, with love.

Josephine Franklin-Rose (*Ivanka, Ukulele*) is excited to be making her SLOC debut! She is a 1st grader and enjoys reading, singing, Taekwondo, and playing with her family and friends. Previous credits include *Groovy* (Flower Child) with the Young Actor's Guild of the Capital Region and *The Day the Crayons Came Home* (Neon Red Crayon) at Russell Sage. Jojo received the "Great Communicator Award" in kindergarten. She takes voice classes with Matthew Streifert and would like to thank James, Liz, Molly, and Michaela for this amazing opportunity to play onstage with her mom. Lots of love to Daniel for always putting me first.

Kim Kilby (*Baruška, Accordion, Concertina, Guitar*) [she/her] is thrilled to make her SLOC debut with *Once*! She has performed music across the Capital Region as a singer-songwriter for many years and recently played Ellen in *The Waverly Gallery* (Classic Theater Guild). She started acting during her youth in Atlanta, GA; favorite credits include *Evita* (Theater of the Stars), *Annie Get Your Gun* (Alliance Theater), and *Heartstrings: A Revival* (Fox Theater). Kim is grateful to this amazing cast and production team and to Liz & James for taking a chance on her. Special thanks to Tom and all the love to Bryan, Caden, and Mom. Zpivat!

**Best of luck SLOC  thank you
for entertaining our community!**



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WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST & CREW

CALEY ALYCE LACEY (*Choreographer, Featured Dancer*) [she/her] has loved to dance and perform for as long as she can remember. To further her training, she earned her BFA in Dance at SUNY Fredonia. Her past SLOC performances include *In the Heights*, *The Wild Party*, and *42nd Street*. While in Fredonia, she performed with the Fredonia Dance Ensemble in performances of "Divided" choreographed by Dale Merrill and "Disequilibrium" choreographed by Paula J. Peters. She is currently working as a dance instructor and choreographer while continuing her own training. Caley would like to thank her family and friends for their support, and God for his guidance.

KEVIN O'TOOLE (*Bank Manager, Cello, Guitar*) [he/him] has been enamored with *Once* since he arranged "Falling Slowly" for his high school a cappella group and is so grateful for the opportunity to dig his cello out (thanks, Mom) and bring this beautiful show to the SLOC stage. Some favorite credits include *The Glorious Ones* (Pantalone), *The Addams Family* (Uncle Fester), and *1776* (Livingston) at SLOC, *Young Frankenstein* (Igor) at HMT, *Clue: On Stage* (Wadsworth) at CTG and *Beauty and the Beast* at NSCP. Ever thankful for this multi-talented cast and crew, his loving family, and his very favorite kitchen dance partner. "When you're smiling, the whole world smiles with you."

RYAN RIBEIRO (*Billy, Guitar, Melodica, Piano, Cajon, Ukulele*) [he/him] is new to the Capital Region theater scene and is making his SLOC debut. A life-long punk and multi-instrumentalist, he's supported the bands War on Women and Ramona at The Fest in Gainesville, FL. When not on stage, Ryan is working with students at Union College, singing mediocre Glen Campbell karaoke, hanging out with his pup, Rocko, enjoying his record collection, and finding new recipes. He appreciates

all the support and patience from his friends, family, the staff at SLOC, and his girlfriend, Mary.

EMILY ROSE (*Girl, Piano, Cajon*) is excited to be back onstage at SLOC! Recent Capital Region credits: Music Director/Conductor of *Nice Work If You Can Get It* (NSCP), *Merrily We Roll Along* (SLOC), and *A Funny Thing...Forum* (SLOC); Abigail Adams in *1776* (SLOC). Musical theatre credits: Eliza in *My Fair Lady* (Indianapolis), Emma in *Jekyll & Hyde* (Indianapolis premiere), Christine in *Phantom* (Midwestern premiere). Opera credits: Tisbe in *La Cenerentola* (Bay View Music Festival), Prince Orlofsky in *Die Fledermaus* (NYC), Cherubino in *Le Nozze di Figaro* (Italy), Nina in *Nina* (Italy), and Emma in *Street Scene* (NYC). Emily holds a B.M. (DePauw), an M.M. (N.Y.U.) in Musical theatre/Opera performance, and teaches voice, violin, piano, and guitar. Thanks to James, Liz, Michaela, and Molly for this amazing opportunity. Thank you to the cast for being our new family. All my love to Jojo and Daniel.

ELIZABETH STERLING (*Music Director*) Elizabeth's previous SLOC credits include Ensemble/Violin (*Violet*), Morticia (*The Addams Family*), Martha Jefferson (*1776*), Rapunzel (*Into the Woods*), and Rona (*The 25th Annual... Spelling Bee*). Over the past decade, she has been involved in over thirty Capital Region productions as an actor or pit musician. She last served on a production team in 2019, when she assisted with music direction and conducted the pit orchestra for *Les Misérables: School Edition* at the Proctors Collaborative School of the Arts. Liz is a Crane School of Music graduate and teacher in the Gloversville Enlarged School District. Thanks to her family, friends, teachers, and students!



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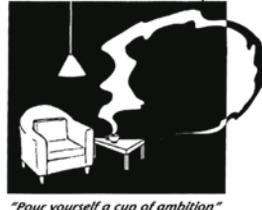
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location changes, see electriccitychorus.net





WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST & CREW

SIOBHAN SHEA (*Réza, Violin, Tambourine*) [she/her] has been featured as an actor in a number of shows throughout the Capital Region including *The Crucible* (Mary Warren) and *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Gwendolyn) with SLCA, *Seascape* (Sarah) with Confetti, *Pride@Prejudice* (Elizabeth Bennet) with Schenectady Civic, and *Whitewashed* with Creative Action Unlimited. She'd like to thank her family and friends for all their continued support.

A.J. TESTA (*Švec, Mandolin, Ukulele, Electric Bass, Piano, Drums*) [he/him] makes his SLOC debut and returns to the stage after 7 years with *Once*. Previous credits: *The Ballad of the Sad Cafe*, *Almost, Maine*, *Suburbia*, and *42nd Street*. Film: *King's Faith*, and *The Alphabet Killer*. A.J. is a 5th Grade SPED Teacher and SUNY Geneseo alum. @aj_testa

MICHAELA TORRES (*Producer, Property Designer*) [she/her] is extremely proud to be part of this unique experience as the 96th season opener! She was most recently seen in SLOC's fundraising event: *DOG SEES GOD* (Van's Sister). She is also producing the next show: *First Date!* Michaela hopes to continue bringing new faces to the SLOC community and help promote a safe environment for everyone involved. Past projects include *Little Shop of Horrors* (Crystal), *Heathers* (Veronica), and *Spring Awakening* (Martha). Michaela would like to thank James, Molly, Liz, and the rest of the cast and crew for all their passion and dedication.

MOLLY WATERS (*Stage Manager, Set Designer, Property Designer*) [she/her] is an upstate NY actor and stage combatant, specializing in Shakespeare's works. Favorite production roles include *Pipeline* (Stage Manager) and *Romeo & Juliet* (Fight Director). Professional credits include *Othello* (Desdemona), *Twelfth Night* (Viola), and *The Little Foxes* (Zan). Favorite local credits

include *American Soldiers* (Angela), *Seminar* (Izzy), & SLOC's *The Addams Family* (Grandma). She would like to thank her family & friends for their support and the cast of *Once* for sharing their incredible talent.

SHARON C. WEMPLE (*Master Carpenter*) has been a member of SLOC since 2010 and part of the team that turned St. John the Baptist church into SLOC Theater. She started out building with a team of builders and then moved on to designing and building many sets for the company as well as other community theaters in the Capital District.

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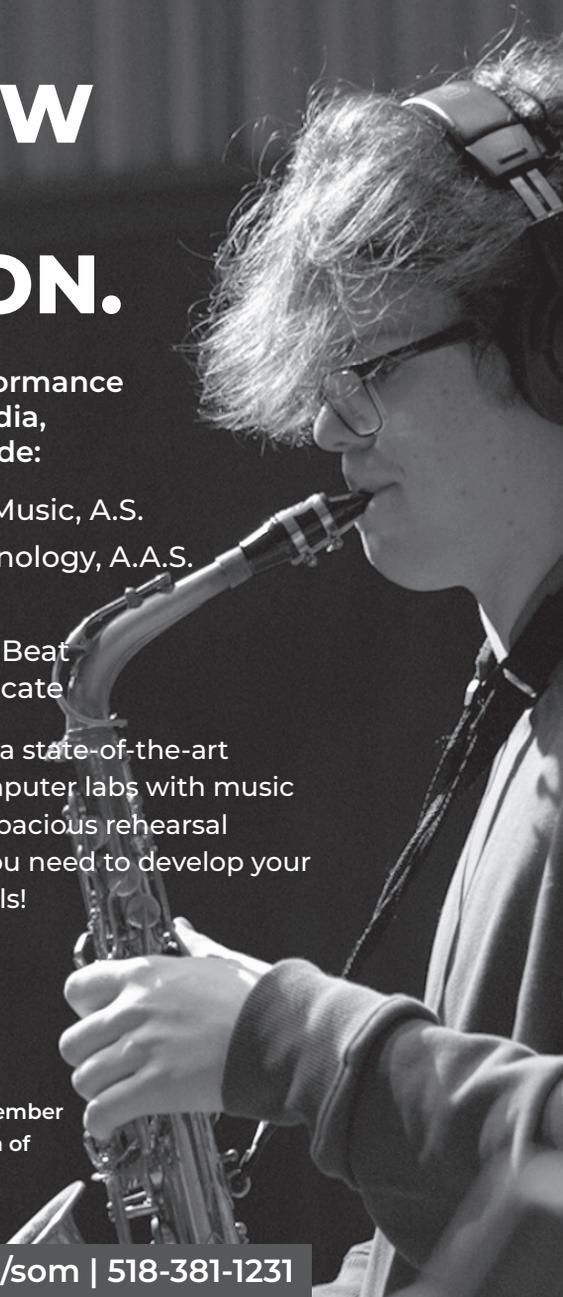
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