ROOTS & WINGS
Grounding the Arts in Possibility

Wednesday, May 19, 2021
at 6:30pm ET
James J. Sandman, Honoree

Benefiting the arts education and gospel music programs of Washington Performing Arts
ABOUT OUR HONOREE:
JAMES J. SANDMAN

James J. Sandman has served on the Washington Performing Arts Board of Directors for nearly 20 years in a variety of roles: Chair of the Education Committee, Chair of the Audit Committee, Vice Chair of the Board, and always as a principled advocate, generous partner, and loyal friend. Indeed, arts education and equitable access to our programs have been paramount during Jim’s service—he brings our founding motto “Everybody in, nobody out” to life through a shining example.

Currently Distinguished Lecturer and Senior Consultant to the Future of the Profession Initiative at the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School, Jim has had a long and varied career in private practice with a leading law firm, in government service, and as a public interest lawyer. Jim has offered Washington Performing Arts a unique perspective, not only as an arts lover, but also as a past General Counsel of the District of Columbia Public Schools and a current member of the District of Columbia Public Charter School Board. His championing of justice and equity has had national impact and reach—Jim is President Emeritus of the Legal Services Corporation, the largest funder of civil legal aid in the United States. He practiced law for 30 years with the international, Washington-based law firm of Arnold & Porter and served as the firm’s Managing Partner for a decade, and he is a past President of the 110,000-member District of Columbia Bar.

WELCOME & THANK YOU!

“There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children. One of these is roots, the other, wings.”
—Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

These words resonate so deeply for us! Arts engagement, access, and education are the heartbeat of Washington Performing Arts, as well as for the extraordinary teaching artists and performers who join us each season. Every day, we strive to spark curiosity, collaboration, and creativity: to be a place where all members of our community can immerse, heal, reinvent, and nourish themselves through the arts. For more than 50 years, Washington Performing Arts has produced educational programs in partnership with D.C. Public Schools and dozens of embassies, and via our gospel music programs for people of all ages. Tonight we will share more of that story with you, and together, we will celebrate these programs and our wonderful friend, Jim Sandman. Thank you for your generous support—and enjoy!

Tom Gallagher
Chair, Board of Directors

Jenny Bilfield
President & CEO
A NOTE ON THE PROGRAM

In tonight’s program, we will enjoy the following performances and reflections, along with remarks from members of the Washington Performing Arts family.

Reflections on Music
Winners of the Joseph and Goldie Feder Memorial String Competition

Paraphrase on Verdi’s Rigoletto
by Franz Liszt
   Jenny Lin

Lovely Day
by Bill Withers
Washington Performing Arts’ Teaching Artists

Reflections on the Embassy Adoption Program,
a partnership with D.C. Public Schools
Jenny Bilfield, Washington Performing Arts
David Harrington, Kronos Quartet

Hjerter To
Danish traditional folk tune, arr. Dreamers’ Circus
   Fanden Og Hans Pumpestok
   by Dreamers’ Circus
   Dreamers’ Circus

Anything
by Nolan Williams, Jr.
   Children of the Gospel Choir
   Kylee Brown, soprano
   Jasmine Lawson, alto
   Michele Fowlin, artistic director
   Anthony “Tony” Walker, music director

Matt’s Blues
by Matthew Whitaker
   Matthew Whitaker
ROOTS & WINGS IN ACTION

Did you know that Washington Performing Arts serves more than 50,000 individuals in more than 800 educational and gospel music events and programs each school year and performance season? Here’s a look at the range of our impact across the District.

CHILDREN OF THE GOSPEL CHOIR
MEN AND WOMEN OF THE GOSPEL CHOIR
ENRICHING EXPERIENCES FOR SENIORS
D.C. KEYS

CAPITAL ARTS PARTNERSHIPS
FAMILY ART MOMENTS
MARS ARTS D.C.
CONCERTS-IN-SCHOOLS

EMBASSY ADOPTION PROGRAM
IN-SCHOOL ARTIST RESIDENCIES
D.C. HONOR ENSEMBLES
FEDER MEMORIAL STRING COMPETITION

MISBIN FAMILY CHAMBER MUSIC COMPETITION
CONCERTS IN COMMUNITY
INTERNSHIP PROGRAM
HEADLINE ARTIST MASTER CLASSES

21 Virtual Internships During COVID
100+ D.C. Public Schools Served
166 Hours of COTG Coaching This Year
54 Pola Nirenska Award Winners in Dance Since 1993
40 Teaching Artists
Serving All 8 Wards of D.C.

76 Scholarships & Awards This Year
143 Embassies & Global Partners in EAP Over 47 Years
229 Virtual Residency Sessions This Year
27,000 Students in D.C. Keys

27 Virtual Performances This Year
63 Embassy Partnerships During COVID
27 Virtual Performances This Year
95+ Videos Created During COVID

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ROOTS & WINGS SPONSORS

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Trista L. P. Colbert^ and Theodore Colbert
Betsy and Robert Feinberg^  
Mr. and Mrs. Brad Figel^ 
Tom Gallagher^ and Barbara Myers

Thomas J. Kim and John F. Olson^  
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Dr. Gary Mather and Ms. Christina Co Mather^  
Mr. James J. Sandman^ and Ms. Elizabeth D. Mullin

Wings
Anonymous
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Embassy of the Kingdom of Bahrain
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and Dorothy Marschak

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Shine
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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 D.C. Government. We have now embarked upon our second half-century, ever inspired by the motto of our founder, Patrick Hayes: “Everybody in, nobody out.”
ROOTS & WINGS
LEADERSHIP

Special thanks to the members of our Board of Directors, Junior Board, and Women’s Committee leading the effort in support of our arts education and gospel music programs!

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Trista L. P. Colbert*
Kathryn Jones*

Auction Co-Chairs
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Committee
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Reginald Van Lee^*
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Carolyn Ross Wilson*
Gary Yacoubian^*
and the Washington Performing Arts Women’s Committee

Special Thanks
Washington Performing Arts is also deeply grateful to the dozens of artists, classroom teachers, embassy and global partners, and community leaders—and Men, Women, and Children of the Gospel Choir members and their families—who bring the work of Roots & Wings to life every day. Your commitment, artistry, and partnership makes our garden grow and we salute you!

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP
Patrick Hayes, Founder (1966–1982)
Neale Perl, President Emeritus (2002–2012)
Jenny Bilfield, President and CEO (2013–Present)

To learn more and get involved, visit WashingtonPerformingArts.org or e-mail Friends@WashingtonPerformingArts.org.