

ARTS SERIES 2023-2024

Hugo Cruz and Caminos

Thursday, October 5th 7:30 p.m.

(ticket required)

Call 724-223-6546 M-F, noon-6 p.m. to reserve

<https://www.hugocruzandcaminos.com/>

Hugo Alexander Cruz Machado is a Cuban-born, award-winning, drummer and composer who has performed internationally, including South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Mexico, Chile, Venezuela, and the United States. Hugo is the leader of the jazz fusion music group Caminos, who have made appearances at the Pittsburgh International Jazz Festival 2019, Pittonkatonk music fest in Pittsburgh, Fábrica de Artes in Havana, Cuba, First Night Pittsburgh 2020, East Liverpool Jazz Festival, City of Asylum, The Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust events (Greer Cabaret Theater Backstage Bar, Trust Oasis), Pittsburgh Playhouse, The Frick Museum, the headliner of Indiana PA Jazz Festival, Con Alma, Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh, Summer at the Station for The Equity Impact Center and Wilksburg Community Development Corporation, Three Rivers Casino of Pittsburgh, Mattress Factory for the Pittsburgh Music Chamber event, Thunderbird Cafe' and Music Hall, Jazz on the Steps, Back Yard Downtown of Pittsburgh, Monroeville Jazz Festival,

Caminos fuse rhythms and melodies of Afro-Cuban, Cuban, and American music, in an original contemporary expression that honors traditional Cuban form.

Hugo Cruz and Caminos released an album this February called Punto de Partida, featuring many notable musicians from Cuba and the U.S., recording eight of Hugo's original compositions. In May 2022 Caminos was the Jazz Band headliner for the Westsylvania Jazz and Blues Festival in Indiana PA. Caminos also has been performing a concert series called, The Voice of Drums, which brings many great drummers from the Pittsburgh area to join Camino's way of expressing music.

Hugo toured regularly with Síntesis, a leading Afro-Cuban rock-fusion group (when he resided in Cuba). Hugo has performed in Havana's largest jazz festival, Jazz Plaza, with acclaimed artists Dave Weckl and Victor Goines. He is a graduate of the Instituto Superior de Artes, the leading university for the arts Cuba, and in 2014, won the award as the "best drummer" at the International Festival del Tambor Guillermo Barreto in Memoriam in Havana, Cuba. **Hugo has shared the stage and studio with many of Cuba's leading musicians, including:** La Trovuntivitis, Tony Guzmán y Su Poder Latino, Síntesis, Janio Abreu y Aire de Concierto, Adrian Berazain, Interactivo, Zule Guerra, Alberto Lescay y Formas, La Academia de Ruy López Nussa, Silvio Rodriguez, Amaury Perez, Banda de Concierto Municipal de La Habana, Grupo Interactivo, Julito Padron, William Vivanco and Mayco de Alma. Hugo performs and

records with notable Pittsburgh artists, including Afro Yaqui Music Collective, Dr. James Johnson, Roger Humphries, Ernest McCarty Jr, Tubby Daniels, Dwayne Dolphin, Mark Strickland, Poogie Bell, Lou Stelute, Max Leake, Jeff Grubbs, Paul Thomson, Marty Ashby, Make Tomaro, Kenny Blake. Hugo also had performed at the Heinz Hall as a special guest of the Pittsburgh Symphony. Cruz is a drum teacher at the Afro-American Music Institute. He has been teaching workshops as a special guest at the University of Pittsburgh, Duquesne University, Hope Academy Orchestra, and several youth and cultural organizations throughout the city.

Three Redneck Tenors

Friday, February 23rd, 7:30 p.m.

(ticket required)

Call 724-223-6546 M-F, noon-6 p.m. to reserve

<https://3rednecktenors.com/>

DOWN HOME LAUGHS. BIG CITY MUSIC.

The 3 Redneck Tenors are a new breed in the “tenor genre” – their musical comedy featuring classically trained veteran artists is like the Blue Collar Comedy Tour goes to Carnegie Hall - down home laughs with big city music! It has been said that if Larry the Cable Guy, Il Divo, and Mrs. Doubtfire had a baby, that child would be The 3 Redneck Tenors. Written by opera-veteran Matthew Lord with music arranged by award-winning composer Craig Bohmler, and starring Mr. Lord, Blake Davidson, and Grace Lord, The 3 Redneck Tenors were top finalists on "America's Got Talent" and have been thrilling audiences since 2006.

These singin' songbirds of the trailer park have seen it all, sing it all, and make us laugh 'till we double over, reminding us that in life, it's not just the destination, it's the journey. Get ready for one side splitting ride as we go on an excursion only The 3 Redneck Tenors could have had... delighting audiences with their vocal prowess and a smorgasbord of songs, ranging from Country to Broadway to Classical and everything in between!

A native of California, tenor **Matthew Lord** is recognized as a versatile performing artist with a voice capable of encompassing repertoire from the 18th Century to works by composers of today. His stage work is consistently praised for its naturalness, intensity, and commitment.

Mr. Lord also has performed with almost every major opera house in the U.S., including **San Francisco Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Dallas Opera, Houston Opera, Washington Opera, Portland Opera, Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, Glimmerglass Opera, Tulsa Opera, The Spoleto Arts Festival** among others. He made his **New York Metropolitan Opera** debut in January 2004 in *Boris Godunov*. Prolific in all kinds of music, Mr. Lord also performed in **Andrew Lloyd Weber's Phantom of the Opera** as Piangi in the Hamburg Germany production. Lord's concert appearances include engagements with the **Detroit Symphony**, the **Juilliard Orchestra**, the **San Francisco Symphony** and **Santa Fe Symphony** to

name a few. He is also a proud graduate of the prestigious **Juilliard Opera Center**. Mr. Lord is the creator and writer of *The 3 Redneck Tenors*.

In 2021 Mr. Lord was chosen over thousands of contestants to compete in Fox Television's new singing competition show "Alter Ego" (airing on Wednesday nights after "The Masked Singer") where contestants compete anonymously as an avatar alter ego, singing for judges **Nick Lachey**, **Alanis Morissette**, **Will.I.Am**, and **Grimes**. His Alter Ego is "Wolfgang Champagne", a very stylish, very tiny werewolf who was bitten by a chihuahua 500 years ago. He came in 6th as a semi-finalist and was a judge and audience favorite. As a result of the show he has been interviewed and covered by *Rolling Stone* magazine, *The Atlantic*, and many other publications.

Blake Davidson

Dallas, TX native **Blake Davidson** is an award-winning singer who has performed all over the world, and whose range of experience includes opera, symphony, and musical theatre. He received his vocal training at **The University of North Texas** and has been presented in solo concerts at **NYU**, **Lincoln Center**, **Carnegie Hall**, and the **Tokyo Opera House**.

Mr. Davidson has sung with the **Anchorage Opera**, the **Dallas Opera**, the **Dallas Symphony** (on whose Christmas CD he is the featured soloist), the **Fort Worth Symphony**, and **The Florida Orchestra**. Performances outside the US include New Zealand's **Auckland Philharmonia** and the **Filharmonico de Jalisco** (Guadalajara, Mexico). Early in his career he was seen off-Broadway at 2nd Stage, and as the ringmaster for the Shrine circus.

Davidson's awards and nominations include the *American Repertoire Award* at the **Bellini Competition** in Sicily, and a *Best Actor in a Musical* nomination for the prestigious **Leon Rabin Award** for his portrayal of Fred/Petruchio in *Kiss Me, Kate*. He is in demand as soloist and recording artist with many symphonies, most recently the **Dallas Symphony** "Christmas at the Superpops" concert, and a *Beethoven 9th Symphony* with the **Corpus Christi Symphony**. In December 2019 he was the featured soloist with the **San Angelo Symphony** in their *A Very Merry Christmas* Concert, and recently finished a delightful return to the **Corpus Christi Symphony** as the featured soloist in their *Christmas in July* Concert.

Grace Lord

Grace Lord has been in the entertainment industry since she was born. She lived in **New York** for four years studying Musical Theatre under industry professionals such as *Tony Award Winners* **Judith Ivey** and **Victoria Clark** and *Emmy Award Winner* **Andre Braugher**. After being with *3 Redneck Tenors* since it was created, she is thrilled to finally be performing onstage with them. Special thanks to her family who brought her into this business and her team at **Broad Talent**.

Instagram/Tiktok: **@gracefullordy**

Steven Sanders

Hailed by *Opera News* as "dynamic" and *The New York Times* as "impressive," tenor **Steven Sanders** has performed with many prestigious opera companies including **New York City Opera**, **Wolf Trap Opera**, **Opera Theatre of Saint Louis**, **Opera Boston**, **Chautauqua Opera**, **Austin Lyric Opera**, **Des Moines**

Opera, Dayton Opera, and the Opera Institute at Boston University. The recording of **John Musto's** *Volpone*, featuring Steven as Bonario, was nominated for a Grammy Award as "Best Opera Recording of 2009."

An accomplished concert artist, he has also been heard as a soloist in **Orff's** *Carmina Burana* with the **Dallas Wind Symphony**, *Beethoven's Mass in C Major* with **Boston's Masterworks Chorale**, *Mozart's Requiem and Mass in C minor* at **Carnegie Hall**, and *Haydn's Mass and Mozart's Requiem* at **Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center**.

Mr. Sanders now resides in Stillwater, Oklahoma. He is an Associate Professor of Voice and Opera at the **Greenwood School of Music at Oklahoma State University**.

Oscar® Nominated Short Subjects

Live Action

(ticket required)

**Call 724-223-6546 M-F, noon- 6 p.m. to reserve
Friday, March 8th, 7:30 p.m.**

Oscar® Nominated Short Subjects

Animated

(ticket required)

**Call 724-223-6546 M-F, noon- 6 p.m. to reserve
Saturday, March 9th, 7:30 p.m.**

<https://www.oscars.org/>

We are proud to be able to bring you this event again this year. Come see the Oscar Nominated Short Films for 2023 and root for your favorites on the Sunday, March 10th telecast from Hollywood. The price of a single tickets gets you in to both nights of this event. Please be advised that the subject matter is often not suitable for children. We will know more once the nominations come out on January 23rd.

Feel free to dress in your Awards Season best and walk our red carpet!