

The Renaissance

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Broadway Rocks the Renaissance May 9, 2009 8:00 PM

Remember last year when that guy brought down the house with his thrilling rendition of *Music of the Night*? That guy was Doug Labreque, and this season one of the most talked about guest artists in the history of the Mansfield Symphony returns with our incredible Symphony and Chorus to back him up! The Mansfield Symphony Chorus and Orchestra will lead us on a journey through the greatest music ever composed for the great white way. Joining Doug will be another of Broadway's acclaimed singers, Debbie Gravitte. Hear selections from *Hairspray*, *Rent*, *Mama Mia*, *Movin' Out* and *Dreamgirls*. Certain to be one of the most exciting events of the 2008-09 Season, the symphony and the Renaissance have never rocked like this!


**MANFIELD
SYMPHONY**


Robert Franz
Music Director

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Written by Karlie Carroll, Theatre Student at OSU Mansfield

There really is no business like show business, and no show business quite measures up to that of Musical theatre. Being a true “triple threat” takes much talent. You not only have to belt out a song while doing some crazy dance, you have to look as though you’re not in complete pain while doing it. Though it sounds easy, it really does take a lot of skill. Picture yourself screaming as loud as you can, while jumping in the air and now try to smile while doing it. Ok, now try to make your scream sound like a note and not just like someone has scared you. Not as easy as you may think. To be on Broadway, one must go through rigorous training in order to control their vocals and discover ways of protecting their treasured voice. These talented individuals have to educate themselves in a wide array of music styles from Rock to Opera. Today’s musicals have story lines ranging anywhere from Nazi Germany to American Hippies and Religion to life threatening illnesses. No matter what your personal preference may be, there is sure to be a show out there for you.



Doug LaBrecque thrilled theater audiences as The Phantom and Raoul in the Harold Prince production of *The Phantom of the Opera*. In addition, Mr. LaBrecque has starred on Broadway as Ravenal in the Hal Prince revival of *Showboat*, a role he also performed in Canada and Chicago. He was featured in Oscar Hammerstein's 100th Birthday Celebration on Broadway at The Gershwin Theatre, and toured nationally with *Les Miserables*. Regionally, Mr. LaBrecque has performed leading roles in *Candide*, *A Chorus Line*, *Man of LaMancha* among others.



Debbie Gravitte's varied career has taken her from the Broadway stage to the Symphony hall and points between. She won the prestigious Tony award for Best Featured Actress in a musical for *Jerome Robbins' Broadway*, along with a Drama Desk Award nomination and New York Showstopper Award. After making her Broadway debut in the original cast of *They're Playing our Song*, she went on to appear in: *Perfectly Frank* where she received her Drama Desk Award nomination, *Blues in the Night*, *Ain't Broadway Grand*, *Zorba*, *Chicago*, and *Les Miserables*. Debbie has appeared in the Encore's series of productions of *The Boys from Syracuse*, *Tenderloin*, and *Carnival* at New York's City Center.