

LESLIE ODOM, JR.

HOLIDAY CONCERT

Tonight's program will be announced from the stage.

Song selections to be drawn from Leslie's holiday albums with a few treats from his musical theatre career.

Leslie Odom, Jr. appears this evening with

Steven Walker
Guitarist/MD

Chris Cadenhead
Piano/Keys

Gene Coye
Drummer

Dominique Sanders
Bass

Tonight's performance will run 75-90 minutes with no intermission.

SPONSORED BY



BROGAN, REED, VAN
GORDER & ASSOCIATES
OHIO NATIONAL
FINANCIAL SERVICES

MEDIA SPONSOR



View the digital program at whartoncenter.com/program



Leslie Odom, Jr. is a multifaceted, award-winning vocalist, songwriter, author, and actor. With a career that spans all performance genres, he has received recognition with Tony[®] and Grammy Awards[®] as well as Emmy and, most recently, two Academy Award nominations for his excellence and achievements in Broadway, television, film, and music. Odom most recently starred in and performed the songs of legendary singer Sam Cooke in the critically acclaimed Amazon film adaptation of *One Night in Miami...*, directed by Regina King. His portrayal of the soul icon was met with widespread praise and critical acclaim, earning him nominations for an Academy Award, BAFTA Award, Critics' Choice Award, Golden Globe Awards, and Screen Actors Guild Awards, among others. King also enlisted Odom to write, compose, and perform the film's original song, "Speak Now," for which he was nominated for an Oscar and has since earned him a Critics' Choice Award for Best Song as well as several other award nominations.

Odom can currently be seen in *The Many Saints of Newark*, a prequel to David Chase's award-winning HBO series *The Sopranos* that was released in theaters and on HBO Max on October 1st; he can also be heard voicing the character of 'Owen Tillerman' in Season 2 of the Apple TV+ animated musical-comedy series *Central Park*, for which he received an Emmy nomination for Outstanding Character Voice-Over Performance in 2020. He also hosted this year's *Tony Awards: Broadway's Back!* special live concert event, during which he performed various musical numbers throughout the two-hour celebration along with David Byrne, John Legend, Audra McDonald and many others. His other upcoming projects include *Needle in a Timestack* written and directed by John Ridley; Rian Johnson's highly anticipated sequel, *Knives Out 2*; and David Gordon Green's new *Exorcist* trilogy. Additional film and television credits include

the Disney+ filmed musical performance of the original Broadway production of *Hamilton*; the limited series *Love in the Time of Corona*, which he executive produced and co-starred opposite Nicolette Robinson; *Harriet*; *Murder on the Orient Express*; *Only*; *Red Tails*; and *Smash*.

Best known for his breakout role as the original Aaron Burr in the smash-hit Broadway musical *Hamilton*, Odom won the Tony Award® for Best Actor in a Musical and a Grammy Award® as a principal soloist on the original cast recording for his performance. He made his Broadway debut in *RENT* at the age of 17. He also starred opposite Lin-Manuel Miranda and Karen Olivo in a 2014 City Center Encores! revival of Jonathan Larson's *Tick, Tick...Boom!* In December 2017, Odom returned to the New York City stage in a solo concert at Jazz at Lincoln Center. The cabaret-style performance was crafted around signature songs and music that shaped this artist's journey, all performed with a world-class band in front of a live audience. The show was filmed for broadcast as an hour-long PBS special as part of the 17-time Emmy Award-winning series, *Live from Lincoln Center*, and premiered in April 2018.

A Grammy Award®-winning recording artist, Odom's self-titled debut album was part-funded by a successful Kickstarter campaign and released in 2014 by Borderlight Entertainment, Inc. His new label home, S-Curve, re-released an expanded version with additional material in June 2016, and the album reached #1 on the *Billboard* Jazz charts and charted in the *Billboard* Top 200. In winter 2017, Odom topped the charts once again with the re-release of his second album and first holiday album, *Simply Christmas*, as a deluxe edition with new arrangements and new songs. *Simply Christmas* hit #1 on iTunes and the *Billboard* Jazz charts, #4 on the *Billboard* Holiday chart, and #31 on the *Billboard*

Top 200 chart. Odom released his third full-length album and first of original material, *Mr*, in November 2019, and the following October teamed up with nine-time Grammy-nominated and multi-platinum artist Sia to debut a new version of standout track "Cold." His critically acclaimed second holiday album, *The Christmas Album*, was released in November 2020. He has performed at the White House, Super Bowl, and on hallowed stages such as Lincoln Center, Rockefeller Center, and the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

In March 2018, Odom added the title of author to his resume with the release of his book – *Failing Up: How to Take Risks, Aim Higher and Never Stop Learning*. Written in the style of a commencement speech, the book brings together what Odom has learned in life so far, tapping into universal themes of starting something new, following your passions, discovering your own potential, and surrounding yourself with the right people. *Failing Up* is about unlocking your true potential and making your dreams come true even when it seems impossible. The book was published by Feiwel & Friends, an imprint of Macmillan Publishers.

POLICIES AND SERVICES

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

Wharton Center offers a diverse selection of arts entertainment. Not all productions may appeal to or be appropriate for every person or for all ages. Patrons are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the shows we offer in order to make informed decisions prior to purchasing tickets.

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

Please observe the lighted exit signs located throughout the building and theatre(s). All patrons should note all exits, especially those closest to your seat location. Our staff and ushers are trained to assist patrons through multiple emergency situations.

FIRST AID

See your usher or House Management Room 209 (in Grand Foyer).

- › Helpful Tips
Cameras, children, late seating
- › Patron Amenities
Lost and found, coat check, etc
- › Accessibility Services
Including SLI, AD, and OC
- › Ticket Office
Exchanges, refunds, fees, hours
- › Mobile Tickets
Access & transfer your mobile tickets
- › Consumer Alert
Avoid being ensnared by resellers
- › Directions and Parking
Nearby parking ramps and lots
- › Engagement Programs
After Chats and Insight Previews
- › Security
Prohibited items and security checks
- › COVID-19 Safety
Patron Safety Protocols

SUPPORTERS AND STAFF

Wharton Center gratefully recognizes our Circle Members for their philanthropic contribution, our Legacy donors who have chosen to support with their estate plans, individuals and organizations that have established named endowments to support Wharton Center, and our corporate sponsors.

Wharton Center would like to acknowledge the members of IATSE local 274.

- › Circle Members
- › Seats 4 Kids Donors
- › Legacy Circle
- › Endowments
- › Corporate Sponsors
- › Wharton Center Staff
- › Volunteer Committees