

Appalachian State University's  
Performing Arts Series Presents

# RAIN<sup>®</sup>

A TRIBUTE TO THE BEATLES

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2015 8PM

SCHAEFER CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS  
BOONE, NC



MagicSpace Entertainment and RAIN

present

# RAIN<sup>®</sup>

## A TRIBUTE TO THE BEATLES

Starring

**STEVE LANDES**

Vocals, Rhythm Guitar, Piano, Harmonica

**JOEY CURATOLO**

Vocals, Bass, Piano, Guitar

**JOE BITHORN**

Vocals, Lead Guitar, Guitar Synth, Sitar

**RALPH CASTELLI**

Drums, Percussion, Vocals

**MARK BEYER**

Keyboard, Percussion

THERE IS ONE 20-MINUTE INTERMISSION



THE USE OF ANY RECORDING DEVICES, AUDIO OR VIDEO, AND THE TAKING OF PICTURES, WITH OR WITHOUT FLASH, WITHOUT THE WRITTEN PERMISSION OF RAIN MANAGEMENT, IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

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# WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

**STEVE LANDES** (Vocals, Rhythm Guitar, Harmonica, Piano, Original Broadway Cast), a life-long, second generation Beatles fan, Steve taught himself guitar at ten by listening to Beatles records and by 13 was fronting a top 40 cover band in his native Philadelphia. At 17 he joined *Beatlemania* and further developed his musicianship, touring the world with the show. After “passing the audition” with the existing Rain band members in 1998, his career was set. On one of his travels to England, he found himself at Liverpool’s Casbah Club, owned by pre-Ringo Beatles drummer Pete Best. Encouraged to get on stage, Steve belted out lead vocals to the Beatles rocker “Slow Down,” while Best sat in on drums. As a backup musician, Steve has performed alongside legendary sixties artists Peter Noone (Herman’s Hermits), Joey Molland (Badfinger), Mitch Ryder and the Detroit Wheels and Tiny Tim. As an actor, he appeared in the films *Wedding Bell Blues*, *For Which He Stands* and Tim Burton’s *Mars Attacks!* Steve writes and records his own original music. [www.steve-landes.com](http://www.steve-landes.com), [facebook.com/steve.landes.rain](https://facebook.com/steve.landes.rain).

**JOEY CURATOLO** (Vocals, Bass, Piano, Guitar, Original Broadway Cast), grew up in a Brooklyn household where classical music and opera formed the soundtrack. A natural musician, he was infatuated with The Beatles, taught himself guitar at age 10 and played piano by ear at 16. After winning multiple McCartney sound-alike contests, Joey toured with the Broadway production of *Beatlemania*. He joined Rain shortly after, and helped transform the band into the multimedia production it is today. In addition, he is an active singer/songwriter and studio musician. His original Christmas song “Wishing You a Very Merry Christmas” is featured on Broadway’s *Carols for a Cure*, Volume 12 (to benefit BC/EFA) as well as the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation’s *Hope for the Holidays* charity album. When Universal Pictures needed a McCartney sound, they contacted Joey to record the song “Love Take Me Down” for the recently released comedy *Role Models*. For Joey, performing on Broadway was a dream come true.

**JOE BITHORN** (Vocals, Lead Guitar, Guitar Synth, Sitar, Original Broadway Cast), grew up in Manhattan and Long Island, where he was exposed to a variety of music including jazz,

Latin, classical and more. By age three, his musical father taught his children how to sing harmony. He was profoundly influenced by the experiences he had at Carnegie Hall through his Mom, who worked with the Festival Casals. Thanks to The Beatles’ appearance on *Ed Sullivan*, Joe took a strong interest in the guitar. Early influences include the band Cream, and Joe developed the ability to learn guitar parts by ear by age 14. By age 16, he was so proficient that he was recruited for studio sessions. While in high school, Joe and his brother formed the Bithorn Brothers Band, performing the early music of the Allman Brothers Band. Joe heard about an audition for *Beatlemania* and was hired for the touring production as George. After touring with the show in North America, Joe joined Rain in 1983 and has been touring the world ever since.

**RALPH CASTELLI** (Drums, Percussion, Vocals, Original Broadway Cast), was born and raised in southern California, surrounded by a musically talented family, and by age six became passionate about playing drums. On that momentous night in February, 1964, when The Beatles first appeared on *The Ed Sullivan Show*, Ralph was hypnotized and knew playing drums was what he was born to do. Captivated by Ringo Starr and The Beatles that night, Ralph’s excitement continued to grow, and his dream would eventually become his reality. After touring and performing with numerous bands and pursuing his acting career, Ralph landed the role of Ringo Starr in the touring production of *Beatlemania* and was also cast as Ringo in *Beatlemania: The Movie*. His talent, drum techniques, humor, style and appearance were in his favor. Ralph joined Rain in 1986 and was thrilled to be on Broadway.

**MARK BEYER** (Keyboard, Percussion), began piano lessons at age 8; at 12 was given special acceptance into a local university musical school where he was privately trained in piano and music theory. At 14, he began experimenting with electronic keyboards and synthesizers of the 1970s, and played professionally in a progressive rock band. As keyboard technology advanced, Mark became known for his uncanny reproductions of elaborate sound textures, exotic instruments, and simulating full orchestra.

**Performers may change. Additional musicians may include:**

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## WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

**MARK LEWIS** (Founder, Manager, Original Keyboardist), As the managerial and creative mind that transformed Rain from a 1970's southern California bar band doing Beatles covers into an ultra-professional group, Mark Lewis recruited the excellent musicians who would gel into Rain's long-standing line-up. He traces his love of the Fab Four to the Sunday night of February 9, 1964, when his generation was smitten by The Beatles on *The Ed Sullivan Show*. Originally called Reign, the band gained national fame, changed its name to Rain and cut the soundtrack to the made-for-TV movie *Birth of The Beatles* (thanks to Dick Clark). An accomplished pianist at 13, having studied since age five, he began his career playing the Farfisa organ in teenage rock bands around his native Los Angeles. It was Mark, the original keyboard player with Rain, who worked out all of the musical parts and sounds that enabled RAIN to bring to life many songs that The Beatles themselves never performed live.

**DOUGLAS COX** (Drums, Percussion, Vocals), was born in Kansas City and raised in Texas. Through his parents' records he discovered Elvis, Chuck Berry, Little Richard and Buddy Holly, but was profoundly moved by one song, The Beatles "Ticket to Ride." Doug drummed for 16 years in Dallas' top Beatles tribute, A Hard Night's Day. He has many memories pounding those "pagan skins" in Las Vegas, Liverpool, in London recording videos with VH-1 in Abbey Road Studio 2 and backing Tony Sheridan in Hamburg's Kaiserkeller. Musicians back home say Doug has always naturally had that signature Ringo style, even as a 12-year-old learning the trap set.

**JIM IRIZARRY** (Vocals, Rhythm Guitar, Piano, Harmonica), is from Chicago, IL, and began singing and playing the music of his favorite band, The Beatles, at the age of 12. He performed in local Chicago Beatle bands and learned the harmonica to master some of his early Beatle favorites. Years later Jim visited Liverpool for Beatle Week and made several appearances at the Cavern Club. He naturally captures the look and sound of Lennon and transforms himself through all eras of The Beatles, as well as recreating John's famous humor and onstage antics.

**CHRIS SMALLWOOD** (Keyboard, Percussion), grew up in Kentucky. He fell in love with Beatles music as a young kid, but didn't fall onto a piano bench until high school, when he broke his leg. Just two years later, he was invited to Kentucky's prestigious Governor's School for the Arts Program. In 2008, Chris received a Bachelor of Music from Belmont University in Nashville, and in 2010 earned his Master of Music from the University of Louisville. Chris and his wife, Nicki, live in Nashville.

**TOM TEELEY** (Vocals, Lead Guitar, Guitar Synth, Sitar),. A native New Yorker, Tom made his stage debut as George Harrison in the original Broadway production of *Beatlemania*, and also appeared in Dick Clark's *Rock "N" Roll! The First 5000 Years*, portraying John Lennon, Paul Simon, Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton, Jerry Lee Lewis and more. His film credits include the role of George in *Beatlemania: the Movie* and *Peggy Sue Got Married*. He has performed with Joe Jackson, Sophie B Hawkins and Marshall Crenshaw, and collaborated with Alice Cooper, Tommy James, The Monkees, and Desmond Child. Tom released a solo album, *Tales of Glamour and Distress* (A&M Records), and can be heard as lead vocalist on the recent TV theme for *The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* series. [www.tomteeley.com](http://www.tomteeley.com)

**IAN B. GARCIA** (Vocals, Bass, Piano, Guitar), was born in the exotic coastal town of Viña del Mar, Chile. He currently resides in Toronto, Canada. Self-taught in voice, guitar, piano and bass he has evolved over the years into a versatile and mature multi – instrumentalist. In 2002 while performing locally he caught the attention of a Beatles tribute act that was in need of a Paul McCartney. The next 5 years would see Garcia honing in and becoming a professional entertainer as he would gradually grow into his mentor's character. "I have learned so much about playing Sir Paul, that my musical abilities have gone to places I could never have imagined" says Garcia . "It's those moments like getting the phone call to perform in and be a part of *RAIN: A Tribute To The Beatles* that I respect my line of work and the gift that I have been given. "I am constantly evolving as a person and as a performer. To eventually tackle the complex musical genius of McCartney in *RAIN* came as an inevitable challenge." Garcia proudly states.

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# WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

**PAUL CURATOLO** (Vocals, Bass, Piano, Guitar), The Beatles became Paul's biggest influence as a child growing up with Rain. At ten years old, his musical journey began when he taught himself the drums. He quickly adapted to guitar & piano which drove him to write and record his own music. When he was 14, as a member of the pop band Wayward, he went on to record five albums. Until recently the band has toured the U.S. and was voted home town heroes in *Alternative Press* magazine. Paul's love for the Beatles has driven him to master the character of Paul McCartney down to every detail. From vocal inflections to turning the bass over to perform left-handed. Paul considers it an honor to pay tribute to his idol.

**AARON CHIAZZA** (Drums, Percussion, Vocals), began playing music at the young age of 5 when his parents gifted him a drumset. This drumset did not last long under the strength of a kindergartner and eventually he moved into a full size instrument by early elementary school. Early yet important musical influences stemmed from a blend of past era funk, soul, jazz, rock, and others. From there he went on to study music in an academic setting through highschool and college participating in Jazz, Symphonic, and percussion ensembles. Amongst tossing up time between original projects, writing and shows, Aaron also loves being an audio engineer and artist. You can follow his work and ventures with *RAIN* on his website - [www.AaronChiazza.com](http://www.AaronChiazza.com)

**MAGICSPACE ENTERTAINMENT** (Producer), Principals Lee D. Marshall, Joe Marsh, John Ballard, Steve Boulay and Bruce Granath have been producing and presenting shows worldwide for more than 30 years. Broadway producing credits include *Hello, Dolly!* starring Carol Channing; *Jekyll & Hyde*; *The Who's Tommy*; *Cabaret*; *American Idiot*; *Donny & Marie: A Broadway Christmas*; and *RAIN: A Tribute to the Beatles on Broadway*. National tour credits include *The 101 Dalmatians Musical*, Ann-Margret starring in *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, *West Side Story*, *Grease*, *A Chorus Line*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and concert tours by Janet Jackson, Cher, Fleetwood Mac, Styx, Britney Spears and \*NSYNC. Special tours and events produced or presented on the road include Tom Stoppard's *Every Good Boy Deserves Favour* starring

Patrick Stewart, Van Cliburn, the Alexandrov Red Army Chorus, Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs exhibition, Titanic: The Exhibition, Diana: A Celebration and St. Peter and the Vatican: The Legacy of the Popes exhibition. MagicSpace Entertainment manages Broadway subscriptions in nine cities and hundreds of events each year across the U.S. and Canada. MagicSpace Entertainment is currently touring *The Magic of David Copperfield*, Michael Flatley's *Lord of the Dance*, *RAIN: A Tribute to the Beatles* and The Christmas Music of Mannheim Steamroller by Chip Davis, and Adam Savage and Jamie Hyneman starring in *Mythbusters®: Behind the Myths Tour*.

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# STAFF

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165 West 46th Street, Suite 1101  
New York, NY 10036  
212-302-5200 Phone \* 212-302-5374 Fax

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[www.theroadcompany.com](http://www.theroadcompany.com)

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Official Website  
[www.raintribute.com](http://www.raintribute.com)

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Become a fan of Rain on Twitter @raintribute, Facebook,  
Instagram, and YouTube!

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# CREDITS

## SPECIAL THANKS

To John, Paul, George and Ringo without whom we wouldn't be here.

Thank you to all of our family, friends, and fans  
for all their love and support throughout the years.

Jerry Hoban as Ed Sullivan

Sid Bernstein, Casey Leonard

SONY/ATV MUSIC PUBLISHING – Martin Bandier, Peter Brodsky,

Jimmy Ascii, Hofner Guitars

Shea Stadium photos courtesy of Tony Griffin

And the late Jim Riddle

## CREDITS

Ludwig Drums. Zildjian Cymbals. VicFirth Drumsticks,.Evans Drum Heads. Dan Dean/ Dan Dean Productions for his Solo Strings Advanced. Pyramid Strings. LaBella Bass & Guitar Strings. Dean Markley Strings. Muse Research. Bluthner Pianos. Höfner, Martin, Epiphone guitars. Guitars supplied by Gibson Guitars. VOX Amplifiers courtesy of Korg USA. Christie Lites. Janco Transport. SenovA Inc. Inframe Designs. B. Zee Brokerage LTD.

Video Equipment Rentals. Coach Quarters. Road Concierge.

## MUSIC CREDITS

She Loves You, Please Please Me, From Me To You, I Want To Hold Your Hand, A Hard Days Night, I'm Happy Just to Dance, Yesterday, Help, Day Tripper, Twist And Shout, Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, With A Little Help From My Friends, Eleanor Rigby, Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds, When I'm 64, Sgt. Pepper (Reprise), A Day In The Life, All You Need Is Love, Magical Mystery Tour, Strawberry Fields Forever, Blackbird, In My Life, Here Comes The Sun, While My Guitar Gently Weeps, Come Together, Get Back, Revolution, The End, Give Peace A Chance, Let It Be, Hey Jude. written by John Lennon and Paul McCartney © Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC. Twist and Shout written by Bert Berns and Phil Medley © Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC and Sloopy II Music, Here Comes The Sun, While My Guitar Gently Weeps written by George Harrison © Harrisongs Publishing.



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## 2015 Performing Arts Series Upcoming Events

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### **The Peking Acrobats**

An elite group of tumblers, contortionists, jugglers, cyclists, and gymnasts, known for combining graceful athleticism with ancient folk art.

**March 17, 7pm**

### **Koresh Dance Company**

Choreography inspired by the Graham technique, Luigi jazz, classical ballet, hip-hop and Israeli folk dance.

**April 17, 8pm**

The Performing Arts Series offers audience members ways to stay connected with the arts!

[pas.appstate.edu](http://pas.appstate.edu)



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## PERFORMING ARTS SERIES MISSION STATEMENT

The Performing Arts Series supports the teaching mission of Appalachian State University by presenting a diverse array of music, dance and theatre events designed to enrich the cultural landscape of the campus and surrounding region. By creating memorable performance experiences and related educational and outreach activities, the series promotes the power and excitement of the live performance experience, provides a "window on the world" through the artistry of nationally and internationally renowned artists and showcases some of the finest artists of our nation and our region.

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**Radiolab @ 1pm**

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**The Dinner Party Download @ 3pm**



## Sundays

After *Bob Edwards Weekend*, *A Prairie Home Companion*,  
& *Wait Wait ... Don't Tell Me!* tune in for:

**Studio 360 @ 3pm**

**Triad Arts Weekend @ 4pm**

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**American Routes @ 7pm**



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