

INSPIRED

A CONVERSATION WITH
MISTY COPELAND

Sunday, March 31, 7:30 PM

A BENEFIT TO SUPPORT
NORTHROP'S YOUTH PROGRAMS



PHOTO: © Brad Trent

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KARI SCHLONER, DIRECTOR OF NORTHROP

Good evening! I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you for joining us for this very special program featuring Misty Copeland and benefiting Northrop's youth programs. These programs give thousands of Minnesota K-12 students access to world-class dance presentations each year, as well as opportunities to engage in a personal way with the artists who perform. These experiences have a lasting impact on the young people we serve, just

as Misty Copeland's experience with ballet at age 13 had a lasting impact on her. Misty's message is in perfect alignment with Northrop's vision and is a shining example of how the boundless power of arts and education ignite transformation in each individual, inspiring positive change in our world. It is because people like you recognize the importance of arts access for youth that Northrop can provide these opportunities to the students in our communities. Thank you for partnering with us to make Minnesota a better place to learn and grow.



ANTONE AND GENEVIEVE MELTON-MEAUX, EVENT CO-CHAIRS

We are so excited to join the Northrop family in welcoming Misty Copeland! Her story of community, perseverance, and triumph resonate deeply with us. Misty Copeland's message is a further reflection of Northrop's outstanding and diverse programming. Northrop has been an influential thought-leader attracting world-renowned speakers and diverse voices to campus.

The program's focus on supporting Northrop's rich educational and engagement programs is especially important and timely. At a time when school budgets for the arts are often diminishing, Northrop is stepping up and providing a platform for thousands of students to experience the most prestigious dance companies in the world. Equally important, by attending Northrop performances, the students are coming to the University of Minnesota campus and seeing a glimpse of life as a college student. This rich and meaningful access to campus for young people can be life changing.

Thank you for being part of this special event. With your support, we are confident that these additional resources will empower Northrop to offer even more transformative experiences for young people through the celebration of the arts.

THIS EVENING'S PROGRAM

- Event Co-Chairs Antone and Genevieve Melton-Meaux
- Director of Northrop Kari Schloner
- Master of Ceremonies Robyne Robinson
- Special Guest Lea Thompson
- Honored Guest Misty Copeland
- PiM Arts High School Students
- The University of Minnesota School of Music, Jazz Musicians
Varun Chandrasekhar, Guitar; Austin Meyer, Vibes; Chris Peracoro, Bass
- University of Minnesota Goldy Gopher

OUR SPECIAL GUESTS



PHOTO: © Gregg Delman

MISTY COPELAND is an artist, author, and ambassador renowned for being the first African-American woman promoted to ballet's highest level of principal dancer at American Ballet Theatre. Copeland's passion is giving back to underprivileged communities. She has worked with many charitable organizations and is dedicated to giving her time to work with and mentor young girls and boys.



ROBYNE ROBINSON is Principal Art Consultant for her firm, fiveXfive, and well known as a pioneering Twin Cities news broadcaster with several Emmys to her credit. She is the former Director of Arts at Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport and is the creative mind behind ROX Jewelry Designs, sold throughout the US, Greece and London.



A proud native of Minnesota, actress **LEA THOMPSON** is most famously known as Lorraine McFly in *Back to the Future I, II, and III*, as Caroline in *Caroline in the City*, and as Kathryn Kennish on *Switched at Birth*. As a young dancer, she performed often on the Northrop stage with Minnesota Dance Theatre.



NORTHROP MISSION AND VISION

MISSION

Rooted in the belief that the arts are essential to the human experience, we are committed to cultivating intersections between performing arts and education for the benefit of all participants now and for generations to come.

VISION

Directly aligned with the teaching, research, and service mission of the University, Northrop is a catalyst that uses the boundless power of arts and education to ignite transformation in each individual, inspiring positive change in our world.

BECOME A FRIEND OF NORTHROP

MAKE LEGENDARY PERFORMANCES POSSIBLE!

At Northrop, we believe in sharing great artists and ideas with a new generation of audiences. Your support helps make extraordinary arts experiences accessible to everyone through outreach to diverse communities, rich and varied programming, and subsidized student tickets. Our Friends are at the center of Northrop's biggest ideas and brightest moments on stage.

Become a Friend of Northrop today! Donate online at northrop.umn.edu/support-northrop or contact Cynthia Betz at 612-626-7554 to learn more about supporting Northrop.



NORTHROP YOUTH PROGRAMS

Northrop has presented more than 6,000 events since the grand reopening in 2014. More than 1.2 million visitors—many of them young people—have attended these events. Northrop's signature Dance Season has been the region's premier presenter of national and international ballet and contemporary dance companies for more than 50 years. This Dance Season, Northrop will welcome nearly 10,000 fifth through twelfth grade students to experience high-quality performing arts that will enlighten and challenge this next generation of global citizens.

By removing barriers with low-cost tickets and subsidized busing, Northrop engages students in meaningful experiences, discussions, and exploration through live performances. In collaboration with University of Minnesota faculty, Northrop aligns its matinee programming with MN Education Standards and provides resources to enhance student learning, both before and after the performances.

Northrop provides free or greatly reduced tickets and busing for students to attend our performances and events. With many community partners, Northrop annually:

- helps over 400 families attend performances through Project SUCCESS
- assists nearly 10,000 K-12 students in providing low-cost tickets
- provides over \$15,000 in busing, supporting more than 150 schools
- offers over 700 free tickets through smARTpass, the arts access program available through Metropolitan Library Service Agency
- provides over 225 free tickets through Hope Kids to children, families, and caregivers

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The Mill Northeast
The Museum of Russian Art
The O'Shaughnessy Auditorium
The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra
Bill Venne and Douglas Kline
Walker Art Center
Wuollet Bakery
Xcel Energy Center/Minnesota Wild



PHOTO: ©Tim Rummelhoff

THANK YOU!

We offer a special thanks to our partners for helping to make this event possible. We greatly appreciate their support for our performances and for our Youth Programs at Northrop:



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THANK YOU FOR JOINING US FOR THIS INSPIRING EVENING!

INSPIRED EVENT COMMITTEE:

Antone Melton-Meaux, Co-Chair
Genevieve Melton-Meaux, Co-Chair
Cynthia Betz
Jeff Bieganek
Dr. Robert Bruininks
John Conlin
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Danielle Robinson-Prater
Kari Schloner
Trisha Taylor
Donald Williams

Artists and programs are subject to change. The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.



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Follow the prompts to make your gift.

THANK YOU!

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