

Monday, October 13, 2008

Leavel, LaChanze, Creel & More to Perform at NAMT Benefit

By Broadway.com Staff



Beth Leavel

A starry cast has signed on for *A Toast to 20!*, a benefit concert commemorating the National Alliance of Musical Theatre's 20th annual Festival of New Musicals. The program, which will highlight hits from past Festivals, will take place on October 19 at Comix, hosted by Tony Award winners Bob Martin and Beth Leavel (*The Drowsy Chaperone*, Festival 2004). The evening will be directed by Casey Hushion, with music direction by Lynne Shankel.

In addition to Leavel, who will perform a number from *Drowsy*, the benefit concert will feature Nikki Renee Daniels (*Children of Eden*, 1996), Lauren Kennedy (*Vanities*, 2006), LaChanze (*The Bubbly Black Girl Sheds Her Chameleon Skin*, 1998) Stephanie D'Abruzzo and Courtney Balan (*I Love You Because*, 2005), Malcolm Gets and Will Chase (*The Story of My Life*, 2007), Gavin Creel (*Thoroughly Modern Millie*, 1996), Robb Sapp (*Honk!*, 1999), Michael Buchanan, Andrew C.

Call, Chelsea Krombach and Cathryn Basile (*Songs for a New World*, 1997), Bobby Steggert (*Harold and Maude*, 2003), Lauren Pritchard and Andrew C. Call (*Striking 12*, 2004) and Ryan Driscoll (*Summer of '42*, 1999).

The invitation-only Festival of New Musicals brings together leading theater producers and musical theater writers, with the goal of furthering the development and production of new musicals. For more information about the National Alliance for Musical Theatre and the *Toast to 20!* benefit concert, go to www.namt.org.