



**WASHINGTON  
PERFORMING ARTS**  
We make it happen

**FOR RELEASE:  
April 24, 2018**

## **WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS ANNOUNCES PROGRAMMING FOR 2018/19 SEASON**

**Several artists explore the motif of “home” against a backdrop of memory and vulnerability, including Kronos Quartet, Vusi Mahlasela, Yevgeny Kutik, West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, and Jimmy López**

**Programs carefully matched to venues throughout the city to heighten audience experience including Yo-Yo Ma at Washington National Cathedral, Hilary Hahn at the Kennedy Center Terrace Theater, and Chucho Valdés at Sixth & I**

**Five orchestras including D.C. debut of West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, Czech Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, Royal Concertgebouw, and Philharmonia Orchestra of London**

**Two local ensembles-in-residence, VeVe & tha Rebels and DuPont Brass, as part of Mars Urban Arts Initiative**

[View season brochure.](#)

[View chronological calendar of events \(PDF\).](#)

April 24, 2018—Washington Performing Arts has just announced its 52<sup>nd</sup> annual season, comprising 40 events across six venues in the Greater D.C. region. Furthering the defining “Everybody in, nobody out” philosophy of the organization’s founder, Patrick Hayes, the season embraces both diversity and innovation on many levels: presenting an expansive range of artistic styles and genres; representing the traditions of many cultures, including the artistic riches to be found in D.C. itself; commissioning and premiering new works; presenting dream projects of many of today’s most prominent artists; nurturing the careers of emerging artists;

and uniting main stage concert programming with robust education and community initiatives through artist residencies and both new and long-term institutional partnerships.

“Through their work and creative choices, artists have always captured and conveyed the spirit of our time,” said Jenny Bilfield, President and CEO of Washington Performing Arts. “Our goal has long been to provide them with a platform to do their best, most resonant work. We were drawn to programs and collaborations that are gutsy and unusual, and to projects where humanist topics are probed with tenderness and insight. We invite our audiences to join us with open ears, minds, and hearts.”

## Home

Several artists on the 2018/19 season explore the theme of “home”—seeking not only to express what home means to them, but also to remind audiences that, for many, home is still a vulnerable, uncertain concept that needs to be preserved and protected—or, sometimes, *expanded*. In a co-presentation with the Kennedy Center, Washington Performing Arts welcomes the **West-Eastern Divan Orchestra**—founded in 1999 by Daniel Barenboim and Edward Said as a model of co-existence for Israeli, Palestinian, and other Arab musicians—for its D.C. debut under the direction of **Daniel Barenboim**, with cellist **Kian Soltani**, winner of the 2017 Leonard Bernstein Award, as soloist. In a program titled “Music for Change: The Banned Countries,” the **Kronos Quartet** performs works by composers from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen (the seven predominantly Muslim “banned countries”), as a poignant artistic response to the 2017 Executive Orders limiting travel to the U.S. Washington Performing Arts continues to be a partner in **Fifty for the Future: The Kronos Learning Repertoire** initiative.

Belarusian-American violinist **Yevgeny Kutik** performs Russian works drawn from a single suitcase of sheet music that his family brought to the U.S. when they fled the Soviet Union—a small but powerful reminder of home. The program will also include new works commissioned by Washington Performing Arts from composers Andreia Pinto Correia and Gity Razaz. And **Vusi Mahlasela**, national treasure of South Africa and “The Voice” of the anti-Apartheid movement, furthers his message of peace and compassion at the helm of his always sensational band.

As a response to ongoing cultural discussions on immigration and access to the U.S., Washington Performing Arts will **simulcast the West Coast premiere (at U.C. Berkeley’s Cal Performances) of Jimmy López’s *Dreamer***. A courageous oratorio with a libretto by **Nilo Cruz**, *Dreamer* was co-commissioned by Washington Performing Arts, Cal Performances, Stanford Live, and the University Musical Society. The story, while fictional, weaves together life stories gathered for this project from immigrants who have come to the U.S. in search of a better

future. **Esa-Pekka Salonen** will lead the **Philharmonia Orchestra of London** and soprano **Ana María Martínez** from U.C. Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall. The simulcast will be surrounded by several activities throughout the week, curated by the Mars Urban Arts Initiative in partnership with GALA Hispanic Theatre and Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School.

The theme of "Home" dovetails with Washington Performing Arts' multi-year "The World in our City" initiative, a demonstration of commitment to cultural diplomacy through the arts via mainstage, education, and community events. This season's "World In Our City" comprises more than 20 events from artists around the world, including: sitar virtuoso and cross-genre artist **Anoushka Shankar**, who explores her Indian classical roots in two shows at Sixth & I (in the vein of her packed-house engagements there in 2017); Afro-Cuban jazz icon, six-time Grammy-winner, and three-time Latin Grammy-winner **Jesús "Chucho" Valdés** in an intimate solo performance; the **Danish String Quartet**, performing a program of all-Scandinavian folk music; and the young, adventurous Danish trio **Dreamers' Circus**, who share a violinist with the Danish String Quartet and also draw inspiration from the traditional music of their home country. Also on the season is the return of the **Czech Philharmonic** to D.C. for the first time under its new Music Director **Semyon Bychkov**, for an all-Czech program that pays homage to its homeland and features **Alisa Weilerstein** (performing Dvořák's Cello Concerto) in her first of two appearances this season.

### **Recitalists in Concert**

Not bound to any one building or performance space, Washington Performing Arts **has the rare flexibility to call multiple stages across D.C. "home."** The 2018/19 season features landmark presentations by established artists in venues that will directly shape and inform the artistic experience for performers and audiences alike.

As part of a two-year journey that will bring Bach's complete solo Cello Suites to a limited number of locations on six continents, beloved cellist and humanitarian **Yo-Yo Ma** presents this program in the spectacular environment of the Washington National Cathedral, a venue rarely used by Washington Performing Arts, but a sacred, welcoming space ideally suited for the monumental power of both the artist and the program. The choice of repertoire is motivated not only by its significance to Ma's own career—the Cello Suites are among the first works he ever played—but also by Bach's ability to speak universally. In Ma's own words: "I believe that during times of stress, confusion, and insecurity, we should share sources that offer comfort, purpose, and meaning. Bach does that."

The stage at the Kennedy Center Terrace Theater will host multiple recitals, including three-time Grammy-winner **Hilary Hahn**, whose own program of all-solo Bach is a perfect fit for this intimate setting. Pianist and MacArthur “Genius” Award recipient **Jeremy Denk**, before teaming up with colleagues Joshua Bell and Steven Isserlis later in the season, explores several sets of variations, from Beethoven’s Five Variations on “Rule Britannia” to John Adams’ *Pocket Variations* to Mendelssohn’s *Variations sérieuses*. Cellist **Steven Isserlis**, also making repeat appearances this season, brings a program entitled “Composers and their Muses,” including two works arranged by the cellist (Clara Schumann’s 3 Romances and Holmès *Minstrel’s Chant*).

Violinist **Gil Shaham** makes his long-awaited return to Washington Performing Arts in a program ranging from the matchless harmonic intricacy of Bach to the drama and fireworks of Avner Dorman’s *Nigunim*. Pianist **Evgeny Kissin** makes a second appearance this season in a solo recital of Chopin, Schumann, Debussy, and Scriabin. **Sir Andrés Schiff** performs repertoire from his Hungarian countryman Béla Bartók, among others.

Taking Erik Satie’s atmospheric and mysterious compositional form—the “Gnossienne”—as inspiration and point of departure, ever-inventive pianist **Simone Dinnerstein** presents a centuries-spanning program of works in which (in Dinnerstein’s own words) “each composition evokes an act of worship from a service that no one has ever attended.” The concert includes Couperin’s *Les Barricades Mystérieuses*, Philip Glass’ *Mad Rush*, Satie’s *Gnossienne* No.3, and Schumann’s *Kreisleriana*.

### “Only in D.C.” Events

Washington Performing Arts continues to expand its footprint in the greater D.C. community through extensive intersections among concert, education, and community programming. **Sir James Galway** is recognized as a flute master and exemplary pedagogue. A regular teacher at the Galway Flute Academy (alongside his wife, Lady Jeanne Galway), Sir James brings his expertise to Washington Performing Arts’ 2018/19 season in a public master class. Washington Performing Arts **celebrates the life and legacy of esteemed pianist and pedagogue Leon Fleisher** on the occasion of his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with an evening of solo and duo works, performed by the legend himself in collaboration with pianists **Katherine Jacobson** and his protégé **Jonathan Biss**. The evening also includes a Q&A with *Washington Post* critic Anne Midgette, who co-authored Fleisher’s memoir.

**The Mars Urban Arts Initiative** 2018/19 ensembles-in-residence **VeVe & tha Rebels** and **DuPont Brass** come together for a double bill that showcases some of the most vibrant performing and teaching artists in D.C. Truly a musical representation of what it means to call

D.C. “home,” these two bands will work closely with Washington Performing Arts’ educational and community programs throughout the season to empower the voices and stories of students and community.

2019 marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passing of Alton Glenn Miller, creator of the U.S. Army Air Forces Band and considered by many to be one of the most popular American recording artists of all time. Washington Performing Arts Artist-In-Residence (and host of WAMU’s *The Big Broadcast*) **Murray Horwitz** emcees a free Glenn Miller tribute concert—staged as a radio broadcast—starring today’s iteration of the **U.S. Air Force Band** with guest soloists.

For more than 25 years, **Washington Performing Arts’ Gospel Choirs** have shared the inspirational gift of gospel music with audiences throughout the D.C. region and beyond. The choirs’ annual concert with the Choral Arts Chorus, honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., **Living the Dream...Singing the Dream**, is a joyful celebration of the power of music and the human spirit (co-presented with the Choral Arts Society of Washington). Washington Performing Arts will **close its season with gospel music on a grand scale** with the **Men and Women of the Gospel** and the **Children of the Gospel**, who take the stage together in an evening of inspiration and jubilation.

### **Artistic Collaborations & Commissions**

The season brings into focus the connections among artist, cultures, traditions and innovation. Rhythm that binds the varied traditions of jazz, bluegrass, and traditional Indian music together will form the undercurrent to the performance of three masterful colleagues: bassist **Edgar Meyer**, tabla player **Zakir Hussain**, and banjo player **Béla Fleck**. Violinist **Itzhak Perlman** and pianist **Evgeny Kissin**—who also appears in recital later in the season—present violin sonatas by Beethoven and Brahms, with additional works to be announced at a later date. In the spirit of their critically-acclaimed album, *For the Love of Brahms* (2016), violinist **Joshua Bell**, cellist **Steven Isserlis**, and pianist **Jeremy Denk** reunite for an evening of Mendelssohn, Shostakovich, Ravel, and Rachmaninoff. Isserlis and Denk will both appear in solo recitals earlier in the 2018/19 season.

**Philharmonix** is a unique ensemble that brings together three members of the Vienna Philharmonic and Berlin Philharmonic Orchestras for repertoire that spans classical, jazz, klezmer, Latin music, pop, and more. Another fascinating collaboration features four prominent voices on the international scene—cellist **Alisa Weilerstein** (in her second appearance this season), pianist **Inon Barnatan**, violinist **Sergey Khachatryan**, and percussionist **Colin Currie**—coming together to explore chamber music re-imaginings of orchestral masterworks.

The 2018/19 season includes a number of programs that boast new or recent works—and in many cases, intriguing artistic collaborations and commissions. Inspired by a text by painter Georgia O’Keefe, pianist **Lara Downes** channels her creativity into a program entitled *Holes in the Sky*, a Washington Performing Arts co-commission, comprising solo and ensemble works that pay tribute to past and present female composers and poets. Her special guest is instrumentalist/composer/singer and MacArthur “Genius” Award–winner **Rhiannon Giddens**. The program includes seven new works by composers Sarah Kirkland Snider, Elena Ruehr, Julia Adolphe, Angélica Negrón, Reena Esmail, Laura Karpman, and Eve Beglarian.

Additionally, the Kronos Quartet performance noted above will include signature Kronos-commissioned works along with new compositions from their *Fifty for the Future* commissioning project.

### **Orchestra Series**

Washington Performing Arts **proudly presents four orchestras** at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall this season, each performing works that define or relate to their homeland or sense of belonging. In addition to the landmark event that features the **Philharmonia Orchestra**, and the aforementioned **Czech Philharmonic** and the **West-Eastern Divan Orchestra**, ensembles also appearing this season at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall are: the **Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra** under the direction of music director **Daniele Gatti**, with pianist **Pierre-Laurent Aimard** as soloist for Beethoven’s “Emperor” Piano Concerto; and **Michael Tilson Thomas** conducts his composition *Agnegram* as he makes his final appearance in D.C. as music director of the **San Francisco Symphony**.

### **Hayes Series**

Emerging talents on the national and international stage are presented each year at the Kennedy Center Terrace Theater as part of the **Hayes Series**, established in 1996 in honor of Washington Performing Arts founder Patrick Hayes and his wife, the pianist and educator Evelyn Swarhout Hayes. With the ability to meld the accordion into sounds associated with a harpsichord, organ, or quartet, **Hanzhi Wang**, in collaboration with the **Zorá Quartet**, will be stunning to watch and a fantastic season opener (co-presented with Young Concert Artists). Gold Medalist of the 2017 Van Cliburn Competition, **Yekwon Sunwoo** will take the stage for a program that features Strauss, Schubert, and Brahms. Hailing from Wisconsin and trained at Curtis and Juilliard, twin sisters **Christina and Michelle Naughton** explore four-hand and two-piano repertoire by familiar composers in less familiar works. Protégé of Sir Andrés Schiff and

Alfred Brendel, Hungarian pianist **Dénes Várjon** pays homage to his homeland with works by György Kurtág, Schumann, and others.

### Jazz Luminaries

**Washington Performing Arts' jazz events** continue to offer luminaries of the genre and a broad spectrum of artists from every generation performing in a variety of jazz styles that range from the mainstream to programs infused with a global flavor. In addition to the aforementioned **Jesús "Chucho" Valdés**, this season, Washington Performing Arts welcomes the great **Dr. Lonnie Smith**, a legend of the Hammond B-3 organ and a virtuosic NEA Jazz Master.

Now with a second "Best Jazz Vocal Album" Grammy to her credit—awarded this year for *Dreams and Daggers*—Washington Performing Arts welcomes the return of **Cécile McLorin Salvant** under the banner of the legendary Monterey Jazz Festival (co-presented with Strathmore), fronting a quintet of rising stars: **Melissa Aldana** (tenor sax), **Yasushi Nakamura** (bass), **Bria Skonberg** (trumpet), **Christian Sands** (piano/music director), and **Jamison Ross** (drums and percussion).

Bronx-born bassist, composer, and longtime Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra veteran **Carlos Henriquez** leads his Octet in a tribute to trumpet legend and bebop pioneer Dizzy Gillespie, composer of the seminal Afro-Cuban jazz standards "Manteca" and "Tin Tin Deo."

### Partners & Community

Washington Performing Arts provides educational opportunities in the performing arts for youth, adults, and seniors that enrich and engage D.C.'s diverse community in a broad spectrum of activities designed to encourage creativity, participation in and an appreciation for these art forms. The award-winning Capital Arts Initiative; Men, Women and Children of the Gospel Choirs; Enriching Experiences for Seniors; Embassy Adoption Program (in partnership with D.C. Public Schools and Embassies); Mars Urban Arts Initiative; Misbin Chamber Music Competition in partnership with Levine Music; Feder Memorial String Competition; and artist residencies ensure that the arts are accessible beyond the concert hall, with programs and events encompassing all eight of D.C.'s wards. **DC Keys**, a new component of the Capital Arts Program partnership between Washington Performing Arts and D.C. Public Schools, introduces piano literacy to classrooms through the work of locally based fellows chosen explicitly for their creative, imaginative teaching styles. As of August 2017, every DCPS elementary school and education campus has 12 Yamaha keyboards in its music classroom.

The **Mars Urban Arts Initiative** was created by Washington Performing Arts in 2014 to fuel joint planning between Washington Performing Arts and grassroots neighborhood arts makers, local

businesses, arts institutions, and local residents. This season, the Mars Urban Arts Initiative introduces two ensembles in residence: VeVe & tha Rebels and DuPont Brass, who will perform together at Sixth & I on April 27 and will be closely involved in Washington Performing Arts' educational and community programming throughout the season. The Mars Urban Arts Initiative is generously supported by Jacqueline Badger Mars and Mars, Incorporated.

Washington Performing Arts' five-year partnership with the **Kronos Quartet** revolves around the "World in our City" signature **Embassy Adoption Program**, a partnership with the D.C. Public Schools that annually connects 75+ embassies and global partners with 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade public school classrooms for a year of focused, global learning. This project is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts. The partnership is simultaneously part of the revolutionary ensemble's ambitious **Fifty for the Future: The Kronos Learning Repertoire** initiative. As a **Legacy Partner** in this program, Washington Performing Arts is part of a consortium that will annually commission new works for Kronos Quartet from a non-American composer and bring each work to life through performances and the Embassy Adoption residency. The initiative is devoted to the most recent approaches to the string quartet and designed expressly for the training of students and emerging professionals.

### **2018/19 Season Subscriptions**

Subscriptions go on sale to the general public Tuesday, May 8, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. at [WashingtonPerformingArts.org](http://WashingtonPerformingArts.org), by phone at (202) 785-9727, and in person at the Washington Performing Arts Ticket Office, located at 1400 K Street NW, Suite 500. A series of advance sales periods for Friends (annual donors) begins Wednesday, April 25, at 9:30 a.m. A complete listing of 2018/19 season artists and events will be available online as of April 24 at [WashingtonPerformingArts.org](http://WashingtonPerformingArts.org).

### **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 nourishes communities throughout the region by partnering with local organizations and other arts institutions, staging concerts and arts activities in the

neighborhoods, involving internationally known main-stage performers in community programs, and presenting locally based artists to a wider audience. We place a premium on establishing artists as a continuing presence in the lives of both young people and adults through sustained 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."