



WASHINGTON
PERFORMING ARTS
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2019/20 CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF PRESENTATIONS

OCTOBER

Sunday, October 13, 2019 at 7 p.m.

Pink Martini
with special guest Meow Meow
Kennedy Center Concert Hall

How do you say “Wow!” in 25 languages? The members of the globe-trotting “little orchestra” Pink Martini surely know, based on their multilingual songbook infused with Argentinean tango, Brazilian samba, Japanese pop, good ol’ American swing, and more. The *Guardian* hails them as “an international phenomenon...mixing glamour and sophisticated easy-listening.” The show opens with a set from Pink Martini’s good friend Meow Meow, the crowd-surfing Australian “tragi-comedienne” and chanteuse who “drags cabaret kicking and screaming into the 21st century” (*Time Out, New York*).

Parental advisory: This performance may include some adult content.

Wednesday, October 16, 2019 at 8 p.m.

Melbourne Symphony
Sir Andrew Davis, chief conductor
Garrick Ohlsson, piano
Kennedy Center Concert Hall

What makes the Melbourne Symphony so special? As Sir Andrew Davis, their Chief Conductor, told the *Guardian*, “They perform with great virtuosity, but what really sets them apart is their love of what they do. Not all orchestras manage this.” The program features repertoire from both the Northern and Southern hemispheres, including the late, eminent Australian composer Peter Sculthorpe’s *Earth Cry*, a call for humanity to attune itself to the land, inspired by Aboriginal poetry.

SCULTHORPE - *Earth Cry*
BEETHOVEN - Piano Concerto No. 4 in G Major, Op. 58
RAVEL - *Ma mère l'Oye (Mother Goose Suite)*
STRAVINSKY – *The Firebird*

Saturday, October 19, 2019 at 2 p.m.

Hayes Piano Series I
Drew Petersen, piano
Kennedy Center Terrace Theater

Drew Petersen is what you might call an overachiever: Carnegie Hall debut at age five; graduation from Harvard at age 19; and an American Pianists Awards winner and Avery Fisher Career Grantee in his early twenties. The wellspring of all these achievements—as you will experience firsthand this October—is a crispness, ebullience, and depth of emotion rare at any age. In the words of composer/pianist Lukas Foss: “What is so astonishing about Drew [is] that he feels the music, he can make it come alive again, make you touched by it.”

BACH - Partita No. 5 in G Major, BWV 829
SCHUBERT - *Wanderer-Fantasie*
CHOPIN - Barcarolle, Op. 60
GRANADOS - *Valses Poeticos*
BARBER - Sonata, Op. 26

Tuesday, October 29, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

Spektral Quartet
Kennedy Center Terrace Theater

Experience the incandescent music of composer Anna Thorvaldsdottir, “one of the most distinctive voices in contemporary music” (NPR), with *Eclipse*, a work that explores the outer reaches of space through Thorvaldsdottir’s signature Icelandic sound. The 2019 Grammy-nominated Spektral Quartet is one of America’s most innovative chamber ensembles, having commissioned over 85 composers, including George Lewis, Marcos Balter, and Augusta Read Thomas. Spektral’s approach provokes discovery in beloved classics and curiosity in works of living composers.

TOMÁS LUIS DE VICTORIA - *O Magnum Mysterium*
ELIZA BROWN - String Quartet No. 1
BEETHOVEN - Quartet No. 16 in F Major, Op. 135
ANNA THORVALDSDOTTIR - *Eclipse* (East Coast premiere; A Washington Performing Arts co-commission)

Mars Arts D.C. curates a series of residency events throughout the city, in conjunction with the D.C. premiere of Eclipse. Details to be announced.

Wednesday, October 30, 2019 at 8 p.m.

Chick Corea Trilogy
with Christian McBride & Brian Blade
The Music Center at Strathmore

It doesn't get more "A-list" than this! Jazz piano legend, NEA Jazz Master, and 22-time Grammy-winner Chick Corea takes the stage in an evening of near-telepathic interplay with two of the music's most elite Gen-X masters: the mind-boggling bass virtuoso and 6-time Grammy-winner Christian McBride and Brian Blade, "one of those rare jazz drummers artistically powerful enough to direct the sound of a whole ensemble" (*New York Times*). Reigniting the chemistry of their namesake 2013 disc, the Trilogy deliver up-to-the minute takes on the Great American Songbook, Corea originals, and more.

NOVEMBER

Friday, November 15, 2019 at 8 p.m.

Taipei Symphony Orchestra
Jahja Ling, conductor
Paul Huang, violin
Felix Fan, cello
The Music Center at Strathmore

Celebrating its 50th anniversary this season, the Taipei Symphony has grown from an ensemble of modest scale to a forceful musical presence known for its breadth of programming, extensive international appearances, and commitment to cultural diplomacy. The program's centerpiece, Gordon Shi-Wen Chin's poetic Double Concerto, features the prodigious talent of two Taiwan-born, U.S.-based virtuosos: Paul Huang, a winner of the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant and a cherished collaborator on many Washington Performing Arts seasons; and Felix Fan, the relentlessly creative, cross-disciplinary cellist and member of the Flux Quartet for whom this concerto was written. On the podium is Jahja Ling, widely credited as an orchestra-builder who led the now-thriving San Diego Symphony to great renown as its music director.

BERNSTEIN - Overture to *Candide*

GORDON SHI-WEN CHIN - Double Concerto for Violin, Cello, and Orchestra

BRAHMS - Symphony No. 1 in C minor, Op. 68

Saturday, November 16, 2019 at 8 p.m.

Amjad Ali Khan
Sixth & I

Having established himself as the world's preeminent sarod player over the course of a distinguished career spanning more than six decades, Amjad Ali Kahn brings his expressive sound to the intimate confines of Sixth & I for a family affair with his sons Amaan Ali Bangash and Ayaan Ali Bangash, both "excellent musicians" (*New York Times*) in their own right. The power trio of sarod players join forces to create "a 57-string three-man symphony orchestra" (*The Times*) in this superb performance of Indian classical music, a living tradition that runs seven generations deep in the family.

Sunday, November 17, 2019 at 2 p.m.

Hayes Piano Series II

Zoltán Fejérvári, piano

Kennedy Center Terrace Theater

A protégé of Sir András Schiff, Hungarian pianist Zoltán Fejérvári equally thrives performing major concerti with the Budapest Festival Orchestra, chamber music with the Musicians of Marlboro, and recitals from major venues across Europe to Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall. As Germany's *Kultur-Vollzug* described his impact in recital: "Fejérvári's playing is multi-layered and precise.... Every note has its own particular dynamic, character, and expression."

JANÁČEK - Piano Sonata 1.X.1905 "From the Street"

SCHUBERT - *Drei Klavierstücke*, D. 946

JANÁČEK - *In the Mists*

CHOPIN - Sonata No. 2 in B-flat minor, Op. 35

DECEMBER

Saturday, December 7, 2019 at 8 p.m.

Damien Sneed

Sixth & I

Pianist, organist, vocalist, conductor, composer, producer, arranger, and educator Damien Sneed does it all, whether it's writing an opera for the Lyric Opera of Chicago or serving as musical director for BET's *Sunday Best*. In this holiday show replete with singers and a band, *Joy to the World: A Christmas Musical Journey* takes listeners through Sneed's original arrangements of gospel, jazz, and classical holiday favorites.

JANUARY

Wednesday, January 22, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

Kian Soltani, cello

Julio Elizalde, piano

Kennedy Center Terrace Theater

Kian Soltani is a familiar face to many WPA patrons, having appeared in November of last season as a soloist in the "title role" of Strauss's *Don Quixote* with Daniel Barenboim and the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra—earning praise from the *Washington Post* as "a wonderful cellist with dazzling intonation and clarity of sound extending to the instrument's highest register." In this much more intimate performance, he joins acclaimed pianist Julio Elizalde for a program that ranges from Beethoven's spirited fifth cello sonata to Arvo Pärt's mesmerizing *Fratres*.

STRAVINSKY - *Suite Italienne*
BEETHOVEN - Cello Sonata No. 5 in D Major, Op. 102, No. 2
ARVO PÄRT - *Fratres*
FRANCK (ar. DELSART) – Sonata in A Major

Saturday, January 25, 2020 at 8 p.m.

Midori, violin
Jean-Yves Thibaudet, piano
The Music Center at Strathmore

Violin superstar Midori and “master colorist and ... great communicator” (*Seattle Times*) Jean-Yves Thibaudet team up for their first Washington Performing Arts appearances in more than a decade to celebrate Beethoven’s 250th birthday year. Anchored by the exhilarating “Kreutzer,” which, in the *Washington Post’s* words, “[has drawn] more out of Midori than mere virtuosity,” the all-Beethoven recital promises to reveal how even mainstays of the canon can reveal fresh nuances and kindle powerful emotions in the hands of two masterful performers.

BEETHOVEN – Sonata No. 2 in A Major, Op. 12, No. 2
BEETHOVEN – Sonata No. 3 in E-flat Major, Op. 12, No. 3
BEETHOVEN – Sonata No. 9 in A Major, Op. 47 “Kreutzer”

Sunday, January 26, 2020 at 7 p.m.

Living the Dream...Singing the Dream
Washington Performing Arts Gospel Choirs
Michele Fowlin & Theodore Thorpe III, artistic directors
Stanley J. Thurston, artistic director emeritus
Choral Arts Society of Washington
Scott Tucker, artistic director
Kennedy Center Concert Hall

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., is a joyful celebration of the power of music, collaboration, and the human spirit.

Co-presented with the Choral Arts Society of Washington

Performances by the Children of the Gospel Choir are made possible in part through the generous support of Jacqueline Badger Mars and Mars, Incorporated.

FEBRUARY

Saturday, February 1, 2020 at 3 p.m.

Anne-Sophie Mutter, violin

Lambert Orkis, piano

Kennedy Center Concert Hall

Longtime collaborators Anne-Sophie Mutter and NSO principal keyboardist Lambert Orkis reprise their Grammy Award-winning interpretation of three of Beethoven's spectacular violin sonatas on the occasion of the composer's 250th birthday. The "timeless team" (*Classical Review*) of Mutter and Orkis bring their decades of shared dialogue to the iconic "Kreutzer," lyrical "Spring," and quirky A minor sonatas.

BEETHOVEN – Sonata No. 4 in A minor, Op. 23

BEETHOVEN – Sonata No. 5 in F Major, Op. 24 "Spring"

BEETHOVEN – Sonata No. 9 in A Major, Op. 47 "Kreutzer"

Saturday, February 8, 2020 at 8 p.m.

Kinan Azmeh's CityBand

Kinan Azmeh, clarinet

Kyle Sanna, guitar

John Hadfield, percussion

Josh Myers, double bass

Sixth & I

Perhaps best-known to WPA audiences as a member of Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Ensemble, Kinan Azmeh is equally astounding for his virtuosity on clarinet and his versatility as composer, improviser, and band leader. His polished and pulse-quickening CityBand (featuring guitar, double bass, and percussion) lives and breathes its musical roots—spanning jazz, contemporary, folk, and classical music—alongside the deeply resonant musical influences of Azmeh's own Syrian homeland.

Saturday, February 15, 2020 at 8 p.m.

Melissa Aldana

Sixth & I

Recently seen and heard with Cécile McLorin Salvant in WPA's "Monterey Jazz Festival on Tour" concert, Chilean-born tenor saxophonist Melissa Aldana has a storybook résumé: a saxist since age six, she was playing pro gigs as a teenager when she found an early booster in pianist Danilo Pérez. She went on to study at Berklee with the likes of Joe Lovano and Greg Osby and then, at age 24, became the first female to win first prize in the prestigious Thelonious Monk International Jazz Saxophone Competition. She returns to WPA following the release of her fifth CD, *Visions*, inspired by the life of Frida Kahlo and brimming with Aldana's trademark harmonic sophistication and deftly spun solos.

Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

Paul Lewis & Steven Osborne, pianos
Kennedy Center Terrace Theater

Two of the great British pianists of our time come together to interpret gems from the French repertoire for piano duet. Hear shimmering interpretations of classics like Ravel's *Mother Goose Suite* and immerse yourself in the expansive French sonic palette with works by Debussy, Fauré, Poulenc, and Stravinsky.

FAURÉ - *Dolly Suite*, Op. 56
POULENC - Sonata for Piano Four Hands
DEBUSSY - *Six epigraphes antiques*
DEBUSSY - Petite Suite for Piano Four Hands
STRAVINSKY - *Trois pièces faciles*
RAVEL - *Ma mère l'Oye (Mother Goose Suite)*

Friday, February 21, 2020 at 8 p.m.

Budapest Festival Orchestra
Iván Fischer, conductor
Gerhild Romberger, contralto
The Music Center at Strathmore

Returning to Washington under the baton of former NSO principal conductor Iván Fischer, known to D.C. audiences as “a meticulous musician [with] an anarchic disdain for decorum” (*New Yorker*), the Budapest Festival Orchestra presents a novel program that pairs mainstays of the Mahler and Dvořák catalogues with underexposed works by the same two late-Romantic composers. The “expressive colours” (*BBC Music Magazine*) of German contralto Gerhild Romberger will bring to life the powerful emotions of Mahler's *Kindertotenlieder*.

MAHLER – *Blumine*
DVOŘÁK – “Misto klekani (Evening blessing)” from *Four Choruses*, Op. 29/1
MAHLER – *Kindertotenlieder*
DVOŘÁK – Symphony No. 8 in G Major, Op. 88

Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

Michael Barenboim & West-Eastern Divan Ensemble
Kennedy Center Terrace Theater

Led by concertmaster Michael Barenboim, the West-Eastern Divan Ensemble is the chamber formation of the namesake orchestra founded by renowned conductor/pianist (and Michael's father) Daniel Barenboim and the late Palestinian scholar/author Edward Said—and co-presented in November of last season by WPA and the Kennedy Center. Sharing the parent orchestra's motto of

“Equal in Music,” the ensemble brings together outstanding young Palestinian and Israeli musicians in a collaboration that supersedes national and cultural boundaries. The ensemble’s inherent diversity also extends to this evening’s program, comprising classic works from Schubert and Mendelssohn and a new composition by contemporary French composer Benjamin Attahir, who fittingly draws inspiration from cultures of both the West and East.

SCHUBERT - Rondo in A Major, D. 438
BENJAMIN ATTAHIR – Newly commissioned work TBD
MENDELSSOHN - Octet in E-flat Major, Op. 20

Saturday, February 29, 2020 at 8 p.m.

Matthew Whitaker
Sixth & I

A piano and Hammond B-3 organ wunderkind currently taking the jazz world by storm, 18-year-old Matthew Whitaker became, at age 13, the youngest musician to be endorsed by Hammond in the company’s history. Steeped in tradition yet pushing forward into a groove-infused space of his own, he has logged a series of A-list gigs as a leader, including the 2019 New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival and the 2017 NEA Jazz Masters induction ceremony for B-3 godfather Dr. Lonnie Smith at Kennedy Center. As the *L.A. Times* wrote of the Whitaker concert experience: “He sat center stage between two very large pieces of furniture: a Hammond B3 and a grand piano, [and] summoned the ghosts of Larry Young and Oscar Peterson.... [His] instrumental trio inspired spontaneous dancing and a standing ovation.”

MARCH

Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at 8 p.m.

Daniil Trifonov, piano
Kennedy Center Concert Hall

Trifonov catapulted onto the classical music scene when he won the prestigious International Chopin Piano Competition, the Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Master Competition, and numerous prizes at the International Tchaikovsky Competition in the span of only two years. Since then, the Grammy Award–winner (in 2018, for “Best Instrumental Solo Album”) has become “the don’t-miss-him musician of the moment” with a knack for “finding ways to make the music seem like something entirely new” (*Washington Post*). His 2020 performance marks his first solo recital in D.C. since 2017. Don’t miss it!

BACH/arr. BRAHMS - Chaconne from Violin Partita No. 2 in D minor, BWV 1004
BACH/arr. RACHMANINOFF - *Prelude, Gavotte, and Gigue* from Violin Partita No. 3 in E Major, BWV 1006
BACH/arr. LISZT - Fantasie and Fugue in G minor
BACH - *The Art of Fugue*, BWV 1080

Sunday, March 8, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

Hayes Piano Series III

Seong-Jin Cho, piano

Kennedy Center Terrace Theater

It's become commonplace to refer to Seong-Jin Cho as a "rising star" of the piano—but at this point, it might be time to retire the word "rising." Already a favorite guest soloist of the National Symphony Orchestra, he has enjoyed sold-out recitals at Carnegie Hall, Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, Los Angeles's Disney Hall, and many other premier concert halls and has won the prestigious Chopin Competition (joining a lineage that includes Martha Argerich and Maurizio Pollini). As the *Washington Post* put it: "Cho appears to have the musical potential to take his place alongside the greats of the past."

BRAHMS - Six Pieces for Piano, Op. 118

FRANCK - *Prélude, Chorale, and Fugue*

BERG – Sonata, Op. 1

LISZT - Sonata in B minor

Friday, March 13, 2020 at 8 p.m.

Kronos Quartet

Choral Arts Chamber Singers

Lisner Auditorium

On the heels of its second Grammy Award, San Francisco's venturesome Kronos Quartet travels not just beyond standard musical genres, but into outer space itself in the first-ever D.C. performance of *Sun Rings*, composer and longtime Kronos collaborator Terry Riley's 2002 multimedia masterwork commissioned by NASA and others. Combining live performance by the quartet and chorus with pre-recorded "spacescapes" and visual design by Willie Williams, *Sun Rings* is an inspiring meditation on humanity and our place in the universe.

Friday, March 20, 2020 at 8 p.m.

Murray Perahia, piano

The Music Center at Strathmore

In the more than 40 years he has been performing, pianist Murray Perahia has left audiences around the world breathless. Recognized worldwide as a musician of rare musical sensitivity, the Grammy Award-winner has been dubbed "one of the piano's most lyrical contemporary poets" by the *Times* (London).

Saturday, March 21, 2020 at 8 p.m.

Veronica Swift

Sixth & I

At only 24 years old, Veronica Swift is already a firmly established jazz artist. Adept at everything from swing to bebop to the Great American Songbook, and a whiz at rigorous vocal techniques like vocalese and scat, Swift counts Wynton Marsalis and Chris Botti as her most trusted mentors and frequent collaborators. She's also become an increasingly familiar (and welcome!) face in WPA circles, having been a featured vocalist with Botti in 2018 and, even more recently, having dazzled audiences this year at our annual gala and "On the Air: A Glenn Miller Swing Celebration" with the U.S. Air Force Band.

SHIFT: A Festival of American Orchestras

Co-presented by Washington Performing Arts and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

Generous support for SHIFT is provided through a matching grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. SHIFT is presented in cooperation with the League of American Orchestras.

Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at 8 p.m.

Jacksonville Symphony
Courtney Lewis, conductor
Anthony McGill, clarinet
Kennedy Center Concert Hall

With a festival theme of "Bridges," the Jacksonville Symphony explores the many influences that jazz artists and composers have had on traditional classical composers. The symphony's composer-in-residence, Courtney Bryan, will have a significant presence in the main stage concert and in the Symphony's residency activities.

DUTILLEUX - *Métaboles*
COPLAND - Clarinet Concerto
ELLINGTON - *Celebration*
COURTNEY BRYAN - *Bridges*
STRAVINSKY - Symphony in C

Wednesday, March 25, 2020 at 8 p.m.

Baltimore Symphony Orchestra
Marin Alsop, conductor
Cristina Pato, bagpipes
Kayhan Kalhor, kamancheh
David Krakauer, clarinet
Michael Ward-Bergeman, hyper-accordion
Washington Performing Arts Men & Women of the Gospel Choir

Kennedy Center Concert Hall

Joined by a diverse range of guest stars—including veterans of Yo-Yo Ma’s Silk Road Ensemble and our very own adult gospel choir—the BSO presents a program celebrating the changing faces of America. Works to be performed include Dvořák’s grand vision for American music, a forgotten treasure by the first African American woman recognized as a symphonic composer, and a tour de force concerto drawing influences from all over the world.

FLORENCE PRICE - *The Oak*

GOLIJOV - *Rose of the Winds*

TRADITIONAL - “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot”

TRADITIONAL - “Goin’ Home”

DVOŘÁK - Symphony No. 9 in E minor, Op. 95 “From the New World”

Friday, March 27, 2020 at 8 p.m.

Knoxville Symphony

Aram Demirjian, conductor

Julia Bullock, soprano

The University of Tennessee Symphony Brass

R.B. Morris, Knoxville Poet Laureate, speaker

Kennedy Center Concert Hall

Every good journey begins and ends at home, and this program represents an homage to the classical music legacy of Knoxville—not necessarily the music that comes to mind when thinking of music from Tennessee. The program is about history—how we perceive it in the present, and how we will perceive it in the years to come.

Knoxville: Artists at Home

MICHAEL SCHACHTER - *Overture to Knoxville*

BARBER - *Knoxville: Summer of 1915*

JAMES P. JOHNSON - *American Symphonic Suite* (based on *W.C. Handy’s St. Louis Blues*)

RACHMANINOFF - *Symphonic Dances*, Op. 45

Saturday, March 28, 2020 at 8 p.m.

Orpheus Chamber Orchestra

with Classical Theatre of Harlem

Peter Francis James, director

Kennedy Center Concert Hall

Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and Classical Theatre of Harlem offer a collaborative portrait of the cultural diversity and vitality of New York City through a musical and theatrical performance of Shakespeare’s classic tale *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. The performance will include Mendelssohn’s incidental music, arranged for chamber orchestra, in its rightful place within Shakespeare’s timeless play (with some modern adaptations), combining all into a singular

theatrical event. Drawing on the universal theme of love's many caprices, this meditation will offer a specific portrait of Harlem's rich culture and celebrate this space through a blend of music, theater, and dance.

A Meditation on Harlem Midsummer

Mendelssohn/arr. Tarkmann - *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, incidental music, Op. 21 and 61

APRIL

Sunday, April 5, 2020 at 2 p.m.

Hayes Piano Series IV

Jenny Lin, piano

A Brief (and Modern) History of Piano Etudes

Kennedy Center Terrace Theater

One of the standout pianists in the Kennedy Center's tribute to Philip Glass in 2018 (who, as the *Washington Post* said, "showed everyone how it was done"), Jenny Lin will explore and contrast études by a swath of composers including Debussy, Chopin, Liszt, Ligeti, Kapustin, and, of course, Glass.

Selected études by CHOPIN, DEBUSSY, GLASS, KAPUSTIN, LIGETI, and LISZT

Tuesday, April 14, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

Argus Quartet

Kennedy Center Terrace Theater

One of the hottest quartets on the scene today, the Argus Quartet rose to international prominence after winning the 2017 Concert Artists Guild Victor Elmaleh Competition and the M-Prize. From a residency at Juilliard to collaborations with the Kronos Quartet, Juilliard String Quartet, and JACK Quartet, the Argus Quartet is at the forefront of a generation of chamber ensembles that bring the same fresh curiosity to traditional repertoire as they do works by living composers. This program juxtaposes selections from J.S. Bach's *The Art of Fugue* with Garth Knox's *Satellites* and works by contemporary master Christopher Theofanidis and others.

Program includes works by BACH, BEETHOVEN, ROLF WALLIN, JURI SEO, CHRISTOPHER THEOFANIDIS, and GARTH KNOX

Wednesday, April 15, 2020 at 8 p.m.

The Philadelphia Orchestra

Stéphane Denève, principal guest conductor

Kelly O'Connor, mezzo-soprano

Kennedy Center Concert Hall

The Philadelphia Orchestra returns to the Washington Performing Arts season under the baton of principal guest conductor Stéphane Denève, who this season begins his music directorship of the St. Louis Symphony. The program focuses on the orchestra's championing of both contemporary music—with English composer Anna Clyne's *This Midnight Hour*—and symphonic standards like Prokofiev's ravishing *Romeo and Juliet*. Peter Lieberon's Pulitzer-winning *Neruda Songs*, which has become a modern classic and powerfully expresses the poetry of Pablo Neruda, showcases Kelly O'Connor's "breathtaking...rich, beautiful voice" (*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*).

ANNA CLYNE - *This Midnight Hour*

LIEBERSON - *Neruda Songs*

PROKOFIEV - Selections from *Romeo and Juliet*

Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 8 p.m.

Chineke! Orchestra

Kevin John Edusei, conductor

Sheku Kanneh-Mason, cello

Kennedy Center Concert Hall

Though the Chineke! Orchestra is but a few years old (established in 2015), the London-based orchestra has already made waves, performing at Royal Festival Hall, the BBC Proms at Royal Albert Hall, and on tour in Europe and the U.S. Championing change and diversity in the classical music world, the Chineke! Orchestra provides young black and minority ethnic artists performance opportunities around the world. The concert features Sheku Kanneh-Mason, an alum of the orchestra and the star cellist at Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's wedding in 2018.

COLERIDGE-TAYLOR - *Ballade*

FAURÉ - *Élégie*

SAINT-SAËNS - Cello Concerto No. 1 in A minor, Op. 33

BRAHMS - Symphony No. 2 in D Major, Op. 73

Co-presentation with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

Friday, April 24, 2020 at 8 p.m.

Zakir Hussain Trio

Zakir Hussain, tabla

Jayanthi Kumaresh, veena

Kala Ramnath, violin

Lisner Auditorium

Celebrated as an Indian national treasure for his mastery of tabla playing, the frequent cross-genre collaborator and boundary pusher Zakir Hussain returns to his musical heritage. Performing

alongside veena player Jayanthi Kumaresh and violinist Kala Ramnath, Hussain showcases the spectacular improvisatory art of Indian classical music.

Saturday, April 25, 2020 at 8 p.m.

The String Queens
Mars Arts D.C. Ensemble-in-Residence
Sixth & I

A potent and innovative presence on the D.C. music scene, the String Queens are the 2019/20 Mars Arts D.C. Ensemble-in-Residence. The “Queens” are Kendall Isadore, Dawn Johnson, and Élise Cuffy—three genre-defying musicians whose creative impact on D.C. ranges from collaborations with star singer Aloe Blacc and the Kennedy Center to inspirational work as arts educators. The String Queens bring together an eclectic mix of soulful music from the Baroque era through the Jazz Age and today’s Billboard Hot 100 Chart.

Mars Arts D.C. is a partnership of Mars, Incorporated, and Washington Performing Arts, with support from Jacqueline Badger Mars.

MAY

Friday, May 1, 2020 at 8 p.m.

Lil Buck & Jon Boogz
Love Heals All Wounds
Lisner Auditorium

Two of the most eminent and exciting artists in street-dance today—Lil Buck and Jon Boogz—expand upon an acclaimed collaboration in their first-ever evening length work, exploring urgent social topics like violence and incarceration while promoting the uniting forces of diversity, inclusion, and empathy. A virtuoso of Memphis jookin’, Lil Buck is best-known to many for the viral video of his duo collaboration with cellist Yo-Yo Ma. A master popper from Miami, Jon Boogz has choreographed for Gloria Estefan, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Cirque du Soleil, and many others.

Sunday, May 3, 2020 at 5 p.m.

The Kingdom Choir
Washington Performing Arts Children of the Gospel Choir
Michele Fowlin, artistic director
Lisner Auditorium

Long before the Kingdom Choir performed “Stand By Me” at the Royal Wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, this ensemble, formed in 1994, had already performed for Queen Elizabeth II, Desmond Tutu, Bill Clinton, and Nelson Mandela. Their enthusiastic blend of sacred and secular music, including gospel, spirituals, and pop arrangements, will be perfectly complemented by the

exuberant and gifted singers of Washington Performing Arts' own Children of the Gospel Choir, who will open the concert.

Performances by the Children of the Gospel Choir are made possible in part through the generous support of Jacqueline Badger Mars and Mars, Incorporated.

Wednesday, May 6, 2020 at 8 p.m.

Emanuel Ax, piano

The Music Center at Strathmore

Emanuel Ax—the beloved American pianist who has been a fixture of the piano world since his 1974 win at the first Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Competition—is an always welcome and inspiring member of the Washington Performing Arts “family” of artists, having appeared in recent years in collaborative performances with the likes of Yo-Yo Ma, Itzhak Perlman, and others. He returns this season for his first solo Washington Performing Arts recital in 10 years, performing an all-Beethoven program showcasing a trademark pianism that is “thoughtful, lyrical, lustrous” (*Washington Post*).

BEETHOVEN - Bagatelle No. 25 in A minor, WoO 59 “Für Elise”

BEETHOVEN - Piano Sonata No. 2 in A Major, Op. 2, No. 2

BEETHOVEN - Six variations on an original theme for piano in F Major, Op. 34

BEETHOVEN - Piano Sonata No. 1 in F minor, Op. 2, No. 1

BEETHOVEN - Five variations for piano on “Rule, Britannia!”, WoO 79

BEETHOVEN - Piano Sonata No. 3 in C Major, Op. 2, No. 3

Saturday, May 9, 2020 at 8 p.m.

Terry Riley & Gyan Riley

Sixth & I

Hailed figuratively as the “Father of Minimalism,” the revered composer and multi-instrumentalist Terry Riley is the *literal* father of electric and acoustic guitarist Gyan, whom the *New Yorker* has praised as “a one-man American-music machine, amicably ranging across the fields of jazz, world music, and post-minimalism.” In their duo performances, the elder Riley contributes his own robust eclecticism, delving into classical minimalism, jazz, Indian ragas, and other musical currents on acoustic piano, electronic keyboards, and vocals. The result is a “series of joyously ramshackle improvisations...like Bach doing bebop” (*Guardian*).

Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

Beatrice Rana, piano

Kennedy Center Terrace Theater

Gramophone's 2017 “Artist of the Year” returns for her first Washington Performing Arts performance since her 2014 Hayes Piano Series debut—following which, the *Washington Post*

wrote, “Her startling technique remains among the most faultless of young pianists today.” The 24-year-old attracted international attention at the 2013 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, where she won the Silver Medal and Audience Award. Of her interpretations of Chopin’s *Études* in her March 2019 New York recital debut at Carnegie Hall, the *New York Times* wrote, “The best performances convey [the *Études*’s] musical riches. In that regard, Beatrice Rana set a new standard for me.... She made the pieces sound as poetic and colorful as anything Chopin ever wrote.... From the opening moments...Ms. Rana had the audience rapt.”

Friday, May 15, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

Igor Levit, piano

Kennedy Center Terrace Theater

The brilliant pianist Igor Levit, the 2018 Gilmore Artist and Royal Philharmonic Society’s 2018 “Instrumentalist of the Year,” returns to Washington to commemorate Beethoven’s 250th birthday, following the release of a Sony boxed set of the composer’s complete sonatas, with three sonatas from the Beethoven’s youth and his majestic “Hammerklavier” Sonata, Op. 106. Levit’s inventive interpretations have garnered him a “Recording of the Year” from *Gramophone* and praise as “one that communicates a wealth of meaning without artifice...a truly gifted artist” (*Washington Post*).

BEETHOVEN - Piano Sonata No. 9 in E Major, Op. 14, No. 1

BEETHOVEN - Piano Sonata No. 10 in G Major, Op. 14, No. 2

BEETHOVEN - Piano Sonata No. 11 in B-flat Major, Op. 22

BEETHOVEN - Piano Sonata No. 29 in B-flat Major, Op. 105 “Hammerklavier”

Saturday, May 16, 2020 at 8 p.m.

Danilo Pérez’s Global Messengers

Sixth & I

Jazz piano master and UNESCO Artist for Peace Danilo Pérez unites his twin passions of music and humanitarianism in this international sextet boasting musicians from Palestine, Greece, Jordan, and Panama—all contributing and combining their respective cultural learnings and personal experiences with the goal of building community through music.

Featuring Danilo Pérez, piano; Farayi Malek, vocals; Vasilis Kostas, laouto (Greek lute); Layth Sidiq, violin; Naseem Alatrash, cello; Tareq Rantisi, percussion

Thursday, May 21, 2020 at 8 p.m.

Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra

with Wynton Marsalis

Jazz Ambassadors: The Music of Duke, Dizzy, Brubeck, and Goodman

Kennedy Center Concert Hall

What do Duke Ellington, Dizzy Gillespie, Dave Brubeck, and Benny Goodman have in common? Beyond their status as jazz legends, they were also global jazz ambassadors, touring extensively internationally and expanding the art form's worldwide reputation and appeal. Jazz at Lincoln Center will explore these four artists' music, stories, and motivations with their trademark swing and style.

Saturday, May 30, 2020 at 8 p.m.

Free World Premiere

Christopher Tin's *To Shiver the Sky*

The United States Air Force Band

Col. Don Schofield, commander & conductor

Christopher Tin, conductor

Choral Arts Society of Washington

Scott Tucker, artistic director

The Anthem

Two-time Grammy-winning composer Christopher Tin is a master of the concert stage, silver screen, and gaming world. Renowned for his excellence as a groundbreaking and compelling creator, Tin is the first composer to receive a Grammy Award for video game music. His works are equally at home in venerable concert halls and the fantastical worlds created in the digital world. Tin's work was featured on the soundtrack of blockbuster film *Crazy Rich Asians*, and his original works are beloved by millions through music for the game *Civilization IV*. *To Shiver the Sky*, a musical exploration of mankind's conquest of the sky for orchestra, chorus, and soloists, sets texts from pioneers of flight from Leonard da Vinci to Amelia Earhart.

TIN - *To Shiver the Sky* (World Premiere)

Co-presented with the United States Air Force Band

JUNE

Sunday, June 7, 2020 at 7 p.m.

Washington Performing Arts Gospel Choirs

Michele Fowlin, artistic director (Children of the Gospel Choir)

Theodore Thorpe III, artistic director (Men & Women of the Gospel Choir)

Stanley J. Thurston, artistic director emeritus

The Music Center at Strathmore

Each possessing more than a quarter-century of D.C. musical history, Washington Performing Arts' two namesake choirs—the Men and Women of the Gospel and the Children of the Gospel—take the stage together in an evening of inspiration and jubilation. Fixtures of the regional gospel scene, the “MWCOTG” have performed in prestigious settings from the National Cathedral and Kennedy Center to White House state dinners and the National Cherry Blossom Parade. Their joint

Strathmore concert is sure to be an occasion for celebration and a festive finale to our 2019/20 Season!

Performances by the Children of the Gospel Choir are made possible in part through the generous support of Jacqueline Badger Mars and Mars, Incorporated.
