



**Western
Music**

Don Wright Faculty of Music

**FRIDAYS AT 12:30 SERIES
PICTURES AT A GENDER[*] EXHIBITION**

Friday, February 27, 2026
12:30 p.m., von Kuster Hall and [via livestream](#)
Dr. Christopher Cayari, *performer*

Pictures at a Gender[*] Exhibition:
Musical Theatre Vignettes about Gender [Non-Conformity]

Stars and the Moon from <i>Songs for a New World</i>	Jason Robert Brown
The Song that No One Likes	Sarah Smallwood Parsons
Not My Father's Son from <i>Kinky Boots</i>	Cyndi Lauper and Harvey Feirstein
I'm Not That Girl from <i>Wicked</i>	Stephen Schwartz
Times Are Hard for Dreamers from <i>Amélie</i>	Daniel R. Messe and Nathan Tyssen
You'll Be Back from <i>Hamilton</i>	Lin-Manuel Miranda
I Will Prevail from <i>Wonderland</i>	Frank Wildhorn and Jack Murphy
As If We Never Said Goodbye from <i>Sunset Boulevard</i>	Andrew Lloyd Webber, Christopher Hampton, and Don Black
Goodbye from <i>Catch Me If You Can</i>	Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. **Christopher Cayari** (he/they; @ DrCayari on all the social media) is an associate professor of music at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana and a Fulbright Specialist in ethnic, cultural, Asian-American, gender, and sexuality studies.

Prior directing credits include Wisconsin Singers (University of Wisconsin-Madison), vocals for the Purdue University Jazz Bands, and various musical theater shows for the Illini Student Musicals (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign). He has maintained a private voice studio since 2000, now located in the Chicago Loop, West Lafayette, and online. Christopher is an accomplished researcher-performer who blends research and art through autoethnography, a way to research society through exploring one's own lived experiences. Their one-person musical theater research revues & cabarets have been performed across the US, Canada, and the UK.

Their show, *Pictures at a Gender[*] Exhibition*, premiered off- Broadway at the Musical Theater Educators Alliance conference in 2023 and won 2026 Outstanding Audio/Visual Project (International Association on Autoethnography and Narrative Inquiry), and they has also been a featured performer in *Trans Voices Cabaret Chicago*, *Chicago Cabaret Professionals*, and *TRANScend Music Foundation of NYC*. Other research foci are musical media, informal music learning, virtual communities, video game music, and identity. His research also addresses marginalized voices in music education, specifically sexuality- and gender-diverse individuals (queer identities) and racial minorities. Accolades include 2021 Outstanding Emerging Researcher Award (Center for Music Education Research), 2015 Outstanding Dissertation Award (Council of Research in Music Education), and 2017 Outstanding Ally Award (Purdue LGBTQ+ Cultural Center). Their mission in academia is to give voice to those who are often silenced, muted, or ignored.

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