



WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS

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Washington Performing Arts to carry on legacy of the World Affairs Council – DC through mission-aligned programming

Washington, D.C. – Washington Performing Arts, the [National Press Club](#), and the World Affairs Council – DC Chapter have announced that, upon the dissolution of the WAC-DC at the end of 2018 after 38 years in the community, its mission would carry on through programming produced by both Washington Performing Arts and the NPC. Both organizations' existing programming, notably Washington Performing Arts' [World In Our City](#) initiative and NPC's speaker series, align naturally with the WAC-DC's own programs and offer extensive opportunities for education and entertainment from a global perspective.

Washington Performing Arts' ongoing initiative *The World In Our City* promotes cross-cultural understanding and cultural diplomacy in all dimensions of its programming, onstage and off. Through its main stage presentations at the Kennedy Center, Strathmore, Sixth & I, and other venues across the region, audiences experience a wide array of both well-known and emerging international artists traveling to the U.S. In addition, Washington Performing Arts' Mars Urban Arts Initiative provides a platform for local artists with international backgrounds and allows for deeper engagement and discussion around season-spanning themes.

WAC-DC members will be invited to attend *World In Our City* events as a natural extension of the programming previously offered by the WAC-DC. Donors of WAC-DC will be welcomed into the Washington Performing Arts Friends Program for an 18-month introductory period, enjoying numerous ticketing benefits and invitations to special events throughout the season. WAC-DC donors will also be offered discounted tickets to upcoming *World In Our City* concerts including **Kronos Quartet** (March 2), **Anoushka Shankar** (March 23), **Chucho Valdés** (April 6), **Dreamers' Circus** (April 10), and **Yevgeny Kutik** (April 23). In addition, all WAC-DC subscribers are invited to attend the free simulcast of the world premiere of *Dreamers*, a new oratorio by Jimmy López and Nilo Cruz, on March 17. There will be numerous "Expanding the Conversation" events surrounding the premiere of *Dreamers*, sponsored by the Mars Urban Arts Initiative, exploring the timely theme of immigration through performances and discussions with a range of artists, advocates, and policy-makers.

ABOUT WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS

One of the most established and honored performing arts institutions in America, Washington Performing Arts has more than a half-century history of serving artists, audiences, students, and civic life. The city is truly our stage: in venues ranging from concert halls and clubs to public parks, we present a tremendous range of artists and art forms, from the most distinguished symphony orchestras to both renowned and emerging artists in classical music, jazz, international genres, and more.

Washington Performing Arts deeply values its partnerships with local organizations and other arts institutions. Through events in myriad performance venues and neighborhoods, Washington Performing Arts engages international visiting artists in community programs and introduces local artists to wider audiences. We place a premium on establishing artists as a continuing presence in the lives of both young people and adults through residencies and educational programs.

Our achievements have been recognized with a National Medal of Arts and with two Mayor's Arts Awards from the D.C. Government. We have embarked upon our next half-century with the goals of expanding our commitment to excellence and rededicating ourselves to the motto of our founder, Patrick Hayes: "Everybody in, nobody out."

ABOUT *THE WORLD IN OUR CITY*

The World In Our City celebrates the diversity of our international city, an expression of cultural diplomacy that has been integral to Washington Performing Arts' mission since our founding in 1966. In response to the international community around us, Washington Performing Arts aims to provide a window on what it means to be a citizen of the world through a unique, arts-based lens.

Now well into the 21st century, that aim is culturally and strategically crucial. Some of Washington Performing Arts' most important programs focus on accentuating international cultural understanding and exchange, as well as building an educated workforce of cultural citizens. Washington Performing Arts brings this to life through performances in both formal and informal venues around Washington by spotlighting visiting and local artists and ensembles whose creative work, advocacy, and identity are grounded in connections to their homes of origin, as well as through vibrant cross-cultural collaborations.

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