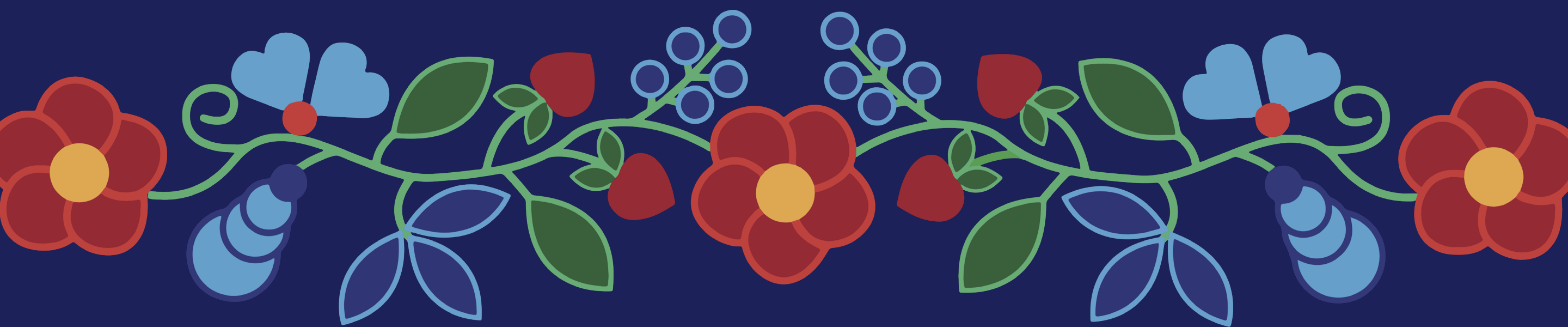


THE SWEETEST SEASON

A GATHERING OF INDIGENOUS CREATIVITY

**A Celebration of Indigenous
Spoken Word and Song**

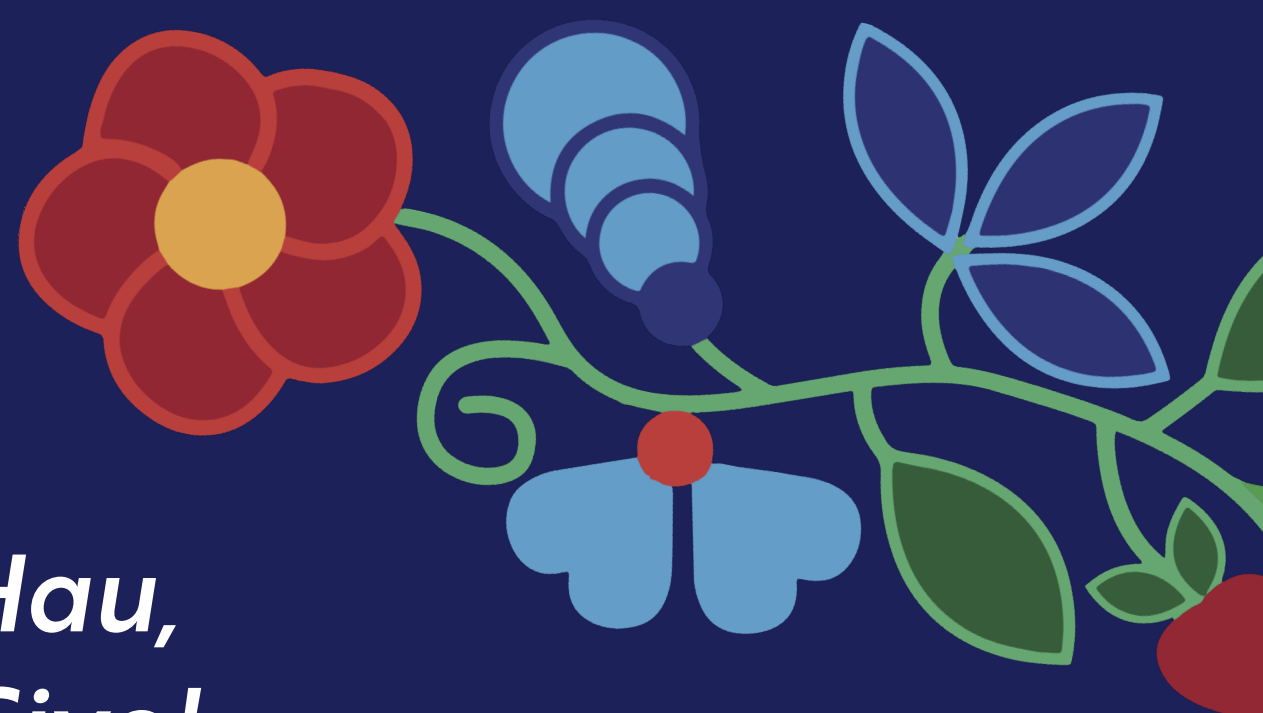


*Presented in partnership
with the Mitchell Museum
of the American Indian
Curated by Vincent Romero*



THEATRE
GOODMAN

WELCOME



*Pōsōh, Bozhoo, Bosho, Aho, Hau,
Guuwáátsíí, Halito, Shekóli, Siyo!*

Welcome to *The Sweetest Season: A Celebration of Indigenous Spoken Word and Song*, a one-of-a-kind showcase of Indigenous artistry featuring nine local storytellers, musicians, and singers representing twelve Indigenous nations across North America.

For Indigenous people and communities, past and present, the arts have always been an integral part of every aspect of our lives, interwoven into our culture, spirituality, language, and traditional practices, including everything from music and storytelling to how we interact with our environment and is exemplified through the artistic and cultural expression shared in with you in this weekend's *The Sweetest Season* showcases.

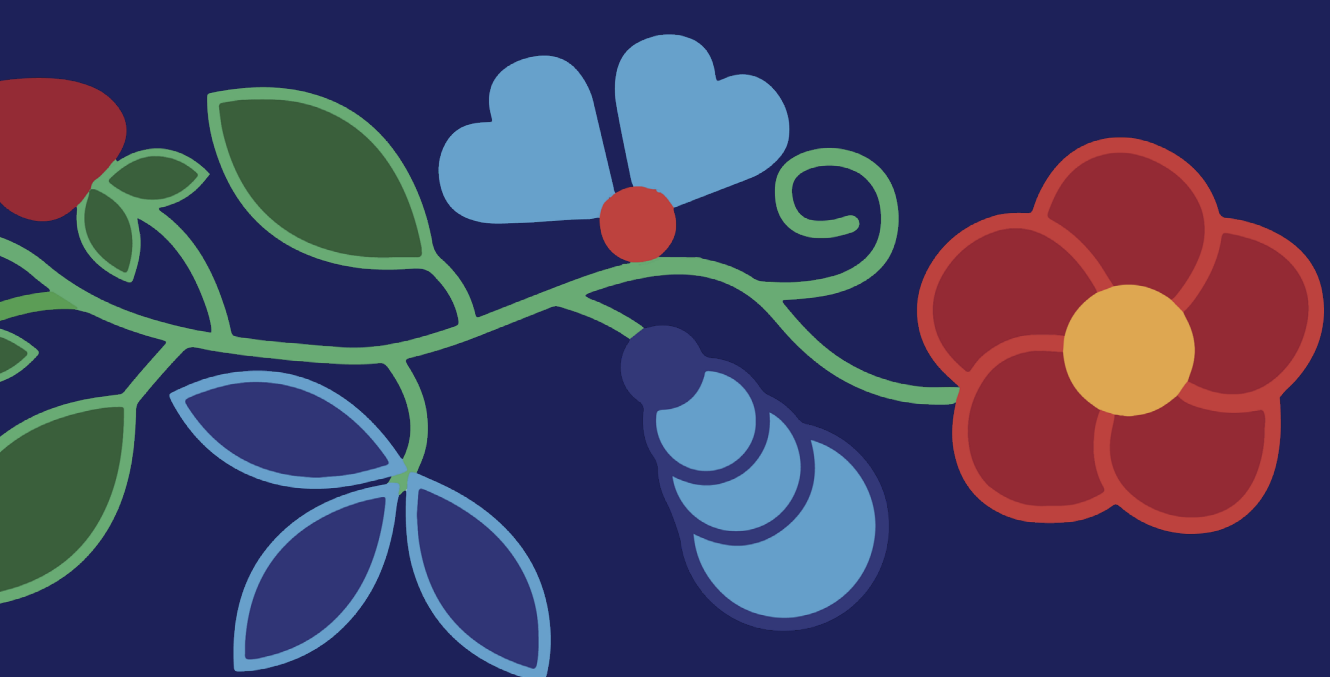
Together, Goodman Theatre and the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian also invite you to experience this preservation of Indigenous cultures and the evolution of Indigenous artistry at, *The Sweetest Season: A Gathering of Indigenous Creativity* during this weekend of musical performances, staged readings, and workshops that brings together an immensely talented and diverse group of Indigenous performers and artists, blending old and new and expanding perceptions of Indigenous creativity and expression.

At *The Sweetest Season*, we hope you'll take the opportunity to experience and enjoy regional Indigenous cuisine, engage with Indigenous artists and performers, learn about Indigenous representation in the arts, explore Indigenous humor, and celebrate the diversity and creativity of Chicago and the Great Lakes Region's vibrant Indigenous arts community.

— *Kim Vigue (Menominee/Oneida)*
*Executive Director of the Mitchell Museum
of the American Indian*

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Goodman Theatre was built on the traditional homelands of the Council of the Three Fires: the Ojibwe, Odawa and Potawatomi Nations. We recognize that many other Nations consider the area we now call Chicago as their traditional homeland—including the Myaamia, Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Sac and Fox, Peoria, Kaskaskia, Wea, Kickapoo and Mascouten—and remains home to many Native peoples today.



Sponsor
Partner



SHOWCASE ARTISTS

VINCENT ROMERO

Storyteller/Curator

Tribal Affiliation: Pueblo Laguna

WILLIAM BUCHHOLTZ (ALLISON)

"Pukinaage Mukwa – Conquering Bear"

Storyteller/Curator

Tribal Affiliation: Algonquin/Metis

MICHAELA MARCHI

Singer

Tribal Affiliation: Isleta Pueblo

MARK JOURDAN

Singer/Songwriter

Tribal Affiliation: Oneida/Ho-Chunk

LANIALOHA LEE

Choreographer and Composer

Tribal Affiliation: Native Hawaiian

JENNIFER STEVENS

Singer and Visual Artists

*Tribal Affiliation: Oneida and
Oglala Lakota*

BRANDI BERRY BENSON

Violin

Tribal Affiliation: Chickasaw

MARITZA GARCIA

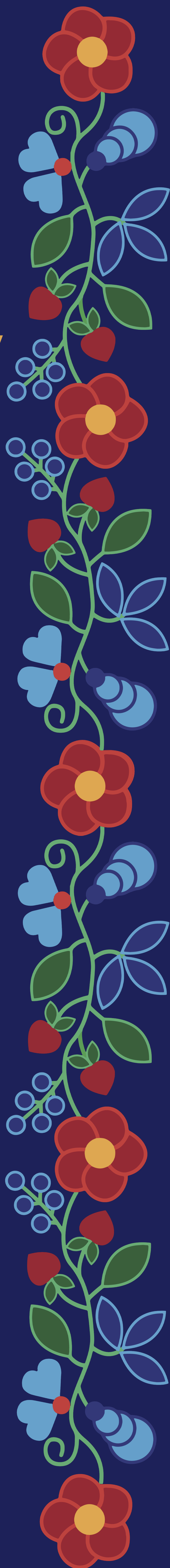
Singer and Dancer

*Tribal Affiliation: Mississippi Band
of Choctaw Indians*

SERGIO CERON

Singer and Drummer

Tribal Affiliation: Otomi-Pame



PROFILES



VINCENT ROMERO (*Pueblo Laguna*) is a Navy veteran, member of the Chicago Native American community, storyteller and poet.



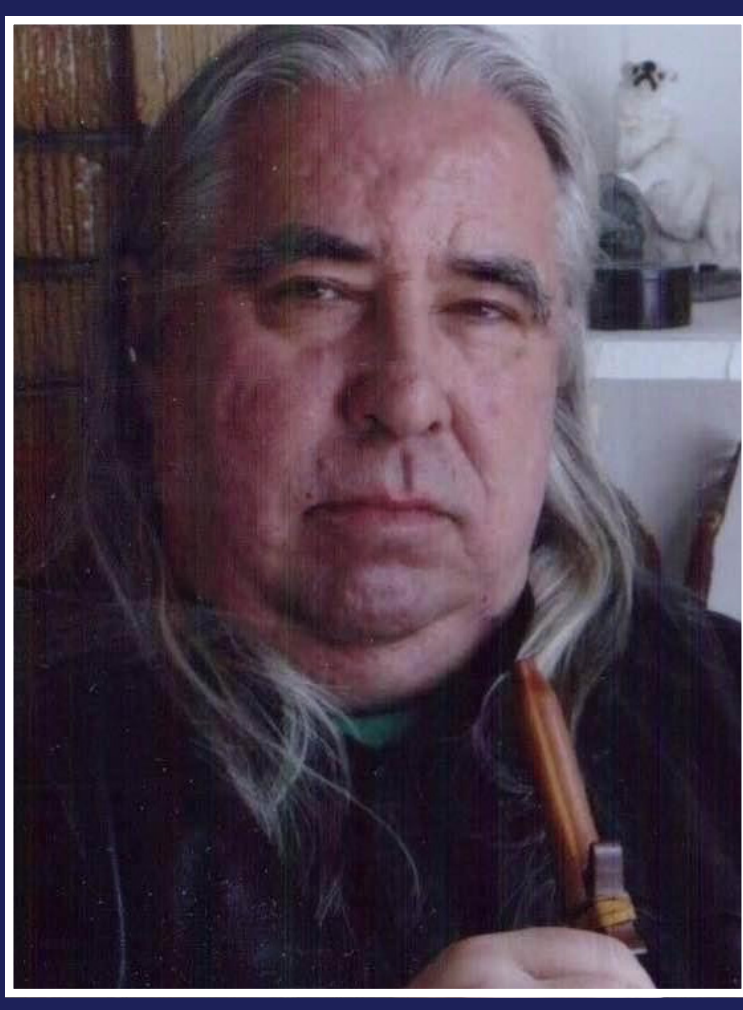
MICHAELA MARCHI (*Isleta Pueblo*) began singing and performing at an early age. She graduated from The Chicago Academy of Arts High School in voice performance and went on to study music in college, but also wanted to explore her multi-ethnic identity as an artist. She is

Isleta Pueblo and Filipina from her mother's side, and first-generation Italian from her father's side. Growing up, she was encouraged to appreciate the opera from her father while her mother emphasized the importance of staying connected to her Indigenous roots and to a practice of creative endeavor. She has a Master's in Education, works at the Center for Native American and Indigenous Research at Northwestern University and is also the first in three generations to survive a stage IV cancer diagnosis. She is passionate about patient advocacy, especially for Native American and Indigenous communities, and singing as medicine.



MARK JOURDAN (*Oneida/Ho-Chunk*) is a singer/songwriter based out of Chicago, Illinois. He is a Native American of the Ho-Chunk and Oneida nations. Growing up in Chicago, he spent his summers and weekends traveling the Midwest and Canada and going to Pow Wows with his

family. Music has always played a big part of his life and driving across the country with his family made the radio and cassette players as much a part of the family as his siblings. His father took him to see B.B. King when he was 16, where he had his first experience of what it meant to "own a room." He then took a break from guitar and music to try graphic art with the hopes of becoming an art teacher. Ultimately, he made his way home to music and he couldn't be happier to have found a place where he can express feeling in a way that his graphic arts were, without him realizing it, leading him to. Today, he chases dreams. He's catching a few too. "To infinity and beyond..."



WILLIAM BUCHHOLTZ (ALLISON) "Pukinaage Mukwa – Conquering Bear" (*Algonquin/Metis*) is a long-time resident of the Chicago area. He has been playing and recording music of many genres for over 40 years. He now performs Native American flute and piano in programming aimed at both children and adults. An adoptee, he recently confirmed his Native American heritage as a descendant of the Canadian Kichesipirini (Great River) Band of the Algonquin/Algonkin nation. Bill is primarily known for his ongoing work with numerous churches, interfaith, social justice and environmental groups, museums and cultural events including Pow Wows. For over 25 years, he has been working for the Native American Ministry of Presence of the United Methodist Church, as well as for the St. Kateri Center of the Archdiocese of Chicago, formerly called the Anawim Center. He has released his own CD *The Journey Home*, on which he plays both Native American flute and piano with features of his original songs. He has also appeared on a Yo Yo Ma's *Silk Road Ensemble* CD. playingfromspirit.com/



LANIALOHA LEE (*Native Hawaiian*) is a product of her Grandma. She is motivated to honor her hula legacy by maintaining traditional concepts of her teachings while cultivating a new generation of `ukulele and hula students with a refined sensitivity for these art forms. As a Midwest-based Native Hawaiian born and raised in Chicago, Lanialoha continues to preserve, perpetuate and protect pacific island cultural arts, hopeful that an appreciation will develop and augment the cultural literacy of those less familiar with the natural beauty found in the music, dance and poetic text of Hawai`i and throughout the Pacific Islands". Lanialoha's continuing work as a professional multi-instrumentalist and interdisciplinary artist in music and dance encompassed chanting, vocal work, and instrumentation characteristic of Pacific Island cultural and Western Fine Arts, and Theater productions. Throughout her career, she's taught thousands of `ukulele, hula, and Tahitian drum students, enhancing my curriculum and cultivating a new generation of artists, bridging the Midwest to the islands through shared repertoire, movement, and cross-cultural connections.



JENNIFER M. STEVENS (*Oneida and Oglala Lakota*) is an operatic soprano, classical contemporary composer and artist trained nationally and internationally in classical and operatic singing. She received her BA in Art at St. Norbert College. Stevens has been featured in PBS/WPT documentarie: *Wisconsin Life and Owe·la' (Oh-way-la): The Music of Jennifer Stevens*. She is noted in the Encyclopedia of Native American Music of North America. Stevens performed as a guest opera singer/composer at the Heard Museum in Phoenix, AZ; Crazy Horse Memorial in Custer, SD; and Mitchell Museum of the American Indian's Sweetest Season performance at Goodman Theatre. Stevens recently had her choral piece, *Beginning of Time*, performed by the Shenandoah Conservatory Choir at the La Biennial del Venezia in Venice, Italy. Stevens also performed at the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian event, *Writer's Theatre*, and Milwaukee Art Museum's *Native America: In Translation Exhibition Opening* in Milwaukee, WI.



MARITZA GARCIA (*Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians*) is an enrolled member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. She is born and raised in Chicago, IL and is a former CAIEC Youth Ambassador from 2013-2014 as well as Sr. Miss Indian Chicago from 2014-2016.

She dances all three styles: traditional, old style jingle and fancy shawl. She also is an artist that makes various items, from beaded jewelry, ribbon skirts, and powwow regalia. You can purchase items at her booth or online @chachabeads_



SERGIO CERON (*Otomi-Pame*) comes from the Otomi-Pame peoples of Central Mexico and is born and raised in Elgin, Illinois. He's been a southern style powwow singer for about 15 years, and does various arts that include beading, drawing/painting, feather work, tattooing and bone carving. Tlazohcamati (thank you).



BRANDI BERRY BENSON (*Chickasaw*) Violinist and 3Arts awardee Brandi Berry Benson, whose "four-string acrobatics" and "indispensable skill" (TimeOut Chicago) have been praised as "alert [and] outstanding" (Chicago Classical Review), as her "riffs.. powered by a flashing blur of bow arm, [as they] rolled out with irresistible glee" (Washington Post). Brandi is Artistic Director of the Bach & Beethoven Experience (BBE), and has appeared with numerous ensembles throughout North America as concertmaster or principal. She has also performed at the Library of Congress, Festival de Musica Virreinal de Durango, Mexico City's UNAM, the Boston, Berkeley, Indianapolis, and Madison Early Music Festivals, Early Music Now, and others. On air, she has appeared on WFMT, WGN-AM, WNUR, Chicago Irish Radio, and Wisconsin Public Radio. Brandi recently released her first album of original works entitled Silver Linings, and has released three other albums as co-director of the BBE: *A Gaelic Summer* (2019), *An Appalachian Summer* (2019), and *Chicago Stories* (2021). This November, she will premiere a new work for period instruments called *The Story of Pa I Sha*, based on the stories and music of her Chickasaw ancestors. Brandi serves on the faculty of Northwestern and DePaul universities. For more information: bbexperience.org and brandiberrybenson.com.

ADDITIONAL STAFF

Line Producer: **Lena Romano**

Stage Manager: **Caroline Michele Uy**

A1: **Stephen Ptacek**

Lighting Coordinator: **Gina Patterson**

Light Board Operator: **Sherry Simpson**

Stage Hand: **Jordan Krsnak**

ABOUT THE MITCHELL MUSEUM

THE MITCHELL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN, located in Evanston, Illinois, is one of a handful of museums across the country that celebrates the diverse histories, cultures, and present-day contributions of Native communities across the United States and Canada. Since its founding in 1977, the Museum has served as a space to increase the visibility and elevate Native voices through education, awareness, and advocacy.

MitchellMuseum.org

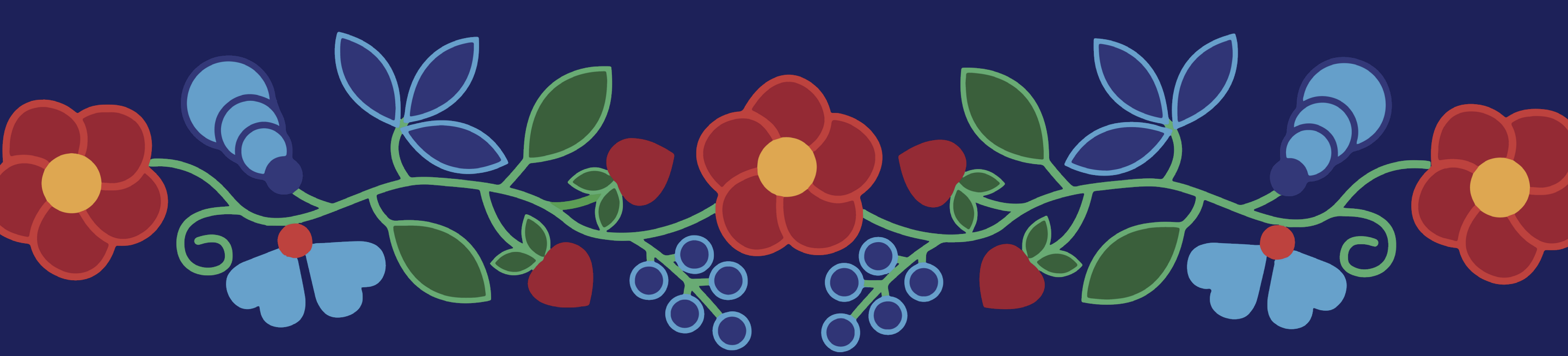
ABOUT GOODMAN THEATRE

AMERICA'S "BEST REGIONAL THEATRE" (*Time* magazine), the Goodman is a premier not-for-profit organization distinguished by the excellence and scope of its artistic programming and civic engagement. Led by Artistic Director Susan V. Booth and Executive Director/CEO Roche Schulfer and committed to core values of Quality, Diversity and Community, the Goodman makes inclusion the fabric of the organization through its artistic priorities—including new play development, large scale musical theater works and reimagined classics. Distinctions include two Pulitzer Prizes, 22 Tony Awards and nearly 200 Jeff Awards. The Goodman was first to produce all 10 plays in August Wilson's "American Century Cycle," and its annual *A Christmas Carol*, now in its fifth decade, has created a new generation of theatergoers. The Goodman also serves as a production partner with local, national and international companies.

Our nationally recognized Education and Engagement programs use the tools of our profession to inspire youth, lifelong learners and audiences to find and/or enhance their voices, stories and abilities. The Alice Rapoport Center for Education and Engagement (est. 2016) is the home of such programming, most offered free of charge, and has vastly expanded the theater's ability to serve our city (with 85% of youth participants from underserved communities).

Goodman Theatre was founded by William O. Goodman and family in honor of their son, Kenneth, a figure in Chicago's early 1900s cultural renaissance. The family's legacy endures through Albert Ivar Goodman who, with his late mother, Edith-Marie Appleton, contributed the funds for the new Goodman center in 2000. Today, Goodman leadership also includes the distinguished members of the Artistic Collective. Jeff Hesse is Chairman of Goodman Theatre's Board of Trustees, Fran Del Boca is Women's Board President and Craig McCaw is President of the Scenemakers Board for young professionals.

GoodmanTheatre.org



THE SWEETEST SEASON

FREE Workshops and Readings

SATURDAY, JULY 15

Decolonizing Theater

12noon in the Alice Center - Baskes Rotunda

A panel discussion with Indigenous artists about the ways in which theater artists can decolonize their practice and the field.

Sorrel and Sassafras: Indigenous Poetry and Art

5:30pm in the Alice Center - Baskes Rotunda

A celebration of Indigenous poets and visual artists as they share and discuss their work and process.

Campy; The Search for Summer's Campiest Camper

Staged Reading:

8pm in the Healy Rehearsal Room

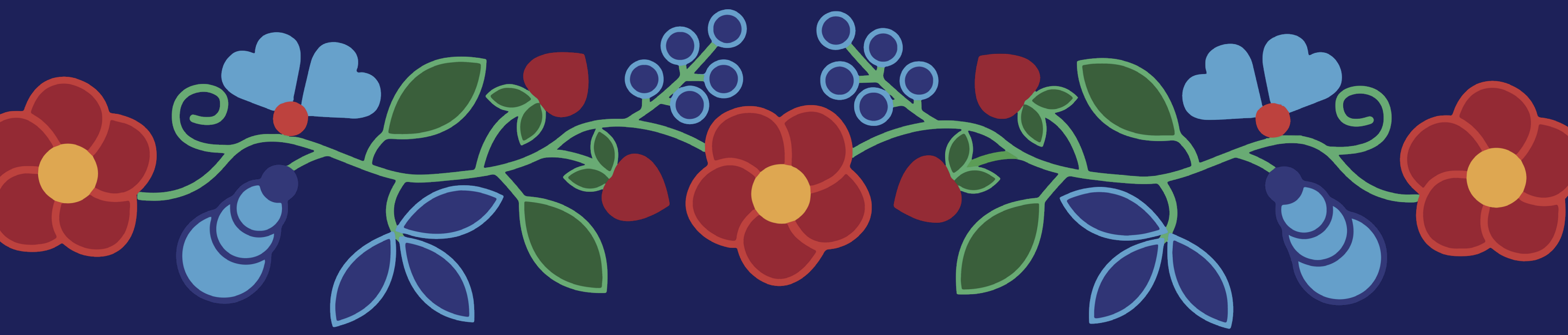
A gay Indigenous rom-com about love, lust and longing.

SUNDAY, JULY 16

Secret Stash: Indigenous Humor Explored

2pm in the Alice Center - Baskes Rotunda

An exploration of Indigenous humor—nurtured for generations in tribal communities and an essential part of Indigenous identity.



Our Community Agreement

Goodman Theatre is committed to infusing equity, diversity and inclusion into all of our operations. We welcome individuals of all abilities, ages, backgrounds, beliefs, ethnicities, genders, gender expressions, races, sexual orientations, socio-economic statuses, and other identities—and commit to providing a clean, safe and respectful space for all. Behavior not in accordance with these values will not be tolerated; if you witness or experience something, please speak with management, email code@goodmantheatre.org or call 312.443.5400.