

Wharton Center for Performing Arts presents the
11th Annual Sutton Foster Awards Showcase
MAY 21 / Fisher Theatre

Host
Kyle Taylor Parker

Director
Brad Willcuts

Musical Director
Steven Cuevas

Choreographers
Natalie Malotke
and Morgan Rose

Musical Arranger
Jacob Yandura

Associate Musical Director
Julian Goods

Lighting Designer/
Technical Director
Donald Fox

Stage Manager
Mike Peters

Assistant Stage
Manager
Becca Bedell

Judges
Kelli Crump

Natalie Malotke

Tiffany Sims

Musicians
Guitar
Neal Wright

Bass
Greg Platter

Drums
Matthew Dudek

Sponsored by Wharton Center Institute for Arts & Creativity.
Supported by MSU Federal Credit Union; Piper & Gold Public
Relations; with additional support from Nancy Passanante.

A special Thank You to Ambassador Theatre Group

PROGRAM

Tribute Medley to Sutton Foster
Welcome, Host Kyle Taylor Parker
Character Medley Performances
2023 Technical Theatre Awards
Tribute Medley to Tin Pan Alley

INTERMISSION

Finalists Announced
Executive Director Eric Olmscheid
Finalists' Individual Performances
Weekend One Production Number
2023 Excellence in Musical Theatre Education Award
Weekend Two Production Number
2023 SFA Winners/Jimmy Award Nominees
Closing Number

Today's performance will run approximately two hours and 30
minutes, including one 15-minute intermission.

SUTTON FOSTER AWARDS

The Sutton Foster Awards program is a state-wide educational initiative celebrating Michigan high school musical theatre. The program is open to all Michigan high schools regardless of location, school size, or musical budget. The year-long program culminates in the Sutton Foster Awards Showcase you will see today.

The Sutton Foster Awards program has grown significantly over the past year, from 23 participating schools in the 2022 SFA Showcase to 53 schools today. This growth has provided for the engagement of more than 100 students in learning opportunities throughout the year, and more than doubled the number of students participating in today's 2023 Sutton Foster Awards Showcase.

Wharton Center partners with fellow Michigan Broadway presenter—Broadway In Detroit—to host the 2023 Awards Showcase. Today's program features 125 high school students performing selections from their school musicals and a variety of Broadway medleys.

THE NOMINEES' JOURNEY

All of today's performers are hoping to become Michigan nominees for The National High School Musical Theatres Awards (The Jimmy Awards®) to be held in New York City later this spring. Performers were selected based on their participation in their respective high school musicals; each musical was reviewed by a panel of three expert adjudicators, who selected students to appear in today's Showcase. Once nominated, students were also invited to participate in one of two Workshop and Audition

Weekends held earlier this month. During these weekends, the students experienced one-on-one vocal coaching with voice professionals, learned music and choreography for a musical theatre arrangement [production number] custom-designed for each weekend, and auditioned for a panel of judges.

All 125 students came together yesterday to rehearse and stage today's 2023 Sutton Foster Awards Showcase.

PROGRAM STAFF

Laurie Briseño

Ben English

Bert Goldstein

Kelly Stuible-Clark

Interns

Jaylin Coleman

Travis Hunt

Connor Reilly

Alex Soper

Hope Still