



WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS

March 18, 2020

Dear Washington Performing Arts Supporter,

I'm writing with one more in a recent series of painful announcements from Washington Performing Arts related to the global coronavirus threat: in the interest of the public's well-being, **all of our ticketed performances in all venues through May 10 have now been canceled.** This date corresponds to the latest advisory from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) concerning "mass gatherings." Although the cancellations have been mandated by the venues themselves, Washington Performing Arts is in full agreement with the decisions. As heartbreaking as it is to cancel events that were so eagerly anticipated – by you, by us, and by our artists—it's the right thing to do to put safety first for all of us: audiences, artists, and WPA and venue staff.

If you have tickets to one or more of the canceled performances, we will contact you shortly via email concerning your options for the value of your ticket purchase. If we don't hear back from you, we'll then reach out by phone. Please forgive us for any delay, as we are working remotely and processing a great number of transactions.

In the meantime, **please consider converting the value of your tickets into a tax-deductible donation to Washington Performing Arts.** As the media headlines make clear, and as we all know from day-to-day experience, this pandemic has caused unprecedented shockwaves throughout every sector of the economy—and that, of course, includes non-profit performing arts organizations.

You may wonder why your support is essential even though events have been canceled in the coming weeks! Truly, our team works hard not only on producing our ticketed performances, but also in other areas that are of such importance to you *and* to others throughout our community. These include our arts education programs, our gospel programs, free performances throughout the District—all of which were going full-steam-ahead until just a week ago. Some programs can be moved on-line temporarily (e.g., certain education activities, depending upon program/context); others, we will resume as soon as it is safe to do so.

By converting the value of your tickets to an individual gift now, you will help sustain our work through this difficult time, and, importantly, beyond.

We realize that everyone is striving to function amid tremendous upheaval right now. If donating your tickets' value is not possible, you may certainly obtain a full refund. But if you are able, at this crucial moment, to make such a generous donation, you will be one of those most responsible for ensuring that *future* magical moments at Washington Performing Arts—from the concert hall to the classroom—resume as soon as possible following the current crisis we all share.

Thank you for your consideration. All of us at Washington Performing Arts wish you and your family and friends good health and safety.

Warmly,

Jenny

P.S. If you are *not* a ticket-holder to one or more of the canceled performances but still want to help out—or if you'd like to increase your level of donation above your ticket value—please **visit our [Express Donation Page](#) to donate to Washington Performing Arts in this urgent time of need.** Thank you!