



**WASHINGTON  
PERFORMING ARTS**  
We make it happen

**MEDIA ALERT**  
**February 4, 2021**

## **WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS RECEIVES FUNDING FROM NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS FOR SPRING 2022 HAZEL SCOTT CELEBRATION**

(Washington, D.C.)—The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) announced today that it has awarded **Washington Performing Arts** a \$35,000 Grants for Arts Projects Award in support of its Spring 2022 **Hazel Scott Celebration**. Over the course of a multi-day tribute, Washington Performing Arts will host events celebrating the once-renowned American pianist and activist, including performances of her music, a world-premiere ballet commission (with Dance Theatre of Harlem) inspired by Scott’s life, concert/lecture programs designed around Scott’s role in New York’s Café Society, numerous institutional collaborations, and a panel discussion on jazz activism.

“We are so grateful to the NEA for supporting Washington Performing Arts’s forthcoming celebration of Hazel Scott, the extraordinary pianist, composer, entrepreneur, and cultural icon,” said Washington Performing Arts President and CEO Jenny Bilfield. “The fuller measure of Hazel Scott—the pianist, entrepreneur, arranger/composer, groundbreaking TV star, center of cultural life in NY and Paris—needs to be more widely known. Given the many currents in her life and work, and the parallels with our world today, the timing is absolutely right to revisit her legacy.”

The Hazel Scott Celebration, curated with input from Scott’s son Adam Clayton Powell III and Scott biographer Karen Chilton, is intended to introduce a new generation of music fans to this great American’s life and work and to help restore her rightful legacy as one of the great American artists of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Originally designed as a Hazel Scott centennial tribute for the 2020-21 Season (Scott was born June 20, 1920), the project was postponed to 2021-22 in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Complete details will be released by Washington Performing Arts in the coming months.

To find out more about how NEA grants support individuals and communities, visit [www.arts.gov](http://www.arts.gov).



## **ABOUT WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS**

One of the most established and honored performing arts institutions in America, Washington Performing Arts has engaged for more than half a century with artists, audiences, students, and civic life. The city is truly our stage: for decades, in venues ranging from concert halls and clubs to public parks, we have presented 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. We also have an ever-expanding artistic and educational presence on the internet, addressing the programming challenges of this time of pandemic while envisioning ongoing opportunities for online connection and community in a post-COVID world.

Washington Performing Arts deeply values its partnerships with local organizations and other arts institutions. Through events online and in myriad performance venues and neighborhoods, we engage international visiting artists in community programs and introduce 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 education programs.

Our achievements have been recognized with a National Medal of Arts and with three Mayor's Arts Awards from the DC Government. We have now embarked upon our second half-century, ever inspired by the motto of our founder, Patrick Hayes: "Everybody in, nobody out."

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