

2021-2022 LIVE AT HERITAGE CENTER
PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

A CenterStage Series Event



Uptown: MOTOWN REMIXED

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2021 | 7:30 P.M.
JOHN AND ALICE BUTLER HALL

ARTISTICALLY
resilient

CAST

Uptown: MOTOWN REMIXED

Ali Llacer
Bradford Bell
Derrick Leonard

Joel Walker.....Director
Dekar Justus & The BodyguardsBand
Dekar JustusDrums/MD
Curtis Jones II (LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY) Bass
Sergio Santos (LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA) Guitar
Marcus Walker (LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY)..... Keys

UPTOWN started their career in early 2017 with dedication, youthful energy, and a passion for their craft that they continue with to this day. From their humble beginnings in Harlem NYC, they have managed to spread their unique perspective on Motown/Soul to audiences all over the globe. Members of UPTOWN have been seen on *The X-Factor* (USA), NBC's *The Winner Is*, *POP STARS* (SA), and they have performed at top notch venues around the globe. But what gives UPTOWN its edge over their contemporaries is how unique their perspective is on the classics. Their signature style can be seen in their choreography, arrangement, and contemporary attack of their content which is all curated by UPTOWN.

@uptownsoul | www.uptownofficial.com

This event is a part of the University of Dubuque's Captain Robert L. Martin Black Heritage Tribute program initiative.

The show will be performed without an intermission.

Photography and recording are strictly prohibited during this presentation.

Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices prior to the performance.

Support for this presentation has been provided by the City of Dubuque Arts and Culture Special Projects Grant Program.

CAST BIOS



ALI LLACER: A San Francisco native, Ali has had great opportunities traveling and exploring the world, starting out working for Universal Studios Japan in the city of Osaka where he resided for two years. He sailed the seas with well-known cruise ship companies, performing some of the best shows from Broadway award-winning choreographers. His passion for acting and dance has led him to numerous roles in popular musicals throughout the years and to being a hip hop choreographer to colleges and studios. His journey has now landed

him with a super group of talented, brother-like men. Get ready, UPTOWN is about to give you a journey you won't forget.



BRADFORD BELL: Bradford has captivated audiences through song and dance since early childhood. His focus in musical theater and dance landed him an international tour of *Hairspray* (Seaweed), and acceptance into Broadway Dance Center's summer internship program in New York City. He has held the national title of "Mister Dance" and has received numerous awards as a master choreographer throughout the United States. Because of Bradford's passion for all genres of music, he began to sing background vocals in North

Carolina with some of gospel industry's best. In 2010, he became a lead vocalist for Royal Caribbean Cruiseline leading him to various cities throughout the world. He most recently tours with the incredible UPTOWN group. Theaters, casinos, and cruise ships have housed this dynamic trio. Bradford continues to remain humble and grateful for the ability to serve and share his gift with the world.



DERRICK LEONARD: Born in New York City, Derrick has spent the last few years making a name for himself as an up-and-coming, sought after performer. Having worked the stage at major events, such as The Java Jazz Festival in Jakarta and The United Nations Ambassadors Ball in NYC, as well as appearing on national television shows such as *The X-Factor*, *America's Got Talent*, and *The Winner Is*, he's put in the work to cultivate his talent into a budding career. Derrick is thankful to his family for supporting his love of music and to his UPTOWN brothers

for sharing the stage with him in this amazing tribute to the artists who inspired him.



JOEL WALKER (Director): Originally from Richmond, Virginia, Joel fell in love with singing while performing in his high school show choir. Since then, his talents have provided him a plethora of diverse opportunities from modeling and television appearances to Broadway musicals like *Hairspray* (Seaweed). Joel is elated to be paying tribute to the great artists that paved the way for his success, and he sends his love to all the teachers, family, and friends who guided him along the way. @Sky_walkerunlimited

DEKAR JUSTUS (Drums/MD): Born and raised in small town Evansville, Indiana, Dekar is a drummer, producer, and singer/songwriter. His musical talents and highly undeniable fashion sense landed him opportunities to tour. From venues in cities across the United States to cruise ships, Dekar has appeared with a great deal of musical talent. @dekarjustus

Mark your calendars

UPCOMING EVENTS



CAPTAIN ROBERT L. MARTIN

Black Heritage Tribute Kick-Off Event

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2021 | 6:30 P.M. (FREE ADMISSION!)



BLACK BOY

Literature to Life

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2021 | 3:00 P.M.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2021 | 7:30 P.M.



STEPHEN HAMILTON

John and Alice Butler Pipe Organ Recital Guest Artist

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2021 | 3:00 P.M.



COLIN MOCHRIE'S HYPROV WITH MASTER HYPNOTIST ASAD MECCI

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2021 | 8:00 P.M.

Media support for this performance provided by:

TELEGRAPH HERALD



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