



# A SEASON OF LEGACIES

2024/25 PERFORMING ARTS SEASON

# *On Stage*

FINALE EDITION 2025



THE COALMINERS PRESENT ALWAYS LORETTA



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MUTTS GONE NUTS



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# A SEASON OF LEGACIES

2024|25 PERFORMING ARTS SEASON

MAIN STAGE  
SERIES

FAMILY  
SERIES

SPOTLIGHT  
SERIES

SPECIAL  
EVENT

WED, JUL 24	KIDS FROM WISCONSIN
FRI-SAT, AUG 16-17	SLEEPING BEAUTY
THU, SEPT 5	JUANITA LOLITA
SAT, SEPT 14	PARROTS OF THE CARIBBEAN
FRI, SEPT 20	WAR HIPPIES
FRI, SEPT 27	CHICAGO BOYZ ACROBATIC TEAM
SAT, SEPT 28	THE DRIFTERS
SAT, OCT 5	BALLETS WITH A TWIST®
FRI, OCT 11	THE TRAVELING WILBURYS REVUE
FRI, OCT 18	FOUR GUYZ IN DINNER JACKETS®
SAT, OCT 19	THE CLAUDETTES
SAT, OCT 26	DAVID ANTHONY
FRI, DEC 6	I GOT YULE BABE
SAT, DEC 7	THE LITTLE MERMEN PRESENT DISNEY AT THE HOLIDAYS
THU, DEC 12	CHARLES DICKENS' A CHRISTMAS CAROL
SAT, DEC 14	THE LETTERMEN
FRI, DEC 20	KAT PERKINS
SAT, DEC 21	LOONEY LUTHERANS
FRI, JAN 10	BUCKETS N BOARDS
FRI-SUN, JAN 24-26	ALADDIN JR.
FRI, JAN 31	PETER MULVEY
FRI, FEB 14	BROADWAY'S NEXT HIT MUSICAL
SAT, FEB 22	B2WINS
FRI, FEB 28	SPAMILTON: AN AMERICAN PARODY
SUN, MAR 9	THE STEPCREW
FRI, MAR 14	PROFESSOR PINKERTON'S IRRELEVANT ORCHESTRA
SAT, MAR 15	LIVE FROM LAUREL CANYON
SUN, MAR 16	KUNIKO YAMAMOTO
FRI, MAR 21	TAKE3
SAT, MAR 29	MICHAEL CAVANAUGH
SAT, APR 5	THE COALMINERS PRESENT ALWAYS LORETTA
FRI, APR 11	WATER STREET DANCE COMPANY
SAT, APR 12	MUTTS GONE NUTS
SAT, MAY 3	JARABE MEXICANO
FRI, MAY 9	SWING CHEVRON

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**DOORS** to the Ruth A. Knoll Theater open 30 minutes prior to most events. The Schauer Center's main entrance opens one hour prior.

**RESTROOMS** located on the west side of both lobby levels.

**ELEVATOR** access is at the southeast corner of both lobby levels.

**WHEELCHAIR/LIMITED MOBILITY ACCESS** is on both levels of the theater. Please notify the Box Office of any special needs when purchasing tickets.

**SOUND ENHANCEMENT** is offered through hearing-assisted listening devices that amplify performances. Devices are available at no charge for most events, upon request through the Box Office. ID required.

**BEVERAGES** available for purchase in the upper and/or lower bar before the event and during intermission. Beverages are allowed into the theater with the purchase of a Schauer cup only.

**SMOKING** is not permitted inside the Schauer Center, or within 25 feet of entrances.

**CELL PHONES, TABLETS,** and electronic devices should be silenced prior to the performance.

**PHOTOGRAPHY** is designated by each performer. The Schauer Center reserves the right to use patrons' image or likeness in connection with any broadcast or recording of the event.

**TICKET DONATIONS** are accepted for resale through the Box Office for upcoming 'Schauer Center Presents' events. Tickets must be returned at least 48 hours in advance of an event to be considered a tax-deductible donation; receipt provided upon request. All tickets are non-refundable.

**LOST ITEMS** may be reclaimed Monday through Friday, 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm or one hour prior to show times.



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## Upcoming Events

Harvest Festival - October 12th  
Christmas Parade - November 9th  
Midnight Madness - December 13th

## 2025 Events

Iced On Main - February  
Classic Car Show - May 10th

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# A SEASON OF LEGACIES

2024|25 PERFORMING ARTS SEASON

SATURDAY

APR  
5

2:00 PM  
7:30 PM



## THE COALMINERS PRESENT ALWAYS LORETTA

*The Ultimate Loretta Lynn Tribute*  
starring *Emily Portman*

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PERFORMANCE RUNS APPROXIMATELY 90 MINUTES  
20 MINUTE INTERMISSION

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## The Coalminers Present Always Loretta Starring Emily Portman & The Coalminers



### About Emily Portman

Like many successful performers, native Kentuckian Emily Portman cut her musical teeth singing in church and learning to read music as a member of her high school band. Inspired by her parents' music, her influences were an amalgamation of classic country and classic rock, with a little '80s music mixed in and included Merle Haggard, Jim Croce, and Creedence Clearwater Revival. In college, she joined a choral group, learned the guitar, and began performing professionally at the Corydon Jamboree across the border in neighboring Indiana. However, when she covered the music of Loretta Lynn, people took notice.

At an early age, perhaps due to her Kentucky roots and natural inflection, Emily was told that she "sounded a lot like" country music legend Loretta Lynn, so she became a student of her artistry. Emily pored over the singer's entire music catalog and began working to emulate Loretta's vocal style and onstage mannerisms. In the summer of 2004, Emily entered a "Sing Like" contest at the Kentucky Opry and won \$1,000 for her portrayal of Loretta.

Just a couple of years later, after posting a video of herself performing a Loretta Lynn song on YouTube, she was discovered by Michael Twitty (eldest son of the great Conway Twitty), who cast her to portray Loretta in the nationally touring musical "It's Only Make Believe." The musical was instrumental in establishing Portman's career. Over the next two decades, her portrayal of the Coal Miner's Daughter would carry to the most prestigious stages (including the Ryman Auditorium and the Grand Ole Opry), where she would rub shoulders with some of the biggest names in the business, including George Jones, Archie Campbell, Vern Gosdin, Toby Keith, Chris Cagle, and even Loretta Lynn, herself, with whom she formed a close friendship.

Emily frequently traveled to Loretta Lynn's Ranch in Hurricane Mills, TN. During one of her visits, the two singers were enjoying a casual conversation when, in mid-sentence, Lynn paused, looked at her straight in the eyes, and said, "Ya' know, we have a real connection, don't we?" If you ever saw the two performers together, their connection was obvious.

After Ms. Lynn's unfortunate recent passing, Emily Portman connected with Loretta's longtime backup band, The Coalminers. They agreed to join talents and collaborate to honor the memory and music of this true country music trailblazer with "Always Loretta"—a show authorized by the Loretta Lynn family that includes all the greatest hits and shares intimate stories of Loretta's life through the eyes of those who knew her best.

## About the Coalminers



**Dave Thornhill (Lead Guitar, Bandleader):** Thornhill's first performance with Loretta Lynn was in 1967 as the lead guitarist for The Country Playboys at the once-famous Frontier Ranch in Columbus, Ohio. The group served as the band for countless nationally touring country artists (Jim Ed Brown, Little Jimmy Dickens, Lynn Anderson, Merle Travis, Carl Smith, etc.) as they passed through, including Loretta Lynn, who told the audience, "I've played all over the world, and this is the only band that did all my stuff just like the record. If I could ever afford a band, this is the only band I'd like to have." Two years later, she hired all five musicians, and her band, The Coalminers, was formed.

He would serve as guitarist and bandleader for Loretta Lynn for 55 years (until 2017) and played over 10,000 shows with her (including her duet shows with the great Conway Twitty and serving as the band that backed Sissy Spacek in the movie *The Coal Miner's Daughter*).

Now in his 80s, Thornhill is thrilled to renew his role as bandleader and lead guitarist for the Lynn family-authorized tribute show "Always Loretta" to extend the legacy of Loretta and his band, The Coalminers.



**Robert "Bob" Hempker (Steel Guitar):** Also, one of the original members of Loretta's band, Hempker, began performing with The Coalminers at the age of 21. He served as Loretta's steel guitarist for 17 years before taking a seven-year sabbatical to focus on his family, after which he rejoined the group and stayed with them for another six years until Loretta left the road to care for her husband, Mooney. During this time, Bob went to work with Roy Clark, performed with him for eight years, and then did a two-year stint performing in Branson. Bob reunited with The Coalminers in 2014 and stayed with the group through her retirement from the road in 2017.



**Dennis Digby (Bass Guitar):** Hailing from Atlanta, Georgia, Dennis Digby began his career while still in high school as the bass player for Mel Tillis. Throughout Dennis' career, he would perform alongside an impressive list of legendary performers, including Tex Ritter, Charlie Louvin, David Houston, Cal Smith, and the Osborne Brothers. He joined The Coalminers in 1982 and performed with Loretta Lynn for over 17 years.



**Monty Parkey (Piano/Keyboard):** Xenia, Ohio native Monty Parkey moved to Nashville in 1976 to perform music. His resumé reads like a "Who's Who" of country music. His keyboard playing has supported a lengthy list of country music notables, including Bill Anderson (5 years), Randy Travis (5 years), Alan Jackson (15 years), Darryl Worley (10 years), Sylvia (3 years), Tanya Tucker (1 year), Lorrie Morgan (4 years), and the great Loretta Lynn (for 3 years in the mid '80s).



**Eric Kaberle (Drums):** Eric's upbringing took place in Rowley, Iowa, a small town nestled amidst a cornfield with a population of only 250 individuals. His musical journey commenced at the age of 7 when he joined his grandpa's country band as a drummer, sharing the stage with his father. After completing his music performance and education degrees at the University of Iowa in 1995, he wasted no time pursuing his lifelong aspiration of playing drums for a renowned country artist. Within two months, he relocated to Nashville, immersing himself completely in the city's vibrant music scene. In his early years there, he showcased his talent at various iconic venues, including the Opryland Theme Park, the General Jackson, the Grand Ole Opry, and Lower Broadway.

Simultaneously, he became a regular fixture in numerous recording studios while honing his songwriting skills.

In 2002, Kaberle received the opportunity of a lifetime when he was called to join Loretta's band as their drummer. He passionately fulfilled this role for an impressive 15 years until Loretta retired from touring in 2017. Presently, Eric utilizes his musical prowess as a drummer and background vocalist, lending his talents to John Conlee's performances.



**Jean Anne Tarleton (Vocalist):** Vocalist Jean Anne Tarleton has had an impressive career as a consummate triple threat—she is a singer, dancer, and songwriter with enormous success in all three areas. As a vocalist, she has backed an innumerable list of legendary artists, including Perry Como, Robert Goulet, Sammy Davis Jr., Jimmy Stafford, Kiki Dee, The Babys, Mac Davis, Brenda Lynn, and of course, Loretta Lynn, for whom she worked for three years in the late '70s/early '80s. Her catalog as a songwriter includes hits "Love Is Like A Rolling Stone" (The Pointer Sisters), "Do It Again" (Paulette Reeves), "Fall For You" (Walter Egan), "That's Freedom" (Tim Kimmel, John Farnham), "Someday Soon"—*Woodstock: The Director's Cut* (Chapman-Springs), and more. As a dancer, she

has appeared on such shows as "Make Your Own Kind Of Music" (NBC show featuring Al Hirt, The Carpenters & The Doodletown Pipers), "SWING" (featuring Frank Sinatra Jr. and Harry James & his orchestra), "The Jimmy Stafford Show" (CBS show featuring Jean Anne & Deborah Allen), "The Mac Davis Show," "The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson," "Hee-Haw" and countless others.

# ALWAYS LORETTA

# A SEASON OF LEGACIES

2024|25 PERFORMING ARTS SEASON

FRIDAY

APR  
11

7:30 PM



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—Milwaukee Magazine





# A SEASON OF LEGACIES

2024|25 PERFORMING ARTS SEASON

SATURDAY

**APR  
12**

3:00 PM



## **MUTTS GONE NUTS** *Canine Cabaret*



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# A SEASON OF LEGACIES

2024/25 PERFORMING ARTS SEASON

SATURDAY

**MAY  
3**

7:00 PM



**JARABE MEXICANO**  
*Bordeño-Soul*



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## Jarabe Mexicano

Jarabe Mexicano captures the nostalgic spirit of their border roots with their brand of “Bordeño-Soul,” which honors the musical tastes and cultural influences of its members. Jarabe, which translates to ‘concoction,’ highlights the eclectic mix of genres they perform ranging from Mexican Folk, Rock & Roll, and Norteño/Tex-Mex to Latin Rock, Trio Romántico, and popular Cumbia. Their traditional Mariachi string instruments and Norteño-inspired drums complement dramatic vocals in English, Spanish, and Spanglish and show how this multi-generational ensemble embraces change while still honoring the past.

As educators, cultural ambassadors, and advocates for the arts, the Vilar Performing Arts Center raves that Jarabe Mexicano is “thought-provoking, heartfelt, and engaging.” Their “Fiesta En Familia” concerts and educational outreach program “Día de los Muertos: A Celebration of Life” aim to create a deeper and more inclusive sense of family and community, with a special commitment to underserved groups. Jarabe has also shared the stage with Louie Pérez of Los Lobos and opened for internationally renowned acts Gaby Moreno and La Santa Cecilia. The band is currently working on their upcoming third album, while their EP *Semillas* as well as their self-titled album *Jarabe Mexicano* can be found on all streaming digital platforms.





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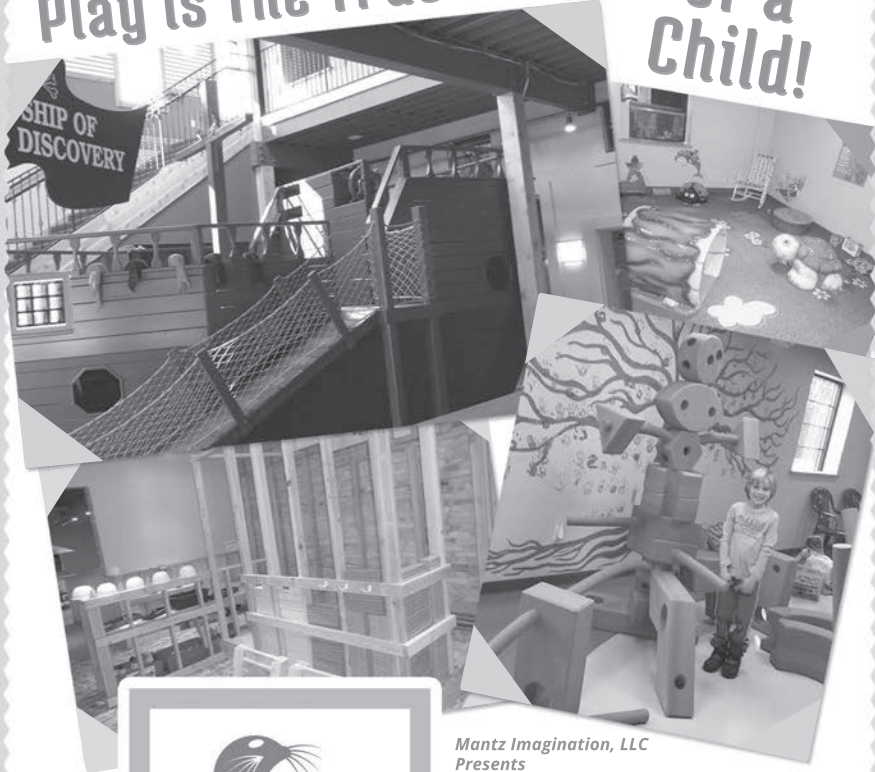
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