Feature Series 2017-18 Season
presented by

Wintrust Community Banks

presents

in collaboration with
cyso

Gershwin’s Magic Key
produced by Classical Kids Music Education

Sunday, March 11, 2018 | 2pm

Music by George Gershwin  Lyrics by Ira Gershwin

Created & Directed by Paul Pement

Conducted by Terrance Malone Gray

Starring
Elic Bramlett as George Gershwin
Leslie Ann Sheppard as “Kid”
and featuring Will Martin on Piano

This North Shore Center program is supported by a grant from
Irving M. & Sylvia Footlik Foundation

Symphony Sundays at the Center sponsored by

Evanston Subaru In Skokie
PRODUCTION STAFF

Written by.............................................................................................................. Will Martin, Elizabeth Wheeler, Paul Pement
Production Advisor.................................................................................................. Kevin Cole
Music Copyist/Engraver ............................................................................................. John Blane
Lighting Design.......................................................................................................... Paul Pement
Projections................................................................................................................. Scott Fairchild
Music Supervisor:..................................................................................................... Will Martin
Associate Director .................................................................................................... Steve Hiltebrand
Costumes................................................................................................................... Alex Meadows
Props/Wigs................................................................................................................ Kevin Barthel

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PRODUCTION ARE LICENSED BY THE GERSHWIN® FAMILY.
Porgy and Bess permissions granted by the Dubose and Dorothy Heyward Memorial Fund.
Projection footage and imagery courtesy of Harold Lloyd Entertainment and the Library of Congress.
Actors and Stage Manager are members of Actors’ Equity Association.
LEARN MORE ABOUT CLASSICAL KIDS: WWW.CLASSICALKIDSLIVE.COM
ENGAGE on Facebook at ClassicalKidsLive and Twitter at Classical_Kids

THIS SPECIAL COLLABORATION

Chicago-based arts organizations, Classical Kids Music Education and the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra have consistently and independently connected the historic, cultural and artistic values of classical music with our youth. Now for the first time, these two organizations will join forces for a production of Classical Kids LIVE’s Gershwin’s Magic Key. The exciting partnership between these organizations will continue with the creation of a recording of this production in December and the goal for future performance collaborations that will bring the full Classical Kids symphony concert series and the inspiring, young musicians of the CYSO to more deserving families throughout the Chicago area.

CLASSICAL KIDS LIVE!

Classical Kids LIVE! is produced by Classical Kids Music Education, a Chicago-based non-profit organization that works to enrich communities through direct access to culturally significant venues, professional artists and organizations, and high-quality theatrical concert productions, while fostering new appreciation for classical music and music history. Classical Kids has collaborated with hundreds of professional orchestras presenting over a thousand performances to over two million children (and adults) throughout North America and around the world. These highly acclaimed concerts, designed to bring to life the extraordinary lives and musical masterpieces of the great composers, are hailed as one of the best ways to introduce children to symphonic music.

Classical Kids Music Education would like to thank the Dr. Scholl Foundation for their generous support of this special concert event.
Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras has provided music education through orchestral programs and performance opportunities of the highest caliber since 1946. In the 2017-2018 season, CYSO will serve more than 10,000 young people from across Chicago region through our on-site and community-based music education programs. CYSO offers four full orchestras, three string orchestras, jazz orchestra, multiple steel orchestras, and enrichment opportunities including chamber music, masterclasses, and music composition. CYSO musicians learn from Chicago’s most respected professional musicians, perform in the world’s great concert halls, and gain the self-confidence and discipline necessary for a successful future.

Endorsed by the Gershwin Family Interests and supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, *Gershwin’s Magic Key* is the first-ever educationally-entertaining theatrical symphony concert exposing children and their parents to the extraordinary life and musical masterpieces of one of the greatest American composers of all time! This production premiered at the Kennedy Center with the National Symphony Orchestra and has since been presented with 17 distinguished orchestras in cities around the world. Audiences will be captivated by over twenty of Gershwin’s most popular compositions from classical compositions including *Porgy & Bess, American in Paris, Cuban Overture, Concerto in F* and *Rhapsody in Blue* to popular hits from the American Songbook including *I Got Rhythm, Swanee, Someone to Watch Over Me*, and *Fascinating Rhythm*.

**Paul Pement – Creator and Director**
Paul serves as Executive & Artistic Director of Classical Kids Music Education, a non-profit arts organization focused on introducing children (and their parents) to the lives and musical masterpieces of the great classical composers. A BFA in theatre from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and professional experience as an actor, singer, dancer, director, choreographer and stage manager have enabled Paul to achieve success with Classical Kids LIVE! programming - the “gold-star” leader in the field for creating theatrical family concerts presented by professional symphony orchestras throughout North America and abroad. Production titles include *Beethoven Lives Upstairs, Mozart’s Magnificent Voyage, Vivaldi’s Ring of Mystery, Tchaikovsky Discovers America* and the new, *Gershwin’s Magic Key* - the first-ever symphony concert production that introduces new generations to the extraordinary legacy of the great American composer, George Gershwin.

**Terrance Malone Gray – Conductor**
Terrance Malone Gray’s career as a violinist and conductor has garnered him national and international recognition. Born in Wisconsin, he began studying the violin with Elizabeth Grabow Mueller at the age of eight. Mr. Gray went on to study with Marc Zinger and Victor Aitay at DePaul University and later studied with Ruben Gonzalez. He served as concertmaster of the DePaul University Orchestra and as concertmaster of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago. Mr. Gray is a founding member of the internationally acclaimed Chicago Sinfonietta and has served as Music...
ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES cont.

Director of the South Side Family Chamber Orchestra, principal conductor of CYSO’s Concert Orchestra, principal conductor of the Illinois Chamber Symphony, and Music Director/Conductor and Professor of Violin at Kalamazoo College in Michigan. In 2010 Mr. Gray had his premiere performance conducting Chicago Sinfonietta at Orchestra Hall and, later that same year, received a Conductor of the Year award from the Illinois Council of Orchestras. Mr. Gray is currently Associate Conductor of the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras, Music Director of the Rita Simo Youth Orchestra, Faculty member and conductor at the Chicago School for the Performing Arts, member of the Chicago Sinfonietta and the St. Neri Chamber Players as well as chamber music performer, coach and sought after clinician.

Elic Bramlett – George Gershwin
Elic is excited to be playing George Gershwin in the new Classical Kids LIVE! Production, Gershwin’s Magic Key. After joining Classical Kids during the 2005-06 season he has toured the US, Canada and Malaysia playing Mozart. A native of Phoenix, AZ, Elic now makes his home in the suburbs of Chicago. Stage credits include: The Music Man at Marriott Lincolnshire, Stage Kiss and The Boys are Coming Home at The Goodman; Western Civilization at Noble Fool; Teapot Scandals, Elegies, Sweeney Todd, Macabaret, Hereafter, and Three Sisters at Porchlight; The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940, Charlotte’s Web, and Cinderella at Drury Lane; The Bomb- itty of Errors at The Royal George; and Saturday Night with Pegasus Players. In Forever Plaid, he has played the roles of Jinx, Frankie, and Sparky at several theatres including Chicago’s original Royal George production. Elic also makes his living as a TV/Film actor, voice over talent, and as a director, producer, and teacher in the Chicagoland area. He would like to dedicate this performance to his loving and supportive wife Carrie Beth, and their beautiful children, Pearle and Theodore.

Leslie Ann Sheppard – “Kid”
Leslie joined Classical Kids during the 2011-12 season and performs as Katarina in Vivaldi’s Ring of Mystery, Christoph in Beethoven Lives Upstairs, Karl in Mozart’s Magnificent Voyage, and Kid in CK’s newest production, Gershwin’s Magic Key. An actor, musician, playwright and stage combatant, Leslie Ann acquired a BA degree from Illinois State University and is a founding company member and former Artistic Director of the Suitcase Shakespeare Co. Chicago theatre credits: Victory Gardens, Steppenwolf, Northlight, TimeLine, The Hypocrites, and Chicago Children’s Theatre. Regional theatre credits: Theater Squared (Fayetteville, AR), the Illinois Shakespeare Festival, the Bristol Renaissance Faire, and the Chicago Fringe Festival. Film credits: Chicago Fire, Mob Doctor, Powers, and I Will Be Waiting. Above all, faith, family, respect and the love of creating and sharing art drive Leslie Ann to strive for excellence. Mrs. Sheppard resides in Chicago with her husband, is represented by Gray Talent Group, and is a member of Actors’ Equity Association and SAG-AFTRA.

Will Martin – Pianist, Co-Writer, Music Supervisor
After making his professional debut in 2015 with the National Symphony Orchestra at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, he has been regularly featured in performances with symphony orchestras throughout the United States and Canada. His solo performances have been broadcast on WFMT and Wisconsin Public Radio. Will is pleased to have been very much involved in the creation of Gershwin’s Magic Key as co-writer and music supervisor, and he regards performing it as one of the
great pleasures in life. *Gershwin's Magic Key* has performed around the globe, introducing tens of thousands of children to the inextinguishable and irrepressible life and music of George Gershwin. Will is a member of the Dramatists Guild and, when not performing at the piano, is writing several new plays. One of these is a 1930s-style musical comedy about George Gershwin, Kitty Carlisle, Moss Hart, and George S. Kaufman as they set out to write a musical together: *The Curtain Rises*. Will studied piano performance and English literature at Lawrence University in Appleton, WI, where he took both the B.Mus and B.A. *magna cum laude*. He currently studies piano with Sheila Paige.

**Elizabeth Wheeler – Co-Writer**

Elizabeth joins the creative team of *Classical Kids* as a contributing writer. Her first young adult novel, *Asher’s Fault*, won the National Federation of Women’s Press and Illinois Women’s Press Association Young Adult Creative Fiction Book of the Year. Her second novel, *Asher’s Shot*, received accolades from USA Today, and her final book in the trilogy, *Asher’s Out*, is scheduled for release through Bold Strokes Books in July 2015. Elizabeth is driven by a quest to unleash the authentic human experience in literature, on the stage, and in life. As an educator, she is touched and inspired by the real-world examples of how students, facing adversity, assimilate the lessons learned from those experiences to persevere and transform into triumphant adults. As an advocate for storytelling in the print and digital world, Elizabeth has spoken at international and regional educational conferences. She is a graduate of the University of Florida and the inaugural novel writing program at the University of Chicago’s Graham School.

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**Lobby Activities!**

Be sure to stick around after the performance for more FUN! Enjoy an instrument petting zoo, musical arts and crafts, live music and an actor meet and greet!
North Shore Center is owned by the Village of Skokie and opened in November 1996. Since it opened, the facility has been managed by Professional Facilities Management, Inc.

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THE NORTH SHORE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS FOUNDATION was established to support the ongoing programming and capital needs of the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie. The mission of the Foundation is to create and sustain the North Shore Center as a preeminent venue for the arts and as a major asset to the communities it serves.

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For more information about the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts Foundation, please call (847) 679-9501 ext 3308.
The North Shore Center for the Performing Arts gratefully acknowledges the support of the following Businesses, Individuals, Foundations and Government entities.

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IN CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PATRONS
• Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of management.

• Please turn off your cell phones and refrain from using them during the show. They are distracting to the performers and your fellow audience members.

• Assisted listening headsets are available in both North Shore Center theatres. A valid driver’s license, state ID or major credit card will be requested. A T-coil amplification system is installed in the Northlight Theatre for those that have a compatible hearing aid. Please see the house manager for assistance.

• Lost and Found: please call (847) 679-9501 ext. 3202 for lost items.