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NAMT's A Toast to 20!, with LaChanze, Leavel, Kennedy, Gets and Chase, Presented Oct. 19

By Adam Hetrick



Tony Award winner Beth Leavel.

The National Alliance of Musical Theatre celebrates 20 years of new musicals with *A Toast to 20!*, a benefit concert at Comix on Oct. 19.

Drowsy Chaperone Tony winners Beth Leavel and Bob Martin host the 6 PM concert highlighting such past NAMT musicals as *Children of Eden*, *Songs for a New World*, *Striking Twelve* and the Broadway-bound *The Story of My Life*.

Jamie deRoy serves as honorary chair for the fundraiser, which has direction by Casey Hushion and musical direction by Lynne Shankel.

A roster of Broadway performers are scheduled to perform, many of whom revisit the musical roles they originated, including Lauren Kennedy (who sings from *Vanities*), LaChanze (*The Bubbly Black Girl...*), Malcolm Gets and Will Chase (*The Story of My Life*), Gavin Creel (*Thoroughly Modern Millie*), Rob Sapp (*Honk!*), Bobby Steggert (*Harold & Maude*), Ryan Driscoll (*Summer of '42*) and Tony winner Leavel, who will perform from *The Drowsy Chaperone*.

Also lending their voices to the concert are Nikki Renee Daniels, who performs from *Children of Eden*; Courtney Balan and Stephanie D'Abruzzo, who offer tunes from *I Love You Because*; as well as *Cry-Baby*'s Michael Buchanan and Andrew C. Call, who perform from *Songs for a New World*, alongside Chelsea Krombach and Cathryn Basile.

The NAMT Festival of New Musicals officially gets underway Oct. 20-21. The industry-only event provides eight new musicals a platform for greater exposure to potential producers and regional companies seeking to aid in the development of new work.

Founded in 1985 and based in New York City, The National Alliance for Musical Theatre is a national service organization dedicated exclusively to musical theatre. Kathy Evans is the executive director for the organization with members sprinkled throughout 33 states and six countries.

For tickets to *A Toast to 20!*, priced \$85, visit [NAMT](http://NAMT.org).

Comix is located at 353 West 14th Street in Manhattan.

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