



TILLES CENTER
Vanessa Kellogg, Assistant Director of
Marketing & Programming
vanessa.kellogg@liu.edu

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GRAMMY-WINNING SAXOPHONIST, COMPOSER AND LONG-STANDING JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER ORCHESTRA MEMBER TED NASH BRINGS *PRESIDENTIAL SUITE, EIGHT VARIATIONS ON FREEDOM* TO TILLES CENTER ON NOVEMBER 9

A Powerful Evening of Jazz and History Featuring Live Readings by Long Island Community Leaders

Brookville, NY [October 2025] – Tilles Center for the Performing Arts at Long Island University is proud to present **Ted Nash Sextet: *Presidential Suite, Eight Variations on Freedom* on Sunday, November 9 at 7 pm** in the **Krasnoff Theater**, in an event **presented in collaboration with Jazz at Lincoln Center**.

Presidential Suite is an eight-movement jazz composition inspired by the words of world leaders who shaped the 20th century. Composed and arranged by **Grammy Award-winning saxophonist and longtime Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra member Ted Nash**, the suite transforms the rhythms and cadences of historic speeches into lush, thrilling music that honors the voices of Franklin D. Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy, Winston Churchill, Nelson Mandela, Jawaharlal Nehru and others whose messages of freedom and justice continue to resonate today.

"When I first conceived *Presidential Suite*, I wanted to create a musical dialogue between history and humanity," says **Ted Nash**. "The words of these leaders still speak to freedom, justice, and empathy. Hearing them voiced by community leaders today brings new meaning, connecting past ideals to our present hopes."

"Ted Nash's *Presidential Suite* is a profound artistic statement that combines music, history and social consciousness," shares **Tom Dunn, Executive & Artistic Director, Tilles Center**, and **Dean of LIU's College of Arts & Design**. "We're honored to bring this work to Long Island and to involve our own leaders in a performance that reminds us how words and art can inspire action and understanding."

Originally commissioned and recorded by **Jazz at Lincoln Center**, *Presidential Suite* earned two Grammy Awards, for **Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album** and **Best Instrumental Composition**, and has since been performed worldwide to critical acclaim.

Nash, a longtime member of the **Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra** under Wynton Marsalis, is celebrated for his bold and imaginative approach to composition. His work bridges generations and genres, creating an ongoing conversation between the spoken word and the freedom of jazz improvisation.

In this special Long Island presentation, Nash and his sextet will be joined by a distinguished group of **Long Island community leaders** who will deliver live readings of the historic speeches that inspired each movement:

- **Sandra Krasnoff**, Co-Chair, Tilles Center for the Performing Arts Board of Advisors — reading John F. Kennedy "Ask Not What Your Country Can Do for You"
- **Sunny Thakkar**, Founder, Sneh Arts & Sneh Arts Foundation, Artistic Director of Music, Indo American Arts Council — reading Jawaharlal Nehru "Tryst with Destiny"
- **Erika Floreska**, President, LI Children's Museum — reading Winston Churchill "We Shall Fight on the Beaches"

- **Winthrop Roosevelt**, Great Great Grandson of Theodore Roosevelt — reading Franklin D. Roosevelt "The Four Freedoms"
- **Eric Krasnoff**, Chairman, LIU Board of Trustees — reading Ronald Reagan "Tear Down This Wall"
- **Gina Wouters**, President and CEO, Planting Fields Foundation — reading Aung San Suu Kyi "Freedom from Fear"
- **Shuvendu Sen, MD, MS, FACP**, Vice-Chair of Research/Academic Collaborations and Core Faculty at the Jersey Shore University Medical Center — reading Lyndon B. Johnson "The American Promise"
- **Dr. Isma H. Chaudhry, MD. MPH**, Past President & Chair, Islamic Center of LI — reading Nelson Mandela "The Time for the Healing of the Wounds Has Come"

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Ticket Information: Purchase subscriptions and single tickets at tillescenter.org or ticketmaster.com, in-person at Tilles Center's Tantleff Box Office or by telephone at 516.299.3100. The box office, located at 720 Northern Boulevard (Route 25A) in Brookville, New York, is open Monday to Friday from 1 to 6 p.m. Fees are associated with all orders, and there are no refunds, though subscribers also enjoy exchange privileges.

ABOUT THE GUEST SPEAKERS

Sandra Krasnoff

A graduate of NYU School of Law, Krasnoff began her career in corporate law at Carter, Ledyard & Milburn before joining Pall Corporation, where she rose to Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary. She now devotes her time to philanthropy and education, serving as Co-Chair of the Tilles Center Board of Advisors and Chair of the Board of Directors of Virtual Enterprises International, a nonprofit bringing real-world business education to thousands of students nationwide.

Sunny Thakkar

Born into a musical family in Gujarat, Thakkar has dedicated his life to promoting Indian classical and contemporary arts. A healthcare educator and Clinical Coordinator at Manhattan University, he also leads Sneh Arts and serves as Artistic Director of Music for the Indo-American Arts Council, curating programs that celebrate South Asian culture and foster cross-cultural exchange.

Erika Floreska

A former flutist turned arts leader, Floreska has led major cultural institutions including the Bloomingdale School of Music and Tectonic Theater Project. Before joining Long Island Children's Museum, she spent more than a decade at Jazz at Lincoln Center expanding its global education and community programs.

Winthrop Roosevelt

Winthrop Roosevelt is a communications and public affairs specialist with over a decade of experience in New York City media relations, government affairs, and crisis communications. He is a great-great-grandson of President Theodore Roosevelt.

Eric Krasnoff, Chairman, Long Island University Board of Trustees

Krasnoff is the retired Chairman and CEO of Pall Corporation and a leading business executive on Long Island. His philanthropic work supports higher education, healthcare, and the performing arts through his ongoing leadership at LIU and Tilles Center.

Gina Wouters, President & CEO, Planting Fields Foundation

Wouters is a museum leader dedicated to preserving and reimagining historic estates. Before joining Planting Fields, she served as Curator at Vizcaya Museum and Gardens and as Vice President of Museum Affairs at Cheekwood Estate and Gardens. Originally from the Netherlands, she holds a Ph.D. in Museum Studies from

the University of Leicester.

Shuvendu Sen, MD, MS, FACP, Vice-Chair of Research/Academic Collaborations and Core Faculty at the Jersey Shore University Medical Center

He received his post graduate training in Internal Medicine from Raritan Bay Medical Center and Nuclear Medicine from Weill Medical Center, Cornell. Prior to these he pursued Master of Science degrees in Molecular Biology and Pharmacology from Long Island University.

Recipient of the Castle Connolly Top Doctors Award, and the Presidential Award from the Office of the President of the United States, Dr. Sen has a long-distinguished career of teaching and patient care.

Published by the *New York Times*, Dr. Sen's Nautilus Award winning book, *Why Buddha Never Had Alzheimer's* has been translated into several languages and made into a documentary that was selected to be screened at the United Nations and the Cannes Film Festival.

Dr. Sen has been credited for many pioneering contributions, including the creation of the Surgical Technology program at Long Island University, and advocacy for the opioid crisis and healthcare for formerly incarcerated individuals.

Dr. Sen has been an invited speaker at the United Nations, World Parliament of Religions, Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, City University of New York, among others and has appeared at various media outlets including CNN, MSNBC, and PBS.

Dr. Sen is also a filmmaker whose recent Documentary, *Broadway, Bars and Fortune* on formerly incarcerated individuals and their indomitable courage to return to their lives, has been acknowledged globally by major film festivals and social justice institutions.

Dr. Isma H. Chaudhry, MD, MPH, Past President & Chair, Islamic Center of Long Island

Dr. Chaudhry is a physician, educator, and interfaith leader recognized for her work in health equity and community engagement. The first female president and chair of the Islamic Center of Long Island, she serves as Executive in Residence at Hofstra University's Public Health Programs and advises organizations on diversity, inclusion, and cultural humility.

ABOUT TILLES CENTER

Tilles Center for the Performing Arts at Long Island University's mission is to engage and enrich our community through arts performance, education, and advocacy. For more than 40 years, Tilles Center has hosted and presented more than 50 performances each season by world-renowned artists in music, theater, and dance. The nonprofit also supports thousands of children and adult learners each year through its robust arts education programs, providing arts experiences to underserved communities — from low-income school districts and those on the autism spectrum to local seniors. Tilles Center is located at LIU Post, 720 Northern Blvd, Brookville NY. Learn more at tillescenter.org.

ABOUT LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY (LIU)

Long Island University, founded in 1926, continues to redefine higher education, providing high quality academic instruction by world-class faculty. Recognized by *Forbes* for its emphasis on experiential learning and by the Brookings Institution for its "value added" to student outcomes, LIU has a network of over 285,000 alumni, including industry leaders and entrepreneurs around the globe. Visit liu.edu for more information.

ABOUT CATHOLIC HEALTH

Catholic Health is an integrated system encompassing some of the region's finest health and human services agencies. The health system has nearly 17,000 employees, six acute care hospitals, three nursing homes, a home health service, hospice, and a network of physician practices.

MISSION

Tilles Center for the Performing Arts, part of Long Island University, is committed to entertaining and enriching the community through arts performance, education, and advocacy.

2025/26 SPONSORS

Season Sponsor: Catholic Health

Jazz Programming: Sandy and Eric Krasnoff, and Dime Community Bank

Speaker Series: Eileen and Jonathan Otto, and SterlingRisk

Family Programming: Northville Industries

Chamber Music: The Honorable Roger B. Tilles

Additional support provided by Dori and Peter Tilles, Capital One, The Guru Krupa Foundation, Poll Restaurants, Salvatore and Mary Ranieri, Jadwiga Brown in remembrance of Donald Brown, London Jewelers, Ruskin Moscou Faltischek, TD Bank, The Claire Friedlander Family Foundation, Green Vale School, Friends Academy, Portledge School, Buckley Country Day School, Diana and Randy Plotnitzky, Brenda and Jason Wilensky, McLaughlin & Stern, and Long Island Speech & Myofunctional Therapy.

Dance performances are made possible, in part, by the Eric and Sandy Krasnoff Dance Endowment Fund.

Classical music performances are made possible, in part, by the Classical Music Fund in honor of Dr. Elliott Sroka. With additional funding provided by Manuel H. and Claire Barron, the Joan and David Steinberg Annual Endowed Concert Fund, the Cosmo H. Guarriello and Lissa V. De Angelis Happiness Fund, Ruth Stober and The Stober Lafer Family Foundation.

Speaker Series supported, in part, by The Claire Friedlander Family Foundation, Eugene Alletto, Joseph Capone, Joan and Ed Doherty, Kenneth Faltischek, Susan and Tim Gomes, Amanda and Seth Greenfield, Richard Horowitz, Sabrina and Jahn Levin, Stanley Lomangino, Susan and Jeffrey Lee Moore, Moritt Hock & Hamroff LLP, Cherie and Mayor Dan Serota, Joanne and Scott Silverman, and Mark and Candy Udell.

Tilles Center's presenting program receives funding from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature.

Funding for Arts Education

Curtains Up! Series and School Partnership Program: The Arlindo and Evelyn Jorge Family Foundation, Salvatore and Mary Ranieri and Jovia Financial Credit Union

Sensory Friendly Initiatives: The Fay J. Lindner Foundation, New York Community Trust – Long Island, and The Theresa Foundation

Music, Moments & Memories: Cona Elder Law and Northeastern Aviation

Additional support for arts education provided by the Barbara Bell Cumming Charitable Trust, Assemblymember Charles D. Lavine, The Kroll Family, and Jim Krantz.

Arts Education Programs are made possible, in part, by the Gilbert and Rose Tilles Endowment for Arts Education. Additional leadership support provided by the annual *Swing for Kids Tournament*.

Capital Improvement Fund

Support for capital projects provided by the Estate of Dolores and Herbert Goldsmith, Dori and Peter Tilles, and the Tantleff Family. With additional support from the Estate of Irwin Fingerit, and the Estate of Virginia Marshall.