CODA INTERNATIONAL & THE BELLA LUNAS PRESENT

CODAS
GOT★TALENT

CODALEAGUE 2024 CONCERT FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY, 9 MARCH 2024
3PM - 5:30PM (PST)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SINGER/ACTOR</th>
<th>PERFORMANCE TYPE</th>
<th>SKILLS/ARTISTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CODA TEAM</td>
<td>Video: Introduction and Welcome to CODA</td>
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<tr>
<td>SHEENA RICE</td>
<td>Live: Welcome and Vision for CODAS GOT TALENT</td>
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<tr>
<td>TRACI ISON</td>
<td>Live: MC Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>DAVID BURNS</td>
<td>Live: Piano Performance: <em>The Walls Came Tumbling Down</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>OREL BARAJAS</td>
<td>Video: Dip Hop ASL Music Video: <em>Deaf Mona Lisa</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Original recording produced and sung by artists</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Orel Barajas: ORL B THA CODA (Coda)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Warren Snipe; Wawas World (Deaf)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sammy Cruz; Defstar (Deaf)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Nicar Bocalan; DJ Nicar (Hearing)</td>
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<tr>
<td>DANE LENTZ</td>
<td>Video: ASL Song Interpretation: <em>You Will Be Found</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>GUNILLA KARLSSON</td>
<td>Video: A Message from the President of CODA International</td>
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<tr>
<td>MELISSA CAYTON</td>
<td>Live: Hula Dancing, Singing, ASL Music Interpretation</td>
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<tr>
<td>HALF-n-HALF</td>
<td>Live: Musically Inspired ASL Storytelling</td>
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<td>SHERRY HICKS</td>
<td>Sherry Hicks (Coda)</td>
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<td>MICHAEL VELEZ</td>
<td>Michael Velez (Coda)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SHERRY HICKS</td>
<td>Live: Musically Inspired ASL Storytelling</td>
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<tr>
<td>MYA RENA HUNTER</td>
<td>Video: Singer: <em>I (Who Have Nothing)</em></td>
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<td>ROBERT RHoads, Jr.</td>
<td>Video: Singer, Songwriter and ASL Interpretation: <em>The Path</em></td>
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<td>ARLENE MALINOWSKI</td>
<td>Live: Solo Dramatist: <em>What Does The Sun Sound Like</em></td>
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<td>JILL SHEFFIELD</td>
<td>Video: Singer, Songwriter and ASL StoryTeller: <em>True Story</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>THE BELLA LUNAS</td>
<td>Live: Singers/Songwriters, ASL Music Interpretation</td>
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<td>SHEENA RICE</td>
<td>Sheena Rice (Coda)</td>
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<td>RHEA MAKARIAS</td>
<td>Rhea Makaris (Hearing)</td>
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<td>LILY MOLINA</td>
<td>Lily Molina (Deaf)</td>
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<td>CODA TEAM</td>
<td>Live: Acknowledgments</td>
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**Traci Ison** is a CODA and has been a sign language interpreter for most of her career. Traci considers herself an activist and is committed that the world sees the true contribution that Deaf leadership is. Traci is also a personal performance coach, a leader in the interpreting community, and an entrepreneur at heart. Her passion is the journey of life-long learning.

www.traciison.com

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**The Bella Lunas:**

**Rhea Makiaris, Sheena Rice, and Lily Molina**

Kismet brought The Bella Lunas together in San Diego, California in 2022 and the vibrant trio immediately bonded over their love of music, creativity and American Sign Language. **Rhea**, a versatile singer-songwriter and ASL Interpreter, showcases her powerful, raw musical talent and exceptional vocals. **Sheena**, a CODA (Child of a Deaf Adult), brings her velvety vocals and passion for perfectly blended harmonies. **Lily**, a Deaf artist, wowed the other ladies with her unique ASL rhythmic renditions of visual music. Rhea and Sheena's voices and instruments blend together in angelic harmonies, weaving intricate patterns of sound that captivate audiences. Yet it is Lily, a Deaf artist and performer, who introduces a completely new dimension with American Sign Language. They are graceful together with the music as it creates a mesmerizing experience you can see, hear, and feel.

*Instagram: @asl.bella.lunas  www.aslbellalunas.com*

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**Arlene Malinowski** is a Chicago-based solo artist, writer, actor and CODA who is snowbirding in San Diego. Her award-winning solo shows have been produced across the country and abroad. She is a resident playwright at Chicago Dramatist where she teaches solo and story. She is to her knowledge the only actor to have appeared in Shakespeare’s Measure for Measure AND Doogie Howser in the same 24 hours.

www.arlenemalinowski.com
Melissa Cayton-Lawrentz is an influential figure in the deaf community. As an actor, singer, and professional Polynesian dancer, she utilizes sign language to form powerful connections and evoke profound emotions in her audiences. With a deep commitment to sign language preservation, Melissa serves as a director and coordinator of the Preservation of the Chamoru Sign Language Project, showcasing her dedication to this cause. Her passions intertwine her active leadership by dedicating over 30 years by sitting on boards with Deaf clubs and organizations. Additionally, she is a recognized ASL YouTube influencer and the visionary behind the ASL competition "Signing Idol." Through her contributions to ASL comedy productions and her direction of ASL plays, Melissa champions inclusivity, representation, and the immense talent of ASL performers. Raised on the island of Guam and residing in the Pacific Northwest, Melissa's multifaceted talents and unwavering commitment to sign language leave a lasting impact. Visit: www.empowerguamdeaf.com

Half-n-Half: Sherry Hicks and Michael Velez CODA performers bring love and "musically inspired ASL storytelling" for all to see and hear! Celebrating their 29th anniversary of collaboration in creative works in blending ASL, music, and storytelling with their signature craft “musically inspired ASL storytelling.”

This dynamic duo delights audiences everywhere. Their work is truly a "feast for the eyes."

Contact us: sherryhicksthe@gmail.com

David Burns was born to deaf parents who encouraged him to embrace music because at an early age, his parents observed David playing his late grandfather’s piano and were told that he plays quite well. David goes to Cedars Sinai and County General Hospital and volunteers to play the piano for those who are present and in need of Music for Healing. He has performed at notable events and was the lobby pianist at the famous Roosevelt Hotel in Hollywood for many years. He has played for many celebrities such as: Bill Clinton, Jane Seymour, Loni Anderson, Alex Trebek, Shirley MacLaine and Barbra Streisand, just to mention a few. David was in charge of the Green Room for the Actor’s Fund, the green room for the TONY Awards, Los Angeles and Master of Ceremonies for the American Diabetes Association’s Health Expo held at the Los Angeles Convention Center with over 20,000 in attendance.
**Mya Rena Hunter** is an actress and singer and CODA from Houston, TX. She is currently traveling on the road with the Broadway National Tour of *Les Misérables* performing in the role of Éponine! Mya discovered her musical talent growing up singing in her church’s choir. After becoming involved in her high school’s production of The Wiz, Mya decided to pursue further education at Howard University in Washington, D.C., where she recently graduated with her BFA in Musical Theatre.

*Instagram: @mya.rena*

**ORL B THA CODA (Orel Barajas)** is a Father, a partner, a CODA, a musician, and a sneaker-head. He’s a Mexican-American California native. He has a passion for making and signing music with the goal of changing the industry to be more visual and accessible.

*Instagram: @orl_b_that_coda*

**Jill Sheffield** is a CODA from Louisiana, but has been living in Atlanta Metro for over 20 years. While Jill has played guitar for many years, she only started songwriting and playing at open mics 3 years ago. She has completed 14 songs that are not yet recorded, one of which will be performed at the upcoming San Diego CODALeague 2024 Conference.

*Email: jillsheff@gmail.com*

**Dane Lenz** is a multi-hyphenate CODA from Fremont, California. He started performing when he picked up a saxophone in 7th grade and hasn’t stopped since. He has over 30 theatre credits on his resume - including *SHREK, Sweeney Todd, RENT*, and coming this Spring, *THE MUSIC MAN*. Dane loves performing - not for the attention, but because there are many stories that deserve to be heard. Tonight, you get to experience part of his story. Follow his antics on *Instagram @danetrain512*
Robert Rhoads Jr is a CODA by birth, an interpreter by choice, and a musician by design. His music career began with the violin and piano, before he pursued higher education in music composition. He has always had a dream to write music for film. In 2023, Robert acted onstage in two separate theatre productions of A Raisin in the Sun; the first which took place at the Atlas Theater in Washington, DC - in which Robert held the only fully spoken and non-signing role in a mixed Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing/CODA cast. For eight years now, Robert works as an ASL Interpreter and has since found new applications in combining his many passions to share a more personal message and creative dream with a wider audience.

Instagram: @rrhoadss
YouTube: @musicallyinclinedify

SAN DIEGO CODALEAGUE 2024 CONCERT FUNDRAISER -- ASL COMMUNITY EVENT

CODAS GOT TALENT

THE BELLA LUNAS
ASL + MUSIC = MAGIC

Traci Ison - EMCEE

Sherry Hicks and Michael Velez
Arlene Malinowski
David Burns
Melissa Cayton

FEATURED ONLINE PERFORMERS

Mya Rena Hunter  Orel Barajas  Jill Sheffield  Dane Lentz  Robert Rhoads Jr.
Calling all Codas!

If one or both of your parents is deaf and you are over 18 years old, consider joining CODA International.

Even better, join us at the CODA League Conference, June 20-23 in San Diego, CA. It promises to be an unforgettable event for all!

You can find membership and conference information at the CODA International website

WWW.CODA-INTERNATIONAL.ORG
**Thank you to all of our generous donors**

$1,000.00 Plus
Ella Lentz and Judy Gough
Louise Arklin and David Burns

$500.00 – 999.00
Cody Firks
Lisa Field
Thomas Bull

100.00 – 499.00
Abigail Coyer
Daniel Candido
Daniel Nakaji
Daniel Taryane
David Lee
Denise Denn
Derek Wallace
Harlan Menkin
Jacanita Harris
Jacob Harris
John and Beth Ann Crouch
JoJo Sullivan
June Bilgore
Larry Stoudt-Studenmund
Madison Bold
Maria Johnson
Marina Lavelle
Marla Hatrak
Matthew Fager
Michelle Froman
Nancy Williams
Robert Salcido
Sarah Baer
Sarah Hafer
Stephanie Swaggerty
Tami Meeks
Wendy Kim

$5.00 – 49.00
Abigail Long
Allison Cam
Alvina Malcolm
Amanda Hays
Andrea Medlock
Andrea Wilhelm
Annette Miner
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Babi Rozgay
Babetta Popoff
Bianca Hoffmeister
Brendan Kelly
Bret Rydzon
Briana Trujillo
Carla Dupras
Caroline Greene
Cecilia Finnigan
Chelsea Hull
Cheryl Molina
Christina Healy Collister
Dana S. Huitt
Daniel Roche
Darcy Benson
David Leiton
Dawn Wells
Diane Carrone
Diane Jones
Dorene Turner
Emily Pacheco

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Gunilla Karlsson
Helen Denham
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Jac Terrio
Janet Calcaterra
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Jennifer Finnigan
Jennifer Sheffield
Jewel Jauregui
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Joe Demaras
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John Izaguirre
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Sasha Lewis
Sean Havas
Sean Jones
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Stacey Alcott
Taylor Booth
Tazi Hartmann
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