DAVIS-WALDORF PERFORMING ARTS SERIES | DWPAS 26TH SEASON



ACCIDENTAL HERO: PATRICK DEWANE

Thursday, Nov. 12th, 2026 | 6:30 p.m.
Te Ata Memorial Auditorium

This season is an inspiring lineup that celebrates American history. For the past 26 years, the Davis-Waldorf Performing Arts Series has been a part of our campus and community. Under the leadership of our president, Dr. Kayla Hale, we have seen the community embrace us. This season we are celebrating what it means to be an American. Celebrating our music, history, events, dance, and art.

This project of the USAO Foundation continues to be one of the most vital ways that our campus mission engages with the community at large; we love the impact that the performing arts have on our local economy, on the creative culture of our town and on the dreams of students, both on campus and in our K-12 schools. Witnessing students seeing a live performance for the first time is truly magical. Whether you are returning here as a continuing member, or you are a new addition to the DWPAS family, we hope this season is filled with wonder, delight, pride, recollections, and joy.

Welcome to our campus and welcome to our 26th season.

Emily Hector Godwin, M.A.,

Davis Waldorf Performing Arts Series Executive Director

Adjunct Professor of Dance & Drover Dancer Coach

DAVIS-WALDORF PERFORMING ARTS SERIES | DWPAS 26TH SEASON



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2027
6:30 P.M.

AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS

HISTORY THROUGH HARMONY.

THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2027
6:30 P.M.

STRAY CATS' LEE ROCKER

STRAY CATS FOUNDER AND BASS PLAYER HALL OF FAMER.



SEASON TICKETS $90
ADULT SINGLE TICKET $25
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USAO.EDU/DWPAS



OKLAHOMA Arts



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This project was supported in part by the Oklahoma Arts Council,
which receives support from the State of Oklahoma
and the National Endowment for the Arts.



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Dr. Nancy and Mr. George Hector

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Empowering the Arts

The **USAO Foundation** proudly supports the performing arts, fostering creativity and cultural enrichment, ensuring that students and the community have access to diverse, **high-quality performances** on campus.

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USAO Foundation
University of Science & Arts of Oklahoma



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Thursday, October, 8, 2026



145TH ARMY BAND
Sunday, November 8, 2026
2 pm Matinee Only



OKLAHOMA CITY PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
Tuesday, December 8, 2026



PIANOMANIA
Thursday, February 4, 2027



OU SCHOOL OF DANCE
Thursday, March 11, 2027



TOMMY DORSEY ORCHESTRA
Thursday, April 22, 2027

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Davis-Waldorf Performing Arts Series is to regularly present professional performing arts events, facilitate student attendance at these shows as an important part of a liberal arts education, provide affordable entertainment for our college family and our community, and lead local arts education by creating access to high-quality, relevant, culturally diverse programming that broadens the aesthetic of each audience member.

STEERING COMMITTEE

Dr. Christy Clift

Sara Baird

Susan Gearhart

Kyla Patterson

Katie Davis, MFA

Brianne Kollmorgen

Amber Heilman

Sam Fraize

HONORS CREW

Ollie Bowman
Giselle Castillo
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Cortlin Hudson
Haven Hudson
Whitley Jeffcoat
Envy Perez
Avery Sanborn
Kaden Thompson
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Lavender Wilson

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Jeff Rutherford, Technical Director for the School of Visual & Performing Arts
Students of the Theatre Lab class
Sara Baird



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CHICKASHA AREA Arts COUNCIL



Accidental Hero: Patrick Dewane

Organized by Emily Hector Godwin

Most veterans' stories go untold. I was a pallbearer at my grandpa's funeral. And because he never talked about the war when he was alive, I just assumed we had buried his war stories along with him. Little did I know that for years the old man had been writing about his WWII experiences. We lived near my grandparents and would visit them often. But little did I know that while we were upstairs playing spoons with grandma, he was in the furnace room of his basement typing, chain smoking, and replaying the war.

Twenty-three years after his funeral, my sister discovered his unread manuscript in a box in my aunt Jean's basement. For many decades, his story was as untold as your uncle's, or your mom's, or your mailman's, or perhaps your own. We are only here tonight because of my grandfather's obsession to write, and my sister's curiosity about what he might have left behind. His manuscript sent my life off in a completely different direction, my ticket to my first visit to Chickasha.

He grew up on a farm, and raised his family in a town in Wisconsin of about 10,000 residents. I'm from the same place, and have come to realize that small towns often have a different relationship with the branches of the military than do the big cities. It's one of the reasons I like coming to communities like yours. You know his type, the old guy at the diner who seems as ordinary as a couple of soft-boiled eggs, coffee, and buttered toast. But his manuscript surprised me because he wrote as much about growing up on a farm, and about his Czech heritage, as he did about his stint in the Army. The Czech part of his story meant virtually nothing to him until the end of the war. If he thought about his Czech heritage at all, it was as an obstacle to be overcome on his way to the American Dream. To me, being Czech meant even less until I read his manuscript. Now I think about it nearly every day.

Veterans Day is a national holiday to honor all who have served in the Armed Forces. So tonight, I dedicate the show to those who wore the uniform, particularly the ones who never talked about it. Grandpa's story is but a fill-in for the millions of stories that have gone untold.

SUPPORT THE SERIES!

